

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

October/November 2020

ISSUE 120

FREE

Glenkens Food Month Success

At the time of going to press, Glenkens Food Month was only halfway through, but already its mix of online and in-person events has proved very popular, with most sold out and lots of positive feedback received.

The theme of 'Shop Local, Eat Local' has been very strong this year – always an important message, but it feels even more critical in this time of COVID-19 recovery. Our local food and drink producers and retailers were crucial in supporting us throughout the lockdown, and we all need to keep on supporting them now.

The Food Month looked quite different this year from last year, of course, but there have been some real upsides to that, as well as the sadness of not being able to meet as a full community yet. Our online events meant that people with a soft spot for the Glenkens who don't live here could join in the fun, as well as locals who were able to join in from the comfort of their own home. The online cooking demonstrations with chef Tony Budde were particularly popular – well done to all the local guest chefs! And



Glenkens Farmers Market, home of the new Glenkens Food Hub.

the distanced in-person events like the Fungi Forage, Farm Tours and Pizza in the Park were very well received by all who attended. It was great to partner with CatStrand for the re-start of their events programme in New Galloway park – so good to see live acts again. There really has been something for everyone, from biscuit-bake-alongs to puppet shows to bingo.

We've already had some lucky prize-winners who won vouchers for our local shops by shopping and eating locally – but really, we're all winners when we shop local. Using our purchasing power

to keep jobs in our communities makes a massive difference. And eating ultra-low mileage fruit, veg and meat is good for our health and the environment!

One legacy from the Glenkens Food Month 2020 will be the ongoing Glenkens Food Hub. This online shop allows you to buy from a whole range of Glenkens producers and pick up your bounty from the Glenkens Farmers Market at Dalry Town Hall on the second Saturday of each month. See the ad on p3 for more details; a fantastic way to combine hyper-local seasonal shopping with top convenience.

Continued on p4...

'The Games' Featured on Secret Scotland

Like many other events this year, The Scottish Alternative Games didn't take place but the show will still go on – in a fashion!

The Games will be featured on Channel 5's popular show, *Secret Scotland*, presented by Susan Calman. Susan visited New Galloway with a film crew in July and filmed a piece for the Dumfries & Galloway episode which will air on Friday 9 October at 8pm on Channel 5.



Susan Calman gearing up for her first gird 'n' cleek lesson from current World Champion, Arthur Harfield.

REMEMBERING EDDIE YATES

Eddie Yates, an active member of the community in Parton, died in August after a short illness.

Sad news for our small community, which has lost a number of good neighbours and friends in the last year.

Eddie was well known for his drive and his commitment to village life, including an eleven-year stint as the Chair of Parton Community Council, which he helped found after serving for a number of years on the Parton, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council. He also took a great interest in the village hall and played an active role in its management and upkeep, most notably after the significant flood damage caused by Storm Peter in late 2015.

Eddie and his wife Gill first met at the ages of 10 and nine at a small school in Cheshire. Their paths crossed again some years later while Gill was nursing in Shropshire and Eddie was doing his national service; they both happened to be on the same train home to visit family and 'that was that' says Gill. They married two years later and settled in Sandbach, having their three children there.

Fast forward to 1978 and a family friend recommended visiting Kilquhanity School with their daughter Rachel's secondary

education in mind; due to the happy coincidence of Parton Holiday Park being fully booked, they were directed instead to a caravan stay with George and Doreen Prentice, which was the start of a lifelong friendship. Rachel enjoyed school and Eddie and Gill loved the friendliness of the people along with the area's natural beauty; and so in 1979 they bought 'Clocktower', the distinctive former laundry in Parton.

While Gill worked as a physiotherapist at Castle Douglas hospital, Eddie commuted for a number of years between Parton and Sandbach, where his business was based. Eddie was a keen sports enthusiast, playing rugby to County standard (captaining Sandbach, where he was commemorated as 'the original superstar player of his day') and then later, golf; playing at Colvend and captaining New Galloway. His company specialised in sports grounds maintenance, including golf courses and first division football grounds.

After selling the business, Eddie capitalised on another of his great loves, gardening, and propagated rhododendrons for a while; he then managed the development of four houses on the lochside at Parton, one of which went on to become his home; and finally went on to join Scottish Enterprise, providing advice and support to local small businesses which Eddie enjoyed doing until he retired.



Eddie with his one and only brown trout caught on Loch Ken

In his later years, despite a couple of hip replacements, Eddie's energy remained undimmed - he could regularly be seen keeping fit on walks around the village, cutting a determined figure with his Leki sticks. He remained active in community life right up until his death and even now, much needed repair work is going on in Parton village hall, originally initiated by him.

He has left a legacy in the village - of homes, a well maintained hall, the Community Council and the beautiful Parton Heritage Trail. He will be much missed.

Suzy Mercer



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www.passcan.co.uk

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OUR COMMUNITIES IN LOCKDOWN

As we head towards winter, and lockdown measures begin to tighten once again, our Glenkens communities would like to ensure that nobody feels like they are alone at what may for many be a very difficult few months.

The future is uncertain. We do not know how we will be affected by Government measures and lockdown rules. If you feel vulnerable or are required to shield, remember our communities have a robust safety net in place to support those in need.

If you need help with accessing prescriptions, food shopping or just feel you would like to speak to someone, there is someone in your community you can get in touch with. In the special May edition of the Glenkens Gazette there was a pull-out of community contacts, starting on p7. This is available online at www.glenkengazette.co.uk (click on the May 2020 edition in the menu bar on

the right of the page, then click on the image of the front cover) and has contact details for each of the Glenkens and wider district community councils and other useful contact information. If you don't have online access, below is a key contact for each community for

those who may need it. Stay safe and remember - you are not alone. Winter in Scotland can be tough at the best of times, so if you are feeling the pressure at this difficult time, please don't be a stranger.

The Communities of the Glenkens

KEY GLENKENS CONTACTS

Local Doctors' Surgery

Glenkens Medical Practice - 01644 420 234

Community Contacts

- Balmaclellan: Martin Warnock - 07939 261 391
- Carsphairn: Liz Holmes - 07718 358 160
- Corsock: Julie Garton - 07769 647 702
- Kirkpatrick Durham: Heather - 07551 639 629
- Crossmichael: Richard Middleton - 01556 670 691
- Dalry: Will Adam - 01644 430 338
- Mossdale: Shop - 01644 450 281
- New Galloway: Sam Rushton - 07741 656 601
- Parton: Erica or Brian - 01644 470 277

Food Deliveries

- Galloway Foodbank - 07730 788 335
- Ballards Butchers - 01556 502502 (they also deliver groceries)
- Grierson's Butchers: 01556 502 637
- Henderson's Butchers: 01556 502 654
- Mitchell's Greengrocers: 01556 502 077
- Fleet Fish: order before 9pm Sunday evening for delivery the following week. Delivery days can be found when ordering at www.fleet-fish.co.uk or call 07966 103 912
- Roan's Dairy - 01556 620 374



A new and convenient way to order food from Glenkens producers and pick up at the Farmers Market in Dalry on 2nd Saturday of each month.

- Eat healthily and choose from a wide selection of fruit, veg, meat, fish and treats.
- Protect the environment – lowest possible food miles.
- Support local jobs and keep our communities thriving.

Search for **Glenkens Food Hub** and place your order in the online store. Produce varies each month with the seasons!

A New Galloway Community Enterprises / Glenkens Food Month initiative.



STAFF WANTED

Café at Clatteringshaws is recruiting!

We are open all year round, 7 days a week, from 11am to 4pm in the winter and 10am to 5pm from Easter to September.

We are looking for someone either full-time or part-time to complement our existing team

To apply email your details to karen@portlogan.scot

Fun With Food in the Glenkens

Continued from front page...

The Glenkens Food Month is organised and run by New Galloway Community Enterprises (NGCE), and the Board of NGCE would like to say thanks so much to Sam Rushton, our Community Engagement Worker.

Each year she goes above and beyond to put these events on for the communities of the Glenkens, and it wouldn't happen without her. This year, Sam has also been ably supported by Abi Mordin from Propagate and the Hidden Veg market garden in Balmaclellan, who has been the driving force behind the Food Hub and many of the sustainable food events. We'd also like to say thank you to all the community groups, local businesses and individuals who have given up their time to support so many of the events. It was fantastic in particular to see the Make, Bake and Glut tables across all the communities – what a lot of talented growers and chefs we have! The Food Month is a truly Glenkens-wide

event, and that makes us stronger.

Last but not least, funding for the Food Month was granted from the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund with funding from Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Limited, administered by Foundation Scotland working in partnership with The Glenkens & District Trust, and the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme. Thanks so much to those organisations for their support, it is very much appreciated.

Helen Keron, Treasurer, NGCE

Photographs (taken by Ian Biggar Photography, Sam Rushton of NGCE and Liz Holmes), anti-clockwise from top: Food Month Bingo - Jenna enjoys a cup of tea whilst playing via Zoom. Carsphairn's impressive local produce stall. Walkers earning their cake on the new Pilgrims Way path near Carsphairn. Dalry Secondary pupils getting ready to take part in the Food Month Challenge (see p11). 'A Play and a Piece' - live theatre with CatStrand.



New Scheme Will Cut Home Heating Costs

A successful co-operative scheme for buying domestic heating oil at reduced prices is being expanded to serve everyone in the Glenkens.

The New Galloway & Kells oil-buying co-operative has been

running for two years and has some 70 members. Over the last 12 months the organisers, New Galloway Community Enterprises Ltd (NGCE), have secured an average saving for members of 3.5 pence per litre. That means a saving of £17.50 on a 500 litre order. The scheme also benefits the local environment by reducing the number of tanker deliveries in the area.

Now, thanks to funding from Dumfries & Galloway Council's Region-Wide Communities Fund, NGCE will be expanding this service into the other communities of the Glenkens. Applications are being invited for the post of co-ordinator, who will set up and run the expanded scheme. This is a two-year part-time post.

For further details see the job advert to the left or visit www.newgallowaycommunity.shop/job-vacancies

New Galloway Golf Club

New Galloway Golf Club has fared well throughout the lockdown period and on into the various phases of the present situation.

The club was more than happy to see families from the local community using the course for their daily exercise during the lockdown period. Since golf was allowed to be played again the club has been busy and has had several new members from around the local area.

Should anyone wish to try the game in order to keep up with their exercise, please contact the club and we will arrange for this. Now that we are able to allow visitors onto the course we are also busy.

Hopefully those who have come to play our beautiful course will return over the years and provide some much needed income to businesses in the area.

Ian Brown

Job Vacancy

Co-ordinator

2-year part-time post. Flexible hours.

Well-organised, computer-literate worker with excellent communication and people skills to set up and manage the

Glenkens Oil-buying Co-operative

Details and application form:

www.newgallowaycommunity.shop/job-vacancies/

A job for someone who wants to make a difference in their communities.

Publication of Glenkens & District Community Action Plan

The Glenkens & District Trust is delighted to announce the publication of the Glenkens and District Research Report and Community Action Plan, which is the culmination of community aspiration, consultation and discussion going back to 2017.

The aim of producing the plan was to articulate our shared local priorities and common goals for the future in order to create a clear path for action. The full Research Report and Action Plan as well as a standalone summary of the Community Action Plan can be found on the Foundation Scotland Blackcraig Fund web page.

GDT commissioned the Research Report and Community Action Plan from Community Enterprise, who have a great deal of experience in this type of work in urban and rural communities, right across Scotland. They carried out extensive community

engagement and, based on this, the overall goal of the plan is that the Glenkens and district will be a connected, resilient and carbon neutral place, where people will want to live, work and visit, to bring up their families, and to grow old. It will be somewhere that other places in Scotland will look to for inspiration.

The Community Action Plan (CAP) outlines proposals that aim to make that goal a reality. Four clear themes emerged from the community consultation:

- A clear desire for there to be more effective collaboration and communication across the community and for people and groups to be better connected to enable them to work collaboratively rather than in competition
- A recognition that plans should be developed to ensure we have assets and services across the community that meet our needs in the long term
- A need to ensure an economically flourishing community
- An objective to be a carbon neutral community

The CAP sets out proposals to achieve these and we will now move into a 'set up' phase to both kickstart delivery of the Action Plan but also incorporate the COVID-19 experience and 'new normal' in which we find ourselves.

For this set up phase, we are forming a Community Action Plan Steering Group, made up of GDT Trustees and other people drawn from across the wider community; and to support this group we have also gone through an open tendering process for external support, paid for using windfarm monies.

This paid-for support will help us get these three key things done over the next six months: an analysis of the CAP community priorities, to identify who and how we might take these forward and where the gaps might be. Where local groups are identified who can deliver well on community priorities in the short term, GDT

intends to progress this work directly as funding allows.

Secondly, we want to undertake some COVID-19 resilience learning and ensure the Action Plan reflects and incorporates this. Third, we want to hold a Glenkens Summit early next year to have a community conversation about what taking forward the delivery of the Action Plan priorities looks like. At the end of this 'set up phase' an updated implementation plan will be published and a clearer path to getting action on priorities will lie before us.

After considerable thought and discussion, we decided to pause funding applications and the next round of open applications to the Main Fund will now take place early next year. We decided a cautious approach to allocating funding at this uncertain time was necessary as no-one can foresee with any certainty how this current crisis will unfold over the winter months, and we wish to ensure we have monies available if they are needed to respond to urgent community needs. The work we are currently taking forward will enable us to understand this better and to make the most effective use of the monies going forward.

However, funds will continue to be available to organisations who need them as set out in our Fund Strategy, which says that 'there may be cases where an emergency situation arises that affects the community – or parts of it - and which GDT wishes to respond to. This may result in GDT choosing to provide some assistance by way of a grant or donation to a group with urgent and critical needs and/or to intermediaries with the infrastructure to provide the support. Such instances will be dealt with on a case by case basis and where no other provision or immediate support is available.'

If you become aware of organisations in need in your area, please direct them to contact Foundation Scotland in the first instance on office@foundationscotland.org.uk

Fiona Smith, Chairman, GDT

Death Notice

Helen Mary Middleton of Holm Mill, Dalry, peacefully passed away on Friday 31st July 2020 at Castle Douglas Cottage Hospital.

Much loved sister, sister-in-law, auntie, great-auntie and friend.

Helen was interred at St Cuthbert's Cemetery, Kirkcudbright, on Wednesday 12th August 2020.

Due to present circumstances the funeral was private.

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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

FREE

Free: horse manure (including some chicken), rotted and fresh, no weed killers used. Dig your own from a large heap, bring sacks or trailer. Contact: 07889 229 340

Corby Trouser Press, good condition, full working order, collection only. Contact: 07925 914 681.

Zanussi Oven with ceramic hob, everything works but fascia is tatty, collection only. Contact: 07925 914 681.

2400 Titan Oil Central Heating

Storage Tank, has contained Kerosene and is empty, 120cmH x 130cmW x 230cmL, used up until the beginning of lockdown. Contact: 01644 430 373.

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

Hi Sarah,

We sold the bath lift on the day the Gazette was distributed - we had two phone calls straight away!

Many thanks, Jennifer

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

This issue's winner is Neil Blacklock with his shot *Magical New Galloway*, looking down over the village eerily wreathed in mist.

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

Competition judges Dave and Sue said: "What a wonderful group of pictures, so difficult to choose a winner for this issue. Because we have never seen the view of the Glen shrouded in mist from the top of the West Port, and we love the way that the Town Hall is framed in the picture, we have chosen *Magical New Galloway*."



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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Eco Feature

Red Squirrels in the Glenkens

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Red squirrels seem to be thriving in the Glenkens, which is a wonderful thing to see.

Gazette reader Robin Hood sent in a photo of two young squirrels feeding at his bird table. Robin would like to thank people for slowing down now that there are signs up along the road by his house letting people know there are red squirrels in the woods there. He says: "The 'slow down - squirrels' signs either side of our home has really had an impact. This really helps this year's three kits as they cross daily; I have a food station in the woods opposite the house but it's never enough, and they keep crossing to get the bird nuts on the house side." Debra Hall has also been lucky enough to have squirrel kits as regulars in her garden. Below, Debra gives readers some tips on how to care for any red squirrel visitors you may have.

FEEDING RED SQUIRRELS

Although squirrels come to people's gardens to look for materials such as moss for nest lining or to drink from the garden pond, the biggest attraction is food.

What Food Should I Provide?

It is best to feed a variety of different foods to squirrels, similar to those that the squirrel might forage for in the wild.

The red squirrel will pillage nuts and seeds found naturally in your garden.

The most suitable foods for red squirrels are hazelnuts, sunflower seeds, beech (cob) nuts and pine nuts. Sweet chestnuts and walnuts are also suitable.

Unsalted peanuts are another favourite, but should be not be given in isolation.

Young red squirrels can suffer from calcium deficiency if they feed too often on the wrong sort of food. Therefore, peanuts should not be given exclusively, but as part of a varied diet.

To reduce calcium deficiency, provide pieces of apple or carrot; a supplement added to the feed or a dish of drinking water; bone meal added to the dry feed mix; a cuttlefish bone or antler placed



Top left: squirrel kits eating from the table in Robin Hood's garden. Top right: a young kit competing with a woodpecker for nuts in Debra Hall's garden. Above left: a squirrel 'nutting' for hazels in the woods © Phillip Day. Above right: Two young squirrels enjoying peanuts in Debra's garden in winter.

near the feeder.

This is particularly valuable during the summer for juvenile and female squirrels.

Also provide a source of water if it is not naturally available.

Grey squirrels love maize and mixed squirrel food. Therefore, to discourage them, don't provide these foods. Some squirrels also like oats. Please note that red squirrels don't usually like maize (sweet corn).

Regular feeding every few days is best rather than having food permanently available, as this will encourage the squirrels to forage for natural food too. This way, you are providing a supplementary food

source rather than the only source of food and you will not encourage them into bad habits.

Feed throughout the year.

In the wild, red squirrels feed on shoots and flowers in spring, and nuts and fruits in autumn and winter. The critical period to feed reds is during the summer months before the fruits and nuts are ripe, when their natural food is in short supply. Continued feeding throughout the winter will also provide an additional boost to the squirrels in your area.

(This information is summarised from www.northernredsquirrels.org.uk)

CAFE AT CLATTERINGSHAWS CELEBRATES 1ST ANNIVERSARY

Little did Karen and Martin Donaldson know when they took on the tenancy of Clatteringshaws café and visitor centre last autumn from Forestry and Land Scotland that they would have it interrupted by a global pandemic!

Café managers Karen and Martin opened their doors on 7 October 2019 - and what a year it's been. Martin says: "First of all, I would like to wish all of our wonderful, dedicated team a very happy first anniversary! Without you we wouldn't have made it here.

"We were closed for four months but managed to re-open once it was safe to do so, in mid-July. Karen and I both work in the café alongside eight other full and part-time colleagues. With all the extra legislation and cleaning required to keep staff and customers safe, we had to recruit additional staff and now also need to recruit another full or part-time person to join our team.

"Last October when we opened the café we decided to open every day (excluding Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day) and that hasn't changed. With many cafés in Dumfries & Galloway closing in the winter we decided that this gave us an ideal opportunity to offer an out-of-season facility for locals, visitors and year-round employment for our staff."

Café at Clatteringshaws is in such an amazing location, with stunning views over Clatteringshaws Loch with the forest and hills beyond. This striking location was what inspired Karen and Martin to take on the tenancy of the café last year; having been frequent visitors to the area



Café at Clatteringshaws is open all year round, promising a warm welcome whatever the weather.

for over 25 years, they had decided that they wanted to relocate to Galloway and so when the opportunity of running the venue presented itself, it was a chance too good to miss.

Karen and Martin aren't strangers to the hospitality industry. Karen and her daughter Carrie run Tootsies Ice Cream and Coffee Shops in Lancashire. Tootsies manufactures its own award-winning ice cream in their dairy in Garstang, Preston. Karen says: "Martin and I own a cute little ice cream and coffee pod which is sited in Port Logan, where we live, and the plan was to purchase a second pod and bring it to the café but, thanks to COVID-19 cutting our first season very short, we couldn't justify the expense this year. Next season we intend selling our own brand ice cream at the café and, subject to planning consent, we will hopefully have a second pod trading from the coach parking area at Clatteringshaws."

So what does Café at Clatteringshaws offer? The good news is that afternoon

teas are making a comeback from October. These proved to be a huge hit prior to lockdown, especially with people buying vouchers to give as gifts.

Karen says: "We are very lucky to have two exceptional bakers working with us who produce all the homemade scones, cakes, tray bakes and shortbread on site every day."

Also available at the café, especially good to know as the festive season approaches, are local crafts and art work. Café at Clatteringshaws currently stocks the work of over 20 local craftspeople, potters, artists and photographers.

"We were hoping to install a book exchange in the café, but had to shelve the idea due to the COVID-19 situation - hopefully this is something we can look at in the coming months."

Whatever happens going forward, Café Clatteringshaws ensures a warm welcome, delicious homemade goodies and a decent cup of coffee. So 'Haste Ye Back'!

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CatStrand Highlights

After a successful weekend of live events in the park, CatStrand is gearing up for the return of some small-scale indoor arts programming from October.

Our initial programme will be made up of professional artists and performers from within Dumfries & Galloway. **Hope London**, jazz pianist and singer, and **Adam Blake**, blues guitarist, are lined up as our first live acts with performances planned during October. However, with the latest guidance from the Scottish Government, we will be reviewing these events in line with the Phase 4 review on 5 October so please check our website www.catstrand.com for the latest information on booking and events.

If we're not able to welcome you to events in person to CatStrand, we do have a confirmed programme of online events planned for October and November including Scottish Dance Theatre's digital event **Introducing... Antigone, Interrupted** on Thursday 15 October. This is a unique online event combining footage from the original stage production, scenes reimagined for the digital medium and real time meet-the-artist conversation. The event will give audiences an opportunity to 'meet the characters'

and hear from choreographer Joan Clevillé and dancer Solène Weinachter. Performance elements will be weaved with discussion and opportunities to delve into various topics such as the creation of *Antigone, Interrupted*, the relevance of a classic story in our contemporary reality, and the role of the arts in our communities. This event will be accessible from your home through our online event platform – look out for ticket booking opening up for this shortly on the CatStrand website.

For families we have our brand new series of interactive online **Pocket Theatre** performances, the first of which comes to you from Dundee-based, award-winning dance theatre company Shaper Caper. **Moon Capers** by Thomas Small is an interactive online event suitable for ages 4+ and their grown-ups and will be online to view from Thursday 22 October at 4pm.

Our latest exhibition in the Pyramid Gallery, **Sky Meditations** from Edward



Scottish Dance Theatre's Antigone, Interrupted © Maria Falconer

Campbell, is open until mid-October when our visual arts intern programmed **Unrestricted** print exhibition will take its place until the 22 November. Both exhibitions are accessible during our building opening hours – currently Thursday to Sunday – as well as online through our virtual gallery on the website.

We hope to be able to welcome you to CatStrand for some live events over the next few months – and hope that you'll enjoy our online and remote access events from home.

The CatStrand Team

CatStrand Youth Arts

We're very happy to be gradually reopening our activities at CatStrand Youth and have some great plans for October.

There will be a series of free workshops for ages 11+ with artist Rory Laycock looking at how the digital and art can mix. This includes 3D printing, social media filters and projecting images onto objects; all to help us build a youth art installation which explores Gen Z and digital technologies. The installation will run from 18–25 October in our auditorium. We have also put an open call out for printmakers to submit a piece to our upcoming exhibition entitled 'Unrestricted' which will run from 18 October to 22 November and will introduce young people to various types of printmaking. As ever, visit our facebook and Instagram pages for the latest updates @catstrandyouth

At the time of writing, it is my last week at CatStrand. I've absolutely loved my time here and will miss the buzz of the venue, the community and especially the young people I've worked with who are so creative, welcoming and enthusiastic.

I leave you in the capable hands of our new YAC, Jamie, who is very excited to be joining the team and helping you all continue to create.

Katy Billington, Youth Arts Coordinator

Hello everyone! My name is Jamie Lee and I'm the new youth arts coordinator for GCAT over at CatStrand.

I'm a freelance drama facilitator with experience leading community arts in communities all over Scotland. I hail from Glasgow originally but don't hold that against me! I'm really looking forward to getting to know everyone!

Jamie Lee, new Youth Arts Coordinator



OPEN CALL OUT: OPPORTUNITY FOR PRINTMAKERS

From 18th October - 22nd November, Catstrand Youth is holding a print exhibition called "Unrestricted" with the aim of introducing the art of printmaking to young people and helping them afford an original piece of art.

We're inviting printmakers of any medium to submit proofs, reworked pieces, one-offs or editioned prints to this and for each print sold, we'll reimburse the artist a fixed fee.

To find out more visit www.catstrandyouth.co.uk/print-exhibition



Hello from the Genkens Primary Schools

It is so good to be back at school; plans were drawn up for 'blended learning' from August but thankfully, in the end, we were able to open fully.

We missed seeing the children every day and hearing about what was going on in their lives. They have grown so much...

Like everyone else during lockdown, we found the juggling of work, the internet and technology a nightmare. Sharing one device

between three or four people is difficult to do when everyone needs it all the time.

Anyway, in August we reopened. Following the new rules and ensuring risk assessments were adhered to seemed daunting. However, the children have really helped due to their positive outlook and eagerness to be back in a routine. Using soap and water or hand gel at every turn has become second nature.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful parents who have been very supportive throughout the pandemic.

We have challenges ahead. I am hoping the current direction of travel in terms of restricting the spread of the virus does not lead to closing of schools and that mitigation strategies put in place by the government work.

On a much smaller scale, we have many calendar challenges to face in the next few months. How do we do Christmas plays, Christmas fayres and such things? Could technology be the key? If anyone has any ideas, we'd love for you to share them with us - drop us an email at gw17officedalryps@ea.dumgal.sch.uk or call 01644 430 105.

*Paul Scrimshaw, Head Teacher,
Glenkens Primary Cluster*

Reading for Fun at Kells Primary

Now that we are back at school, we have all chosen books from the library and are enjoying reading every day.

"I like reading because sometimes I find good ideas which I use when I am writing stories!" said Alex.

"Reading is fun!" said Rosie.

The children have enjoyed reading about real people in history.

"The best book I have read recently was about Spartacus!" said Noah, while Rosie

is reading a book about Mary, Queen of Scots.

"I am enjoying reading a book about Al Capone, a gangster in Chicago," said Jake.

Our new Primary 1 pupils are also enjoying their Buddies in Primary 7 reading stories to them on a Tuesday morning. Elliot says he likes hearing stories and looking at the pictures. Adrian, pictured here with Alex and Sam, can be seen enjoying his favourite book, *Dinosaurumpus*.

*Margaret Heuchan,
Principal Teacher*



Erupting Volcanoes

The Dalry P3-5 class wanted to learn about natural disasters this term.

We made volcano models from clay, leaving space in the cone for a small container. Once the volcanoes were dry we poured vinegar, washing up liquid and food colouring into the container in the cone. We then carefully added some baking soda.

The vinegar, which is an acid, and the baking soda, which is a base, combined and reacted with each other. The result was an erupting volcano. The washing up liquid made extra bubbles.

We had great fun making our volcanoes erupt over and over again.

Dalry Primary 3,4,5 class



Settling in to School

Dalry School's Primary 1 and 2 pupils have been very busy since the start of term.

They have been practising listening and manners and getting used to all the new routines. They have been learning lots through playing with all the toys and activities, including beginning to learn and revise different letter sounds and different ways to use numbers!

The class topic is 'People who help us' and they have been learning about all the different jobs there are to help others while playing in a vets and a police station.

Class teacher Miss Sey would like to tell all of the boys and girls in P1/2, "Well done for working so hard and trying your best!"

A Brand New Traversing Wall

When pupils headed back to Dalry School after lockdown, they were met with lots of fun new things to do in the school playing field.

As well as the new climbing frame featured in the last edition of the Gazette there is now also a climbing wall. This excellent piece of equipment is a wall where children can choose a colour of hold and challenge themselves to 'traverse' - or move along rather than up - the wall in a circuit, offering both mental and physical stimulation.

Funding for this structure was organised by Friends of Dalry School, with donations from Natural Power Consultants Ltd and Glenkens Community Shop, to whom we are very grateful. A huge 'thank you' also goes to Nick and Gwyn Pugh who designed and built the climbing wall for a fraction of the cost of a commercial installation; what an achievement! *Dalry School*



THE FOOD MONTH CHALLENGE

Dalry Secondary's Food Month Challenge, set by the Glenkens Food Month team, was taken up with gusto by S3 pupils who had a fantastic afternoon whipping up some tremendous culinary creations.

Pupils made a wide variety of dishes including spaghetti bolognese (lamb) served with a side salad; crispy lamb noodles; lamb tacos served with a Greek dip and salad; lamb wraps

served with potato wedges, salad and a mocktail; lamb macaroni bake served with a side salad.

Mrs Acheson and I had the pleasure of sampling these tasty dishes, and I can honestly say that they were all delicious (this is not always the case) so it made it a difficult decision. The students based their votes on the appearance of the food which we took into account along with the taste. The winner of the challenge was Isobel Stevenson who made the lamb tacos.

Some comments from pupils about their experience are: "It was a very fun experience and I really enjoyed it. I now understand the pressure that real chefs go through in the kitchen," and "I've had an insight into my future, so I'm glad I've

had a go at independent cooking."

Suzy Andrew, Art & HE Teacher



GUIDING IN THE GLENKENS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

There have been Brownie and Guide Units in the Glenkens since 1920, with many former Brownies, Guides and Rangers still living locally.

Sadly, over the past few years numbers have been decreasing and we currently have no girls attending Brownies and only a handful of Guides.

To make these units remain viable, and to benefit girls in the Glenkens, we need more Rainbows (age five to seven years), Brownies (age seven to 10 years), Guides (age 10 to 14 years), and Rangers (age 14 to 18 years). We are also desperately in need of new leaders to take Guiding in the Glenkens forward into 2021 and beyond.

We would love to hear from anyone interested in any aspect of volunteering, and also from young people who would like to be part of Girlguiding Scotland within the Glenkens.

To find out more about volunteering, or about what activities can be enjoyed within Girlguiding, please visit www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk and look for 'Join Us' or 'Volunteering'. You can also contact our County Commissioner, Mrs Kirsty Tomlin,

on 07799 135 990 or klgriffiths_4@hotmail.com.

Unfortunately, if we are unable to find more girls interested in joining our Glenkens groups, or we are unable to find new unit leaders, Guiding in the Glenkens will be closed down at the end of this year. As anyone who has been involved in Guiding will know, it will be a very sad day if this were to happen. We sincerely hope that volunteers will step forward and that girls will be encouraged to join. Guiding has been great in the Glenkens over the past

100 years, please help us to ensure that it goes forward with enthusiasm!

Kathryn Peace



Can you spot any familiar faces in the Glenkens Guiding Unit? Top photo is from 2018 and above photo around 1990.

Out and About Around New Galloway

Despite COVID-19 stalwart gardeners have been visiting the Garroch Garden regularly throughout the year with planting of fruit, flowers and vegetables in individual plots, the polytunnel, the greenhouse and common areas.

Thanks to Nick Roper-Caldbeck for the opportunity to enjoy this special place and for supporting the upkeep of the grasscutting by his staff. Since the gradual uplifting of the lockdown we have been approached by more people for allotments, flower gardens or just to be kept in touch. If you would like to

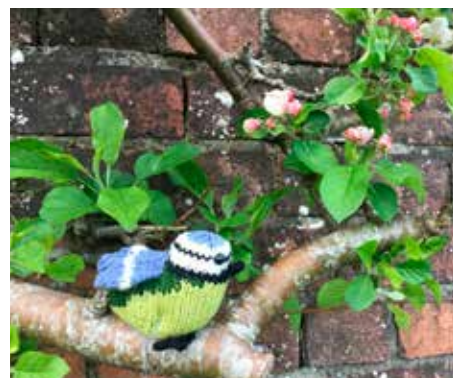
join, please contact us. As we go to press we are looking forward to being part of the Glenkens Food Month with an apple pressing afternoon.

Volunteers on the Golf Course Woods and Garroch Paths have worked hard to keep them well accessible through the prolific growth of the spring and summer to enable many of you to enjoy these lovely walks. You will see some of these featured on the Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) facebook and website pages.

Meanwhile the New Galloway Town Hall has been sitting rather despondently, still in a state of lockdown while everyone else has been having fun. However, it has been dressed up nicely with locally-made bunting and a new tapestry in honour of Betty McQueen, a previous hallkeeper who used to like sitting in the sunshine on the middle windowsill opposite her house and chatting to passers-by. Other flower troughs have been kept colourfully planted to keep us cheerful even if we couldn't get

in. We'll let you know as soon as anything changes on this front. We have had a request for a new crafty group and several folk ready to be part of it, so keep a look-out for starting notices. If you are buzzing with ideas of what you would like to do in the hall just let us know on ros.hill@rathanhouse.me.uk or 01644 420 632.

Ros Hill, Chairman, LING



Garroch walled garden © Debra Hall.

Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Micro Grants Open for Applications

A number of community councils around Blackcraig windfarm are now receiving £2,000 per year to be distributed through 'micro-grants'.



The latest round of the Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council micro-grant scheme is now open, and awards of up to £500 to organisations and £250 to individuals will be considered for projects for charitable purposes to the general benefit of local residents.

The application form is available online at www.corsockhall.wixsite.com with details on how it should be returned. The application deadline is 26 October 2020.

Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council Chairman, Joe Seed, said: "This

is now our second year of funding. Last year we awarded the full £2,000 that we had available, across eight projects of benefit to our local residents. These included hall improvement costs, equipment such as a lawnmower and dishwashers, and community

activities. We are keen to get the word out about the next funding round and if you have any queries, please get in touch. Applications are welcomed, from groups or individuals, by 26 October. Our thanks go as always to the Blackcraig Windfarm Fund for the money."

Pictured: Pippin Fitch next to the flower tubs funded by the last round of micro-grants and planted by Corsock Children's Club.

Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham
Community Council

Glenkens Playgroups - memories wanted -

As Bright Stars Nursery shut its doors for the last time in March – a planned closure in July brought forward by the COVID-19 pandemic – we want to celebrate the long history of playgroups, toddler groups and nurseries that the Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry has hosted over the years.

Did you attend any of these groups with your little ones – not so little now! We'd love to take copies of any old photos that you could share, or hear stories of your time there, or even just get dates of when groups started and changed.

Email your thoughts to Helen on keronh@me.com and we'll try and get a really good feature in the next edition of the Gazette.

Thank you!
Helen Keron

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Waterside Hill Plantation Update

Kerry Morrison, a member of the Dalry Community Council Subgroup for Waterside Hill, and Alison Wallace from Scottish Woodlands have for some months been in dialogue regarding woodland creation proposals on Waterside Hill.

They have been listening to community voices and opinions and discussing how a woodland creation on Waterside Hill could benefit communities and stakeholders, retain key cultural features and views, benefit wildlife and address the climate emergency.

As a result, a new proposal is going out to public consultation. The new scheme proposes that Waterside Hill is planted with predominantly native broadleaf species, with some Scots pine and Douglas fir which would be thinned over time and managed so that they would grow into a

mature woodland that will retain carbon and support wildlife. This new proposal has been designed to enhance community access and amenity with increased open space, allowing full access to and around the Witches' Score. An area adjacent to the existing Craighubble Wood is set aside for the communities of Dalry and New Galloway to develop and utilise as they feel appropriate (more to follow on this aspect later). A more commercial element is proposed behind Waterside Hill to the north consisting of Sitka spruce, Norway spruce and native broadleaf species.

As a new proposal (from Scottish Woodlands to Forestry Scotland), this combined scheme will be subject to full consultation, giving local communities the opportunity to ask further questions and comment. **The first community consultation for this new proposal will take place at Dalry Town Hall on Thursday 8 October between 1pm and 7pm.** Due to COVID-19, it is essential to book so if you would like to meet with Alison and a member of Dalry Community Council Subgroup for Waterside Hill to ask more about the scheme, please call Scottish Woodlands on 01556 502 754 and book a slot. The second public consultation will be in New Galloway, with the date and venue as yet to be confirmed.

Due to challenges around consultation

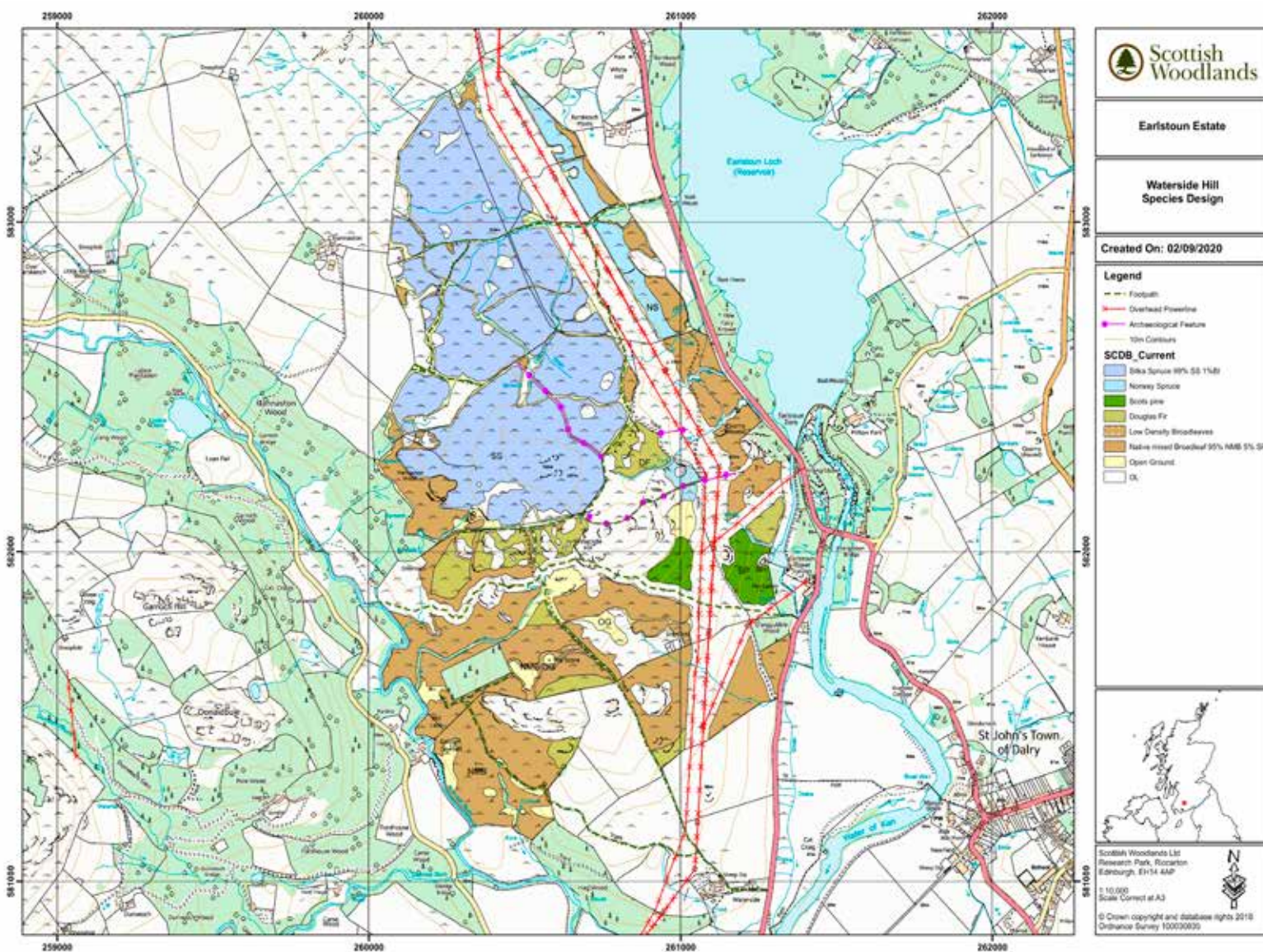
processes during the pandemic and with members of the community continuing to shield, it is also possible to send any questions or comments you may have to Alison Wallace directly on alison.wallace@scottishwoodlands.co.uk or to a member of the Dalry Community Council Subgroup for Waterside Hill on watersidewood@gmail.com

For further information about the consultation process and updates, please visit the Waterside Ways Facebook page and keep an eye on local notice boards in Dalry and New Galloway.

Kerry Morrison, Dalry Community Council Subgroup for Waterside Hill

NB Scottish Woodlands is the agent who was approached by the landowner, Earlstoun Estate, to draw up the woodland creation scheme for Waterside Hill. Scottish Forestry (formerly the Forestry Commission) is the body in charge of government grants for woodland creation and they are also in charge of approving proposals. Woodland creation schemes don't go to D&G planning department but are dealt with by Scottish Forestry.

Pictured below is a map of the proposed planting (© Scottish Forestry). Please note that this is a draft proposal published prior to public and stakeholder consultation and therefore may be subject to further changes.



Some Thoughts on Climate Change

Below is a response to articles featured in the last edition of the Gazette from Laurieston resident Geoff Monk.

Clearly there is a broadly based depth of feeling at the outset. I very much love being outdoors, and for me that may well involve running along the ridge of the Rhinns of Kells, reaching the top of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, or the coastal paths on the Solway. I look for solitude and outstanding views – with as little evidence of human habitation as possible. My subsequent comments might give a different tone – so as you read on please hold my ideals in mind.

Forestry

I don't want to deal with the pros and cons of particular proposals. However, whatever plans are on offer, we have to be honest that in Galloway, as in many parts of the world, our land has changed beyond recognition from what gradually evolved to be a more or less steady state after the last ice age. Present uninterrupted views would have been largely restricted to higher summits – above the climate dictated tree line. I think most of us would recognize that humanity has far overdone manipulation of the land, certainly to the detriment of biodiversity. That does also mean there might be some species living locally that would not be here in much more forested conditions. One difficulty in understanding the total human impact on the land, is that it mostly occurred so long ago that there is almost nothing in our 'collective memories' that senses what unspoilt land really looks like. Our understanding and starting point for debate tends to be what we see out of the window.

Encouraging Biodiversity

There are two difficult discussions we must have. Firstly, in recognising that without land management, humans would still be living as subsistence farmers or hunter gatherers with a very much lower population, we ask what steps can we, now part of a very full 'human planet' take to nudge back – rewild if you like – our little corner of earth toward a more thriving diverse entity. One example is that we have learned that extended unmanaged corridors, often next to canals or railway lines, provide zones of biodiversity – ranges of flora and fauna not found in our broadly rectangular fields or forest enclosures. Forests need to be replanted in a manner that will most encourage plants and animals. Yes, we also need to be alive to humanity's desire for wood – and thus there will be the likes of Sitka spruce included. But how can our pieced woodland areas be joined up using corridors around our grazed fields, roads and tracks? How many saplings are

simply killed at our annual culling of road and field side hedges? Surely the loss in cereal stock production would be low if even a few metres at field boundaries was allowed to return to a much more natural state. Yes, we would lose a lot of now open views. It is vital that humanity as a whole, and each community in particular, takes radical steps to vastly lower our human footprint on the earth. Broadly those of us in the west are using or diminishing the earth's resources around three times faster than the earth can can naturally replenish what is lost.

Climate Change

The second discussion is climate change. Quite simply when we burn something, carbon dioxide is emitted into the air – which has little impact at all on incoming heat from the sun but 'punches far above its weight' in inhibiting that heat from leaving our atmosphere. The impact is an imperceptibly warming earth – which will continue until a new steady state is reached. The higher the new carbon dioxide level (together with the rise in quantity of other gases that have the

example, we have an insatiable desire for travel; on land this requires a certain amount of energy, but this is increased dramatically to get us airborne or across the sea. (How have we moved from where

only a tiny minority of people cruised across the oceans to where many of us burn our way across the seas on massive cruise ships?) Thus, our response to climate change now has to be far more radical than had we acted in 1990.

Our Response to Environmental Changes

Whether you or I like it or not, planting

vast numbers of trees to help sequester carbon dioxide is only the starting point. We need to move toward solar panels being fitted to almost every building, across the tropics perhaps solar ovens (instead of wood fired) will need to be universal, and where there is plentiful wind energy, it should be harnessed. Hopefully research into tidal and wave power will bear fruit.

Galloway is ideal for wind power. You or I might not like the prospect of wind turbines surrounding Cairnsmore of

Carsphairn but if we do not lovingly embrace them, life is going to be very difficult indeed for our children and grand children. Thus as individuals and communities, with our backs very much against the wall, our

care for the future of God's planet must drive us to live very differently: vastly increasing renewable energy use and severely pruning use of earth's resources, particularly fossil fuels.

The Glenkens

Our regional council has declared a climate emergency. Our community councils (and appropriate local groups and initiatives) need to follow, working out local strategies. Our decisions in combating climate change and rebalancing our environment should be shaped by listening to those who are currently starting (or soon to start) adult life and those who have already made strides in adapting their lifestyles. Unfortunately, we cannot bury our heads in what we see as our beautiful, peaceful, natural and archeologically rich Glenkens.

Geoff Monk has run the Weather Centre in Laurieston for over 20 years and previous to that worked for the Meteorological Office.



...we cannot bury our heads
in what we see as our
beautiful, peaceful, natural and
archeologically rich Glenkens.

same heating effect) the warmer and more 'uncomfortable' for the present range of flora and fauna (no doubt some species will thrive, but many will not). Presently we are on course for massive loss of species. Warming may please us in terms of our electricity bills, but even small changes in average temperature are taking the earth out of delicate balance. What is more, it so happens small temperature rises allow higher levels of moisture to reside in the air. There is already evidence over time that as this moisture falls out of the air as rain-bearing cloud reaches Galloway directly off the Irish Sea, it is resulting in increased rainfall, in particular more very heavy, even extreme events. Thus more flooding.

It is now more than 30 years since atmospheric scientists were able to express anticipated changes to the climate explicitly. Yet since 1990, humanity has conspired to accentuate the changes – by burning more and more fossil fuel. For

PROTECTING OUR SPECIAL PLACES

Mochrum Fell Iron Age Fort

In times past, amidst great troubles, hill forts offered communities hope and security.

In the Glenkens, our twin iron age forts of Mochrum Fell and Stroanfreggan surely deserve to be protected as special iconic places. The troubles we face today are the same troubles our ancestors bore thousands of years ago; that of invasion.

The nature of invasion has changed over time but the effects are timeless. COVID-19 is undeniably the major invader of the moment, a viral enemy of the utmost stealth and forcing our homes to become mini fortresses. Beyond the present crisis, controlling invasion is pretty much a day-to-day activity across the world. In Scotland we are lucky enough to have a democracy which allows us, as a community, to consult with planners. Thankfully, the tool of choice for fending off invasive notions has graduated from sword to voice.

Yet our democratic institutions now face an invasion of their own and the democratic fortress is under threat. Like COVID-19, the democratic enemy operates with utmost stealth. The invasion is experienced as an insidious cancer which eats into the very core of our hope and security.

In truth every single one of us in the Glenkens is an invader; the history of southwest Scotland is defined by waves of invasion. What starts off as a potential rejuvenating colonisation soon develops into a self-destructive

invading force which hits a limit to growth. Quite simply, every invading force sucks the life out of its environment. After the ice age, first came the trees; then came the people; then came the peat; then came the cattle droving; then the sheep; then came the tourists; then the hydro dams; then the Sitka plantations; then the turbines.

The upland landscape is so complex and natural in the Glenkens that today we are left with an amazing mosaic landscape which has the ability to subsume all manners of peaceful colonisation. It is only through an equitable and democratic planning system that we can manage the worst of invading forces which threaten to damage the Special Places that contribute so much to our well-being.

Herding of sheep and cattle is no longer the main economic powerhouse of the Glenkens economy. The demise of the associated rich culture is a sad loss and it is imperative that what is left of the community has a place in our socio-economic strategy. Pastoral herding continues to be a very important contributor to upland resilience. The loss of pasture to Sitka is much lamented and

for very good reason.

Nowadays, our economy is based around Trees, Tourists and Turbines - the three Ts. Each of these is competing for land resource and each is a potential powerhouse invader. Sitka plantations, uncontrolled, pollute habitat and contribute to flood risk. Tourists, uncontrolled, pollute local interests primarily through litter dumping and irresponsible access. Turbines, uncontrolled, create noise pollution, light pollution and visual disturbance.

Just as Stroanfreggan has been invaded by sheep, Mochrum Fell iron age fort has been invaded by trees. Sadly Mochrum Fell itself is to be invaded next by turbines. The developers have attempted to include Tourists by putting a picnic area under the turbines; however, it does seem to be a rather weak attempt to balance the Trees, Tourist and Turbine trio for the planning application.

A recent conversation with a friend yielded a fourth T in the Glenkens social-economy. That T is Trust. Can we trust in the democratic institutions of this time, that they will deliver an equitable and fair planning outcome? Can we trust that polluting invaders will be sent packing by government officials who seek to improve the lives of those in already polluted cities? Or are we in the Glenkens simply the sacrificial lambs at the feet of our vitrified iron age hill forts.

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

Fiona Clubb, Carsphairn



Mochrum Fell

Together We Can Make a Difference

While the world sits amidst a global pandemic a tsunami of commercial wind farm applications have been put forward which threaten to overwhelm the landscape around Corsock.

It is worrying that, whilst lockdown conditions continue and public consultations are not possible, decisions on major issues which will impact our area for generations to come are being made without us. Proposed applications currently are Mochrum Fell (7 of 149.9m), Fell wind

farm (7 of 200m, 2 of 180m), Garcrogo (10 of 190m) and Whiteneuk (Loch Urr site 35 of 250m) wind farms. If approved this would mean 84 turbines up to 250m dominating our landscape.

At times the grid is already unable to cope with the electricity produced by the existing Blackcraig wind farm, meaning that the turbines have to be shut down. When shut down, 'constraint payments' are made to the wind farms - almost £650 million has been paid out to date to Scottish onshore wind farms over the last decade, resulting in 8.7 tera-Watt hours (TWh) of discarded electricity (to put this in perspective, the population of Scotland uses around 33TWh of electricity per year). These payments are paid for by the public through an added charge to our electricity bills.

If more wind farms are built, it is likely a new giant pylon line would be needed.

Power lines and pylons also have a huge impact on our landscapes.

Please ensure you have your say as otherwise proposals like these may well be passed without any local say at all. An appeal has been submitted for Cornharrow (north of the B729 near Stroanfreggan). The Fell wind farm, adjacent to Blackcraig, has also gone to appeal and comments should be sent to DPEA@gov.scot quoting reference PPA-170-2146 (the closing date is officially 25 September but late responses may be accepted).

The Mochrum Fell application, Garcrogo and Whiteneuk wind farm applications have not yet been submitted but if you would like to be kept updated, please email trevprocter@aol.co.uk and we will keep you informed - together we can make a difference.

Trevor & Elaine Procter, Mochrum Fell

Community Councils Unite on Changing Forestry Planning Policy

Forestry applications being proposed now total around 4,500 acres for Dumfries & Galloway, the majority of which are in the Stewartry.

It has been an issue for our communities firstly to find out what's going on and secondly do anything about it if dissatisfied with proposed developments.

As a result of this, a document with a list of community concerns was drawn up asking for:

- Better community notification and consultation
- More planning regulation (as forestry developments are not subject to planning)
- Better diversity within new planting plans (many of the new plans are the minimum standard 5% broadleaf)
- A cap on the total area of a parish

allowed to be forested (to prevent an area being overwhelmed by forestry)

- More progressive management plans with nature and visual impact in mind (to protect biodiversity in our region)
- A halt on planting until these topics are discussed/resolved with our communities

These concerns were submitted to Scottish Forestry who are the government body overseeing new plantations, but all suggestions were rejected.

The impact of forestry development is far reaching. The core points were put together by Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council with input from other community councils and, in early September, a letter was sent out highlighting the points and asking community councils around the region to support the document. It is hoped that by showing solidarity and a united front on these issues we can effect a positive change for our communities by calling for a forestry policy change.

So far 10 community councils, representing approximately 7,440 people,

are supporting the document.

If readers have concerns about forestry in our region at present, it seems the best course of action is to contact our MSPs directly, as well as to continue to comment on individual plantations at www.casebook.forestry.scot/w/webpage/prhume

The current policy has to be altered at government level to change the grant structure and diversity standards, although Scottish Forestry is responsible for how community consultations are carried out.

Some recent and upcoming forestry proposals are: 700 acres near Laurieston, 200 acres outside Dalbeattie, 700 acres near Langholm, 700 acres near Sanquhar and three applications for Carsphairn totalling 2,738 acres. The majority of these cases are minimum broadleaf standards, but there have been positive discussions with some developers resulting in improvements based on community feedback.

Joe Seed, Chairman, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council

Sunflower Showtime

Like a lot of things in 2020 the idea began at the start of lockdown with a WhatsApp group chatting online to find out what each member of the group was doing to fill the void whilst spending more time at home.

They realised that gardening was the predominant pastime and the idea of a

sunflower-growing competition emerged. As an incentive, they asked everyone to think of it as growing the flowers to "shine a light on our saviours on the front line" and gave free sunflower seeds out to the growers, as it was not easy to get hold of them.

Gradually over the following months sunflowers could be seen throughout the village of Dalry and stretching into other areas of the Glenkens. It was decided to use the 'Sunflower Showtime' exercise to raise money for a charity that reflected the work of individuals who work tirelessly as a matter of course 24/7 to save lives whilst putting their own lives at risk. The Scottish Charity Air Ambulance, which relies totally on donations from the people of Scotland, seemed to fit the bill.

Fundraising stalls were set up on Dalry's Main Street, with opportunities to guess the weight of the cake and how many sweets were in a jar, plus a raffle, prizes for which were donated by local residents. Fundraisers also worked in conjunction with Glenkens Food Month to offer a local home produce and baking stall.

The residents of Dalry and the Glenkens are nothing if not generous and, thanks to their donations, a total of £426.85 was raised which will be sent to SCAA. Congratulations to everyone, young and old, who took part and a big 'thank you' goes to the fundraising team and all the residents who have supported this effort.

The winners of the tallest sunflowers are pictured: Left - Mrs Margaret Hamilton who wins the title of Dalry Adult Champion Sunflower Grower. Top right - Ben Hudson, age 11, who wins the title of Glenkens & Surrounding Area Junior



Champion Sunflower Grower. Above - Lily Comrie, age 4½, who wins the title of Dalry Junior Champion Sunflower Grower. Lesley Blissett



THE GARDEN SPOT

With summer barely over, it's time to prepare for the new season.

In fact, by the time you read this, it will already have started. You should have bought your spring bulbs, planted up pots and tubs for the winter/spring and be thinking about what changes to make for next year. Any plant that hasn't performed well – have it out. There is no room in the garden for sickly and poor performing specimens – each one removed is a new opportunity. Even my much-loved banana plant has to go due to failing in old age.

When you are planting up your bulbs, hold back on the tulips; best to leave them until late October or early November before planting as this makes them less likely to suffer from Tulip Fire disease.

Generally, the best advice is to plant what wants to grow and grows well but we all have our favourites that really don't like growing in the Glenkens; however - we like to try! Classic amongst these is roses. Roses like a rich clay, alkaline or neutral soil – we definitely don't have that. They

also like hot dry sunny weather in the summer, and we usually don't get that either. But we persevere by adding farmyard manure, garden compost, watering regularly and adding a mulch.

My personal oddity is that I like Snake's Head Fritillaries; you know that odd plant with chequered flowers that likes to grow in boggy alkaline meadows in the south of England? Well I like to grow it on my acid, dry, grassy bank at the bottom of my hedge and it certainly does not like that. In ideal conditions it will naturalise and come back year after year, but not here. I buy new bulbs each year, they flower in the spring as a great curiosity but never come back. Still I persist – I know they won't come back but we are all allowed one indulgence, even if it means buying fresh bulbs each year.

All the tatties will be up now, but why not dig over the patch one more time looking for overlooked tubers? It might cut down the number of 'volunteer' potato plants that spring up next year amongst whatever you plant on the spot, and it's cheaper than going to the gym!

And now to correct one of this season's mistakes. Unusually, I had an awful crop of garlic this year so I am going to put plenty of compost and

chicken manure in the new patch for next season and get the garlic planted before mid-October (along with some over-wintering onions). And you know those measly little garlic cloves that aren't worth planting out? Well

I cram them all into a ten-inch pot, as close together as you like, and when they come up, I cut them as 'green tails' to add to a salad or use as a garnish.

Finally, as I look out of the window, I see neat round holes cut into the edges of some leaves. These are carefully made by leaf-cutter bees and do no harm to the plant. Not all holes in leaves are signs of a problem that needs to be dealt with. Rejoice in the insects that choose to live beside you.

The Intrepid Gardener



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A New Face for Crossmichael Complementary Therapy Centre

After 30 years of caring for patients from all over the world, Jim Chalmers, current proprietor of Crossmichael Complementary Therapy Centre, had been planning to retire for some time.

However, he insisted on not leaving until he could find someone who he was certain could provide the best continuing care for his patients; and now he has.

Jim would like to bid a very fond farewell to his patients, and to introduce fellow Aussie Matthew Pajo, a highly skilled practitioner whose approach, like Jim's, is patient-centred and professional.

Matthew has been studying and practising Chinese medicine

for over 25 years and has completed a BHSc in acupuncture and has attained a MAppSc in Chinese Herbal Medicine, with distinction. Matthew, his wife and daughter have recently arrived from Australia to live in the Glenkens - and what a time to arrive; in the middle of a global pandemic! Hopefully Matthew's expertise in his field and enthusiasm for this new role will, at this challenging time, be of real benefit to people in and around the Glenkens area.



On the left is Jim Chalmers, and on the right Matthew Pajo.

Jim said: "Many thanks to all my patients who have trusted me over the years. I know you will be in good hands with Matt - if you have any questions at all, just call."

To get in touch you can call Jim Chalmers on 07749 087 699 or Matthew Pajo on 07786 079 845.

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* NICE draft clinical guideline published 3rd August 2020

Practitioner Matthew Pajo has been studying and practising Chinese medicine for over 25 years and has completed a BHSc in acupuncture and has attained a MAppSc in Chinese Herbal Medicine

Contact Matthew on 07786 079 845



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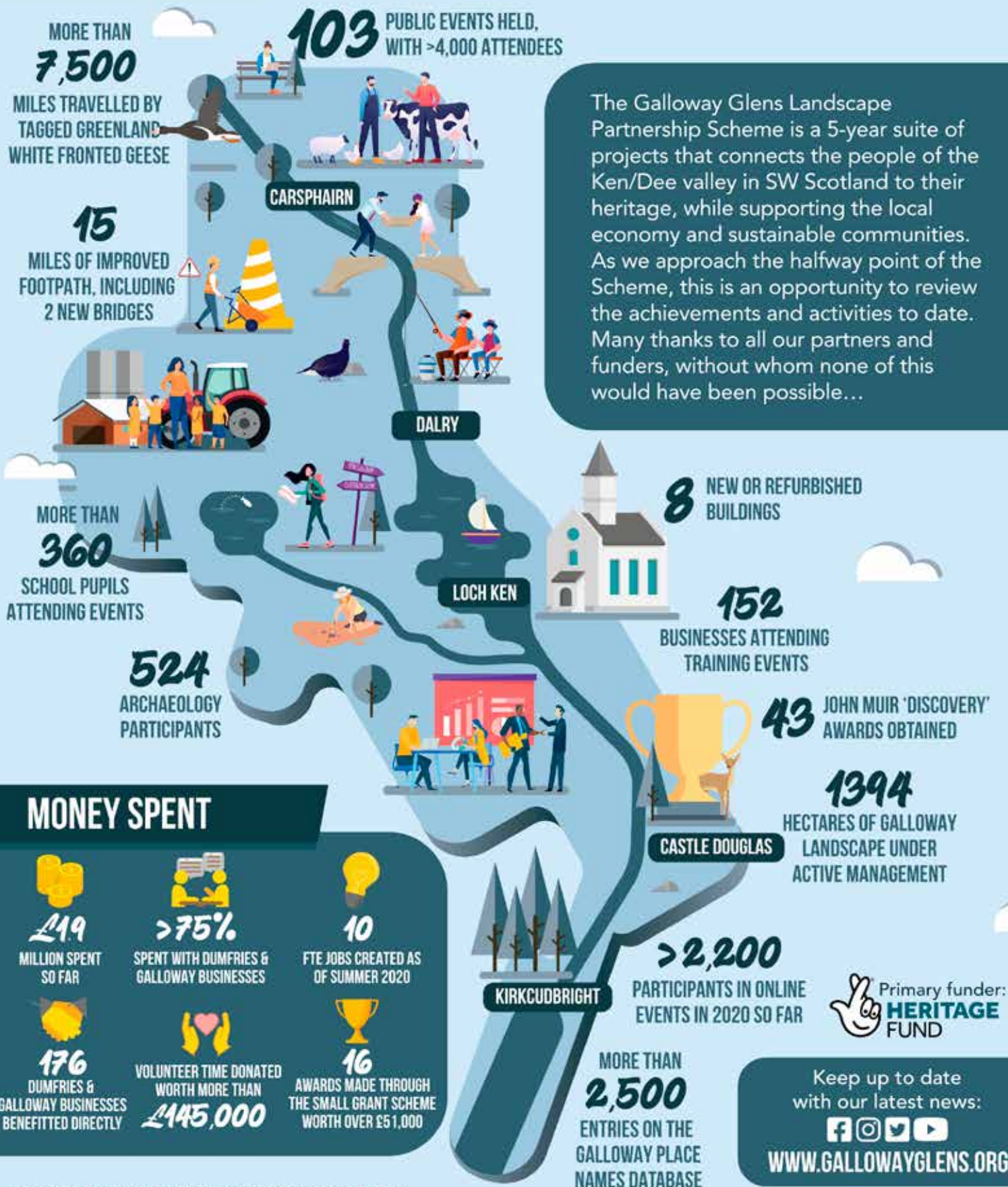
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ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE



OVERSEEN BY A PARTNERSHIP BOARD CONSISTING OF:

Curtains Up for Dalry Film Club

Dalry Film Club is looking forward to presenting a new season of films to their local audience in Dalry Town Hall.

Film club chair, Jim Reid, said: "Television and the internet have been great during the lockdown but, for many of us, the big screen is by far the best way of viewing films - that's what they were made for. We imagine that our audience has missed our screenings as much as we have, so we're delighted to once again be able to open the doors to local film-goers."

There are a number of necessary

changes to the Town Hall screenings which have had to be made in line with current guidance regarding COVID-19, to make the experience as safe as possible. Please ensure you use the hand sanitisers provided and also viewers will be required to wear face coverings. Also, social distancing requirements have reduced the audience numbers to about fifteen which means that if you turn up on the night you may not find there are spaces - to ensure a seat, please do phone and book via the CatStrand or book online (01644 420 374 or www.catstrand.com).

Jim goes on to say: "This limit in numbers has made the economics of film shows very challenging and we could not run without the support we get from the CatStrand and Driftwood

Cinema. Nevertheless, we have decided to keep our price to £5 for the moment to ensure it's affordable for people. Of course, we also recognise that we are at the mercy of circumstances and may need to cancel individual films or the season as a whole if needs arise."



The Joys of Minor Classics: Anne Bronte and Wilkie Collins

As the social restrictions begin to head into the winter months, the joys of finding and [re-]reading books that we might not have found time for become apparent.

Two authors seem to fit the bill here: Wilkie Collins and Anne Bronte.

My personal favourite Bronte book is *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* but cannot choose between Collins' *The Moonstone* or *The Woman in White*. All three books can be supplemented by various Youtube programmes. *The Woman in White* offers a choice from 1948, 1982, 1997 and 2018, *The Moonstone* offers 1934 and 1996 and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* offers a 1997 series. In addition, there is plenty of choice through a range of

audiobooks for all three.

The various Book Club analyses and discussion videos are very much a matter of personal taste. *The Woman in White* and *Wildfell Hall* are seen as exploring the position and rights of women in the nineteenth century. The former exploring the impact of a controlling male and the latter celebrating the escape from such domination by a very enterprising and determined mother and wife. In fact, *Wildfell Hall* has been described as the first feminist novel. *The Moonstone* is a very early example of the mystery and detective book.

All three are beautifully written and

crafted of course and will provide hours of pleasant reading. Although written back in the nineteenth century, they have kept their charm and interest. A nice fire in the grate or the woodburner will provide the perfect hint of Victorianism to accompany them. Perhaps candlelight might be just a shade too self-indulgent or a step too far in this respect.

Bruce Smith





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Glenkens WW2 Deaths: Part I

Regular readers of the Gazette will recall that I wrote a series of articles about the men and women of the Glenkens who are listed on our war memorials and who died in the First World War.

I thought that it was high time that I paid similar tribute to those from the Second World War. Although more recent, there is much less information available about these people because, unlike for the Great War, we don't have access to service records and there was no Stewartry Roll of Honour. But, most importantly, newspapers were not permitted to report events, injuries and deaths in the same way as was common in the first World War.

In this series of articles, I will include those who are listed on the four civic war memorials of Kells, Dalry, Balmacellan and Carsphairn. If anyone has any additional information about these men and women above what I have written (especially photographs), please forward it via the editor and I will add it in future articles [please do NOT send original documents or photographs - Ed].

There were no Glenkens deaths in 1939, and the first (and only) death from 1940 was that of Sergeant Robert Bence. Robert was born in 1908 in Bath, Somerset, to parents Fred and Margaret

Bence. He was brought up from infancy by his grandfather James McJannet and assisted in the family provisions business in New Galloway; his aunt, Miss Catherine McJannet, lived in High Street, New Galloway. He joined the Kirkcudbright battery of the Royal Artillery pre-war and went to France in March 1940 as part of the British Expeditionary Force. He served in Belgium and was reported missing on 27 May before the Dunkirk evacuation at 31 years of age. With no known grave, he is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial in France and is named on the Kells parish war memorial.

The next Glenkens man to fall was Lance Corporal John William Smith O'Neill. John was born in Kelton parish in 1917, the son of William and Sophia (Smith) O'Neill of Balmacellan. He served with the 2nd Battalion of the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders and was reported missing in action in East Africa on 29 January 1941 at the age of 24. With no known grave, he is commemorated on the Khartoum Memorial, Sudan, along with nearly 600 soldiers of the 1940-41 East African campaign who died in the Sudan or in the advance to Eritrea and Northern Ethiopia. He is named on the Balmacellan war memorial.

Robert Little (known as Bobbie) was born in Kirkcudbrightshire (town/village not identified), the son of the late Robert Maxwell Little, a blacksmith, and Margaret (Kilpatrick) Little of Smithy House, Dalry. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps and was serving at Beacon Barracks, Salisbury, Wiltshire when he was killed during an air-raid on 14 March 1941 at the age of 21. His body was brought back to Dalry and he was buried in Dalry Churchyard where he has a private stone



on an official Commonwealth War Grave. He is named on the Dalry war memorial.

Next to fall was Flight Sergeant Cecil Robertson. Cecil was born in 1921 in New Galloway, the son of Jessie Agnes Robertson and grandson of Mrs Robertson of High Street, New Galloway. He was educated at Kells school and Kirkcudbright Academy. Cecil enlisted into the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1940 and served with 235 Squadron flying Bristol Blenheim IVs from RAF Bircham Newton, Norfolk on patrols over Holland, and for convoy protection and reconnaissance over the North Sea. His aircraft was shot down by German ME 110 fighters whilst attacking a German convoy off Borkum on the Danish coast. It was later learnt that he had been picked up by German forces, severely wounded and died of wounds on 5 May 1941 at the age of 19. He was initially buried in Wilhelmshaven Military Cemetery but was re-interred in Sage War Cemetery, Germany in July 1947. He is named on the Kells war memorial and the Kirkcudbright Academy memorial.

The final death to be included in this article is that of Elizabeth Mary Wood, known as Elma. Elma was born in Dalbeattie in 1920, the daughter of Adam Wacker Wood and Hannah (Robertson) Wood of Kirkland Street, Dalry. She served in several places as a Canteen Assistant for NAAFI (Navy, Army and Air Force Institute). NAAFI is not strictly part of the Armed Forces but can usually be found in barracks and wherever troops are deployed. Their staff fulfil an important role in welfare of the troops. Elma died of Addison's Disease in Dumfries Infirmary on 18 November 1941 at the age of 21. She is buried in Dalry Churchyard. Elma is not commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission because, being a member of a civilian organisation, she would only be commemorated by them if she died as a direct result of enemy action. However, the local war memorial committee saw fit to name her on the Dalry war memorial in recognition of her wartime service. She is also named on the Kirkcudbright Academy memorial.

Paul Goodwin

SPALDING WINS CUP



The winners of the Inter-county Cup for Stewartry vs Dumfriesshire, won by Dalry's Spalding Bowling Club paired with Auchencairn Bowling Club.

Who is in Your Family History?

One thing I returned to during the lockdown was researching my family history.

I first researched it over fifteen years ago, but things have changed a bit since then. Much more information is available online nowadays, some of it free but much is only available on paid-for sites such as ScotlandsPeople and Ancestry. My original research had used the traditional methods of checking vital records (births, marriages and deaths) but also the censuses taken every ten years (since 1841).

I found out in my initial research that I was from a long line of agricultural labourers, many illiterate and a few illegitimate. I was lucky to be able to get back a little over two hundred years on most lines. Generally, only the great and the good had their lives recorded much earlier than that.

During the lockdown I was contacted by someone who shared a great-great grandmother (Mary Elizabeth Dowle) with me. I should point out that siblings share a parent, first cousins share a grandparent, second cousins share a great grandparent and we shared a second great grandparent so we are third cousins. He gave me some info about Mary Elizabeth Dowle's father and I found that records from Lydd in Kent were online. I managed to trace back a further six generations and then a further five generations via an online family website to Richard Wake who was the Sheriff of Northamptonshire.

This was a lucky stroke because he was one of said 'great and good' so his lineage was well documented in thepeerage.com. I traced his line back to Thomas Wake 'The Great Wake'. Going further back, there were Knights, an MP and a couple more Sheriffs of Northamptonshire, until I got back to Sir Hugh Wake MP (born 1240) whose mother was Devorguilla of Galloway (not the famous one - her aunt). Her father was Roland of Galloway, then back to Uchtred of Galloway, Fergus Lord of Galloway and Princess Elizabeth, King Henry I of England and William the Conqueror.

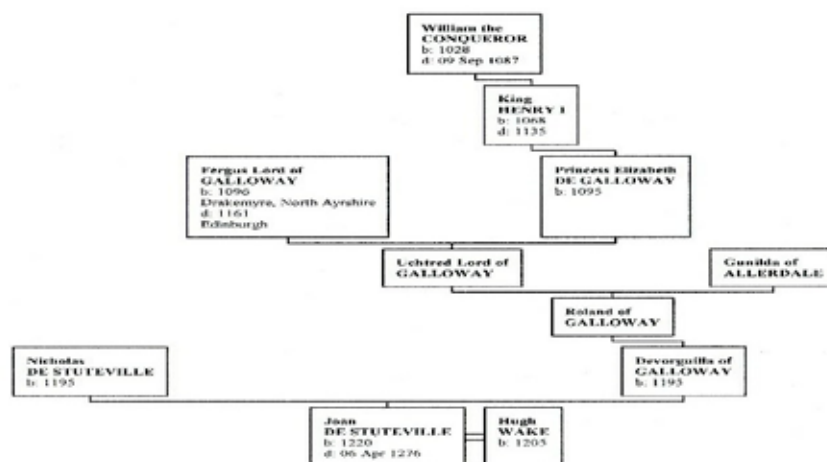
So, it turns out that I am the 28th great-grandson of William the Conqueror. Not to get too excited about it, we are probably all descended from William the Conqueror, it's just that I was lucky enough to be able to trace it. We all have two grandfathers, four great grandfathers, eight great-great grandfathers so... we have 536,870,912 - 28th great grandfathers and that means that I had 536,870,911 who were NOT William the Conqueror!

The one thing that pleases me though, being born English, is that I have always had a love for Scotland in general and the Stewartry in particular. Now I know that, as the 24th great grandson of Roland of Galloway, it is in my DNA!

Now I wonder if I can push any other ancestor lines further back?

Paul Goodwin

Ancestors of Joan de Stuteville



Glenkens Men's Shed

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From this



to this



And this



to this



It's been a slow transformation inside the shed with the shedders building as money became available, but outside has been as quick as a flash, first the roof & solar panels and now the insulated cladding. We shedders are very grateful to a large number of groups and organisations for helping us to turn a rundown agricultural workshop into a shed to be proud of. Coupled with the redevelopment of the Smiddy this corner of Balmaclellan has turned into a very desirable space indeed, and it's not finished yet!

A whole host of sponsors and donors have made this possible, too many to give them all a name check, but you'll recognise their logos below. The shedders have raised thousands themselves, but the big ticket items come with thanks to:- The Glenkens Development Trust, Foundation Scotland, Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership, SP Energy Networks Green Economy Fund and Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund.







To find out more, arrange a visit, or become a member:- email chris@catstrand.com

GLENKENS PLACE NAMES: PART VI

In the third instalment of this series I touched on matters supernatural and religious.

Specifically I mentioned Blackcraig Hill, the old name for which was *Beinn Naoimh*, the sacred mountain. To recap, this derivation is supported by the place-name *Benniff* on the Blaeu Atlas, the survey for which was undertaken by Timothy Pont around 1600. On the hill sky-line there is Cairn Molly today, probably from the Gaelic *Càrn Molaigh*, eulogising or praising cairn. And then there is the discovery of the bronze casting of a Celtic handbell was found in 1892 near Monybuie (*Monadh Buidhe*, yellow moor) on the slopes of the hill.

In this instalment I want to discuss the importance of local pronunciation in the determining of the meaning of place-names. Without getting the local pronunciation it is easy to get driven down blind alleys and end up with something completely wrong.

A good example of this takes us back to Blackcraig or Am Beinn Naoimh, the sacred mountain. On the southern slopes of this hill, halfway up the track towards Halfmark and now buried in commercial forestry is the site of a

former farmstead called Tydeaverries. By around 1850 this was already in ruins and the Ordnance Survey Name Book records that it had been merged with the farm of Halfmark. The Name Book also recorded some variant spellings of the place-name, Tidyverries, Tydeaverries and even Tydworish. There was clearly some disagreement amongst the Ordnance Survey's informants as to how to spell the place-name, the matter was settled as recorded as noted therein 'Mr Black asserts that his brother in law who is the proprietor of this place spells the house thus Tydeaverries'.

This is then a difficult name to try to establish the possible meaning of. In the Blaeu Atlas published in 1654 and mentioned above, it is Tydauarries. Gilbert Markús in the Place-Names of the Galloway Glens website perhaps wisely does not attempt to interpret it. At first glance it would suggest to me, Gaelic *Taigh* 'house' plus *dubh-àirigh* 'black summer shieling' with an English plural 's' as often gets added. However this would require a pronunciation in rough phonetic English, Tie **Doover**(s) with the emphasis, or stress on the '**Doo**' part.

I have been trying to assist Professor Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh, Professor of Celtic and Gaelic at Glasgow University to check the local pronunciations of some Galloway place-names which he needs for some research into Galloway Gaelic. One of those chosen by him was Tydeaverries.

It is unfortunately the case that a lot of these minor place-names are being forgotten, especially when they are no longer used and are perhaps inaccessible through afforestation or some other reason. Place-name pronunciation also can change under influence of new arrivals. A good case in point is Knockman (wood) near Newton Stewart which is always pronounced Knock-**maan** by older locals whereas it is increasingly being spoken as **Knockman** to rhyme with

'postman'. This stress-shift is something BBC Radio Scotland seems to delight in with place-names.

Anyhow I was fortunate to be able to speak to some knowledgeable locals[1] who had grown up in that area and knew the place and its place-name as had been pronounced in their families in the past. They were good enough to check with other family members as well. The clear pronunciation that came back was however not what I expected at all. It was Tidy Verries or Tidy Berries with perhaps a slight stress on the 'Ver/Ber' part of the second word (Tidy pronounced as English 'to tidy up').

This blew the 'house of the black summer shieling' idea out of the water right away as that pronunciation would not fit at all. I was stumped. However on relating this to Professor Ó Maolalaigh he tentatively suggested a couple of alternatives. The first was Gaelic *Taigh dà Bhairr/Bharra* 'house of the two tops/ends'. But for a house half way up the hillside that didn't seem to make much sense topographically although as Roibeard said that might account for the plural form seen in the current version. He also considered Gaelic *Taigh do Bharra*, ie house + honorific + saint name - 'House of thy Bairre' which also would much more closely fit the modern pronunciation. In making this suggestion Roibeard was unaware of the *Beinn Naoimh* earlier name for Blackcraig Hill, Cairn Molly or the handbell found very close by (see article 3 in this series). All circumstantial evidence to perhaps support a saintly dedication behind Tydeaverries.

Bairre is a hypocoristic form derived from a Gaelic saint called Fionnbharr, alias Finnian, probably attached to the Co. Down church of Movilla in the Ards peninsula in Ulster and who lived around 600 AD[2]. He may have been a tutor of Colum Cille. He also seems to have had a Brittonic pet name, Uinniau (alias Vinnio and Finnio) and he may have been born in one of the Gaelic settlements in Wales. This also may have led to a wide diffusion of his cult.

Professor Ó Maolalaigh has pointed out that there is no evidence of a cult to Bairre in Galloway. However in the form Uinniau, he may be represented in Kirkgunzion with its St Winning's Well not too far from Blackcraig.

In conclusion then, more evidence is needed but we may just be seeing a glimpse that the sacred nature of this hill, Blackcraig or *Am Beinn Naoimh* was connected to a cult to Saint Finnian of Movilla. If so, this would be one of many Galloway dedications to Gaelic Irish saints of the early medieval period. *Michael Ansell, Carsphairn*

1 My thanks to Alan Smith and John Finlay

2 See *A Dictionary of Irish Saints* by Padraig Ó Riain, Dublin, 2011

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LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

THE FOLK NEXT DOOR



Living as we do in what sometimes seems like a covenanting graveyard we tend to forget that there were plenty of folk in Galloway, and indeed the 'Glenkennes', who had no truck with radical presbyterianism and who lived out their lives as best they could with few comforts in a difficult country.

The earliest truly useful description of Galloway was written in 1684 by Andrew Symson, curate of Kirkinner, Wigtownshire:

In the late Rebellion, that unhappy
time

When loyalty was look'd on as a
crime,

And Royalists were hooted at like
owles

Esteem'd deserving nought but scoffs
and scowles...

Symson seems to have been a decent individual, but desertion by his congregation forced him to eventually move to Edinburgh where he operated as a publisher. He could not, however, escape the violence of his times, publishing Sir George Mackenzie's *Laws and Customs* with "a treatise of Mutilation and Demembration and their Punishments". His Galloway tract factually defined the parishes and boundaries of the province, with some notes on the region's economy.

Parishes were originally ecclesiastical units of land intended to support a priest and a church, with the support of the local laird. Until the 19th century most folk would not travel very far from their birth parish.

Here we explore mainly what Symson wrote about this district; "Balmaclellan, Dalry, Corsefairne, and the Kells ly eastward of the river Dee; and because the river of Kenn runs through them, therefore they

are commonly called the Glenkennes" (Sympson's spelling of place names is used throughout).

Excluded from that privileged little band were Corsemichael and Partan. The author's technique is to give the distance of each parish from Kirkcudbright by the long and shorter routes. For example, Corsemichael is twelve miles distant from Kirkcudbright, "keeping the way thereto upon the east side of the Dee; but only eight miles the nearest way; but then you must cross the water of Dee twice, viz. at the Boat of Balmaghie (ie ferry) and at the town of Kirkcudbright". On the east the parish is bounded by the parishes of Kirkpatrick and Orr (Urr), on the south by Bootle and Kelton, on the west Balmaghie and on the north Partan. The latter is fourteen miles from the Stewartry capital but only ten, using two Dee crossings. Three lairds claim the right of patronage, presentation of a minister – Viscount Kenmuir, the Laird of Partan and the Laird of Drumrash. When there was no agreement between them the Bishop of Galloway presented jure devoluto (no nomination). Today it is difficult to comprehend why there should have been so much controversy about such a tiny village where inhabitants are seldom seen!

Balmaclellan was reckoned about twenty miles from the metropolitan, but crossing at Boat of Rone, at the

Balmaclellan was reckoned about twenty miles from the metropolitan, but crossing at Boat of Rone, at the influx of the Dee into the Loch of Kenn, saved about six miles.

influx of the Dee into the Loch of Kenn, saved about six miles. Further north was Dalry but the shorter route involved crossing the Kenn and then Boat of Roan with another crossing at Kirkcudbright. "About a furlong distant from the east end of the kirk, there is a little town commonly called St John's Clachan, or the Old Clachan, partly belonging to the Earl of Galloway and partly to the Laird of Earlstoun". Dalry is "bounded" by a record number of neighbours – Balmaclellan, Kells and Corsefairne both separated from the village by the Kenn; and by the parishes of Cumnock, Sanquhair, Pinpont at Polskeoch and Glencairn separated by the Water of Castlefairne. Symson mentions the endowment of Alexander Bryce, a local and a wealthy

merchant who left a large sum of money for

a free school in Dalry. Corsefairne is twenty-eight miles from Kirkcudbright but following the same route as the Dalryrians saved about four miles. Carved out of Dalry and Kells in the mid seventeenth century the parish was now bordered by the Polmaddy Bourn. The considerable Water of Deuch loses its name on entering the Kenn. Kells with the pint-sized royal burgh of New Galloway enjoys a weekly market and an annual fair as well as Kenmuir Castle. The parish is "for the most part, muirs and mountains".

The exercise which engaged Symson was inspired by Sir Robert Sibbald, who became president of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and first professor of medicine at Edinburgh University, as well as Geographer Royal for Scotland. Among his many interests were mapping and gathering information for what might have become the Statistical Account of Scotland a century before Sir John Sinclair's famous initiative, which is still extremely valuable for Scottish historians, especially of the local variety.

Sympson's interests were overwhelmingly drawn from Wigtownshire but he also tried to

supply Stewartry material. He discusses soils, peat, timber, vermin, sheep, horses, bier (a poorer form of barley) and hemp. A big subject in Galloway was the importation of

Irish cattle to be fattened in large parks or enclosures, for the English market and consequently a dependency, sometimes fraught, on drovers. He touches on fishing in rivers, lochs and the sea. Galloway's ports were small and her roads poor. Folk favoured Tuesdays and Thursdays for weddings. When someone died the event was advertised by burning the bed-straw of the deceased. He was interested in language, proverbs, weights and measures.

As a wise man wrote, "haein the richt tae be oorsels disnae mean turnin inwards an only carin aboot oorsels, but in learnin tae respect, tolerate an byde in peace wi oor fella Scots anither folk, stertin wi oor neebours". Tak Tent!

Ted Cowan

The Empire Windrush Connection

A contribution by Jennifer and Sandy Harvie:

We have been going through Sandy's mum's [Mrs Rita Harvie] things while emptying out her house and have come across clippings from newspapers about the sinking of the Empire Windrush.

William (Billy) Campbell was Rita's younger brother and eventually lived in Wales with his wife and family and died some years ago. Mrs Rita Harvie, who sadly passed away in October 2019, was well known in the village and around the Glenkens.

Here is some information about the Empire Windrush, and then the excerpts from the paper follow:

HMT (His Majesty's Transport) Empire Windrush, originally MV (Motor Vessel) Monte Rosa, was a passenger liner and cruise ship launched in Germany in 1930. She was owned and operated by the German shipping line Hamburg Süd in the 1930s under the name Monte Rosa.

During World War II she was operated by the German navy as a troopship. At the end of the war, she was taken by the British Government as a prize of war and renamed the Empire Windrush. In British service, she continued to be used as a troopship until March 1954, when the vessel caught fire and sank in the Mediterranean Sea with the loss of four crew.

Empire Windrush brought one of the first large groups of postwar West Indian immigrants to the United Kingdom, carrying 1,027 passengers and two stowaways on a voyage from Jamaica to London in 1948. British Caribbean people who came to the United Kingdom in the period after World War II, including those who came on later ships, are sometimes referred to as the Windrush generation.

SAVED FROM BLAZING TROOPSHIP
TWO PORTPATRICK CHUMS AND LOCHANS SOLDIER

Two young Portpatrick men who grew up together, attended school together and joined H.M. Forces for their National Training together, were among those on board the British troopship Empire Windrush, which caught fire in the Mediterranean on Sunday and became a total wreck.

The youths are Private Billy Campbell, 4 Eastcliff, and Private James Smith, 3 Eastcliff, Portpatrick. They have remained together all through their National Service, and after being in Germany went with the Battalion to Korea last June. They are due for demobilisation at the end of the month and were on their way home.

Private John Byers, Lochans, is also one of those who were on board. There were 1,700 people on the ship, and four—all members of the engine room crew—lost their lives in the explosion which preceded the fire. Naval officers said it was one of the great achievements in the history of the sea to get off so many people from a blazing ship 32 miles from shore without loss of life, and ship's masters who went to the aid of the stricken vessel spoke highly of the heroic attitude of the men, women and children on the boat. Some of them, when being transferred to the rescue ships, were heard to say "After you, Claude," and to get the usual reply, "No, after you, Cecil." Many of them had to jump from the blazing ship into the sea after the explosion.

PORTPATRICK SOLDIERS RETURN HOME
SAVED FROM EMPIRE WINDRUSH

Privates Wm. Campbell and James Smith, whose homes are at East Cliff Portpatrick, and who, as mentioned last week, were rescued when the Empire Windrush went on fire, arrived home on Saturday.

Pte. Campbell said he was on guard when just after 6 a.m. there was a violent explosion and soon dense masses of smoke and flames were seen. All on board were ordered to their stations, and then they put off in the boats. Along with others, Campbell was picked up by a cargo boat and landed at Algiers.

There was no panic on board and both lads were full of praise for the crew of the doomed vessel.

After one day in Algiers they were taken to Gibraltar in the aircraft carrier Triumph, then flown home to Berwick-on-Tweed, where they were fitted out with new uniforms before going on leave.

Pte. Smith was asleep when the alarm went and did not realise what had happened until he was in the small boat.

Pte. Campbell and Pte. Smith are due for demobilisation shortly. They went to Korea last summer. Both speak very highly of the treatment given them by everyone during their short stay at Algiers and Gibraltar.

(Continued from next column)

A. MacMaster, dairy producer
Messrs J. E. Niven and J. Mc



Guiding you along life's fairways

Time is precious; we want to spend as much of it doing the things that make us happy. So keeping on top of our finances and managing our wealth – a task that can be both time-consuming and complex – can often fall down our list of priorities.

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Associate Partner Practice of St. James's Place Wealth Management

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Principal

Tel: 07983 700844

Email: philip.lancaster@sjpp.co.uk

www.sjpp.co.uk/philip Lancaster



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SLP14774 V1 (11/16)

YOUR CHANCE TO SHAPE LOCHSIDE LIFE

The Loch Ken Trust is a new charity which has been set up to put the community at the heart of decision-making on how to make life better around Loch Ken.

As a new organisation, we are looking to recruit members to help guide the work we do - so why not join the Loch Ken Trust? We would love to have you on board!

Membership is completely free and open to anyone who supports our purpose: "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."

Barnaby Fryer, the Loch Ken Trust officer overseeing the project, told us: "We have been thrilled by the stream of membership applications received since our feature in the last Glenkens

Gazette, but would love to see even more. The Trust aims to make the future of Loch Ken better and brighter for everyone, and in order to achieve this we need input from as many different people as possible."

If you are interested in joining the Loch Ken Trust, or have any thoughts or ideas which you feel could work for the project, please contact LKToffice@protonmail.com or visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/lochkentrust



Progress Report: Windy Rig Wind Farm

ONSITE PROGRESS

We have had a busy couple of months onsite with more access tracks being completed and work starting on the turbine foundations. On the public road, installation of the passing places is nearly complete and good progress is being made on the road widening in preparation for the turbine deliveries. Because we have been able to source stone within the site to create the access tracks, we have managed to greatly reduce the traffic along the B729. The addition of the new passing places is helping to ease congestion along the route.

LOCAL SUPPLIERS

We are pleased to see lots of local suppliers on site. Almost half of our present suppliers come from within a 30-mile radius of the site. We are currently using local suppliers for plant hire,

aggregates and piping. One of the local companies, GTR Contracts based just outside Dumfries, supply us with the heavy machinery required to construct the tracks to the turbine locations.

MESSAGING SERVICE

Are you a regular user of the B729? Do you receive text

messages to be told about any large deliveries or additional activity on the route to our site? Contact Doug Wilson if you would like to be added, doug.wilson@statkraft.com or call 07542 754 642.

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



Connecting Communities

The last three years have been a tremendous success for the Connecting in Communities (CiC) project.

Managed by Brian Jones and Chris Jowsey, and based at CatStrand in New Galloway, this project was part funded by LEADER and the Big Lottery and was primarily aimed at helping reduce rural and social isolation in the Glenkens.

There are too many groups, activities and events to mention but here's but a selection of what was delivered: the CatStrand Ukulele Band (who raised thousands of pounds for local charities and good causes), the Glenkens Men's Shed (first and finest in Dumfries & Galloway), yoga, fitness, tai-chi, film club, intergenerational projects (check out the mural at CatStrand), walking groups, writing and photography groups,

learn the whistle, beginners ukes and some mega rock events and discos.

The original CiC project has now ended and we'd like to thank each and every person who took part, whether this was as a volunteer, activity lead, participant, audience member or simply took part in one of our surveys - thank you; you've really helped make the Glenkens a better place to live.

But this is not the end! Thanks to a National Lottery award from The National Lottery Community Fund Connecting in Communities are embarking on a new and exciting two-year project.

We'll be based at The Smiddy in Balmaclellan and feature loads of your favourite groups and activities plus loads of new ones, all made possible thanks to National Lottery players!

The Smiddy is a fabulous new building with boundless possibilities for all sorts of activities, and its co-existence with the Men's Shed offers even more opportunities. Learning will feature greatly in the new project and we're building partnerships to maximise the

Smiddy's potential as a learning hub. Our Skills Club, run in conjunction with the IT Centre, helping people develop their skills for employment, will be one of the first activities back in the Smiddy when COVID-19 restrictions end.

COVID-19 has put a hold on us getting together just now, but thanks to Zoom, and the wonders of modern technology, many of our events are available online. The new project will have more of a focus on helping groups become self-sufficient, and getting new ones started, so if you have an idea that'll help enhance our community, please get in touch - Brian and Chris would love to hear from you.

Meanwhile, opposite is a list of what's on offer remotely and who to contact if you would like to join in (please note that times and activities change so always check with the contact for the latest information).

For further info call 01644 420 274 or email chris@catstrand.com or brian@catstrand.com



t: 01292 550954
m: 07766 978568
e: rj.mcculloch@aol.co.uk
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INSTALLATION

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- Biomass
- Oil
- General Plumbing

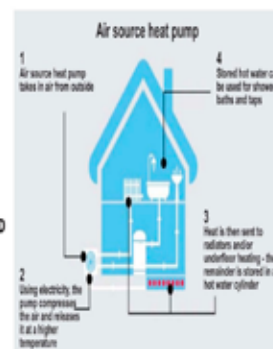
SERVICE

- Ground Source Heat Pumps
- Solid Fuel
- LPG
- Bathrooms

REPAIR

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ONLINE CLASSES WITH CiC

Monday

Exercise to Music 0930 - **Sam Rushton** samantha.rushton@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates 1740 - **Shona Paterson** sjpaterson50@yahoo.co.uk

Tuesday

Digital Photography Group 1100 - **Brian Jones** brian@catstrand.com
Kettlebell Class 1800 - **John Fagan** jpfagan@hotmail.co.uk
Yoga 1745 - **Amy Fowler** amyfowler.yoga.edinburgh@gmail.com

Wednesday

Lower Body Toning 0930 - **John Fagan** jpfagan@hotmail.co.uk
Zumba 1930 - **Sam Rushton** samantha.rushton@hotmail.co.uk
Community Pub Quiz 2000 - **Chris Jowsey** chris@catstrand.com

Thursday

CatStrand Singers 1100 - **Nicola Black** nicolablack@madasafish.com
Kettlebell Class 1800 - **John Fagan** jpfagan@hotmail.co.uk

Friday

Zumba 0930 - **Sam Rushton** samantha.rushton@hotmail.co.uk
Lower Body Toning 0930 - **John Fagan** jpfagan@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday

Body Weight Circuit 0800 - **John Fagan** jpfagan@hotmail.co.uk

Ukulele Tuition

By appointment **Anne Chaurand** anne.chaurand@btinternet.com

Margaret Morris Movement & Choreo.Skills Lab

Various digital options **Sara Lockwood** sara.lockwood@sky.com

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Councillor Dougie Campbell

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries



& Galloway

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Councillor Pauline Drysdale

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

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

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Councillor Jane Maitland

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

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries



& Galloway

Galloway Community Transport

(formerly Glenkens Transport Initiative)

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

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



OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2020

REGULAR SERVICES

WEEKLY

Glenkens-Newton Stewart Tuesdays

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

Glenkens-Castle Douglas (Tesco) Wednesday Evenings (Registered Route)

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

Booking not required

MONTHLY

Glenkens-Ayr Saturday October 31

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

Glenkens-Carlisle

Saturdays: Sep 26; Nov 28

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

EXCURSIONS

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

Full details of the
2020 Excursions
are available on the GCT website

October 3, Saturday Gardens of Excellence The Autumn Garden, Wigtownshire Logan Botanic Garden, Port Logan

A delightful walled garden filled with autumn colour with trees and shrubs from the southern hemisphere displaying their vibrant textures and hues in the formal woodlands. An exotic paradise.

Café and garden centre. Wheelchair accessible.

The excursion will include a scenic drive to Portpatrick where afternoon refreshments will be available.

Admission £6.30. Members free.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill Bus Stop) 0900, New Galloway (CatStrand) 0910, Castle Douglas (Market Hill Car Park) 0935, Kirkcudbright (Harbour Square Bus Stop) 0950, Gatehouse (Spar Shop Bus Stop) 1005
Fare: £7

October 24, Saturday Creative Crafts Show 2020 Including Crafts for Christmas SECC, Glasgow

Discover all the ideas, inspiration and supplies you could ever dream of! Knitters, stitchers, hobbyists and crafters will be in their element with endless supplies, innovations, new product launches, demonstrations and workshops designed to encourage and inspire your creativity. There's no better place to stock up and revel in creative craft inspiration!

Admission to the event: see the event website

(www.stitchandhobby.co.uk/glasgow/autumn2020). Event tickets must be booked online – they will not be available at the door.

Pickups:
Kirkcudbright (Harbour Square Bus Stop) 0800
Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0825
New Galloway (CatStrand) 0900
Dalry (Underhill Bus Stop) 0910
Carsphairn (Shop) 0925
Fare: £9

MINIBUS HIRE

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

Digital Meets Art:

Workshops for an upcoming installation on GenZ and digital technologies led by artist Rory Laycock

Via Zoom:

Tues 22nd Sep Drawing through the digital 6-8pm
Use your smartphone as a creative tool

At CatStrand:

Tues 29th Sep What's 3D Today? 6-8pm
Turn your wax sculpture into a model using 3D printing

Sat 3rd Oct Beyond images 2-4pm
Create NFC tags and QR codes as part of an interactive game around CatStrand

Sat 10th Oct Conversation through Filters 11am-1pm
Invent memes and filters for your favourite social media apps

Sat 10th Oct Projection Mapping 2-4pm
Learn how to project objects onto surfaces and create a live 3D film

To book email katy@catstrand.com or get in touch via social media @catstrandyouth



Free / Ages 11+



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

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

CROSSMICHAEL & PARTON POPPY APPEAL

Due to COVID-19 restrictions there will be no door-to-door collection this year. However, donations can be left at Crossmichael village shop or contact Margaret Nelson on 01556 670 595 for postal details. There is also 'The Crossmichael (virtual) Local' Facebook page through which JustGiving donations can be made online.

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 on 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.

CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND:

Apart from Remembrance Sunday, we will be holding just one Church of Scotland service each Sunday.

Videos will continue to be posted on youtube, accessed by typing 'Balmaclellan, Kells and Dalry with Carsphairn' into the youtube search box.

Sunday Services: Balmaclellan 11am: 4 Oct & 1 Nov; Carsphairn 11am: 11 Oct; Kells 11am: 18 Oct, 15 & 29 Nov; Dalry 11am: 25 Oct & 22 Nov.

Communion Service: 25 Oct, 11am, Dalry Church. 15 Nov, 11am, Carsphairn Church.

Remembrance Services (8 Nov):

10.30am in Carsphairn Church;
10.55am at New Galloway War Memorial – act of remembrance, followed by short open-air service;
10.55am Balmaclellan War Memorial – short act of remembrance; 12noon Dalry Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

St Margaret's, New Galloway: **Sunday Eucharists have re-started**, 10.30am. For information call Pam Swift on 01644 420467.

Dalry Library & Customer Service Centre

Tuesdays 10.30am-2pm

Fridays 11am-4.30pm

For further information contact Castle Douglas library on 01556 502 643

USEFUL NUMBERS:

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

Smithy Wins Travellers' Choice Award

The Smithy tearoom in New Galloway have received a Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice 2020 Award.

Margaret and Andrew have been running the Smithy Café and Gift shop since March 2018 and have recently received this fantastic tripadvisor award.

Margaret and Andrew said: "We were delighted to receive the following email from Tripadvisor- "Congratulations to The Smithy on being a Travellers' Choice winner. Each year, we comb through reviews, ratings, and saves from travellers everywhere, and use that info to award the very best. You're part of an exclusive group; you're in the top 10% of restaurants worldwide".

Many thanks to the people who have made this possible. It has been a strange year for us all but the staff

at the Smithy and our suppliers have taken the opportunity to shine in these difficult times.

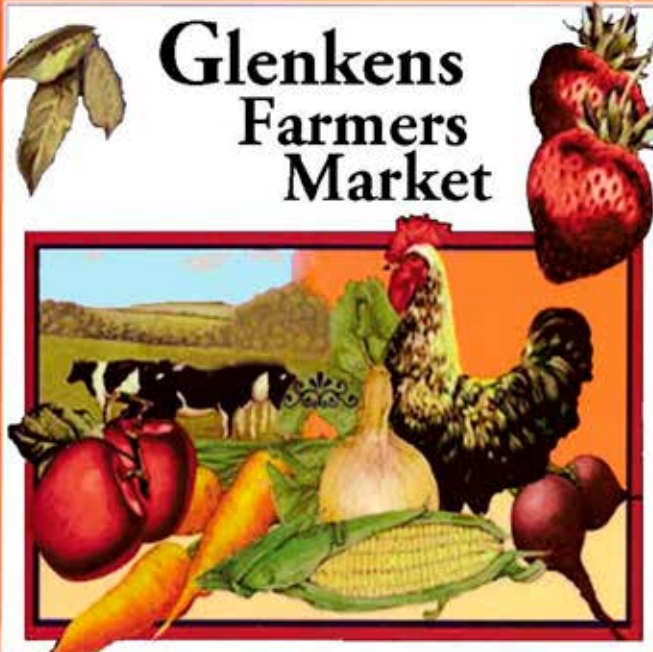
"The many messages and best wishes received from our customers and visitors are truly appreciated and we thank you all for your continued support. Stay safe and well."

Well done Margaret and Andrew for creating such an outstanding, well-loved and award-winning little café in the wonderful setting of New Galloway.

STOP PRESS: Just as this edition of the Gazette was going to print, The Smithy was nominated in the *Sunday Post* under the best five 'Cool Coffee Shops' in Scotland - what an accolade!



Margaret and Andrew with their Tripadvisor award.



Glenkens Farmers Market

2nd Saturday Monthly
10th October • 14th November
10am-12.30pm

- See Glenkens Food Hub ad on p3 -

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

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



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