

GLENKENS GAZETTE

*News from Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Corsock, Crossmichael, Kirkpatrick
Durham, Laurieston, Mossdale, New Galloway, Parton and St John's Town of Dalry*

August/September 2020

ISSUE 119

FREE

Woodland Developers Agree Talks Over Waterside Proposal

Plans to plant a much-loved Glenkens hill with Sitka spruce and other conifers are being reviewed following local protests.

News that Waterside Hill outside Dalry was to be the latest location for a Sitka plantation had provoked widespread local concern over the impact on amenity, wildlife, tourism and local heritage.

Following two recent meetings between representatives from Dalry Community Council and Scottish Woodlands, including an extensive site visit, Scottish Woodlands have now agreed that there is potential to review aspects of the current planting scheme application, taking into account the many concerns that have been raised by local people. This review was taking place as the Gazette went to press.

Residents of Dalry and neighbouring communities had claimed that the proposal was being rushed through without proper consultation in the midst of the COVID-19 restrictions. They also claimed the developers had failed to publish full survey reports showing how the development would impact on tourism, wildlife and local heritage sites and demanded that the consultation period be extended.

The planting proposal was to have been the subject of a public meeting in



The view over Dalry from the cairn atop Waterside Hill by Jill Bowes.

Dalry last December but the meeting was cancelled by Scottish Woodlands at short notice. No subsequent meeting was held before the COVID-19 lockdown prevented any gathering.

The controversial plans were subsequently submitted for grant approval with a consultation deadline of 16 July. The Community Council requested an extension to the public consultation period. This was refused but the Council was told it could comment any time before 10 August.

Council member Dr Kerry Morrison pointed out: "The proposals will impact

at least four generations but there has until recently been little contact between the Council and the developers about the details. The recent meetings and agreement to review the plans are welcome."

Vice-chair Will Adam adds that Dalry is a member of The Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere. "This membership commits us to helping to conserve natural resources. The proposed plantation of trees over virtually all of the hill does nothing to help such commitment to conservation."

Continued on page 13...

Forestry and Wind Farms: Have the Glenkens Had Enough?

In this edition of the Gazette we report a rising concern among local people over further wind farm and commercial forestry development in the Glenkens.

Dumfries & Galloway is already the most afforested region in the whole of the UK as well as being one of the regions with the highest concentration

of wind farms, yet still more proposals are being lodged.

The Glenkens, being a rural upland area with a low population density, is incredibly popular with developers looking to reap the benefits of wind power and forestry subsidies.

Recent developments across the area have prompted numerous articles on the subject from our readers which appear in our special section on pages 14-18:

- **Time to Rethink Forestry in Our Region?**

- **Views from Carsphairn** - Liz Holmes and Nigel Martin
- **Waterside Hill's special significance** - Chris Rollie and Roger Croft
- **Protecting Our Special Places**
- **Personal memories of Waterside** - Amy Winstanley
- **Communities for Sustainable Forestry**
- **A personal perspective on forestry and wind farms in the Glenkens** - John Wykes

CROSSMICHAEL VOLUNTEERS

Crossmichael community has really pulled together over lockdown, creating a strong and active volunteer support network.

"To date we've delivered over £10,000 of groceries/takeaways to local residents this lockdown. We are still taking grocery orders and delivering shopping and prescriptions to people and will continue to do so until people no longer require the support," says Sam, a member of the Crossmichael community volunteers.

"We've done numerous community meal nights which have been incredibly

popular. Our elderly/shielding residents have really enjoyed receiving a takeaway and sitting in their gardens across from their neighbours when the weather has been good. We've been able to support many businesses, getting them orders and delivering their food. Carlo's Special Father's Day Takeaway was a great success!

"Our Bessie the Rock Snake at Crossmichael Primary School has been a huge hit and is now 210 rocks long. The school have decided to celebrate this by making a permanent art piece of a rock rainbow with the snake coiled all around it set in concrete within the school grounds,



Bella the Crossmichael Primary School rock snake with local children and the chocolate egg prizes for the treasure hunt.

which will be completed by Mrs Martin during the school holidays."

To find out more, or get involved, you can visit the Crossmichael-Covid-19-support page on Facebook.

Local Initiatives in New Galloway

NEW GALLOWAY TOWN HALL

Well here we are tentatively coming out of lockdown but D&G Council is not yet sure when we can be back in the Town Hall.

It is difficult to realise it is a year since we were in the middle of our survey and viability studies to see whether it was sensible to acquire the Town Hall by asset transfer from the regional council.

It looked like a possibility but ran into legal problems when the council realised the property should have been registered as 'common good' when

transferred from the burgh back in the seventies. Then with grants received towards a lift from the Blackcraig Windfarm and the Robertson Trust and likely that we could raise match funding for a lift to go ahead this year, it all looked good until - crash! - the cruel COVID-19 came and now the best laid plans...are gang aley (apologies to Burns!).

But we're not giving up and will get going as soon as we can.

GARROCH GARDEN

Although not generally open because of the lockdown, some of the

gardeners were able to arrange social distancing between themselves to keep their own plots going as well as the common areas.

It is now open to visit and plans are being hatched again for apple-pressing in the late summer.

GOLF COURSE WOODS

As the warm spring came on, followed by the rain, some of our stalwart volunteers came out to clear the paths for those enjoying the walks for their local exercise.

Ros Hill, LING Chair

Dalry School Clothing Bank



The clothing bank will be available outside the primary front door throughout the summer holidays and is available for any of Dalry primary and secondary families to access.

If you are able to, and

would like to do so, you can leave a small donation for any items you take via PayPal www.paypal.com.

[me/pools/c/8qcVDe0tgg](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/c/8qcVDe0tgg) - any proceeds will be split equally between FoDS and Glenkens Charity Shop.

Many thanks to New Galloway Shop and Enterprises Ltd and Community Engagement Activities New Galloway for organising the funding of the storage boxes through the Princes Trust Countryside Fund.

We hope this resource will be a well used asset within our school community.

Anne McEwan and Jenna Devlin

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Glenkens Community Shop Relaunch

Our amazing local charity shop is once again open for business!

Shirley McNaught, shop manager and inspiration behind our amazing local charity shop, said: "Firstly we sincerely wish to thank the Pamela Young Trust for giving us security in our tenancy and for a marvellous renovation of the building, including a new ramp which now makes us accessible to all. We would also like to thank Alison Davies for her very generous donation towards our shop refurbishment in memory of her husband Richard Davies.

"Also we wish to thank Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund (with funding from Blackcraig Wind Farm [Scotland] Ltd, administered by Foundation Scotland working in partnership with The Glenkens & District Trust), and the Hugh Fraser Foundation for their donation to the refurbishment, and to Nathan Harnett of NDH Joinery & Design who did a brilliant job on the interior works of the shop.

"Last but not least, a huge thank you goes to all of our volunteers and customers who have supported us through our eight years.

"We have been closed longer than we expected but hopefully we are on our way now to brighter days. At the moment, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are only open on a Wednesday and Saturday from 10am till 2pm, and we ask customers to please wear a mask. We provide hand sanitiser at the door, and also ask that no more than four people are in the shop at any one time. We very much look forward to seeing you!"

Pictured is the newly refurbished shop interior and wheelchair-accessible entrance (photos by Duncan McNaught).



Glenkens & District Trust Update

The Glenkens & District Trust (GDT) has adapted over the last few months to deal with all the challenges of the current crisis.

Like lots of you, we have had to get to grips with meetings via Zoom to enable work to continue.

We set up a COVID-19 Emergency Fund with £20k to provide support the community needed because of the emergency. As part of this we awarded £500 to each of the Community Councils in the fund catchment area to use on COVID related activity. We also awarded funds to Dalry Community Council who commissioned the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust to produce a special edition of the Gazette and have it delivered by the Royal Mail to your door. This Fund is still open for applications although we are keeping its purpose under review to ensure it addresses community need (see p30 for details).

We held a number of meetings in May related to the second round of grant-making and awarded over £99,000 to nine community groups across the wider Glenkens and District area. The new grants support a total of 11 projects. Details of these awards can be found at www.foundationscotland.org.uk/

[media/1077196/Blackcraig-Round-2-Decisions.pdf](https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/media/1077196/Blackcraig-Round-2-Decisions.pdf)

Awards include funding for local events such as the Glenkens Food Month, projects carrying out key maintenance on community assets such as Balmaclellan Village Hall and Spalding Bowling Club, and green initiatives such as enabling the Men's Shed in Balmaclellan to install electric vehicle charging points powered by the solar panels.

We were delighted to receive a wide range of applications from across the area during these difficult times and are seeing an increasing number of activities and projects being delivered from this fund.

We had nearly completed the Community Action Plan when we went into lockdown but decided that we should delay finalising it until there was more clarity on the implications of the current crisis. What has become apparent is that it will be some time before the full picture emerges of what our communities can learn from this experience and what their ongoing needs may be. Against this we are now working to get the report and a plan published. The report, prepared by Community Enterprise, contains a mass of data and information that will be useful for a number of community groups across the area and we are keen to get this out as soon as we can. The plan will set out community priorities, based on the

findings from earlier survey work and the community engagement events. This will, of necessity, need to be flexible to allow it to develop and change as the future becomes clearer.

Our focus will be to set out what the community sees as immediate priorities and to put in place what is needed to start delivering on them, investigating which community groups might be ready to deliver these activities, and where there are gaps which might need to be filled and how we address that. This set up phase will allow us to get on with things now whilst we consider the needs for the future and how we ensure ongoing and effective community engagement.

While GDT are leading on this work it is crucial that the wider community and community groups are involved; we are committed to ensuring this happens at this early stage and we will put forward specific proposals for mechanisms to achieve this.

We have also had a couple of changes of Trustees - Caroline Pridham from Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council and Graham West from Dalry Community Council, who have been long standing stalwarts of GDT, have decided to resign for personal reasons. Julie Garton and Andrew Mellor have been appointed by the respective Community Councils to replace them.

Fiona Smith, GDT Chairman

Glenkens Freecycle

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

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Bass drum, 22" black Yamaha Power V, £20. Contact: Blue on 07934 361 526

Rangemaster Classic 110 gas cooker, good condition for 10 years old, burgundy and black, £200 ono, buyer to uplift from Castle Douglas. Contact: Andi on 07729 292 126

WANTED

Old Singer sewing machine, treadle or hand operated. Must be in working order and with shuttles please. Contact: 07889 229 340

Old lawn mowers/strimmers/ other small machinery. Non-runners/broken welcome. Contact: 07845 562 217

Photo of the Issue

*Sponsored by the
Ken Bridge Hotel*

This issue's winner is Steve Wood with his tranquil photograph of Stroan Loch, Mossdale.

Steve wins an evening meal for two up to the value of £30 at the Ken Bridge Hotel.

Competition judges Dave and Sue said: "This issue we felt that the photograph of Stroan Loch captured the beauty of the Glenkens in summer."

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 check opening times in light of current COVID-19 guidelines.




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Pizzas All Round for Crossmichael

Nikos Apostolakis, originally from Crete, began his career in the hospitality industry at a youthful age of thirteen.

As a young adult he trained in Athens as a chef and worked across Greece and Crete for many years. In 2000 Nikos decided upon a new adventure in the UK where he began to share his passion for Greek cuisine. Fast forward to 2013 and Nikos' Greek Restaurant was opened in Castle Douglas. For many years customers enjoyed a traditional Greek menu at Nikos but with the arrival of COVID-19 the restaurant had to close.

Nikos began serving takeaways but soon wanted to offer something more to his fellow neighbours in Crossmichael. There was a self-resilience team of volunteers set up in the village who were supporting the local community with grocery/prescription deliveries, as well as working with numerous businesses around Dumfries to bring in fresh produce such as bread, cakes, pies, etc. Following a discussion between Nikos and the volunteers 'Nikos' Community Pizza Nights' were created. Volunteers promoted a special discounted menu and ordering/delivery process via Facebook as well as delivering menus to every household in the village. The first community pizza night took

place on Tuesday 28 April; Nikos and the volunteers were extremely busy all evening baking and delivering pizzas around Crossmichael. Many households enjoyed pizzas in their gardens socialising with neighbours over the garden fence. Throughout lockdown pizza nights have been a firm favourite in the village.

Nikos has been keeping himself busy in his vegetable garden during lockdown, planning ahead and growing lots of delicious fresh produce ready for the restaurant reopening.

It is with excitement that Nikos is able to announce that Nikos' Greek Restaurant in Castle Douglas will be opening its doors again from August. The traditional three course menus have been replaced with new Mediterranean Mezze Menus, and the restaurant boasts a fresh new image too. Customers can also look forward to a wider selection of international wines and dessert favourites.

Staff will be strictly following government guidance when the restaurant reopens. Reservations must be made by telephone on 01556 504 345.

Nikos has signed up to the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme where customers can benefit from a 50% deduction



Above: Nikos making pizza for the Crossmichael community during lockdown at the wood fired pizza oven beside the Thistle Inn, Crossmichael.
Below: Fresh veg ready for Nikos' restaurant tables.

on their bill (excluding alcohol), to the maximum of £10 per person, during visits on a Mon/Tues/Wed throughout August 2020. For further information on special offers and up-to-date information visit Nikos' Greek Restaurant on Facebook.

Nikos would like to thank the local community for their ongoing support and looks forward to welcoming you back very soon!

Sam Priest, Crossmichael



David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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Galloway Mountain Rescue Team Receives Queen's Award

Galloway Mountain Rescue Team (GMRT), a group of volunteers based in Dumfries & Galloway and Southern Ayrshire, have been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

This is the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK and equivalent to an MBE.

The team provide search and rescue services in support of partner emergency services, covering a large area of South West Scotland. They provide assistance in water incidents, urban searches and community resilience - not just events typically associated with mountain rescue.

Team leader for GMRT, Stewart Gibson, lives with his wife and daughter at Forrest Estate outside Dalry. Stewart says: "From a personal perspective, it's great to put something back into the hill walking community. I love the outdoors, and the challenge of operating in some

of the harshest conditions that Scotland can throw at you is extremely rewarding, especially when it often involves helping somebody in an extreme time of need.

"The team is a close-knit group who train together twice a month.

"We really encourage anyone who's interested in joining the team to get in touch. Trainees normally undergo 18 months of training before becoming a fully fledged 'Call Out' member. You can expect to be tested in navigation, first aid and personal rope work, to name just a few of the subjects covered. Every GMRT member remembers passing their final selection and being awarded the



The GMR team enjoying a well-earned rest during winter training in the Cairngorms.

coveted Red Mount Rescue Jacket worn by every team member."

If you would like to find out more about joining GMR visit www.gallowaymrt.org.uk where an application form can be downloaded.

THANK YOU

The community of Crossmichael would like to give a bit shout-out to Charlene Saunderson and Sarah Stevenson for their ongoing commitment to keeping the community safe.

Charlene and Sarah have made hundreds of face masks for people in the community, of differing sizes and designs to suit individuals, and as a result have raised hundreds of pounds for charity.

"Charlene had never actually used a sewing machine before lockdown but she's done an amazing job! The donations from people for the masks she makes are going to the NHS. Sarah has been working tirelessly too, sewing for locals, family and friends and is supporting charities like Diabetes UK, UNICEF and Castle Douglas Food Bank with any proceeds from donations," says Crossmichael resident and member of the Crossmichael Self Resilience Team, Sam Priest.

Pictured: Sarah (top) and Charlene with daughter Emma (bottom) modelling some of their stylish masks.



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
help with housing in the Glenkens

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

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



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

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This Place Called Hame

Little did we imagine, when we chose 'Ma Hame Toon' as the theme for the Wright's Shop Poetry Competition, how the significance of 'home' in our lives would change these past months.

In his winning poem (printed below), Paul Goodwin captures the intimacy of

home's safe haven and appreciates, not without a touch of wryness, the village of Dalry where he stays – where he feels at home.

The Wright's Shop team would like to congratulate Paul, who wins a £10 voucher to spend in the shop, and thank everyone who has taken the time, and care, to enter their poems for consideration. Unfortunately, in the current circumstances the Poetry Competition will not be continuing, but we wish all budding poets in the villages of the Glenkens the very best inspiration to continue writing!

Lyndsay, Susan, Isobel and Jane



This Place

by Paul Goodwin

This place where I sit, this sitooterie
This shed with windows on the world
It's a place for reflection
And creaks with the wind
The begging sounds of young birds filter in
And avian feet patter on the roof

Logging trucks and tractors
Have fallen silent for the day

But dams fit to burst
Will bring power stations to life
And the sound will drone in
On the westerly

Today I walked around the village
Saying hello to people I didn't recognise
And getting friendly replies
Past the school where I once imagined

Teachers were my honorary children
And the pupils honorary grand-children

The Clachan looks almost ready
For a grand meal with guests
When guests are allowed, that is
People commiserate with each other
The lockdown, potholes, crows
At least it's a change from the weather

Spalding Bowling Club Improvements

Spalding Bowling Club has received funding to purchase new equipment for green maintenance.

Funding was through grant support by Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund (with funding from Blackcraig Wind Farm [Scotland] Ltd, administered by Foundation Scotland working in partnership with The Glenkens & District Trust).

This equipment will help improve the quality of the green and make maintenance much easier for the greenkeeper and other volunteers.

Spalding Bowling Club was founded in 1912 and is situated in St John's Town of Dalry. The club provides outdoor lawn green bowling membership which is open to anyone and visitors are always welcome. Offering structured bowling

games 2-3 times per week during the bowling season (April to September), Spalding also runs a variety of different club competitions open to members as well as annual open competitions. Members can also use the facility at other times to play informal games in small groups. Spectators are very welcome and there are benches provided for people to sit and enjoy watching the sport.

The club is registered as a Community Amateur Sport Club and, at present, the club is operating for members only on a limited basis following the guidelines issued by Bowls Scotland in respect of the COVID-19 restrictions. However, once these restrictions are removed the club plans to hold some 'try bowls' sessions to allow people to come along and experience the sport. At these sessions the club would welcome anyone of any age to come along and have a game - bowls will be provided.



Spalding Bowling club president James Hutchison along with Honorary President John McNally with the new equipment.

For further information on the club contact club president James Hutchison on 01644 430 639.

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CatStrand Highlights

OPEN DOORS AT CATSTRAND

CatStrand will now have opened its doors as part of a soft reopening from Thursday 16 July, which saw a return to a cafe service for takeaway and seating outside (or inside during bad weather).

The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust team have been preparing the arts and visitor centre, having worked through the creation of considered reopening plan documents and procedures in line with government guidance to ensure the communities' safety as they open up the building once more to the public.

The project teams have been setting out their timelines for reintroducing activities including the arts programme's events, youth arts groups and Connecting in Communities activities - and here's what you can expect for August and September at the time of going to print...

CatStrand's arts programme will look a little different this year but Aidan (Arts, Culture & Heritage Manager) says; "I hope you'll be inspired to get involved as we begin to open our doors to our communities and explore new ways of bringing a mix of high quality arts experiences to the Glenkens over the coming months".

From August we'll be installing exhibitions in the Pyramid Gallery (usually our cafe area), beginning with *An Ode to the Sky*, an exhibition of Edward C Campbell's mono-prints in ink around a theme of clouds, atmosphere and the ever changing nature of the sky; a timely meditation of our relationship to what is above us and our place upon the earth. The gallery will also be digitised and made available online through CatStrand's virtual gallery space at www.catstrand.com.

During September we are hoping to hold live events in the park in New Galloway including film screenings, theatre and music which are all open to the public, as well as launching a new online programme of events to enjoy at home.

Looking ahead to October we're preparing to launch our Live & Local series of indoor small scale music events at CatStrand, featuring regionally based professional musicians giving intimate performances - this will be subject to funding and government



Welcoming You Back to CatStrand

From Thurs 16th July our Opening Times will be Thursday-Saturday 11am- 3pm

CatStrand's cafe service, gift shop and toilets will be open to the public 3 days a week from 16th July. Join us for a coffee, a scone and a chat with physically distanced seating open outside only. We will have indoor seating available but ONLY if weather prevents use of the outdoor area.

We are looking forward to welcoming you back and thank you for your ongoing support.

What to expect as we reopen CatStrand for our community in July?



guidance for the events industry.

Currently and in line with the Scottish Government COVID-19 guidelines there are no planned attended activities for the Connecting in Communities project, either at the CatStrand in New Galloway or the Smiddy in Balmaclellan. However, there are a number of online activities and events that people can attend digitally, including One-to-one IT & Tech Support Sessions, online or by phone, run in conjunction with the Castle Douglas IT Centre, yoga and fitness classes such as kettle bells and regular group meetings, eg the CatStrand Photography Group. If you are interested in any of the activities or groups online, or have an idea for either an online activity or something that you would find interesting once restrictions are lifted, Chris and Brian would love to hear from you - email chris@catstrand.com

Our youth arts programme will be running virtual creative courses during the school summer holidays - stay

tuned for more news about these and other activity you can take part in online at www.catstrandyouth.co.uk

During September we have some plans for activities in the park, including our usual Movie in the Park screenings.

Also, we're planning to bring back our regular groups in line with guidance from October, but still be keeping some activity online and offering some new options to join in digitally when you can't make it in person.

The above plans for each project are subject to change in line with government guidance, so please keep an eye on our website for the latest updates.

We're looking forward to welcoming our communities back to CatStrand and working towards getting our projects and events up and running again throughout the rest of the year. Hoping to see you soon!

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

The CatStrand Team

BUSINESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Dynamic Domestic

This section showcases some of the many wonderful local businesses we have on our doorstep.

In this edition we hear from Victoria Birch of Dynamic Domestic, giving us an insight into cleaning in the current lockdown climate.

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

As micro businesses struggle throughout Scotland, I thought it a good time to put pen to paper and reconnect with the community after this long isolation.

Establishing the business in 2013, I'm not new to cleaning but we are new to this invisible enemy, COVID-19 - a small name for a big problem.

In mid-March, as the threat grew ever-closer to our small community, I made the unimaginable but inevitable decision to suspend our services.

What a road it's been since then, with most of us being confined to our homes for the duration. For someone who is

usually out working six days a week interacting with clients it was a huge adjustment. I don't think I will ever be able to put into words the eeriness of venturing back into the world of work whilst the usually busy village streets were empty and the shops all shut.

As we looked to reopen the main focus has been how to work safely during this period of adjustment. The answer has been courageous investment in new specialist equipment and training to meet the ever-changing guidelines. We have used our time wisely reinforcing our knowledge, undertaking necessary courses in infection control and updating our risk assessments to meet current guidelines.

As a small business a lot of the changes I have had to undertake have seemed daunting. I imagine it to be the same for many others. In saying that, the team's resilience, patience, kindness and willingness to learn has meant that although the learning curve has been steep it has been met head-on from all of us. This positivity has made my job so much easier, allowing us to efficiently evolve, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their ongoing support.

Having grown steadily over the years I remain really proud to be able to offer other local employment and we are now a team of four. It was a huge relief being able to retain the staff by utilising the Government's furlough scheme, which provided us with some security and breathing space for restarting when the time was right.

Whilst embracing these new practices throughout the last few trying months



Victoria with the array of products and equipment now necessary to meet government guidelines for professional cleaning services.

we have kept to our ethos of quality service, and I'm so pleased to see our regular clients welcoming us back. It is heart-warming to have that support and understanding from our clients as we strive to forge ahead.

Looking to the future, I hope we can continue some of the plans we had at the beginning of the year by bringing further employment to the Glenkens and supporting more clients within the community. It is important, now more than ever, to face these new challenges and embrace the 'new normal'.

Victoria Birch, Dynamic Domestic

To get in touch with the team or for further information please visit www.dynamicdomestic.co.uk



We are living in strange times; 'unprecedented' is the word most commonly used to describe the situation.

The impact on our local Connecting in Communities (CiC) project, which is aimed at improving the lives of those living and working in the Glenkens by combating loneliness and rural isolation through getting people out of their houses and bringing them together, has been absolutely huge.

Many of our service providers and volunteers have come up with online and digital solutions. Zoom has been

a godsend for the exercise world. Whether it's dance, yoga, kettlebells or circuit training, Zoom is there to connect instructors to classes without anyone having to leave the safety of their home. John, from JP Fitness, has increased his offering to five days a week now, plus one-to-one personal training on demand, Sam is running her Zumba classes and Amy's Tuesday Night Yoga is going strong.

The Photography Group are nearing completion of a virtual exhibition using CatStrand's online gallery, and there's a really well attended quiz every Wednesday and the CatStrand singers are Zooming together weekly. We all love to boogie on a Saturday night so CiC has hosted some excellent music nights too - Rock, Disco and Tamla have all had people bopping away in their kitchen's and conservatories. Our friends at Castle Douglas IT centre have been doing their bit too - they are at the end of the phone or available online so if you, or someone you know, is struggling with tech then give us a call and we'll try and help.

Our Men's Shed is still closed, but we've not been idle. Blackcraig Community Fund have awarded us a grant to have external cladding fitted and new heating installed. Resource Efficient Scotland have helped with design and procurement advice and as a boost to the local economy the contract has been awarded to Jayde Devlin from Dalry. A great result all round; safe efficient heating, improved insulation, local workmanship all combined. With the recent new roof and solar panels, the Glenkens Men's Shed will be one of the most eco-friendly sheds in Scotland; brilliant!

Connecting in Communities is a LEADER and Big Lottery funded project, now also supported by the Scottish Government's Wellbeing Fund. The project was due to end in May, but thanks to some understanding funders we can gratefully carry on for a few months more. For further information contact Brian or Chris on 01644 420 374 or email chris@catstrand.com or brian@catstrand.com

Chris Jowsey

Glenkens Food Month is Back

Following the success of the inaugural Glenkens Food Month last year, New Galloway Community Enterprises (NGCE) is excited to announce a second Glenkens Food Month, coming this September.

"We are extremely grateful for funding awarded from both the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund and the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme that has allowed this event to go ahead again," says NGCE's community engagement worker, Sam Rushton, who is overseeing the project. The Food Month team is looking forward to coordinating and promoting another full programme of events and activities that will celebrate our seasonal local food and drink businesses, as well as bringing the people of the Glenkens together as circumstances allow.

There will be a varied timetable of outdoor events including some favourites from last year; 'Ready Steady Cook', foraging and cookery demonstrations,

plus some new and exciting ideas. Elements of the programme will be delivered online, to make it accessible to everyone. Do make sure that you are ready and set up to use Zoom - get in touch if you need help as we wouldn't want you to miss out on the fun.

After our long period of lockdown, the team hope that you are ready to enjoy this month-long celebration of local food and drink.

"Please be reassured that all events will be planned and delivered with your utmost safety in mind. Contingency plans will be in place if circumstances change between now and September," says Sam.

Keep an eye out for event programmes which will be available from local shops around the Glenkens.

For more information follow the Facebook page *Glenkens Food Month* or you can email glenkensfoodmonth@gmail.com if you have any questions.



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THE GARDEN SPOT

Naked ladies, tomatoes and garden safety.

There, that got your attention, didn't it?! I wrote that to remind myself what I wanted to write about, but I thought that I would leave it in.

In gardening, you always need to be thinking ahead, especially for the ornamental garden. Flower beds can look a bit sad in the autumn as the summer blooms die away. Naked Ladies are an ideal autumn flower but I suggest you use their proper name of 'colchicum' if you look for them on the internet to save any embarrassment.

Plant these large bulbs in a sunny position by the end of August and you will get a good show of crocus-type flowers (without leaves) around October, with half a dozen or more blooms from each bulb. In the spring you will get the leaves, looking a bit like hostas, but these die down by mid-summer. Try and remember where you plant them so you don't damage the bulbs for next year; it's always good to have something a little different to look at.

There is a lot to worry about with fruit and veg at this time of

year. Tomatoes can be a little tricky, especially in a greenhouse. They need a steady and constant supply of water and can suffer from fruit splitting, blossom end-rot, yellow leaves and blight to name but a few, but the condition that I want to concentrate on is tomato leaf curl. Some varieties suffer from this more than others and it is caused by the plant being too hot and dry, especially when contrasted with cool night temperatures. To minimise leaf curl, on hot sunny days open all the windows, doors and vents and it helps to 'damp down' the greenhouse by watering the ground,



Leaf curl on tomato 'Shirley'.

gravel, path or whatever surface you have; not the leaves themselves as that will promote scorch and possibly blight. The best treatment for leaf curl is prevention - by shading the greenhouse during the summer months (approximately May to late August) and this can be either by using a type of plastic shading which you fix to the greenhouse roof and walls or a type of whitewash which is painted on to the glass in late April and removed in September. Make a note for next year.

The garden is full of sharp and heavy things, not to mention the dubious chemicals that some insist on using; nor nature's hazards of bees, ants, wasps and a whole load of poisonous plants. Now I don't want to put anyone

off gardening; on the contrary, but I do think that a healthy respect for the dangers is a good thing. I should know as I recently suffered an injury caused when I carelessly swung a full bag of compost around, knocked a block off of a wall and hey presto, I was limping for six weeks. And the commonest serious garden accident? Bending over and stabbing yourself in the eye with a sharp cane (put an empty pot or a safety cap on top).

Be safe and you will enjoy the garden all the more.

The Intrepid Gardener

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Waterside Hill Plantation Proposal

Continued from front page...

Andrew Mellor, who taught geography at Dalry School for many years, believes that the exceptional 360 degree panorama that can be enjoyed from the top of the hill must be protected. "The project plan that I have seen is not well presented - I don't know how ordinary members of the public can be expected to make sense of it - but it looks like some Scots Pine will be planted 10 to 15 metres below the summit cairn. It doesn't take much imagination to realise that within a few years the open land that is being left at the top of the hill will have no views at all. Walkers on the Southern Upland Way would have to pass through a corridor of conifers, and evidence of the old pack road which extended to Carsphairn and beyond may be lost."

Waterside Hill is also the site of the Witches' Score, a physical feature recording a folk tale some believe provided the inspiration for Robert Burns' Tam o Shanter. - 'Springing from his horse in a little meadow, he pulled the beast shuddering beside him, and drawing his sword described a circle in the turf around them...' Thus, it is said, Adam Forrester made a mark on Waterside Hill to save himself from the witches who were intent on killing him and who had pursued him after he had



View from Waterside Hill by Jill Bowes.

spied them dancing with the Devil in Dalry Kirk. Or so the tale goes.

Andrew Mellor says, "if the proposed planting goes ahead, it will be very difficult if not impossible for anyone to visit the Score." Balmaclellan resident, Ted Cowan, emeritus professor of Scottish History at Glasgow University, shares this concern. "There are a

number of competing claims to have provided the inspiration for Burns' tale but there is no doubt that this is a very important piece of Glenkens folklore. Its physical manifestation should be preserved and public access to it should be maintained. What a shame it would be if future generations were no longer be able to visit this link with our past."

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

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TIME TO RETHINK FORESTRY IN OUR REGION?

With over 3,200 acres of new plantations currently in the pipeline for the area we should be considering what we want future planting in this area to consist of and how we want our region to look for the next generations - before it's too late.

The Scottish Government are pushing for a large increase in forest cover of all types in Scotland. Dumfries & Galloway already has 31% forestry coverage (the highest proportion in the UK) of which 78% is commercial softwood and only 9.4% is native woodland (the remaining 15.6% is classed as open space within the forest and other mixed woodland). Some community areas such as Carsphairn have approximately 55% of their land area already planted with commercial softwood and New Galloway approximately 59%, with less than 1% of the total area being native hardwood. And yet still more forestry proposals pour in.

It is therefore critical for the local environment that any future planting addresses this imbalance by insisting that forest developers increase the proportion of hardwoods planted as these in turn will increase diversity of plants and wildlife and mitigate the well-documented negative effects of large softwood plantations which are responsible for nutrient depletion and have historically caused acidification in watercourses. Large monoculture

softwood plantations at current planting densities effectively create an ecological desert allowing very little light to reach the forest floor creating dead zones.

The Government's forestry strategy does acknowledge these issues and the overall objective is to plant 25-30% hardwood/native species but this is not happening here in Galloway. Developers still seem to be pushing ahead with majority softwood plantations. Scottish Forestry's own website cites, in reference to their plans for south Scotland; "The objective is to maximise returns by producing large volumes of sawmill timber", with no mention for diversity or communities. At the moment the industry is driven by maximum profit with little regard for local people, the environment or indeed a quality product.

At the moment the industry is driven by maximum profit with little regard for local people, the environment or indeed a quality product.

Forestry has a long-term impact of hundreds of years visually, but the environmental impact will carry on for centuries. So much habitat has been lost already that native species such as curlew, black cock and hen harriers have become a rarity. Forestry has also caused a fundamental land use change, turning our communities from predominantly rural farming areas with local ownership into areas owned by non-resident investors with no real care for the place itself.



The visual impact of commercial plantations can be seen in the above photograph taken near Muirdrochwood, Carsphairn.

Sitka spruce makes up more than 99% of commercial softwood plantations but, in countries such as Norway, they have classified the species as invasive and there are moves in Ireland to do the same. Carbon sequestration and the environment are frequently cited as reasons to plant more Sitka spruce but there is scientific evidence that these are not the best trees to plant if these goals are to be met.

Recent times have also shown us how important quality outdoor spaces are for local communities to utilise

for relaxation and exercise and all future developments should surely include paths and routes for the public to use and enjoy.

It is recognised that the forestry sector is important for jobs in the

wider area but so is tourism and the environment. It is therefore important to look after this land for future generations, to think how we want this landscape to look and find the correct balance when it comes to future of forestry development in Galloway and all areas of Scotland. Proper engagement with local communities is a critical part of this and the only way we can get the right tree in the right place!

Joseph Seed, Corsock

Communities for Sustainable Forestry

A new group, Communities for Sustainable Forestry (CSF), has been formed to bring together concerned individuals in the Glenkens and further afield.

The group was created in response to the high volume of unsustainable forestry applications that have recently come into the region. These applications claim to be beneficial to the environment and community but when closely scrutinised it is clear that they do not benefit either and exist to fulfil government objectives without properly considering local context.

Joseph Seed, Chair of Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council, and Katch Holmes, of Knockengorroch

Festival, Carsphairn, are two of the key founding members. Katch says: "The Scottish Government has a remit to plant more trees and CSF support sustainable forest creation when it is genuinely done to benefit communities, tourism and the environment."

"At a time when we are facing a planetary environmental emergency it is vital that forests are properly planned to capture carbon, conserve threatened species and habitats, offer community access and benefit local economies by providing jobs and enhancing landscapes."

To find out more visit the group's Facebook page or email communitiesustainableforestry@gmail.com



Waterside Hill: A Part of Our Village

As a resident of Dalry of some thirty years I feel qualified to comment on the iconic importance of both the landscape and open country qualities of Waterside Hill and its environs to the Dalry community and its numerous visitors.

A walk to the top of Waterside Hill, with its unparalleled panoramic views of the surrounding countryside, was established as a popular pursuit of local people long before the Southern Upland Way (SUW) brought a much wider appreciation of this attraction. These views would be effectively ruined by this proposal.

The overwhelming complaint in surveys of SUW walkers has been of too much Sitka spruce, and this scheme proposes to create yet more of a tunnel effect through coniferous woodland on the edge of an outstandingly attractive village valued for its open landscape setting and unhindered views to the Kells range.

Dumfries & Galloway is the most afforested region in the UK, and any reasonable balance of land uses in this part of Galloway was exceeded long ago by the large-scale blanket afforestation of open country. This view is almost universally held by the non-forester community, and indeed many in the forestry sector concur privately. Some years ago, the Local Forestry Framework (a local authority and multi-agency community initiative) identified this area as sensitive, with no or only very limited opportunities for further planting. I believe for Dalry residents' recreational and spiritual attachment to the open nature of Waterside Hill alone,

this proposal should not receive public funding support, but then there is the intrinsic biodiversity interest of the area and its additional importance to the local community, tourists and long-distance walkers of the SUW.

Waterside Hill comprises the foraging areas of at least five pairs of red kites and a pair of peregrine falcons.

These species are listed in Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive, and as

such require protection of their habitats outwith designated areas. Several red data species of conservation concern breed on Waterside Hill itself including cuckoo, many pairs of skylark and several pairs each of whinchat and linnet. Curlew also breed in some years, but the regular breeding pairs on neighbouring Hannaston forage on Waterside. Recent research has shown that afforestation also has an impact on neighbouring land through increased ground predators, and afforestation here would not only



Skylark © RSPB Images.

...it is difficult for me to overstate the importance of Waterside Hill as an open landscape and recreational area to locals and visitors to the Glenkens, and especially Dalry.

result in the loss of these priority species on Waterside Hill, but would most likely result in the further loss of curlew and lapwing on neighbouring land too.

There is a supporting cast of less nationally threatened bird species, such

as stonechat, whitethroat, reed bunting, etc, but they all add to the attractive ambience for walkers on the hill, and all would be lost through the proposed afforestation. The rough southwest facing slope of the hill

along the SUW down to the Garroch Burn is particularly rich in butterflies, including a notable colony of small pearl-bordered fritillaries, which would be threatened by afforestation.

To conclude, it is difficult for me to overstate the importance of Waterside Hill as an open landscape and recreational area to locals and visitors to the Glenkens, and especially Dalry. This importance has only been accentuated by the recent lockdown, and this has served to awaken the local community's consciousness to what is about to be lost if this proposal goes ahead. The open views to the magnificent Rhinns of Kells would be severely compromised by this scheme and the imposition of a further 70 hectares of largely conifer forestry so close to Dalry would have a severe negative impact on its attractiveness, and indeed on the standing of the forest industry in an area which feels it is already doing more than its fair share of furthering national forestry targets.

Chris Rollic, Dalry

Many readers will have walked up Waterside Hill, across the Ken from Dalry.

What a view we are blessed with; a full circle of Galloway's best. To the north east the bold rounded hill of the Cairnsmore of Carsphairn now tranquil after its fiery beginning a few hundred million years ago. The upper reaches of the Ken valley with the Galloway Power Scheme infrastructure now well settled in the landscape. The magnificent ridge of the Rhinns of Kells striding southwards. And the view down the Ken/Dee valley with the loch shimmering in the sunlight and the wee hill of Screel showing in the background. It is a fine place to see sunrise and sunset and to see and hear a variety of moorland birds. Or just to sit on the top and to contemplate. How lucky we are to live in such a place.

Let's not forget also that this hill is the setting for Dalry. It is seen from many parts of the village, enclosing our view,

giving us a guide to immediate past and present weather. At a time when the setting of settlements is at long last recognised as being important for residents this 'sense of place' is not to be tampered with without residents' views being properly sought.

Are we to lose all of this, and the easy access up the hill, because of an unthought-out scheme to grab government funds to plant yet more conifers? Surely not. Given five weeks and two days to consult, and without any public presentation to the local Community Council, is hardly the way to gain community support for the planting scheme.

Have we not too much conifer monoculture already? Do our views not matter? Is grabbing grant for short term gain really appropriate? Surely not!

But there is an alternative. In true Dalry fashion, we have chatted about this in our little impromptu gathering in the middle of Main Street. Rather than giving us a very limited time to respond to a near-100% conifer

planting application, why not ask us to develop our own ideas for the hill? This is fully in keeping with the much vaunted Scottish Government mantra of community participation. I'm sure we do not want to own the land, but we do want some ownership on what happens to it. That is at the heart of the Scottish Government's Statement of Land Rights and Responsibilities, a really trail blazing initiative.

The local community and expert residents in the area, of whom there are many, should be invited to develop a scheme which safeguards the environment, including ecological, cultural, access and visual aspects of this important piece of land. This could comprise planting more trees to supplement the deciduous ones already there, providing a link to the deciduous woodlands across the valley, also encouraging more birds to use it, more native plants to grow, and capture some carbon too. Sounds a better idea all together doesn't it?

Roger Crofts, Dalry

Memories of Waterside Hill

My siblings and I were carried up it as babies.

We learned about what grows there from our parents as curious toddlers and ran down it with glee once we'd reached the top as boisterous youngsters. As adults, we met friends and family on its craggy shoulders, weaving countless conversations together with happy memories. By the cairn at the top, our eyes drawn back to the village that nurtured us, we breathed in its splendour.

It's achingly beautiful up there on a crisp clear winter's day when soft sunlight turns the surrounding hills pink, purple, blue. Or in the spring when the hill and the landscape is blushing with verdant life once again.

It is, and has been, an anchor in all our lives in so many ways – it is a part of us. It feels like an old friend.

Waterside hill also meant a lot to our mum, who passed away in 2016, and it is a place we can go to remember her wonderful spirit and vivacity for life, her natural ability to inspire in us a love for nature, community and the landscape. The memories we have of our mum are imbued in that landscape. As we move on in our lives, we want to pass this on to our children; to take them to Waterside Hill where they can be free to discover the wonders of nature,



The late Annie Winstanley helps a young child climb the cairn at the summit of Waterside Hill.

learn about life, love, the history of the area. To allow them to feel a connection to place, a familiarity to the land and to the grandmother they never got to meet; to feel a sense of where they came from, who they are and their small but interwoven place in the fabric of the universe.

Amy Winstanley

A GLENKENS SHANGRI-LA

I first visited Garroch Glen nearly forty years ago with my old mentor, Dick Roxburgh, who regarded the place as a local Shangri-La.

I suspect, like many other Dalry residents, I now regard it similarly and indeed it has been a lockdown salvation to me in numerous pilgrimages on foot to the sylvan mysteries of Hannaston and Garroch woods, designated as Water of Ken Woodlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Behind Earlstoun power station I generally leave the Southern Upland Way (SUW) and follow the ancient pack road up and over the shoulder of Waterside Hill. This is a breeding place for resident stonechats and migrant whinchats, so beloved of artist Donald Watson and a real blessing to have such attractive and relatively scarce passerines so close to Dalry. There are often a few linnets and whitethroats about the whins, too. Beyond the gate

at the top, a wee knowe off to the right affords a fantastic view of the Glenkens including the magnificent Rhins of Kells, Earlstoun reservoir and the Carsphairn trinity of Cairnsmore of Deugh, Beninner and Moorbrock.

On sunny days in spring and summer the plateau of Waterside Hill is serenaded by skylarks, while in the rushes below a few coalheids (reed buntings) mark their own territories with more subtle songs. Beyond ruined Cavan to the north lie the lightly-grazed hollows and humps of Hannaston, a pastoral delight of wild flowers and an occasional breeding whaup, snipe and even a peewit or two at times. Such places are all too rare in these days of silage and conifer afforestation.

Descending into Hannaston Wood is to enter another, privileged world amongst a profusion of redstarts, treecreepers and even a few wood warblers and pied flycatchers, together with more common woodland species. Roe deer and brown hare are there and I sometimes hear myself apologise for disturbing them as I move slowly through the tall oak and ash trees. Bluebells don't last long,

but at their peak are sensational in their shimmering iridescence. Time permitting, I continue over Garroch Burn and into the more mature Garroch Woodlands with their hidden wetlands calling kites and buzzards. Dunveoch Hill beyond offers yet more semi-natural habitats and on one extended walk during lockdown I recorded 71 bird species, not including several village standards like jackdaw and collared dove!

Usually I return by the Coom Burn and Water of Ken, but in the butterfly season I often follow the SUW, where the lower slopes of Waterside Hill by Garroch Burn hold a colony of small pearl-bordered fritillaries, amongst other delights, whilst up on the hill itself rocky outcrops are ablaze with stonecrop and thyme, as homely Dalry re-appears below.

To my mind the afforestation of this area would be utter sacrilege, adding insult to injury to this area that has seen more than enough alien coniferous forests already.

*Chris Rollie,
former RSPB Area Manager*



On the Southern Upland Way, over the shoulder of Waterside Hill, looking across the Glenkens to the Rhinns of Kells over Earlstoun reservoir towards the hills at Carsphairn, and deeper down in the Garroch Glen, including a close-up of some sundew plants, a rare red-listed endangered species which thrive on the hillside.

Give Your Views on Proposed Developments in Our Parish

Given that Carsphairn has the smallest population of any of the parishes of the Glenkens we are very proud of our professional website, and the new interactive planning page is the icing on the cake.

Carsphairn has faced a veritable tsunami of windfarm development proposals over the past few years and as the news has come in recently that the Quantans Hill project, previously abandoned by E.ON, has been resurrected by Vattenfall as part of their "South West Scotland Green Energy Hub" it was felt important to encourage as much feedback from the

community as possible. It is, after all, little more than a mile from the village and will impact on the lives of many of the people we were elected to represent should planning consent ultimately be granted.

In addition to responding to new wind farm developments as they come in (rather too fast for our liking), we are now also faced with an increasing number of consultations for new forestry plantations. Currently we are aware of plans in the pipeline to plant approximately 2000 acres of land in Carsphairn currently under low density pastoral agriculture with predominantly Sitka spruce "no-thin" commercial forestry. It seems that the sudden rush for new forestry reflects the fact that there is uncertainty as to whether grants for 'Woodland Creation' will continue.

To us, as the community's statutory

representatives, it is really important that local people make their feelings about these proposals crystal clear to us. Please don't be shy! Let the CC know exactly what you think.

Once forestry applications are submitted, people can also comment through the forestry case register to make their views known: www.casebook.forestry.scot/w/webpage/prhome

I would also like to thank our webmasters for creating the map (easily accessible from the home page of Carsphairn.org under "planning") and donating the significant time, effort and creativity that has clearly gone in to make the whole website quite as splendid as it is.

*Liz Holmes, Chair,
Carsphairn Community Council*

Carsphairn Coming Under the Cosh

As a resident of Carsphairn, I am particularly concerned about the increasing number of planning proposals by local landowners and resource-rich companies which will stifle our community by taking away our rural environment.

Developments are getting ever closer to the places where we live. It would appear that, while Scotland and the rest of the UK has been in lockdown because of the coronavirus, windfarm and commercial forestry companies have been taking advantage by working away behind the scenes to sneak through their plans with the minimum of consultation. The suspension of community council meetings and public gatherings, coupled with a poor broadband service, is being used as a back door to get developments progressed without seriously addressing public concerns.

At the moment, the whole planning system would appear to be skewed against the public, despite what the Scottish

government says about encouraging community engagement. If a development is turned down by D&G Council, it is then appealed to the government's Energy Consents Unit which, in the vast majority of cases, waves it through. If a development is granted permission, there is no right of appeal for its opponents.

In the case of Cornharrow, it was refused by D&G and then the ECU. So the scope was changed and now it is back on the table. The current Quantans Hill proposal is a rehash of an E.ON project that was withdrawn in 2016. Developers just keep on knocking at the door until someone lets them in – and there's nothing anyone can do about it.

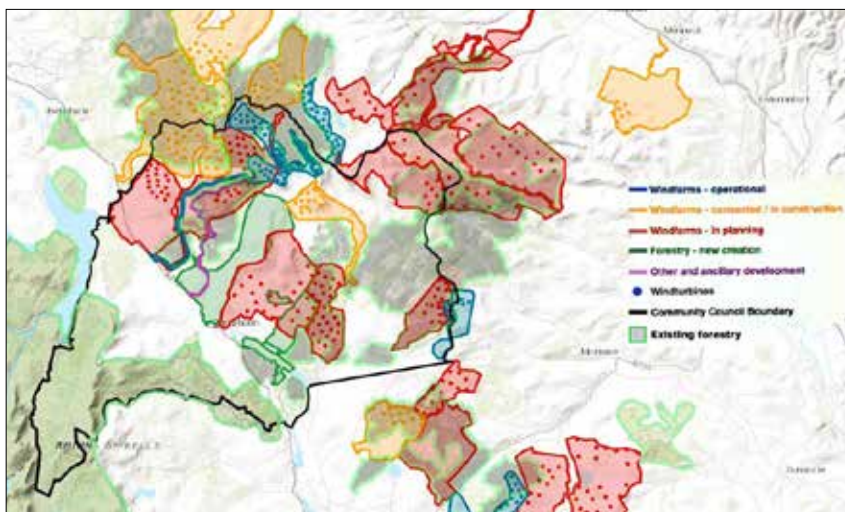
What Glenkens needs now is a unified voice that can effectively challenge what's going on – at a local, regional and national level. As was shown by our planners when they supported a laydown area on the edge of our village, even a surge of local

opposition tends not to have any effect. Where are our councillors and MSPs?

Instead of all the community councils and Glenkens residents acting individually, we should set up some kind of forum whereby we can measure the strength of feeling against these developments, whether wind farms or commercial forestry. We need an online place where people, their democratic representatives, natural history experts, flora and fauna specialists, heritage conservationists, ecological activists, tourism businesses and anyone who is interested in protecting our environment can act in concert against the rich and powerful. We need to level the David v Goliath playing field.

I suggest a forum entitled GUARD – Glenkens United Against Rampant Development. It's about time the 'little people' had the opportunity to speak out against our way of life being eroded as the surrounding countryside is sold off for a few pieces of silver.

PS As I am not tech savvy, it would need someone who feels as strongly as me to set up a website and Facebook page so that we can start to muster the troops and present a unified opposition to the onslaught of this unwanted industrialisation of our beautiful environment. I can be contacted on njmartin260651@gmail.com



Graphic for illustrative purposes only, based on information extracted from interactive map on Carsphairn community website – see the planning page for full copyright accreditation <http://carsphairn.org/CCPlanning>

*Nigel Martin,
Carsphairn*

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

Having become aware of the strength of local views regarding the planting of Waterside Hill, I wish we could muster the same determined attitude regarding the march of wind farms in our area.

To the east and north-east of Dalry our landscape is changing dramatically to accommodate wind farms. It appears that because these cannot be viewed from Dalry windows there is little opposition to this desecration of our Galloway uplands and it is left in the main to the country dwellers, the tiny minority who are most affected, to oppose this never-ending onslaught of our landscape and wildlife.

This brings me to the subject of forestry. Renewable developments in Scotland on state managed forests have removed 6,994 hectares of forest. This equates to 2,000 trees per hectare, which is 13.9 million trees. This figure does not include private forests for which no-one has compiled a total. We know that certainly in Galloway and south Ayrshire most wind farms are sited in place of private forests. We can therefore very conservatively double this figure to closer to 30 million trees. This will cause a major problem to the forestry industry as these will have to be replaced in the future. These figures do not include the many miles of power lines and pylons where swathes of forestry have been removed to service wind farms.

The forestry of the '60s and '70s, when large areas were planted with an even-

aged monoculture of Sitka spruce, has fortunately been left far behind. These were largely planted as a tax advantage for wealthy investors. Modern forestry schemes are far more enlightened with much thought given to varied species and open spaces but, as with any investment, a return is required and the bread and butter of the forestry industry is still Sitka spruce.

If we look at the forestry on our hills today we see a mosaic of trees of varying ages, from clear-felled areas through the whole age structure to fully matured trees. This has created a habitat that is much richer in wildlife, accommodating many species of birds and animals including our iconic red deer and red squirrels. Spruce trees are particularly helping the red squirrel population because the invading greys cannot sustain themselves on the spruce cone seeds alone whereas the reds can, being a smaller bodied animal.

Spruce and pine cones also provide a bonanza for all our seed eating species such as crossbill, siskin, finch and the tit family of birds. To the uninitiated, standing dead trees seen following a clearance may be thought of as inefficiency but it is in fact the opposite as they are purposely left. The reason for these is to benefit raptors as perches. As the vegetation recovers so do the vole numbers in particular. The raptors in turn reduce the vole population, so helping to avoid damage to the newly planted trees. The species using the perches tend to be predominately buzzards but also kestrels and owls - barn, tawny and long-eared.

This is one example of present forestry activity working in line with nature rather than opposing it. There is no doubt that

when an area of hill is planted, the open hill species will be misplaced but it is my belief that a sensitively designed plantation will hold far more wildlife than an open hill.

I would agree that the Glenkens and Galloway in general have adopted more than their fair share of spruce forest just as it has wind farms. Taken as a whole, the Waterside Hill development is insignificant in proportion to the total coverage of forestry, however it is a major issue for the local population. The overall design of Waterside Hill appears to be fairly enlightened, incorporating what is required for forests today. One saving grace with the existing maturing spruce forests is that after harvesting, at approximately 40 years old, they can be and should be redesigned to incorporate all the design features we would want nowadays for wildlife and amenity. The key to all of this is simply light levels ie the more light the more wildlife. Forest designs should maximise internal spaces, creating as much internal edging as possible. We learnt many years ago that the forest edges were the richest for birds, etc, either exterior or interior.

Any examples I have heard of spoiling of views can and would be addressed as an ongoing concern by the forestry company responsible.

In defence of forestry, people would be well advised go out to a forest to look and listen. They are not dead as some people would have you believe. I spent the majority of my life working in forestry and, now retired, I spend my leisure time walking in forests enjoying the wildlife. We are so privileged living in Galloway where we are free to roam on extensive forest tracks.

John Wykes, Dalry

PROTECTING OUR SPECIAL PLACES: *Stroanfreggan Iron Age Fort*

The Stroanfreggan Iron Age Fort is one of those special places which is curiously invisible.

Situated on the B729 between Carsphairn and Moniaive, by the Smittons bridge near the Water o' Ken road turning, from the road it is easy to overlook. Rather than being one of those places you look in at, it is one of those places you must look out from. Present and past seem to merge on the realisation that this is still an excellent site for combatting invasion.

The strength of the vantage is as evident today as it was when occupied, and immediately imparts a sense of immense security and belonging. The site commands excellent views of the Rhinns of Kells, the Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and the peaceful Water of Ken. To the north the upland plateau

is somewhat mystical with all manner of interesting crags. The remains of past settlements and human activity is plentiful enough to fire the historical imagination as the area is explored.

The fort is a scheduled ancient monument and is described by Historic Environment Scotland as a "prehistoric domestic and defensive hill fort". It is mentioned along with its sister hillfort, Mochrum Fell, in the book *The Lost Dark Age Kingdom of Rheged* by Toolis & Bowles.

These special places are part of our culture and belong to a group which have

inspired many a classic book, film or play. The Scottish Government in its recently published *Culture Strategy for Scotland* says: "Place: community, landscape, language and geography - is important and reflects the creativity of the past and provides inspirations for cultural expression today."

I feel scarce need to read a book in order to understand this special place. The landscape of Stroanfreggan with all of its ancient edifices is a novel in itself. Just being there and feeling the place, is enough. I would be devastated to see

this part of Galloway over run by developments which compromise its integrity. This fort was built to protect a community from invasion and I hope it will continue to serve that purpose today.

If you have any Special Places which you feel are under threat, please email me through fclubb@btinternet.com

Fiona Clubb, Carsphairn



View up the Water o' Ken from the iron age fort.

If you have an opinion on commercial forestry or wind farm development in the Glenkens that you would like to share please get in touch; we'd love to hear your views on how best to achieve a balance regarding commercial land development our area - glenkensburgazette@hotmail.co.uk

CLIMATE CONVERSATION

However we're involved with it, I think it's likely that we have a much closer relationship with and awareness of our natural environment here in the Glenkens than those in more urban areas.

We may well be more able to notice changing weather patterns and wildlife populations, to feel more affected by them, and perhaps also feel more empathy for other lives in the world who are already experiencing the consequences of these changes far more than us.

I am in awe of the number of people locally involved in positive action to support our environment and community, from running and supporting local shops to committing time to raising awareness and lobbying those in power - the importance of strong local community, and taking positive action at a local level, is something being highlighted across the country and the Glenkens is already a great example of how this can work.

And it's clear that, as with any big issue that's going to affect our lives and those of our children, it needs as many of us as possible becoming involved in the conversation about climate and biodiversity, to take different views and perspectives into account, have access to the information we need to act effectively as a community in response to these issues, and to use this action to help influence the change needed at a larger level.

The Gazette has kindly agreed to a space in each issue dedicated to highlighting some of the issues and initiatives taking place, and to share concerns, views and responses from a wide range of us as possible. There will also be space to do this on the Gazette Facebook page.

For starters, I thought I would contact people at the forefront of taking action on climate change in Dumfries and Galloway and ask them a few key questions such as what, from their perspective, can we do that actually makes a difference?

Below are some responses to these questions from Laura Moodie, Green MSP candidate for South Scotland 2021.

How can we best influence those in a position to make decisions?

- By making our views known and being aware of who has power over what decisions. People do have power in democracies but often you need to do some work to find out who has accountability in what area. A lot of the climate change actions we can make relate to our most local level of government - the Council.

- Keep an eye on planning applications (your community council should be sent them weekly).

Take part in consultations on things like climate action plans and the Local Development Plan: <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/ldp2>. The Local Development Plan is the council's 5-year plan for building and development. It's the document that underpins decision making on planning and investment and it's what you need to refer to and quote from if you want to successfully object to planning applications. Handily, climate change is referenced early on in the document so if a proposal is made locally that will harm the environment, use it to object or make a comment.

- Write to the local press and make your views known

- Write to your 3 local councillors and make your views known: <https://www.writetothem.com/>

- Vote and make sure your councillors know your vote relates to their approach to the environment.

A lot of what Councils do takes place in frameworks set at National Level - Scottish Government. This is where you need to lobby about strategic infrastructure projects, changing taxation and funding systems, tightening legislation etc. We have 8 representatives at this level - 1 constituency MSP and 7 regional MSPs.

- Finally - talk to people. It's amazing how much common ground you can find through face-to-face discussion. Don't make assumptions about people's views until you've asked them. Make climate issues a topic of local discussion and interest.

What key things do you feel make the most difference locally, both for mitigation and adaptation?

On a purely technical level in terms of what emits greenhouse gases, the top three locally that impact everyone are:

- Transport
- How we heat our houses
- Food waste

Some communities are looking at practical solutions to the rural transport conundrum, for example setting up local groups to organise lift shares. Going somewhere? Send a message to the group and someone may need a lift or ask you to collect something, saving journeys.

In terms of emissions from a single sector, I am increasingly concerned about the growing numbers of slurry lagoons and tanks being built. There were 7 applications for slurry lagoons to D&G Council just in the last month. These emit enormous amounts of greenhouse gases including nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide, methane and ammonia. Some Danish research indicates emissions could be reduced by 38% just by covering them



but there is no requirement to do so. If all those applied for were built, it would release thousands of tonnes of greenhouse gases.

Is there anything that seems positive but that could actually make matters worse?

- Electric cars (I say this as an EV owner) - they can be part of the solution to reducing emissions but what we really need to do is wean people off individual metal boxes as a transport solution. If we swapped every current fossil-fuel car for an EV we wouldn't even get close to coping with climate change, not to mention the "self-charging hybrids" that are barely electric at all. We need to promote active travel so people can stop using cars for short journeys and to better link up public transport as well as build essential infrastructure (like a new railway linking Dumfries & Stranraer). We also need to encourage folk to do more things remotely or locally. There's a local food hub being set-up in Twynholm which is really interesting and could be replicated elsewhere (think of it like a farmers' market but all the producers are really local and you order online in advance). Like focusing on producing and distributing food in your local area.

- Tree planting - not all trees are equal. Mass reforestation with a monoculture cash crop like Sitka spruce only shunts the problem down the road and can actively damage other vital habitats. We need to promote mixed native broadleaf forestry, for the long term, sensitively managed and in sites unsuitable for other uses. There's lots of Scotland where that is feasible.

- Recycling - I cringed when a local news reporter said it was "one of the best things we could do for the environment" recently. It's not. It's the last resort. When all else has failed, the least we can do is recycle our waste. We need to look much more at reducing waste in the first place, and making manufacturers produce repairable goods as well as simply reducing how much we consume.

Thanks to Laura Moodie for her clear and detailed response. Check back here in the next issue for more on local initiatives having a positive impact and thoughts from Dougie Campbell, Dumfries & Galloway Council's environment champion.

Most importantly we would like your thoughts on the issues, what should be included and responses to Laura's points, so please get in touch glenkengazette@hotmail.com

Mary Smith

VENUES OPEN!

As lockdown begins to ease, local venues are starting to reopen.

We would like to encourage you to visit them - at this time our local businesses really need our support. Also - how exciting is it to be able to go out for a meal, or go kayaking round the loch or just meet up with friends again?!

Below are some of our local venues whose doors have reopened - please phone to check opening times, etc, as they are liable to change depending on current Government guidelines as we move out of the COVID-19 lockdown.



The Café at Clatteringshaws is open daily from 11am to 4pm.

Admire the stunning view over Clatteringshaws loch while you enjoy some freshly made coffee, cake or something savoury.

Drop by or call ahead to reserve a table by calling 07946 258 104 or messaging the cafe on Facebook.



The Smithy, New Galloway, is now open Thursday to Sunday from 11:30 to 3pm for lunch or takeaway. Takeaway is also available on Friday and Saturday evenings from 5 to 7pm.

The menu is still focused on fresh local ingredients and the coffee is still just as good as it was before lockdown.

Bookings and orders can be made by calling 01644 420269. The Smithy would like to thank customers and suppliers for their support during lockdown.



GAC are delighted to be able to reopen and welcome customers to the centre again to experience some fantastic activities.

Currently the centre is offering half day activity sessions. To book call 01556 502 011, email gac@lochken.co.uk, visit www.lochken.co.uk or visit GAC on Facebook.

The Lochside Café is open from 9.30am to 5.30pm daily, and the GAC team look forward to giving you a warm welcome!



CatStrand



CatStrand's cafe service and gift shop are now open to the public three days a week.

Pop by for a coffee, a scone and a chat with physically distanced seating open outside and inside.

Staff and volunteers are looking forward to welcoming customers back and thank them for their ongoing support.



The Clachan Inn, Dalry, is currently open Wednesday to Sunday from 12noon-10pm with lunches being served 12noon-2pm and evening meals 5.30-8.30pm. Food on Sundays is served 12-4pm.

The Clachan would like to thank their takeaway customers for supporting them throughout lockdown - they are continuing to run a takeaway service from Thursday to Sunday.

To book a table or find out more call 01644 430 241, email mail@theclachaninn.co.uk or visit www.theclachaninn.co.uk



Carsphairn Tearoom & Bistro

For current opening times for Carsphairn Tearoom please call 01644 460568, visit www.carsphairntearoom.co.uk or find them on Facebook.



VIRTUALLY KNOCKENGORROCH

Local Knockengoroch festival organiser, Katch Holmes, gives us an overview of their lockdown virtual World Ceilidh.

A child giggles. "Get her off me. Please, we're about to go live. Please just take her away..." So goes the unconventional opener to Saturday's Virtually Knockengoroch festival evening's programme. Not the usual opening lines to a live broadcast, but then, what is normal for live broadcast music festivals?

Fast forward several hours to Guinean Griot and Afro Celt Sound System member N'Faly Kouyate, illuminated in the beam of a car's headlights in his village of Siguiri, Guinea, playing exquisite balafon. His fellow band members sit in little boxes on the screen alongside a captive 'live' studio audience on Zoom whilst hundreds watch on Facebook, YouTube and Twitch.

A live interview with Afro Celt founder Simon Emmerson sees him checking-in with all the band members and then premiere a brand new video, The Lockdown Gorroch Reel, created during lockdown for Knockengoroch. The audience whoop, cheer and offer enthusiastic messages in the chat boxes



This was my 'new normal' when we attempted our first festival online.

Knockengoroch is a family-run, annual roots and dance music festival outside Carsphairn, taking place at my family's smallholding, Knockengoroch Farm. Established in 1998 we programme artists from across the world, with a strong emphasis on traditionally-based music from the islands of the North Atlantic. A May event, we are of the first of the season, and one of the first to announce postponement after the COVID-19 lockdown.

We've built up a strong community over the years and as the festival dates drew closer it felt important to mark them. With little other choice, little time and not much knowledge of 'how', I decided to run Virtually Knockengoroch, an online celebration of the event.

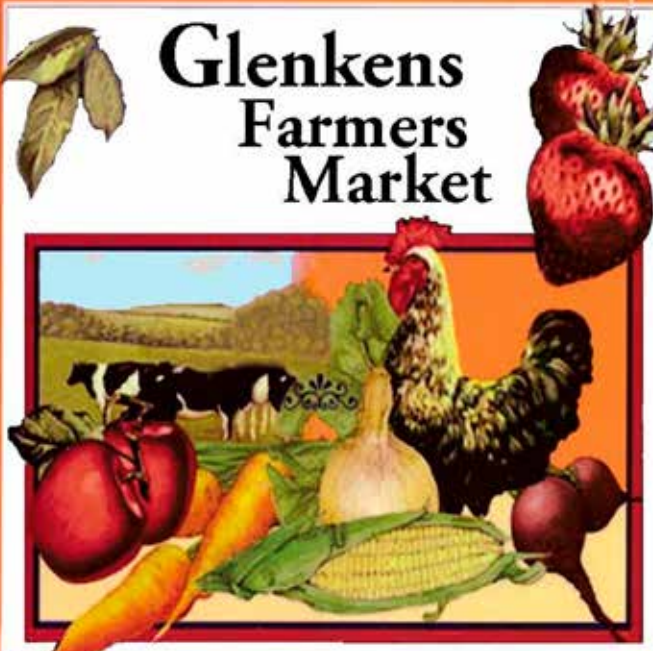
Most live streams I had seen were done 'presentationally', with artists playing to an audience they can neither see nor hear. From the beginning, I knew that wasn't how a 'virtual' Knockengoroch could

be. The participation of our audiences make the event for all of us, not least our artists. I knew that any festival we created had to incorporate the people as well as feature incredible music.

A three-day festival programme mirrored the actual event, featuring live music and DJs from the original line-up. Audiences were encouraged to donate to a Justgiving fundraiser to raise funds to reimburse the artists.

Artists rose to the challenge brilliantly, some performing for the first time online. Legendary Scottish 'acid croft' band Shooglenifty debuted a brand new video created in lockdown for Virtually Knockengoroch for their track 'Black Dog'. James Mackintosh said: "We were delighted to be able to join the Virtually Knockengoroch Festival as representatives of Shooglenifty. The whole event was great fun with some great performances. We'll look forward to seeing everyone under the stars at some point in the hopefully not too distant future, for a celebration of life, love and live music in person!"

Afro Celt Sound System founder Simon Emmerson said: "It was an amazing experience. We had N'Faly Kouyate playing his grandfather's ancestral balafon and singing live and direct, illuminated by car headlights. His tribute to his recently departed mentor Mory Kante was incredibly moving."



Glenkens Farmers Market

2nd Saturday Monthly
8th August • 12th September
 10am-12.30pm

*** Dependent on the government's guidance
at the time regarding COVID-19 ***

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

Entrance by donation - proceeds towards Dalry Town Hall Refurbishment Fund
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Introducing LOCH KEN TRUST

Loch Ken Trust is a new charitable body that has been formed to care for the amazing natural resource that is Loch Ken and improve life in its communities. **The purpose of Loch Ken Trust is:**

"...to promote the natural, cultural and recreational assets of the Loch Ken area for the benefit of the public and to support sustainable local communities."

Loch Ken Trust is already active around Loch Ken in the following ways:

Working together with the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership and the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere, Loch Ken Trust is delivering the Loch Ken Alive project.

Loch Ken Trust has taken over operation of the Loch Ken Boat Registration Scheme.

"This is the start of an exciting future for Loch Ken and the surrounding area. Loch Ken Trust has been set up to put the community at the heart of decision making that affects them. With all the uncertainty ahead of us, I would urge everyone to get involved and help build a brighter future."



Alan Smith
Loch Ken Trust
Chairman



Barney Fryer
Loch Ken Alive
Officer



Gill Warnock
Loch Ken Trust
Administrator

"We're really looking forward to getting Loch Ken Trust up and running. If you'd like to become a member, get in touch and get involved."

Getting Involved

Right now, Loch Ken Trust is looking to recruit members and trustees.

If you are interested in becoming a member or trustee, or would like to know more about our work, please **contact Gill Warnock** on:

 /lochkenalive  @lochkentrust  lochkentrust

 LKToffice@protonmail.com

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour at Loch Ken

The vast majority of visitors to Loch Ken are responsible and respectful, but an irresponsible few don't behave as they should.

To try and get a grip on this issue, Loch Ken Trust has set up a stakeholder liaison group to bring together the right voices to build a solution. The group has representatives from local landowners, businesses, angling groups, Police Scotland and the local authority.

The Story of the Galloway Hydros: Part I

The Galloway Hydros' story begins in 1899 when the Marquess of Ailsa initiated investigations into the hydro potential of the Doon catchment by raising Loch Doon.

The burgh of Ayr revived the proposal in 1921 to replace their struggling coal-powered generator but on both occasions development was frustrated by estimates of cost and distribution difficulties.

Inspired perhaps by actions in Ayrshire, three worthies (including William McLellan) in Kirkcudbrightshire commenced a study of the Dee catchment in 1922. Although the potential was far greater than first thought, the scheme required construction of large storage reservoirs so again cost together with the problem of distribution of power to a widely dispersed population halted progress.

The Electricity (Supply) Act 1926 and formation of the National Grid eased problems with export and distribution of power, allowing promoters of hydro schemes to utilise their catchments more efficiently. The flexibility of hydro power to respond to spikes in demand in stark contrast to coal powered stations was quickly recognised by the National Grid who became supportive of hydro development. The most dramatic spikes occurred around the Remembrance Day two minute silence.

The Kirkcudbrightshire scheme was revised to operate on a peak load basis to help the grid operate without demand spikes causing dimming then overloading of equipment. The scheme was extended to utilise catchments of the Ken, Deugh and Doon and the Galloway Water Power Bill received Royal Assent in May 1929.

Opposition to the scheme was fierce, diverse and daunting; issues included fishing, aesthetics, coal interests, antiquities, industries and community interests. Galloway poet WGM Dobie captured the mood in the 'Modern Raiders':

A raider comes today who kills
The glories of our glens and hills
With unheroic Acts and Bills

And 'Private Legislation':

The company promoter's pen
Will dam the Deugh and dam the Ken
And dam the Dee, - oh damn the men
Who plan such desecration!

Loch Doon Castle was to be largely submerged until the promoters buckled to public pressure and relocated the structure via a causeway to a site donated by the Marquess.

Bruce's Stone was (by chance) marginally above top water level of Clatteringshaws Loch. It was however the subject of delicate and prickly negotiations with landowner the Earl of Mar who claimed direct descent from Bruce. The Earl bought Clatteringshaws Farm in 1927 for £1,200 but sought £4,500 in January 1929 to accommodate the new loch in which the Moss Raploch 1307 battlefield was to be submerged. Settlement was agreed three months later at £1,900 subject to the Earl retaining the site of the stone; surprisingly, he gifted the site to the National Trust only three years later.

Constructed during the Great Depression, the Galloway Hydros proved to be a magnet to the unemployed population who were often prompted to seek work in Galloway by labour exchanges across the country. Despite obligations to engage local labour first, in practice they suffered discrimination; workers were charged up to half their income for camp accommodation even when they were working within easy reach of home. This remained an issue of bitter contention throughout the works.

The Presbytery of Kirkcudbright appointed a missionary, the Reverend TP Hitman, to attend to the spiritual welfare of the workforce from August 1932. He was an inspired appointment as in addition to religious services (aided by donations from the promoter's directors), he organised concerts, indoor games, sports, libraries, reading rooms and first aid. Many facilities were open to local communities which helped with integration and fears that the huge construction encampments would overwhelm neighbouring communities proved unfounded.

The Reverend CH Dick was moved to publish a Second Edition of *Highways and Byways in Galloway and Carrick* in 1938. It remained a powerful eulogy to the area though deeply mournful of amenities lost or dominated by the hydro

scheme including Tinkler's Loup and Earlstoun Linn.

The Galloway Hydros with its bold and imaginative works combining catchments of the Dee, Doon and Ken, the biggest turbines, highest fish ladders and largest remotely controlled power stations remained the largest hydro scheme in the UK until the 1950s. No opening ceremonies were conducted in 1935/6 when the power stations commenced service; it was not until McLellan's memorial plaque was unveiled at Tongland in 1938 that Lord Meston remarked on the achievements of the scheme - tempered by notes of apology. Although the Galloway Hydros were widely admired within the Institution of Civil Engineers as recorded in contemporary publications, public commemoration and knowledge remains rare.

A memorial to the men who died during construction was erected adjacent to the remote surge shaft at Glenlee where sadly access is now restricted by a three metre high steel fence.

An extraordinary collection of construction stage photographs was uploaded by James Bell which may be copies of prints held at Tongland (two examples below, and more of which can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/72399139@N03/sets/72157628632448449>).

Further photos and details are accessible on the excellent Carsphairn Heritage site at www.carsphairn.org/CarsphairnArchive

Drax recently acquired the scheme from Scottish Power along with two other iconic hydro schemes, the Falls of Clyde (completed in 1926) and Cruachan (completed in 1965) and they are investing to preserve the works for future generation.

By raising awareness of hydro power, its longevity and also the potential of tidal schemes around the UK to provide reliable power whilst also protecting against rising sea levels and improving transportation, my hope is to help ensure future investment in green energy is based on responsible and informed choices. Production of hydro turbines could enable Rolls Royce migrate towards a sustainable future.

Subject titles which I'd like to cover in future articles include Innovations, Amenity, Fishing, Designers, Workforce, Introduction of Electrical Power and Transportation. Feedback is welcome and any anecdotes, records or photographs would be gratefully received (please email glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk).

Acknowledgements:
Tunnel & Dam by George Hill.
Ian Keown

pictured: Far Left - Glenlee pipework. Left - foundations at Glenlee.



GLENKENS PLACE NAMES: PART V

One of the strange things about place-names generally, and in the south-west of Scotland in particular, is how certain types of place-names cluster in specific areas.

Dr Gilbert Markús has written about this in his excellent blog in respect of the Gaelic place-name generic *earrann*, which means a land portion or share, sometimes with religious connections. Gilbert has pointed out that we have distinctive *earrann* place-names in the upper Glenkens (all but one, Arndarroch, in Balmacellan parish). I count eight in our area, the same total as Gilbert gives but I would include Ewanston which was Armakewne in 1466, probably for *Earrann Mhic Eoghain* or MacEwan's portion and would probably leave out Dalarran given there is no record of a farm of this name and the the broad, flat *dail* (equivalent to Scots holm) is kidney-shaped when viewed from the height above at Fintloch (*An Fionn Tulach*, the while hill). *Dail Àrainn* would I think then mean 'kidney holm', describing its shape much in the same way as the kidney-shaped Loch Arron (*Loch Àrainn*) near the Merrick. Be that as it may, eight or nine of these *earrann* place-names is quite a remarkable number given their general scarcity elsewhere in Scotland (outside Menteith). They also do not seem to occur in Ireland or the Isle of Man. I won't go into more detail on these names now, readers can follow up on Gilbert's blog if they wish. Daphne Brooke also wrote about *earrann* place-names in her paper *The Glenkens 1275-1456* in the transactions of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society (1984, pp 41-56).

Another Gaelic term relating to the administration of units of land in medieval times is the *ceathramh*. This means a quarter, in this case a 'quarterland'. The fact it refers to a fraction of a whole does not necessarily mean there was a specific hierarchical unit into which the *ceathramh* was nested. Gilbert Markús has noted in connection with the *ceathramh* land units on the Isle of Bute that they seem to have had a more general 'district' sense rather than a set area or value: think 'Latin Quarter' of Paris which does not imply a quarter of that city. However, established opinion has been that the *ceathramh* was a subsidiary part of a greater unit called a *dabhach* and this despite no charter affirmatory evidence for Galloway that the *dabhach* land denomination unit existed here.

This claim is made on the basis of some place-names in anglicised form incorporate *dabhach* as 'doch/doach'. An example from our area is the Doach Steps on the Polharrow up the Forrest Glen. However I think that most of these place-names in Galloway refer to fish-traps (*dabhach* literally means a vat or pot) and that the Polharrow example is a fish-trap re-interpreted as stepping stones.

But back to clusters of *ceathramhan*. I estimate that there are around seventy place-names in *ceathramh* in Galloway, mainly in Wigtownshire and the centre/west of the Stewartry. This is almost as many as in the whole of the Isle of Man. By contrast there are almost none in Carrick or Dumfriesshire and the distribution of the *ceathramh* place-name type stops almost precisely on the boundary of Galloway as we understand that term today.

The place of *ceathramh* in neighbouring areas to Galloway is taken by names relating to pennylands, in Gaelic *peighinn*, *leth-pheighinn* and *fàirdean* (pennyland, half-pennyland and farthingland respectively). These are extremely common and indeed cluster strongly in Carrick and Upper Nithsdale. They are usually anglicised as pin/leffin/farden respectively.

In medieval times there was clearly a difference in land control, administration and management between Galloway and the surrounding areas. In land denominations Galloway shows similarity with parts of Ireland and the Isle of Man and a few other parts of Scotland whereas Ayrshire and Nithsdale seem to have inherited the same pennyland based system that prevailed in parts of the inner Hebrides. This may have been related to different control being exercised over these areas from either Dublin/Man (*ceathramhan*) or via the incoming *GallGhàidheal* from the Hebrides *peighinn*, *leth-pheighinn* and *fàirdean*. But all this is shrouded in mist!

As far as the upper Glenkens is concerned, our area went with Galloway in that there are likely examples of *ceathramh* or quarterland place-names but no pennyland place-names whatsoever.

We have two different place-names here meaning 'black quarterland'. Duchrae, a large farm on the uplands near Lochinvar, is most likely derived from Gaelic *An Dubh-Cheathramh* meaning the black quarterland. In this case the adjective is pre-fixed to the noun, something while not the norm, is not unusual in Gaelic especially relating to colours (note Fintloch above). There is another farm of this name just outside our area in Balmaghie parish. The other is Corriedoo. In my view Corriedoo is not likely to refer to a *coire*, cauldron, or corrie but this probably represents *An Ceathramh*

Dubh, the black quarterland with the conventional noun/adjective order in Gaelic.

Carminnows appears as Kirremonnow in 1615, pointing to a derivation in *ceathramh*, probably *An Ceathramh Meadhonach*, the middle quarterland. While I have argued earlier for another derivation for Carnavel, Sir Herbert Maxwell in his *The Place-Names of Galloway*, p 58 suggests *Ceathramh n' abhall*, presumably for *Ceathramh an Abhaill*, quarterland of the apple.

Perhaps more contentiously, in the western reaches of Kells and Carsphairn parishes are the place-names Curnelloch and Kirreoch. These only survive as burn names today and are at the southern and northern ends respectively of the broad valley of the Cooran Lane between the Dungeon of Buchan and the Rhinns of Kells. It could be that the former represents a lost farm, potentially sited where there are some good fields around the former holding of Back Garrary (such as Davie's Holm) and it may be derived from *Ceathramh an eallaich* the quarterland of the cattle. Kirreoch could stand for *An Ceathramh Riabhach* and perhaps the farm of this name preceded the ruins at or around Sheil not far to the north. A further suggestion that a *ceathramh* may have been located in this area could be the place-name Fallincherrie Scar, describing a cliff where Craigtarson, Carlin's Cairn and Corserine meet. Ballycherry, near Dingwall is in Gaelic *Baile a' cheathraimh*, farmstead of the quarterland. Depending on how Fallincherrie was pronounced (I would be interested to know if anyone has heard a local pronunciation) this could represent *faillin cheathraimh*, the small cliff of the quarterland.

The origin of our quarterlands are lost in time but they still leave an imprint on the land today. It is possible that farms such as Corlae and Cornharrow represent *ceathramhan* as well. The former may stand for *Ceathramh an laoiigh*, the quarterland of the calf and the latter *Ceathramh na h-airbhe*, quarterland of the boundary. At the moment these must remain speculative and the Place-Names of Kirkcudbrightshire web-site gives a different derivation for both. It is likely that many of the older named farms in the Glenkens were originally quarterlands even if not necessarily named as such.

Later reorganisations into Merklands and their Gaelic equivalent Marg gave us place-names such as Muirdrochwood, *Marg na Drochaide* (merkland of the bridge). This is a good example of a place-name (which is pronounced Mardrochit today) being gentrified and being made to sound 'respectable'.

Michael Ansell, Carsphairn

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

A COUNTRY OF PALACES AND COTTAGES



A person knows he is in trouble when his mother advises: "when you write to me let me know how many children you have and their names"!

John Neilson who had moved from Balmaghie to Quebec was once again in Isabel's bad books. John was a busy man always full of good intentions but that was not enough for his old Ma. Seventeen years later John had to remind his nephew, Samuel Jr, that it was unmannerly not to answer a letter, even to an entire stranger and a much greater offence when family-mail was concerned. Canadian-born Samuel was now attending Glasgow University, studying French, logic and accountancy, and his dad demanded a "memorandum of money spent".

Isabel was not happy about "the new fashioned doctrines of the times" but such matters fascinate historians and the family correspondence is full of information about changes overtaking Galloway and wars waged overseas.

William Neilson, who lived at Gatehouse, told his brother about the death of Nelson, Prime Minister William Pitt, and the ongoing struggle with Napoleon. He was pleased that his grandson was learning Latin; the boy was the son of William's daughter Margaret who lived with her husband and six children at Genoch "near the kirk of Balmaghie". Gatehouse could now boast a coffee room which took a London newspaper daily, rendering the town as posh then as it is now! William thought that John should come home since war had broken out between America and Britain in 1812. Many Americans, unhappy that they did not continue northwards at the end of the Revolution, sought to liberate Canada only to discover that the Canadians did not wish to be liberated. The Brits burned the White House to

teach the Yankee upstarts a lesson.

When John visited Galloway in 1816 he found "a country of palaces and cottages". On departing he advised his student nephew to adhere to the Church of Scotland, avoiding young men and a headlong rush to destruction, and to beware of "loose conversation concerning women". About the last mentioned he says more but you, dear readers, can peruse it yourselves! Don't fight, always apologise, do not take offence, use mild language, don't drink and "keep account of every farthing that you spend to be submitted to me". Such a lengthy list might suggest that Samuel had already stepped off the path of righteousness. Or could it have been a younger John?

Additionally, he stressed the desirability of neat handwriting. "The end of writing is to be understood; this is effected by clearness in the expression and plainness in the characters used; uniting the two with as much despatch as they are susceptible of, is perfection". The first victory you have to gain is over

the wisdom of Granny Neilson: "I maun improve your time will, an fa in wi ne gauding company", (you must improve your time well and not fall in with frivolous folk). He thought nothing of asking his brother in Quebec to send him 300 or 400 feet of red pine of lengths from 13 to 21 feet long.

In the decade 1810-20 people were selling up and emigrating. Poor labourers lacked food and employment. William was of the view that taxation was proving ruinous. A new word was becoming current – radical. There were demands for annual parliaments, universal suffrage, even cries of equality and liberty, breeding fierce opposition from the establishment. Young Sam and his pals finishing up at university were predictably all 'King and Country', though Sam thought that Britain was not the place it assumed it was and he yearned for the clean air of Canada.

In 1826 many hundred poor weavers were out of employment, most of them hoping to be soldiers. Will writes telling Sam the loch trout fishing is just settling in and he would like to

see him again "on the borders of the Galloway Lochs and rivers working the finny race and partaking at times of the hospitality of the natives of the high lands". Thomas Edgar, a native of Balmaghie, was on his way to Quebec for employment. Ever since the early days the Quebec Neilsons had asked relatives at home to recruit likely candidates from the Auld Country. Latterly they could almost be

"Emigration very considerable, a great many of the middle and respectable classes are moving off to a better and less burdened country where the reward for industry is not taken from them by laws made by the few self-elected lords on the earth."

yourself. It is to be hoped that Sam had learned the appropriate Glasgow response – "Gie's Peace"!

His uncle, Willie Neilson, was more understanding. When Sam was visiting Gatehouse the two would meet at Dalmellington and fish the lochs, especially Lochenbreck, on the way home. Dornald Loch was good for gades (pike); Loch Grannochs, Whinnie, Fleet and Pool of Ness were also favoured. Will remembered a very large pike they caught one Sunday morning; "it was still alive when our mother returned from Kirk". He truly represented the voice of Old Galloway, quoting in Scots

described as emigration agents. The Reform Act of 1832 arrived at the same time as cholera hit Dumfries. William continued to resent the current state of affairs. Nearly half of the British community were becoming beggars and slaves. "Emigration very considerable, a great many of the middle and respectable classes are moving off to a better and less burdened country where the reward for industry is not taken from them by laws made by the few self-elected lords on the earth."

This is a fascinating collection well worth a visit. Well done Kenneth Veitch!

Ted Cowan

Local Initiatives For Dalry

Local Initiatives For Dalry (LIFD) have been working hard to keep people's spirits up during lockdown.

Plant Swap Shop

Thank you so much to everyone that shared, swapped and donated at the plant swap shop. We will be happily sending a cheque to Dumfries and Galloway Mental Health Association, CD for the amazing sum of £168.56. Absolutely fantastic!

Big Village Bake Off - Bake Sale

Following our successful unmanned bake sale during the VE Day Celebrations, LIFD have sent an incredible donation of £357.80 to our Glenkens Medical Practice as a thank you for the amazing work and care they provide our community with.

A huge thank you to the LIFD bakers and Jayne's Hair Salon for organising and setting up the stall each day and to everyone that bought some of the yummy goodies. What a wonderful community we live in.

Spoonville

The creation of St 'Spoonville' of Dalry has been great fun. On the corner between Throughgate and Kirkland Street is a mini map of Dalry, with streets marked. People have been creating their families out of wooden spoons and placing them in the correct location of Spoonville, a mini

version of Dalry. Feel free to join in!

Scarecrow Festival!

Dalry's show of scarecrows to lift the spirits and brighten people's day was truly amazing. Thanks to everyone who got involved.

Stones of Kindness

Beautiful painted stones are still popping up in and around the village. I bet you've spotted some! If you see one when you're out and about, why not take a photo and post on the LIFD Facebook page? And even better, how about joining in and make your very own painted stones and hiding them for someone to find while out walking?

We feel so grateful for living in such a kind and caring community and hope that everyone stays happy and healthy as we move forward out of lockdown.

Please keep your eyes peeled for further LIFD community engagement opportunities in the future. If you would like to get in touch or join the group please check visit the LIFD Facebook page or contact Angie Bradford on 01644 430 512.

The LIFD Team



Top: Plant Swap Shop. Above Left: A few Stones of Kindness. Above Right: Spoonville.



Just ask

If you don't know where to turn in an unfamiliar world, we are open, available and here for you. Whatever's on your mind, just ask.

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ST. JAMES'S PLACE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Top Tips for Looking After Your Teeth

With dental practices being closed during lockdown, it has never been so important to take a preventative approach to oral health.

Dr Maria Papavergos (Mrs Maria Yerburch), is a general dental practitioner who lives on Barwhillanty Estate, Parton. Maria is a passionate advocate of holistic health and wellbeing, and in this article offers her expertise aiming to impact both your oral and systemic health in a positive way. By sharing her top tips for looking after your teeth at home, she hopes to empower you with some knowledge to make lifestyle and dietary choices that nurture your oral microbiome and help you stay free from dental disease and pain in these challenging times.

1) Use a Fluoride toothpaste (1450ppm adults, 1000ppm children under three years). Fluoride is an established, effective remineralising agent. It has the capacity to rebuild the enamel on your tooth surface, thus protecting against dental decay.

2) Brush first thing in the morning and last thing at night as a minimum.

3) Brushing after a mealtime/snack (especially a sweet snack/drink) helps

reduce your risk of tooth decay. Leave 30 minutes before brushing to reduce erosive effects.

4) If you use a mouth rinse, rinse at a SEPARATE time to brushing (ie after a snack) so as not to dilute the effects of the fluoride.

5) Spend at least two minutes brushing your teeth. Electric toothbrushes have timers and smaller heads which aid technique.

6) Brush accurately and meticulously, but not vigorously.

7) Interdental cleaning, ie flossing, interdental brushes and tongue brushing/scraping are good practices.

8) For all denture wearers, always take your dentures out at night. Brush and clean them in warm soapy water (washing up liquid). If you wear partial dentures, make sure you brush your teeth without your dentures in, giving particular attention to the teeth adjacent to the denture.

9) Eat a diet with a large variety of fresh fruit and vegetables and low in refined carbohydrates.

10) Swap some of your snacks, not always opting for something sweet. Try veggie sticks with hummus, peanut butter topped toast/oatcakes or fresh fruit as a tooth-friendly alternative.

11) Keep well hydrated by drinking water/milk regularly. Limit fruit juice/



squash. If drinking plant-based milk, always check for added sugar.

12) Choose fresh whole fruit. Limit dried fruit, and fruit consumed in juiced or blended form.

13) Eat whole foods/grains and try to cook from scratch. Less processed foods = a lower glycemic index and reduced sugar content.

14) Be mindful of hidden sugars - sauces, ketchup, preserves, purées and dried fruit. Indulge in these knowingly; it is the frequency of intake that increases potential damage to teeth.

To learn more from Maria, follow her on Instagram @thelifestyledentist

WINDY RIG CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The construction team have continued to make good progress since reopening the site in late May, with additional measures in place to create a safe working environment in accordance with Scottish Government's COVID-19 guidelines.

Works are still well underway to prepare the site for the installation of the turbines in early 2021.

Reducing Construction Traffic:

We are pleased to have been able to significantly reduce traffic on local roads by producing some of the materials required on-site. Blasting took place throughout June and July to provide aggregate for access tracks throughout the site. Tracks have been constructed to allow vehicles to move around easily, even in wet weather, and will remain in place for the operating life of the project.

Improving Local Roads:

The installation of ten additional passing places along the B729 went smoothly, the passing places are large enough to allow an HGV to pull in and allow traffic to pass safely. Originally designed as a temporary measure, we are pleased to have been able to work with D&G Council to ensure these new passing places will remain after the construction to make travel along the B729 safer for local residents in the future.

Preparing For Turbine Blade Deliveries - Laydown Area:

In early June we commenced work on the blade laydown area just outside Carsphairn. The work to establish the laydown area will take until September to complete. This area will be temporary to allow the turbine blades to be transferred to a blade adapter and then delivered to the site.

We are currently operating a text message service to alert residents to potential disruption - if you would like to be added

please contact Doug Wilson on doug.wilson@statkraft.com or call 07542 754642.

For up to date information on construction progress, visit www.statkraft.co.uk/windyrig



Top: Track construction taking place on the Windy Rig site. Above: Passing place construction along the B729.

CatStrand Youth Arts

It's summer!

And we've got some great mini courses lined up for you:

- Creative Sketchbooks with illustrator Lucy Hadley – 29th/30th/31st July – 10.30am - 1pm (ages 12+)
- Dance with Scottish Dance Theatre's Joao Castro – 5th/6th/7th August – 11am - 1pm (ages 10+)
- Photography with artist and For Enjoyment founder Frank Hayes – 6th/7th/ 8th August – 2 - 4pm (ages 12+)

All sessions are free and you can choose to attend one, two or all sessions in a course, although we'd advise all three to get the most out of it.

They will be held online via a Zoom group. You'll need parental permission to take part and will be emailed a zoom link, meeting ID and password in advance. To book your place email katy@catstrand.com. Materials can be supplied beforehand.

We're also planning a couple of one-off online workshops for our under-12s, so keep your eye out on our website at www.catstrandyouth.co.uk or visit Facebook page for updates.

For further information please email katy@catstrand.com

Katy Billington,
CatStrand Youth Arts Coordinator



Creative Writing Course

John Dean, a novelist who is part of the CatStrand Writers' Cafe, is offering creative courses during lockdown.

Crime writer John has been a creative writing tutor for twenty years. His online course is aimed towards writing groups who may be

struggling to meet in person during the current coronavirus restrictions, aiming to provide a creative spark during lockdown.

The course, which runs in eight parts and can begin at a time and date to suit the group, will help writers to improve their technique and therefore their chances of being successful, either in competitions or submissions to publishers.

John said: "A lot of writers are telling me that they are struggling to find their motivation the longer that the lockdown restrictions continue and I hope that my course will help to spark some creativity."

"Hopefully, I can also help aspiring writers to develop their craft and, because the course is online, it does not matter where they live."

You can contact John at deangriss@btinternet.com or ring 07889 554 931. For more about John's work visit www.johndean.ning.com



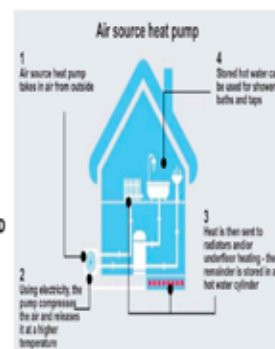
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- General Plumbing

SERVICE

- Ground Source Heat Pumps
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- LPG
- Bathrooms

REPAIR



GO WILD SUMMER ONLINE

Last summer, young people throughout the Galloway Glens area spent days discovering and exploring local wild places through the Galloway Glens 'Go Wild' programme of day camps, and had their enthusiasm and conservation work recognised through the John Muir Trust's 'Discover' Award.

This year the Go Wild project has been impossible due to COVID-19 restrictions, so we decided to move online instead.

The Galloway Glens Online John Muir Awards is a supported John Muir Award programme for families and individuals across the Galloway Glens area (and beyond) to help give outdoor activities focus, support and recognition at a time when we perhaps need it more than

ever. Thirty families and individuals are taking part, and the programme has proved particularly popular in the gorgeous Glenkens.

John Muir was a passionate environmentalist and founder of the first National Parks. At the turn of the last century, he radically taught that the environment is not just a commodity, a resource or even a backdrop to achieving our 'personal best', but intrinsically part of what we are. Over his fascinating life spent in Scotland and North America he approached the world fearlessly with wonder, curiosity and wholehearted love and respect for every aspect of nature. That's what the John Muir Trust and their awards aim to encourage in our modern lives. We hope that this flagship online programme will help towards producing resources and inspiration for more to do the same.

The Awards require you to discover, explore, conserve and share experiences of wild places, and so far Glenkens families have included wild swimming, woodland walks, canoeing, wildlife photography, litter-picking, dog-poo posters, pond dipping, river walking, tree identification and lots of tree climbing in their work. We think John Muir would be proud and we're excited to see what else takes place over the summer months.



Bow-making at last summer's Galloway Glens 'Go Wild' project days.

For more details about the programme, see www.gallowayglens.org/projects/galloway-glens-explorers or contact helen.keron@dumgal.gov.uk

You can find out more about John Muir, his life and the Awards at www.johnmuirtrust.org

Mary Smith, Galloway Glens Online John Muir Awards Project Co-ordinator



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Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund

COVID-19 Emergency Fund



THE GLENKENS & DISTRICT TRUST

Trustees have set aside £20,000 to provide emergency grants over £500 to:

✓ Support activities by community organisations providing help to vulnerable people in difficulty because of the coronavirus emergency.

✓ Support community organisations suffering major adverse impacts as a result of the pandemic, which put their services at risk.

✓ Primarily benefit the residents of Balmaclellan; Balmaghie; Carsphairn; Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham; Crossmichael & District; St. John's Town of Dalry; Dunscore; The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Parish; and Parton, as defined by community council boundaries



Apply online:

www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/blackcraig

For more details call Emma Goodlad 07718 772 726
or email egoodlad@foundationscotland.org.uk

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

Glenkens Community Centre: Contact Carylann Williamson on williamsoncarylann@gmail.com

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: Visit 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



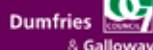
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is available for consultation on any Council/Public Service matter.

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk



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



Many events and activities are still on hold at the time of going to print due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

Please check government guidelines for up-to-date information on social activities during August & September.



Galloway Community Transport

(formerly Glenkens Transport Initiative)

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

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

Wednesday Evening Glenkens to Castle Douglas (Tesco) Service

Regarded as essential public transport this service has operated successfully throughout the Covid19 lockdown and will continue to do so with the appropriate precautions.

Out	GK2 Glenkens to Castle Douglas (Tesco) Wednesday evenings Timetable	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

Writing several weeks before this issue of the Gazette appears it's difficult to predict how things will be for community transport when it does.

If lockdown easing proceeds as planned, we hope to be able to resume some of our regular services (Newton Stewart weekly and Ayr/ Carlisle alternative months), with appropriate distancing and sanitising procedures, sometime in August. Details of dates and Covid19 guidance will appear on the GCT website in due course.

It's not yet clear when we might be able to resume services such as user hires and excursions, but as soon as there is news about this it will be posted on the GCT website.



Glenkens Community Councils

Balmaclean Community Council
Meetings: Last Monday each month,
7.30pm, Balmaclean 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.

Dalry Library & Customer Service Centre

Tuesdays 10.30am-2pm

Fridays 11am-4.30pm

For further information contact Castle
Douglas library on 01556 502 643

CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND:

Search on YouTube under Balmaclean, Kells and Dalry linked with Carsphairn'. The words of the reflection and prayers are accompanied by pictures of the Glenkens and soft music.

David is also happy to send these directly to people by email if they contact him at dbartholomew@churchofscotland.org.uk
Paper copies can also be provided to

those who do not have internet access. Contact David on 01644 430 380 if you would like to receive these resources, or simply if you would like to have a chat.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

St Margaret's, New Galloway: Open for quiet reflection & prayer, 10.30am every Sun & Wed (for info contact 01644 420 467).

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

CORSOCK KIDS CLUB GETS PLANTING

Corsock Kids Club have been hard at work planting flowers to brighten up the village.

Bedding plants were provided by D&G Council and, using funds received through the Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council Blackcraig Microgrant scheme, planters and pots were purchased.

Then local children (with adult supervision) set to work with much enthusiasm. Maintaining social distancing throughout, this was a great opportunity for the kids to take part in some planting fun.



Glenkens Community Centre AGM 2020

Please come along to this crucial meeting to decide upon the direction of this community building. To ensure a thriving future for the centre we need new committee members, volunteers, and user groups.

If you want to have a say about the future use of the centre, have ideas about usage, or want to get involved it is vital that you attend the AGM.

Monday 24th August 2020 at 7pm

Glenkens Community Centre
Kirkland Street, Dalry

Check out our Facebook page 'The Glenkens Community Centre'

email: kattastic@hotmail.com or
williamsoncarylann@gmail.com

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust require a Business Support Assistant

An exciting opportunity for an experienced and enthusiastic individual to work in the Business Support Team based at the CatStrand, New Galloway.

This is an attractive opportunity to help provide financial and administrative support to local projects. A knowledge of Xero and Microsoft Office is desirable but not essential.

Business Support Assistant Officer based in New Galloway, 24 hours per week on a flexible basis.

For more information and details of how to apply visit www.catstrand.com

Closing date: Friday 21st August 2020 Interviews week commencing 24th August 2020

**Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust**

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 glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk

OCT/NOV COPY DEADLINE: 5 SEPT



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