

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

December 2020/January 2021

ISSUE 121

FREE

A GLENKENS HOGMANAY

First footing and house parties may not be on the cards for this Hogmanay, but plans are underway for an alternative way to celebrate with friends, family and the community.

Working with local communities, New Galloway Community Enterprises (NGCE) and CatStrand are excited to announce 'A Glenkens Hogmanay'. In the run-up to the bells, our very own Jools Holland - aka Brian Edgar! - will be live-hosting a fantastic programme of entertainment from the amazing Shore Road Ceilidh Band, local entertainers and recorded greetings from all in the Glenkens. It can be watched on YouTube or Facebook in the countdown to midnight on Thursday 31 December. So settle down on the sofa or roll back the carpet, crack open the bubbles and let's



Sam Rushton and Brian Edgar look forward to toasting the new year in - with you!

celebrate the bells together.

We want a big part of the programme to be your messages to loved ones, in the Glenkens or further afield. Whether

you live in or have connections with the Glenkens, if you want to send a video or audio message to family or friends, do send them in!

You can do this by sending a video or recording directly, by requesting a doorstep visit from our fabulous roving reporter or by visiting our pop-up greetings pod that will be touring the Glenkens community on Saturday 12 December. If you would like to send a 30 second greetings video (or even a short party piece - we'd love to see those!), please send it via WhatsApp to 07741 656 601. Alternatively you can send it via WeTransfer to glenkenshogmanay@gmail.com. To request a doorstep visit or book to come along to our greetings pod, contact Sam on 07741 656 601. We'll try and fit just as many of them in as we can.

We don't want anyone to miss out on watching this fantastic community event so if you would like some support in getting ready to view it, please don't hesitate to get in touch - we can help in lots of ways!

*Sam Rushton,
NGCE Community Engagement Worker*

Growing Our Local Food Network

The start of COVID-19 back in March saw an unprecedented increase in demand for locally available food, as supermarket supply chains struggled to keep up.

Our local village shops became a lifeline for communities, and deliveries from Fleet Fish, Roan's Dairy and other food providers increased. Local mutual aid groups popped up all across the region, with interventions such as the Community Cupboards and food collections for people who were self-isolating.

September brought us Glenkens Food Month and the launch of the Glenkens Community Action Plan (see article on p17). Food Month aimed to raise the profile of local food and producers through initiatives such as the Shop Local, Eat Local. It also saw the restart of the Glenkens Producer Market - which had shut its doors due to COVID - and supported the birth of the Glenkens Food Hub.

Continued on p5...



Some of the stallholders at the Glenkens Producers Market.

AN UPDATE FROM LOCH KEN TRUST

Having now gained approval from the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) Loch Ken Trust (LKT) has been on a recruitment drive for new members and we are delighted with the response to date.

At the time of writing just over 70 members have joined us, and we are delighted with the breadth of interest groups represented and the number of new faces. There really are a lot of people out there who love the loch, are interested in its future development and are willing to get involved. Recruitment is ongoing, however and it is never too late to join. If interested, please contact us on lktoffice@protonmail.com or phone Barnaby Fryer on 07470 557742.

Many of our members have expressed an interest in becoming trustees and the initial Trustee Board is now looking at the skill sets on offer and appointing what will be the first full board. Trustees will require to stand for re-election on an annual basis. As mentioned above, a key aspect will be to make sure that the voices of all interest groups are heard.

Whilst the mechanics of governance trundle on, there have been quite a few developments on the ground:

- A signage audit has been commissioned with a view to identifying what signage we currently have around the loch and how we can improve on it both in respect of content and visual coherence.
 - As a first step a new more informative sign is in place at the public slipway at the viaduct and others are in production for the west bank.
 - Work on development of a new website is progressing satisfactorily.
 - LKT has been chosen to partner with Adaptation Scotland on a major project called Climate Ready Ken. The project, which is funded by the Scottish Government, allows Adaptation Scotland to provide advice and both management and financial support recognising our real appetite to work to increase the resilience of our community in the face of climate change. We are delighted to have been chosen for this which moves us on to a national stage with only one other community in Scotland taking part. Much of this work will also serve to inform the 10-year plan, production of which is a key focus for the Trust.
- Regrettably the programme of events we had scheduled for this autumn under the banner 'Autumn of Endurance' has



had to be postponed for obvious reasons but we are currently working on re-scheduling this as a 'Spring Back to Action' plus further events next autumn. We continue to plan albeit delivery is dependent on outside factors.

There have been many challenges over the summer, reflecting countryside access issues which are playing out on a national scale. We have kept our particular issues in front of our elected representatives and will continue to do so. We are of the opinion that our own challenges could be addressed to a large degree by the appointment of a full time ranger, but funding continues to prove the issue. Our Boat Registration Scheme has worked well over the summer, but we could achieve so much more with a land-based officer to inform, welcome and police the loch for the benefit of all.

Alan Smith, Chairman, Loch Ken Trust



**Looking after today,
for the sake of
tomorrow**

LOCH KEN TRUST

is a new charity, formed to put the community at the heart of deciding how best to care for the amazing natural resource that is Loch Ken and improving life for its communities.

We are still seeking new members – it's totally free and will get your voice heard. Ask us for a membership application form:

LKTOffice@Protonmail.com

Follow us on social media for updates!

Loch Ken Trust has been established as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) – registration number SC050211



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
help with housing in the Glenkens

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

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



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

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Help With a Virtual Christmas

The events and circumstances of 2020 have certainly challenged us, not least by having to find alternative and creative ways to connect with family, friends and our local community.

"Socially distanced", "Zoom" and "Microsoft Teams" have had to become common vocabulary for many. Some of us may have managed to sidestep the digital world so far by having socially-distanced catch-ups outside or good old-fashioned phone calls, but as the winter approaches, maybe the outdoor meet-ups don't seem quite so appealing or maybe you really want to 'see' friends and family - or join in the many online events and activities that are on offer. Well - the good news is that our local organisations are on it - on IT!

Would you love to video call family and friends at Christmas but just don't know how to get started? Do you wish you could get photos of loved ones sent to you by email but don't have



a computer? Is it the Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) Zoom Bingo you're missing?! Want to join a Connecting in Communities activity or enjoy a CatStrand 'at home' event? No worries - help is on hand!

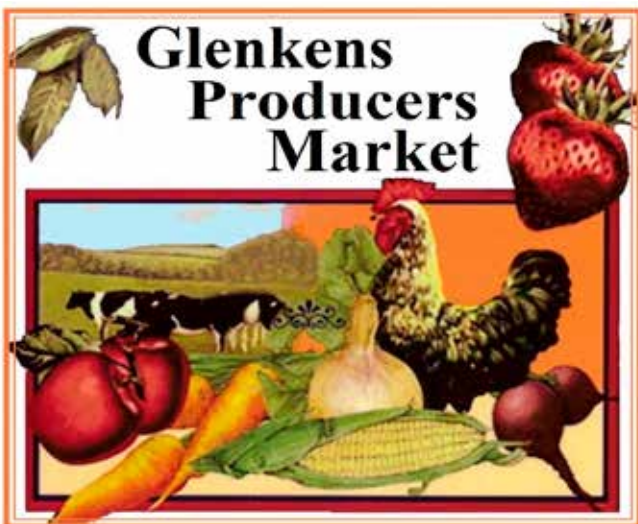
Thanks to funding from the Corra Foundation and the Co-op Community Fund, New Galloway & Kells Community Council, New Galloway Community Enterprises and LING are able to provide everything you need to get you started or improve your skills on the internet.

If you reside in the Kells and New Galloway & Kells parish then we can, at no cost to you, provide a loan of a Chromebook and dongle (aka a

laptop connected to the internet even if you don't have it in your home) and, with help from the IT Centre in Castle Douglas, can provide you with free training to help you get safely connected and online doing what you want to.

Please do not let nerves, age, knowledge or finances be the barriers to getting you connected and venturing into the new ways of socialising. Once you've tried them, you'll be very pleasantly surprised.

For more information contact Sam Rushton, Community Engagement Worker for New Galloway & Kells, on 07741 656 601. Pick up the phone and start your journey!



2nd Saturday Monthly
Dalry Town Hall, 10am-1pm
- 12th December & 9th January -

Click & Collect online with the Glenkens Food Hub at <https://openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop>

OR just visit us on the day

For further details call 07776 034 260

entry by donation on the door

(15 miles from Castle Douglas on A713)

Wright's Shop & Post Office Dalry

Licensed convenience store and newsagent stocking a range of local suppliers.

- We would like to thank all our customers for their continued support and pass on best wishes for the Festive season -

Festive Season Opening Times:

Christmas Eve: 7am - 5pm

Christmas Day: closed

Boxing Day: 8am - 2pm

Hogmanay: 7am - 5pm

1st January: closed

2nd January: 8am - 2pm

Normal Opening Times (both shop & PO):

Monday to Friday: 7am - 6pm

Saturday: 8am - 6pm

Sunday: 8.30am - 4pm

Galloway gifts & wreaths in stock

Tel: 01644 430 225

Glenkens Freecycle

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natural power

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

FREE

Neff double oven, 13 years old but working fine. Ring 460 516

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

Thule Alpine 900 Large Roofbox (900x2320mm); **roofbars** for vehicle with roof-rails between 1100 to 1270mm

apart; **TGA Electrobike** - little used and in good order; **Nilfisk Alto Click&Clean accessories** (power nozzle, drain and pipe cleaner and car brush - all unused); **several 1 gallon glass demijohns**. Contact: 01644 460 619

FOR SALE

Bath lift, £50, full working order when last used. Mr Samuel Fisher: 01644 420 843

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/trimmers/ other small machinery. Non-runners/broken welcome. Contact: 07845 562 217

Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is an amazing shot of a blackface gimmer springing up into the air by Eilidh MacPherson.

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

Competition judges Dave and Sue said: "We had another great selection of entries this issue, but chose the photograph of the lamb looking to seal its place as favourite in the first steeple chase in next season's racing calendar as it made us smile, as well as being so representative of farming in the Glenkens."



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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Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

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OR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

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STEEL FRAMED BUILDINGS
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Eco Feature

sponsored by



THE GLENKENS FOOD HUB

Continued from front page...

The Glenkens Food Hub is a work in progress with big ambitions.

We've started small, setting up an 'online shop' on the Open Food Network, making space for local food producers to list their products.

New producers such as Hidden Veg, Gill's Buns and Upper Dullarg Free Range Eggs have joined regulars like Irene McCreath and Solway Smokehouse.

Potential customers can browse items and pre-order for collection at the Glenkens Producer Market. Although you don't have to pre-order, we are trying to encourage it. It's COVID-safer, and helpful for producers so we know how much to make and bring, which reduces food waste.

The online Food Hub has brought a boost to the market – customers have a wider choice and this has enabled footfall to grow each month. Having a regular online presence is also helping – the customer base is growing and more people are aware of what's going on.

Jim Reid, long-time organiser of the market said: "The hall committee has worked hard to make the hall COVID-secure for visitors. So we are gratified that the market is so obviously growing and improving month by month. We get favourable comments from our visitors every time."

The Food Hub wants to find and support more local producers to supply good food to local people. We'd love to hear from anyone who wants to bring something different to the Hub that may be missing at the moment.

We also want to work as a producer-led cooperative to find solutions to shared problems. This could include a hyper-local distribution and delivery system. We'd also like to introduce a pre-payment system for the market, so that customers have the option of collecting a box of pre-ordered produce, instead of going round the stalls.

The Glenkens Community Action Plan (see article on p17) has similar aims and objectives, so it seems these ambitions are supported by local people, in addition to increasing local fruit and vegetable production and more farm gate food. We're looking forward to working together to grow local food systems in the Glenkens.

The next Producers Market will be Saturday 12 December from 10am- to 1pm, and you can 'click & collect' using the online Glenkens Food Hub shop at <https://openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop#/producers>. Looking forward to a bumper market with lots of festive treats planned!

To get in touch, become a producer or find out more about these projects, email Abi via abi@propagate.org.uk

Abi Mordin






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WRITEDOWN RECORDS LOCAL LIFE UNDER LOCKDOWN

When the Glenkens Writers could no longer meet in CatStrand because of the lockdown their tutor, Margaret Elphinstone, launched the *Writedown* initiative.

Margaret says: "In times of trouble people want to be together but with lockdown people had to isolate, sometimes living alone. Writing met their need to communicate. Through our writing we entertained and supported each other, sharing fears and unexpected joys and daring to hope for a better future."

Inspired by the Mass Observation project which encouraged ordinary people to keep wartime diaries, she extended an invitation through the *Gazette* to anyone interested to contribute. Twenty-two writers in the Galloway Glens or with Galloway connections signed up. "As well as

bringing people together we have created a fascinating historical record of how a group of people experienced and coped with the onset of a pandemic," she adds.

None of the writers was on the 'front line' and most were aware that life in Galloway was better than in many places. But there was mounting anxiety for absent friends and family, and for what would happen to our communities. In contrast, brilliant weather and the natural beauties of Galloway brought solace and inspiration. At the same time, illness and stress created ominous silences among the contributors.

One of the writers, Leonie Ewing of Crossmichael says: "We were united by the project - it gave us focus. We brought different life experiences and points of view. It gave us a finger on the pulse of Galloway as the pandemic took hold so we could encourage each other and be uplifted."

Cath Monk of Laurieston recalls that everyone was positive at the start, "but it's not easy to stay upbeat. We were all missing the contacts and the hugs." She appreciated the honest

sharing of difficult days. "At least we knew, 'it's not just me'."

The writers never met as a group, came from diverse backgrounds and many were strangers to each other at the start of the project, but they shared their writing week by week. As Christine Rae of Dalry says: "I shall tell you something, we became a close knit supportive group and it was lovely to be part of it all."

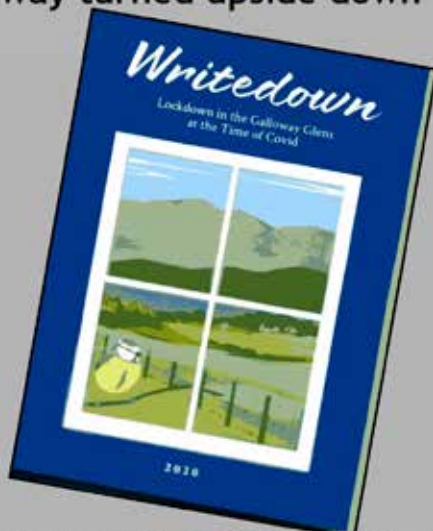
Writedown is proving a popular Christmas present and has already gone to a reprint.

The *Writedown* writers are grateful for the support of Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership, the Galloway Association of Glasgow, Oakleaf Camp, Local Initiatives in New Galloway, New Galloway & Kells Community Council microgrants from Blackcraig Windfarm through Foundation Scotland and to Glenkens Community & Arts Trust for logistical support and administering the project's finances.

Writedown is available from CatStrand and other local outlets, price £7 (£9 including postage & packing). To order phone 01644 420 374 or email info@catstrand.com

**22 LOCAL WRITERS
12 WEEKS OF LOCKDOWN**

Writedown is their record of life in Galloway turned upside down



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CatStrand Highlights

As winter sets in, we are delighted to be able to bring you a mixture of live screening events at CatStrand and more online at CatStrand at Home to keep you entertained over the winter months.

Our **Climate Conversation** screenings continue with an afternoon screening on Sunday 6 December of Macedonian film *Honeyland* (12), nominated for best documentary at the Oscars this year. Empire called it "Stunningly beautiful and quietly powerful" and we'd have to agree. Following the life of a 50-year-old wild beekeeper and the global trends threatening her way of life and much more, this one will make you think.

Our **Evening In** series of locally-recorded musicians continues with blues guitarist **Adam Blake** from Auchenchairn broadcasting on Friday 18 December. Settle in for an evening of music and conversation with a well-seasoned musician and music journalist from **CatStrand at Home** to enjoy from your sofa (visit www.catstrand.com to

find out more).

For families, there's a weekend of puppetry performances in the window from Andy that you won't want to miss - wrap up and book ahead for shows at 2pm and 4pm from Thursday 17 to Sunday 20 December. Why not make a day of it on Sunday 20 with an afternoon screening of **Shaper Caper's** new performance **Snow Queen** starring Alex McCrossan at CatStrand at 4pm. Or if you are tucked out you can also watch the **Snow Queen** online from CatStrand at Home from 6pm that evening.

We're delighted to have received a BFI Film Exhibition Fund award from Filmhub Scotland to support sustainable, inclusive cultural programming in Scotland, with support from ScreenScotland. So are looking forward to bringing you our usual eclectic mix of independent films over the second weekend in January as part of our annual **Mid Winter Film Festival**. Our intern Thomas has been working away to arrange Q&A's with directors and producers for the film screenings around the Glenkens as well as online. We're excited to bring you some international titles including a warm-hearted documentary **Lobster Soup** about the



An image from the film *Honeyland*, screening Sunday 6 December.

fishermen and cook behind the Bryggjan café, a tiny eatery in Iceland's self-professed dullest town and **Arracht**, an Irish gaelic thriller filmed entirely on the remote west coast of Ireland in Connemara and set at the dawn of The Great Hunger programmed by Tom who saw the film at the Glasgow Film Festival this year pre-lockdown.

We look forward to seeing you at some of our in-person events at CatStrand and bringing you some magical music and theatre events at home if you can't make it out.

Aidan Nicol,
01644 420 374 (CatStrand)

T	R	O	Y	P	R	A	C	S	U	N	R	O	D	F
L	O	S	H	I	S	H	H	O	S	O	L	E	F	L
E	E	T	A	K	S	T	A	B	D	M	E	S	S	O
R	B	A	D	E	F	G	R	A	Y	L	I	N	G	U
E	R	R	D	A	C	E	A	O	F	A	N	U	T	N
K	E	F	O	R	A	V	Y	C	U	S	A	N	O	D
C	A	T	C	M	U	A	A	O	S	T	R	U	T	E
A	M	S	K	R	A	H	S	M	H	C	R	E	P	R
M	O	H	A	L	I	B	U	T	W	O	N	N	I	M

Enjoy fishing? Why not try to catch the fish hidden in this grid. The fish run up and down, side to side or diagonally.

CARP
CHAR
COD
DAB
DACE
EEL
FLOUNDER
GRAYLING
HADDOCK
HALIBUT
MACKEREL

MINNOW
PERCH
PIKE
RAY
SALMON
SHARK
SKATE
SOLE
STARFISH
TROUT

However, there is a fish not on the list which features twice in the grid. The answer to the following clue is an anagram of that word: yellowish-brown fossil resin.

Also, unscramble the letters in bold to find a famous monster of the deep.

Answers: anagram of amber is *bream*.
monster of the deep is *Nessie*.

Kells Primary School Update

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, Halloween was still celebrated at Kells Primary, albeit without the customary whole school party.

There were some gruesome sights staggering around the school playground for our morning 'wake-up' activity and, in the afternoon, each class took part in Halloween-themed activities in their own classrooms.

It has been a busy start to the new term. P1-4 have begun a new topic, learning about outer space. The first thing they wanted find out was "How the sun came up". The children investigated this in groups, using a head torch to represent the sun and a tennis ball to represent the Earth.

Primary 1-4

P1-4 have also been developing their knowledge and understanding of fractions. P2-4 extended their learning by exploring halving an A4 piece of paper in more complex and interesting ways as well as finding fractions of amounts. They have also been calculating change from £10, £20 and £50 through good old chimney sums and playing ice-cream shops in the Café Corner. P1 enjoyed folding different shapes to find how they could be split into equal parts.

The Whole School

We celebrated International Outdoor Learning Day on 5 November by

taking part in bonfire night themed activities. The focus was on developing team-building and problem-solving skills.

The children wanted to mark Remembrance Sunday, taking inspiration from other communities, colourfully painting pebbles/stones. Kells decided to create a 'flower bed' of poppies to display by the war memorial in New Galloway as a lasting symbol of Remembrance. P1-4 also looked at the poem *For The Fallen* during our writing lessons and had a go at putting down our gratitude in our own poems.

Primary 5-7

We had fun during our 'Day of Angles', creating 'angle eaters' and finding angles in the outdoors. We also learned about food and farming. We learned about dairy farming from Mrs Heuchan and beef and sheep farming from Mrs Welsh.

We have learned about democracy, finding out about parliament and the government. We enjoyed learning about tax when we had an activity called 'The Shoe Trade'. We were in four little businesses and we had to design and sell shoes. We found out about buying and selling and we had to negotiate better prices.

Mrs Heuchan & Mrs Turner



Halloween was great fun at Dalry Primary School. Pictured are the Primary 3,4,5 class in their scary guises...

CATSTRAND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Our CatStrand youth volunteers did an amazing job setting up a fun Halloween at the park this year.

Pizza and hot chocolate were on offer to keep everyone toasty, arts and crafts packs were given out and there were plenty of games and competitions - everyone had a blast!

A huge "well done" to all the youth volunteers and a huge thank you to Helen, Toby and Sam who donated their help so generously.

We are slowly starting back our regular youth work activities but we don't have anything bigger planned as of yet. The classes we have currently are:

Health, Play & Creative Dance:

Mondays, 3:45pm-4:30pm

Children's Grade & Youth Dance:

Mondays, 4:30pm-5:30pm

Choreoskills: Mondays, 7pm-8:30pm

Art Explores

(for ages 5-11):

Tuesday 24

November, 4.15-

6pm and Tuesday

3 December, 4.15-

6pm

We are hoping to start our **Sketch** and **Random Writers** clubs back up soon, so watch this space!

*Jamie Lee Aitken,
CatStrand Youth
Arts Coordinator*

Pictured to the right are some of the CatStrand youth volunteer team setting up goodies for the kids to enjoy this Halloween.



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www.fleet-fish.co.uk

Youth Volunteers wanted!

Be part of a team of young people and share your ideas, get support creating your own projects and help develop and make a change in your community.

If you'd like more information contact
jamie@catstrand.com

CATSTRAND, HIGH ST, NEW GALLOWAY DG7 3RN
01644 420 374 WWW.CATSTRANDYOUTH.CO.UK
@CATSTRANDYOUTH



Halloween in Dalry

This Halloween was like most things recently- strange and spooky.

We felt that there needed to be some normality for the community especially for the kids who have endured a lot since the March lockdown, so we decorated the salon and set up a spooky grotto!

Thanks to members of the community who bought sweets or made cakes and helped decorate. Despite a horrid wet night, we managed to give around 50 bags of goodies to cheer happy socially distanced guisers.

*Jayne & Blair,
Hair by Jayne*



1st Stewartry Rangers Re-launch

We are re-launching and promoting 1st Stewartry Rangers Girl guides, aged 14-18.

We are privileged and proud that Girl Guiding can offer the safe space in these confusing and worrying times for young women to do all the great things Rangers do (albeit in a slightly different current way) when many

other youth groups and activities have paused.

Please, please, please spread the word: we are recruiting Rangers from the wide Stewartry geography (Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbright, Bourne, Gatehouse of Fleet, New Galloway, Dalry, etc).

We are welcoming members of Guiding (ex-Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and former Rangers) but also keen for new members who have not

been in Guiding.

Please contact Jan Crooks on 07708 797 423 (or find her on Messenger), Judy Lane on 07966 706 106 or Kirsty Tomlin on 07799 135 990, or raise your interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus.

Jan & Judy, 1st Stewartry Rangers

Pictured below left is Jan Crooks with one of the Stewartry Rangers.



1st Stewartry Rangers Are Looking For New Recruits.

Things are looking a little differently at the moment but we are still here, still having fun, but need more of you to join us.

If you are aged 14 - 18, like having fun, enjoy developing new skills, travelling, meeting new friends, exploring your passions, taking actions for things that you believe in - get in contact with us.

We are currently meeting remotely to keep us all safe, but we have some great plans for the near future, which you will love.

We are recruiting girls from the wide area of Stewartry district.

Taster sessions are taking place, contact us for more details.

Contact - Jan Crooks 07708797423, Judy Lane 07966706106 or Kirsty Tomlin 07799135990.

and / or raise your interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

PROTECTING OUR SPECIAL PLACES

There's No Place Like Home

Trees, turbines, tourists and pastoralism are the main economic forces in the Glenkens that potentially threaten our special places.

Nevertheless, with effective community collaboration we can use these industries to enhance all that is precious to us.

Historically, special places were far simpler to understand. These were the places that protected us from the invading forces of all nature. These were the places where we stored our food; that protected us from the weather; provided water; provided fuel, and where we felt secure. Simply, our special places were what we called 'home'.

In the modern world with governments, councils and years of economic endeavour, our homes have evolved to be connected in so many ways that we often lose sight of the essence of what is at stake when invasion is imminent. Trees, turbines, tourists and pasture are all potentially seriously damaging to our homes. The story of the Galloway Levellers is testament to the negative forces of pastoralism, while the turbines of the Galloway hydro dams prompted WGM Dobie to write:

*A raider comes today who kills,
The glories of our glens and hills,
With unheroic acts and bills
and 'private legislation'.*

*The company promoters pen,
Will dam the Deugh and dam the
Ken,
and dam the Dee - oh damn the
men,*

Who plan such desecration!

Trees are notorious for damaging our special places when planning is done with an empty head.

However, it is tourism which is now headlining as a major polluter. In the *Galloway News* 17 September, MSP Finlay Carson and MSP Emma Harper agreed that the issue of dirty camping is unacceptable. Stuart Gillespie writes: "There have been a number of cases of irresponsible behaviour in the countryside in recent months with respect to Loch Ken's experience particularly problematic."

As a society we no longer live in a world where our homes stop at the garden gate. When an invader desecrates our neighbourhood then they desecrate our home. As I write, a developer is carrying out a major excavation on ground between Carsphairn and the village water supply. How many of us really understand where our tap water comes from and the type of development work which constitutes a threat? Yet, as individuals, we are



So many of our beautiful rural homes are now just ruins.

expected to be proactive in consultation.

Our homes and our wider 'home' are very special places and they must be protected from invading forces - natural or industrial. To do that we must help the planning authorities approve "The Right Development in the Right Place", by really understanding how our houses, gardens, services, networks and shared spaces all work together to create our sense of place; our sense of home.

When one home is sacrificed without a duty of care, then it is only one more step to take out a whole community and one step further to annihilate the whole planet. Let us all learn to protect our most precious place - our home. *Fiona Clubb*

THE GARDEN SPOT

This is the time of year when I like to ruminate about the garden, review the season and plot any changes for next year.

Yes, I know that I still have the pots to scrub, the windows in the greenhouse to wash (to let in as much winter light as possible) and maintenance of tools, etc to carry out, but you don't want to hear about all of that. And by the time you read this, the seed catalogues for next year will be starting to arrive - I like to get my seeds and plants ordered before new year.

What's new for next year? Well, in the ornamental garden, I have been making a nuisance of myself with a pickaxe (not a common garden tool I know) but it's handy for getting out shrubs and perennials that aren't doing well or that I am just fed up with, and it's great at making space for new gardening adventures. Next year I fancy new cannas, lilies and I might

even give ornamental ginger another try.

In the veg garden my garlic was not as good as expected this year so, next season, I will try more fertiliser. Also, I plan to make better use of fleece to keep out all sorts of pests (birds, cabbage white butterflies and carrot root fly, etc). I am also going to try growing marrows - very old-fashioned I know but you can always pick them early and use them as courgettes. Many moons ago, an old uncle used to make a dish called 'poor man's goose' which was a marrow peeled and hollowed out then stuffed with well-seasoned cooked mince before being roasted like a joint (baste well). I think I will only really need one plant so others from the packet of seed might find their way into Dalry charity shop.

When I first arrived in the Glenkens it seemed that most people only really had flowers in their garden for six months or so in the year. I have always tried my best to have something in flower in the garden every single day of the year; in the twelve months to the end of October, I actually managed it (I confess that I cheated a bit with



Fuchsia 'Mrs Poppel' still flowering in November

pots from the greenhouse).

Obviously, the big challenge is to fill the gap between the last of the roses (usually late October) and the arrival of the snowdrops. If you would like to extend the flowers in your garden, here are a few still in flower in my garden in early November: salvia 'Amisted', fuchsia 'Mrs Poppel' (sheltered spot by a wall) and fuchsia 'Microphylla'. If you can find a sheltered spot underneath a hedge that gets good sun, then you should get the earliest snowdrops.

To fill in the gap between the last of the fuchsias and the first of the bulbs? I'm off to the garden centre to see if I can get hold of a shrub - Viburnum Bodnantense 'Dawn'. Wish me luck!

The Intrepid Gardener

CLIMATE CONVERSATION

Dumfries & Galloway is leading Scotland's response to the climate and environment crisis, with the Glenkens at its heart.

Dumfries & Galloway Council's target of becoming a carbon neutral region by just 2025, and the 12-point plan that supports it, is among the most ambitious local authority targets in the UK as well as internationally. Dougie Campbell, one of our three local councillors in the Dee and Glenkens catchment, is the council's 'Environment Champion' and has been instrumental in driving the region's recognition of and response to the climate emergency. Below are Dougie's answers to a few climate related questions:

What motivated you to take a lead in driving the council's response to climate change?

Although I was aware of climate change as something that would require us to make changes to how we lived and worked in the future, it was Greta Thunberg and the mobilisation of local young people that really inspired me to bring the issue to the council. I became aware of the potential of Dumfries & Galloway to be at the forefront of becoming carbon neutral because of our rural makeup, existing forestry and hydro systems, and that, along with the increasing concerns voiced by constituents gave me the impetus to take the motion to the full council. Once the First Minister declared a climate emergency for Scotland I knew that Dumfries & Galloway had the opportunity to lead the way.

Why is the council target of carbon net zero by 2025 so important?

Aside from the necessity for us all to respond to the climate emergency as quickly and effectively as possible, because of our position and the climate commitments we have made Dumfries & Galloway has a unique opportunity to be a shining light in taking local action to tackle a global problem.

Galloway in particular should be proud, as individuals, communities and organisations in our area are enabling us to set the standard for the region and the country, something that can be showcased at a global level at the COP26 summit in Glasgow next year. Projects like Climate Ready Loch Ken, the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership and the Southern Ayrshire and Galloway Biosphere are all key drivers along with the active participation of local people.

Because of our commitments, Dumfries & Galloway is closely watched at a national level and I hope that our reputation as a region at the forefront of climate action helps us to attract funding and investment from the Scottish Government and other bodies, benefiting the region and increasing our capacity to meet and exceed our environmental targets.

There is concern that the pursuit of

a carbon neutral target might come at the expense of the local environment, biodiversity and community well-being. It also appears that in some cases the profits and interests of big businesses or private individuals are still being put before our collective long-term future in this area and beyond. How do you respond to this?

The Council's 12-point plan includes a commitment to protect the natural environment and biodiversity and the commitment to be carbon neutral shouldn't compromise this. There is probably nowhere in the region where this is more important than in the Glenkens.

At the present time I'm working with community representatives on the Waterside Hill campaign and supporting their objective to influence policy at a regional and national level. There's no doubt that forestry planting is important to our net zero calculations but careful thought needs to be given to the wider impacts. The Council is currently reviewing policy and practice which will include our Forestry and Woodland Strategy which was written in conjunction with the Forestry Commission as it then was known, in 2014. It is really important now that we empower communities and give them a meaningful say on planting schemes, as we currently have with planning applications, so that the possible adverse impacts on communities, the natural environment and biodiversity can be properly taken into account.

The current Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) proposals for the Kendoon to Tongland Reinforcement gives me real cause for concern. As we transition from reliance on fossil fuels which currently warm our homes, fuel our travel and power workplaces, to renewable energy sources we'll require significantly more electricity than we currently use. This makes upgrading essential but I'm very disappointed that, despite recognition of the adverse environmental impact of overhead lines and how this could be mitigated by undergrounding, this option appears to have been ruled out on the basis of additional cost to SPEN. The Glenkens is the beating heart of Galloway and the proposed route for the overhead lines will run straight through Galloway Forest, which is



currently recognised as a huge draw of tourism to the region. We need to find an acceptable compromise that enables us to transition to a renewable energy future but this can't be at the expense of what makes the Glenkens such a wonderful place to live, work and visit.

You have mentioned many sleepless nights, what is the vision that keeps you going?

The ultimate goal is to remove reliance on oil or gas as a society. I see Dumfries & Galloway as a shining light and, being well placed to meet net zero by 2025 but I think we need to keep moving to become carbon negative.

In Dee and Glenkens, I would like to see us become a thriving, multi-generational community once again where young people see meaningful, sustainable opportunities to live and work here. I believe we can build on our responses to climate and environment to help make this happen.

We need to be concerned, really concerned, by the climate and environment situation we face – not to the extent we feel overwhelmed, but so that we are motivated to take action now. If we all play our part we can contribute significantly to the global effort to halt global temperature rise.

Mary Smith

ACTION

The council will soon be launching a citizens' panel for action on climate change.

People from all walks of life and perspectives are needed to join the panel to help understand lived experiences across the region in relation to the current reality and changes that we seek to bring about – please watch this space and consider getting involved.

Keep raising concerns and issues with your councillors, MPs and MSPs all of whom can be contacted direct or via www.writetothem.com

The council have appointed a Climate Emergency Officer, Sarah Farrell, who encourages using carbon footprint calculators such as the one at www.footprint.wwf.org.uk, thinking outside the box and knowing that you are supported when it comes to climate action. Sarah emphasises: "we're all in this together – the more people who are involved, the more confidence is increased and the greater impact we have on the carbon footprint." To get in touch email sarah.farrell@dumgal.gov.uk

The Optimistic Environmentalist

In this series, I hope to bring up ideas that we could all do, include a few facts about the environment and probably moan. For instance why do they make kettles with cheap plastic switches so that the kettle fails every 18 months - I've just answered myself!

If anyone's got any contributions, please contact the *Gazette* (details on the back page).

In this first article, we'll take a brief look at Sellotape and some alternatives. Have you heard of paper tape?

At this time of year, we are using so much plastic-based Sellotape (other brands are available!) on our Christmas presents. Running out the other day, I thought it was about time I put my

money where my mouth is and tried paper tape as an alternative. Unfortunately it's brown - because it's unbleached paper - not a problem normally but a few people I know would say something. Thus I also got some 'washi' tape to stick over it which is decorated.

Washi tapes are made of traditional Japanese paper and are biodegradable. Washi is not strong enough to hold the paper on its own but it makes my present look interesting. I got both my paper tape and washi tape from www.andkeep.com but they are widely available elsewhere. Alternatively, you could decorate the paper tape yourself or simply be proud of what it is!

Still not convinced? An article published in 2018 estimated Britons would use 6 million rolls of plastic tape over the



festive period. Plastic tape cannot be recycled and makes recycling of the paper to which it's attached extremely difficult or impossible. Now, rather than spending all of Boxing Day tearing off the Sellotape before recycling the tons of Christmas paper we produce, it can go straight in to the recycling bin while we have an extra mince pie or start those exercises to lose the Christmas weight.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

Mochrum Fell Wind Farm Update

A quick update on the Mochrum Fell wind farm application, situated in the parish of Parton and near Corsock.

An application was submitted to Dumfries & Galloway planning department for seven wind turbines, each 149.9 metres tall (40m taller than the current Blackcraig turbines). These would be situated on Mochrum Fell, on the skyline of the highest trig point in the area, and visible from the A75, A712, A713 and most of the Loch Ken area.

Combined with new applications and proposals, if this proposal goes ahead there would be 84 turbines in the Corsock/Parton area. Members of the community are voicing concerns as they feel the lasting detriment to the area of such a large number of turbines and their necessary infrastructure would be too great.

*Trevor & Elaine Procter,
Meikle Mochrum*



Mochrum Fell summit trig point © Fife Flyer www.walkhighlands.co.uk

Often the mountain gives itself most completely when I have no destination, when I reach nowhere in particular, be with him.

Nan Shepherd, *The Living Mountain*

from Corserine to Skiddaw / the sky

listen to the silence / the sound of a passing cloud

Summit: tipping point between sound and silence: two kinds of history future and present

The witch of Hannaston / cast spells in Gaelic – /
an diobhol dubh oirt (the black devil on you)

hill / a short outbreath carries the word, caught / by the tip of my tongue, but

climbing the hill / carrying the weight / of two

step by step / forward, higher / breath faster, hotter / hear the air / touch grasses, rain

Aig an tòiseach, an Dàil Rìgh, achaidhean rèidh, reamhar, lan le caoraich bhana, a-null air an abhainn. Abhainn le puill dubh-dorcha 's domhainn, far an robh easgannan a' cleitheachd am measg na clachan falaichte. An uair sin choisich sinn ri taobh na h-aibhne, seachad air uinsinn marbha, fearna le tinneas phytopthera agus darach sean, lan le duircean bhuidhe. Streap sinn fon ghrèin, suas a' chnuic, seachad air Creag nan Capall, tron ghleann beag, falaichte. Gu h-obann, rainig sinn aig seann-craobh sgìtheach, cha do rinn e call ach seasamh, a' feitheamh airson cuairteachadh mu thimcheall le craobhan eilthireach.

The poetic lines displayed here have been written following the **Ken Words Poetry Walk on Waterside Hill, 20th Sep**
Reading from bottom to top: Michael Ansell, Faith de Sancha, Angus Macmillan, John Smith, Jane McBeth, Angus Macmillan
Quotation: Nan Shepherd, *The Living Mountain* p.14-15 (Canongate, 2014).
With thanks to Laura Rimmer for digital presentation, and Dalry Community Council for the Micro Grant (awarded on 1st Nov 2023).
Details of Ken Words activities can be found in CatStrand's current programme, or please feel welcome to contact Jane McBeth

particular, but have gone merely to be with the mountain as one visits a friend with no intention but to

stretching of my arms
from Corserine to Skiddaw / a clear view as the crow flies
From the summit we could see / our house, like a full stop / on a pageful of foreign words
at: a now that is shrinking
behind front teeth, / and leaving the flight-song of a pipit / suspended in open air
to clouds
The scale of windblown grasses: / fidgeting insects and the grand / sweep of mountain
rock, lichen / the landscape, horizon and sky expand / Get higher, feel smaller / insignificant

At the beginning, the King's Meadow, smooth fat fields full of white sheep across the river.
A river with black-dark and deep pools where eels conceal themselves amongst hidden
rocks. Then we walked beside the river past dead ash trees and alder with phytopthera
disease and an old oak full of yellow acorns.
We climbed under the sun, past Craiggubble or the rock of the mares, through a small
hidden glen. Suddenly we arrived at an old hawthorn tree, it didn't do anything but stand,
waiting for the surrounding of alien trees.

September 2020.

lan, John Priestley, Laura Rimmer, and Angus Macmillan.

half of Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund) which made the Poetry Walk, and this page, possible.
Beth (Project Co-ordinator) on jane.kenwords@gmail.com



Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust





MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wishing everyone in the Glenkens and beyond a very happy Christmas and good wishes for 2021. This has been a very difficult year, but here are some happier memories from times when our communities came together in person – as they will do again.

All the very best from the Galloway Glens team -

McNabb, Helen, Nick, Jonathan and Jude.



Shalla Gray (Biosphere Explorers Project Officer) visits the Garroch Walled Garden with the children from Kells school in February.



Children from all the Galloway Glens primary schools enjoyed finding out about where their food comes from at the RHET Food and Farming Days in March.



Jonathan Barrett (Galloway Glens Access Officer), Gerry and David walk the upgraded Pilgrims Way from Carsphairn to Polmaddy in March.



Visitors enjoying the Otter Pools with its refurbished toilets in June.



Jonathan, Richard and Kate on the new accessible bridge and upgraded Crossmichael path in August.



Jane McBeth (Ken Words Project Officer), Angus, Mike and Andrew wait to welcome Poetry Walkers in September.

Taking our Community Action Plan to the Next Stage

The Glenkens & District Community Action Plan published in September was commissioned by the Glenkens & District Trust and is intended as a road map for the whole community over the next five years and beyond.

While the distribution of the Blackcraig wind farm community fund was a key driver to initiating the plan, its reach is wider than projects funded through that source.

The overall goal 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.'

Four clear themes emerged from the community consultations:

- A connected community
- An asset-rich community
- An economically flourishing community
- A carbon neutral community

The plan can be accessed at <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/media/1132369/Glenkens-Community-Action-Plan-2020>

We are now pleased to be moving into the implementation phase. With COVID-19 and other factors and variables, we felt

that there was a need for a planning year and are delighted, following an open tender process, that Community Enterprise have been appointed to take forward this work. They will use the valuable experience they gained from working on the Community Action Plan and from working on community development with other rural communities right across Scotland. They will supplement this experience by engaging Sleeping Giants, a social business rooted in this area with extensive experience in community work, to support them.

This process will run until the end of March 2021. This time will be used to prepare early ideas for funding, take time to learn from the local response to COVID-19 and prepare the way for years two to five. Though, due to COVID-19 restrictions, it will be by phone and videoconference, Community Enterprise will be very visible in our community over the coming weeks and months. They will be encouraging and supporting early projects to develop, which may ultimately seek to apply funding. They will be preparing the ground for some of the more ambitious projects in the longer term and will review the impact of COVID-19 on our community. They will manage and host the first Glenkens Summit in February 2021, a gathering of people and agencies across the whole rural area. This will all lead to a review of the action plan before we embark on years two to five.

We are delighted to see the next phase of our plan roll out so keep an eye on social media and local press for news of developments, and please make contact if you have any thoughts, comments or

ideas you would like to input.

We are also looking for three or four volunteers to join the existing

working group that will assist with overseeing the consultation, reviewing the plan as it develops and attending some meetings with Community Enterprise. At this stage we're not looking for a huge commitment – the working group will be in place for around six months until the reviewed plan is published, and expect to have five or six meetings in that time. We would also like to form a long-term steering group to monitor and review the implementation of the plan. Please contact us if you are interested in being involved and we can provide more information.

In conclusion, when we published the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan we recognised that our community needed support to deliver on its aspirations, so we are delighted that Community Enterprise are now on board to help us all to make progress. We look forward to working with them and with people from all across our community to push these ambitious projects forward.

For further information, please contact Douglas Westwater from Community Enterprise at douglas@communityenterprise.co.uk or on 07989 306 374 or Fiona Smith, chairman of Glenkens & District Trust, at fiona.smith1@btinternet.com

Fiona Smith, GDT



David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

I was really interested to read Paul Goodwin's article in the October/November edition of the *Gazette*, looking at the lives of people who lived in the Glenkens, and died in WW2.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) recently launched its 'Eyes On, Hands On' project, and is currently recruiting volunteers in Scotland. I was delighted to be appointed as volunteer co-ordinator in March, for central and south Scotland, but the project was temporarily halted due to COVID-19.

To ensure everyone is as safe as possible, we are restricting our activities to Eyes On. Trained volunteers are visiting their local graveyards and cemeteries, across Britain and checking the scattered graves of the casualties of both world wars. That's over 12,500 sites and over 160,000 graves, with ninety eight of these in Dumfries & Galloway.

The condition of headstones is reported, records are checked for accuracy, photos are taken and stories discovered and shared.

This will prepare us well for the Hands On part of the project which will involve further training for light maintenance (clearing and cleaning) where necessary. Any headstones needing professional attention are being identified and referred to our regional team of stonemasons and craftsmen.

CWGC will be 104 years old next year, and we have recently commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the 75th anniversary of VE Day. It is not very long ago that we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One.

If any *Gazette* readers would like to be part of the 'Eyes On, Hands On' project, to continue honouring those who made the ultimate sacrifice, please visit www.cwgc.org and follow the link 'Volunteer for Us' to find more information, and enrol.

Anne Barclay, Commonwealth War Graves Commission

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

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Dalry's River Embankment

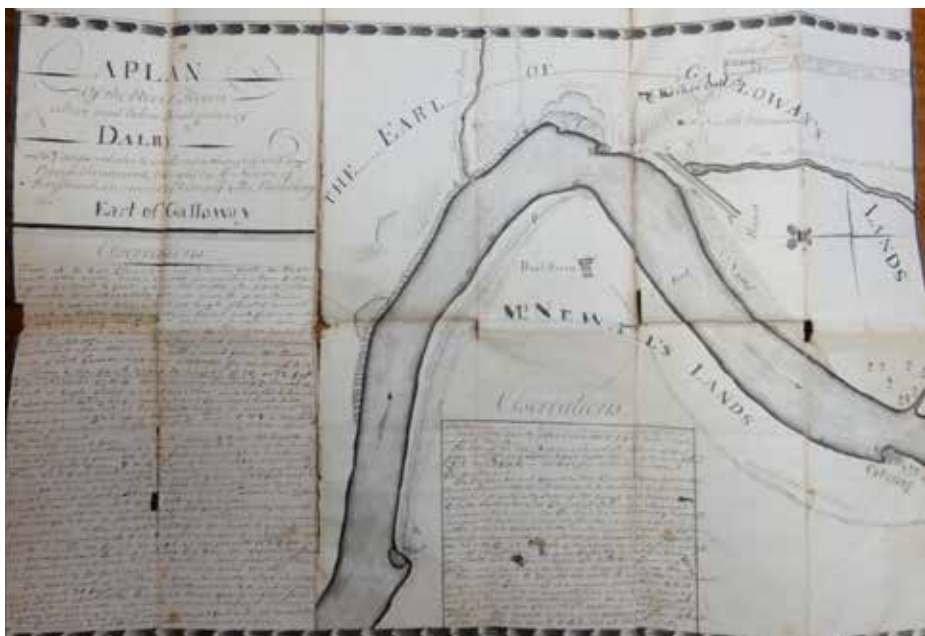
Questions are sometimes asked as to when the river embankments were constructed to protect against flooding in the Glenkens.

There is a tradition that some of these embankments were constructed by French prisoners of war during the time of the Napoleonic wars. I have not found any written confirmation of this, though when metal detecting just south of the barrage at Glenlochar, close to the embankment there, I found a bronze imitation of a 1799 Spanish silver dollar with a hole through it. It had been given a silver coating and clearly had been worn as a medallion round the neck, and very likely could have belonged to a French soldier who had fought in the Peninsular war.

However the Earlstoun papers held in Callendar House, up near Falkirk, provide evidence that the embankment at Dalry was constructed earlier than this. In July 1779 John Newall of Barskeoch initiated a court case against the Earl of Galloway and his agent, Archibald Douglas, merchant in Dalry, in protest at their construction of an embankment along the Dalry side of the river beside the churchyard. Newall claimed it interfered with his ferry service across the river there, as the passage of carriages was obstructed by the new, high embankment that was being constructed.

It led to all further work being halted and to a protracted court case which was only finally settled before the Lords of Council and Session up in Edinburgh in 1785. But before that both parties presented their cases before a Commission in 1781, calling numerous witnesses and resulting in about 50 pages of hand-written minutes which record the submissions for each side in the case. These court minutes provide a fascinating record of life in the Dalry area in the 18th century and introduce us to some of the individuals who played a part in the life of the village in those far-off days.

One of the key witnesses was Alexander McMillan, aged 60, late tenant of the Holm of Dalry, who had lived all his life in Dalry until he moved to Auchengibbert at Crocketford in 1779. He had been tenant of the Holm of Dalry for over 20 years and declared that the lands of the Holms of Dalry, Stewarton and Grennan were the Earl of Galloway's most valuable lands in the Glenkens. However, flooding was a problem and large floods would regularly cover much of the flat valley floor. He said that an earlier embankment had been made around 1751 about 10 yards further



from the river than the newly erected one. However it was of a slender construction and had been carried off by the first flood. A couple of years later a slightly more substantial embankment was constructed, but it also was swept away by the floods. A short while after he took up the tenancy of the farm he himself had constructed a more substantial embankment in 1761 where the earlier embankments had been. However about two years later a very high flood breached it and a substantial flow of water eroded a channel through the fields, creating the pool on the plan near the churchyard. He had intended to fill in that pool and repair the breach in the embankment, but John Newall had objected, saying it blocked off the road to the ferry along the side of the churchyard. After that breach had been made his houses on the Holm of Dalry were regularly flooded up to a depth of two feet in his dwelling house, and his stock yards and barn were also flooded causing him considerable loss. The final straw came with the exceptional

flood at harvest time 1778, after which he resolved to move to a new place. Another witness, James Douglas, aged 36, Archibald's brother, living at Kirkstyle, said that the houses on the Holm of Dalry that regularly flooded were demolished by his brother after Alexander McMillan left the farm.

My next article will be on the river crossing at Dalry, with information on the operation of the ferry, on the transportation of animals and even coffins across, and on the swimming of stock across the river. Then following that a further article on routes usually followed and the road network around Dalry.

Pictured above is the 1781 map of the river crossings at Dalry and of the newly constructed embankment. Also pictured is a photograph I took on 30 December 2015 which shows the embankment being overtopped around the same place it would have been breached in the 1700s when the river found a course down through the fields.

David Bartholomew

GLENKENS PLACE NAMES: PART VII

I would first like to apologise to my attentive readers for an error in *Glenkens Place-Names No 6*.

The editor has been inundated by folks contacting her to point out that according to the rules of Gaelic grammar, *Am Beinne Naoimh* 'the sacred mountain, or Blackcraig should of course have read *A' Bheinn Naoimh*, *beinn* being a feminine noun. It is gratifying to realise so many readers in the Glenkens are tuned in to the niceties of Gaelic Grammar!

Today I'd like to consider place-names relating to a few farms and other features that seem to have disappeared from the present day mapping. Maybe some of our attentive readers will be able to provide more information about some of them? There are so many abandoned and lost settlements in the Glenkens that we will need to return to this topic in later Gazettes as well.

The first is a settlement, no doubt a farm or croft that features on Blaeu's *Gallovidia* map, surveying for which took place around 1590. This place is called Stronmaklock which is clearly *Sron Muclaich*, 'piggery nose or promontory'. *Sron* is the word for nose in Gaelic, one of many words for parts of the body that are used figuratively for landscape features. Herbert Maxwell lists two places (one in Anwoth, the other in Inch parishes) called Drummuckloch, *Druim Muclaich*, 'piggery ridge'. In these examples, another body part, *druim*, 'back' is used to denote a ridge. This word was borrowed into Galloway Scots as 'drum' with the same meaning. In the Galloway and Carrick former Gàidhealtachd there are still around three hundred current place-names incorporating *druim* as the generic element.

Anyway, where was *Sron Muclaich*? Its position on the Blaeu map shows it as being on an un-named burn between Park and Glenly. Glenly is not Glenlee House, that location was formerly Park. The valley that was called *An Gleann Liath* 'the grey glen' or possibly *Gleann Laoigh* 'calf/fawn glen' is the one occupied (unsurprisingly) by the Glenlee Burn – the Glenly farm shown on the map must be what is now

Glenlee Mains, at the entrance to the Garroch Glen. *Sron Muclaich* is also shown to be east of Kraginbae – present day Craigenbay from *Creag na Beithe* 'rock of the birch' or perhaps *Creagan Beithe*, 'birch rocks'. So it looks very like *Sron Muclaich* was situated up the Craigshinnie Glen, close to the burn of that name. In fact the position looks very close to the abandoned farmstead of Craigshinnie, *Creag Sionnaich*, 'fox rock', there being a noticable cliff face here, high up the Gatehill Road. Craigshinnie farmhouse was abandoned on afforestation of its former farmland and fell into ruin before being demolished by the Forestry Commission about thirty years ago. The OS 1st edition 6" map of around 1850 shows another former farmstead near Craigshinnie, called Craigend (in ruins by that date). This is a Scots place-name, the 'end of the cliff or rock' (*creag* again being borrowed into the local Scots dialect from Gaelic) and is probably the best candidate to the location of *Sron Muclaich*. Unfortunately all trace of this former farmstead has been obliterated by forestry operations.

Not far away from where I believe *Sron Muclaich* to have been located the settlement of Gaits appears on the Blaeu map. This place appears as Ballingait and Ballengait in charters

in the sixteenth century. These forms indicate that the place-name was *Baile an Geata*, 'farmstead of the gate'. A ruined farm called Upper Gate was shown on the OS 1st edition 6" map around 1850. This was roughly on the other side of the Gaithill Road from the Forestry warehouse complex. Gate Flow was also shown as the name of a moss there, nowadays this area has been clearfelled and is rapidly regenerating into a birch wood. Gate Lane is a small burn that flows east from the area where the farm of *Baile an Geata* must have been, eventually joining the Knocknairling Burn.

Another habitation and place-name that has disappeared from modern maps is Lairglauren, shown on the Blaeu map as on the west shore of Loch Ken and between another farmstead deserted by 1850 named Clone, (Klon on Blaeu) probably *A' Chluain*, 'the meadow' although *clain* 'slope' is also possible (now commemorated in the name Clone Burn) and Bennan. Bennan is derived from *beinnean* and is a diminutive of *beinn*, implying a subsidiary mountain. It was also borrowed from Gaelic into local Scots. Lairglauren is shown as Lowran Castle on the OS 1st ed. 6" map and is situated beside the Lowran Burn as it tumbles into Loch Ken at the place now

known as The Twin Brigs. This place-name is clearly derived from *Learg* 'a hill-slope' and the burn name, Lowran, itself from *labhar*, 'speaking loudly' giving us a diminutive in *Labharan*. I like to think of this meaning 'the wee noisy chatterer'. The burn certainly makes a lot of noise when in spate. There is another similarly named burn in Kells parish, the Lowring Burn that falls precipitously down between Benbrack (*A' Bheinn Bhreac*, 'the speckled mountain') and Cairnsmore or Blackcraig of Dee (*An Càrnas Mòr*, 'the big cairn shaped hill'). This Lowring Burn rises in a corrie on the south-east side of Cairnsmore of Dee called Corluckie which may be *A' Choire Leacach*, 'flagstone corrie'. Yet another Lowran Burn tumbles down the north-west slopes of another *An Càrnas Mòr* 'Cairnsmore of Fleet' and into the *Pol an Iubhair* 'burn of the yew tree' or Palnure. What all of these burns have in common apart from the similarity of their names is their steepness and noisyness.

Michael Ansell,
Cars Fèarna



An Labharan, the wee chatterer.

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

How Many Scottish Words for Snaw?



If you ever watch TV you will know that Christmas this year started in September, presumably somebody's misbegotten attempt to cheer us all up while actually achieving the opposite.

The winter festival - also known as Yule, Yuletide, Yuletime, Yuleseason or Yulefest - formally ends on 1 January, eleven days after the December solstice. Doubtless Easter will begin the next day...

Our much appreciated editor suggested a festive contribution this issue, so I thought I would donate something about the culture of Christmas as reflected mainly in Scots words. I was delighted to discover that Scots actually used the word 'Merry' (probably by mistake!), variously miry, meary, moeri, myrry, meaning cheerful, happy, carefree, gay, joyful, jolly and pleased, as far back as the time of Robert Bruce!

Everyone has learned at some time that the Inuit - the people of the Arctic, formerly called the Eskimo - have over fifty words for snow. Researchers for the *Dictionary of the Scots Language*, or as you and I might prefer *Dictionary of the Scots Leid*, remarkably have found some 421 Scots words for snow. I expected, by way of comparison, that they would also have found 1,000 words for rain but in fact they are much scarcer. That said, snaw-words were often used for rain. For example, smirr might describe fine rain, drizzle, sleet or snow. The dictionary folk very effectively quote Wittgenstein: "The limits of my language are the limits of my world. All I know is what I have words for". We can learn a lot about people not just from their accents and speech mannerisms but also from the words they use, especially perhaps when these words seem in danger of redundancy.

The Historical Thesaurus of Scots (which, like the dictionaries, is now available online) mentions two types of snow: 'dry drift' which is a powdery snow, and 'skalva' which is a soft, flaky snow. Snow-smoor - suffocation by snow, whether of animals or people,

has unfortunately been no stranger to the Glenkens on various occasions. The thesaurus defines at least twenty-two terms used to describe snowflake, such as flaffin, flaucht, flauchin, flachter, flechin, fleuk, flicht, flok, snaw-flake and snaw-flauchen. Whether or not these terms are understood to refer to snowflakes is contextual, which means they sometimes refer to other objects such as dust. Figgerin and flitcher both refer to a 'light snow-flake'. Flichter is a small particle, for example, of snow. Spitters refers to small drops or flakes of wind-driven rain or snow. Blett, flag, flagin, flukra, skelf, skovin all refer to a large snowflake.

A snowball is sna(w)-ba(w), snawball and snawie-ba. Slete, sneet, flup and sleek are all straightforward synonyms for sleet, as are flush, lapper, sleesh and spleiter for slush. There are at least 21 descriptors of sleet and slush and there are many

others for light snowfalls and thin snow coverings. This is a very rich field. Those who used these words had an encyclopedic knowledge of their natural surroundings, employing a tight technical language to describe them, as well as to preserve their thoughts and philosophies, as in "The snau is ane congelit rane".

Intimacy is obvious in the utterance, "the winter tyid [time] quhen baith rane, snaw, etc...fell apoun your bair tender heid" and one of the most touching "To grant that man hes vill [will] and say it is not frie . . . is als absurd as . . . saying the snau is blak. For libertie is als inseparable from vill as quhitnes from snau". Many other examples are close to proverbial: "As the snaw meltis from the sone [sun] away, Sa from his sicht the wickit sall decay".

Robert De Bruce Trotter, who for a while resided at Dalshangan, was very keen on the Scots language. He always looked forward to "wunter" as he called it, the curling season, of channel stanes and bonspeils. All, irrespective of wealth, occupation or position, met together at the "roarin game". Toddy suppers and sometimes dinners followed the contests, inebriated players assuring their wives that they "wusna ony drunker nor the minister". Women often curled as well, one of the first sports to actually promote, or at least permit, gender equality. Snaw was annually expected and ice especially welcomed.

There were serious problems in 1674 during the "Thirteen Drifty Days" when thousands of sheep in this area were killed in snow storms. There was a similar disastrous event in the "Gonial Blast" when it was said that between Crawfordmuir and the Border seventeen shepherds perished and upwards of thirty were taken home insensible. The total sheep losses were incalculable. The Blast was named for gonial or braxy, which described mutton fit for human consumption although not slaughtered with the knife. Such meat was smoked and dried for storage. SR Crockett combined both of these weather events in *The Raiders*, though he did not make as much of them as he might have done. Some of you will remember the snows of 1947 and 1963. Even in the present calamitous times it is useful to remember that however bad things are now, they have often been much worse in the past. Merry Yule!

Ted Cowan

**The wintry west extends his blast,
And hail and rain does blaw;
Or the stormy north sends driving
forth**

**The blinding sleet and snaw:
While, tumbling brown, the burn
comes down,
And roars frae bank to brae;
And bird and beast in covert rest,
And pass the heartless day.**

Robert Burns



Lizanne Henderson © Padeapix

GLENKENS MUSINGS

Glenkens Musings is a new section in which James Wallace mulls over elements of life in the Glenkens and beyond.

James says: "I'm 18 years old and I come from a farming background. I live on a farm up in the hills past Dalry. I've worked at the CatStrand for three years and am very much a people person."

2020 is not a year I can imagine looking back on with happiness and pleasure. In fact, there are not a lot of things that I can say have gone right within the year, as I'm sure you'll agree.

The year sadly started with the horrendous bushfires in Australia that spread rapidly through the south coast of the country which killed thousands of animals and destroyed many lives.

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle announced that they were stepping down from their duties as senior royals, explaining that they wanted to live a more financially independent life. This causes mixed reactions and opinions towards the

couple from the Royal Family and the UK public.

We heard about the devastating news of the deaths of the NBA legend Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gigi, as seven others were killed in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California.

And finally, and in no means least, the world was introduced to the life-destroying and global coronavirus pandemic, COVID-19.

It is quite fair to say it feels that this year couldn't get any worse but honestly - at the risk of sounding rather pessimistic - I wouldn't be in the least surprised if it did. However, to look at the current situation as a whole, I'm extremely happy and thankful to see that the Glenkens has come through this pandemic relatively unscathed and unharmed. I know the challenges haven't been easy for any one of us and we've had to adapt to a new normal extremely quickly, but overall we seem to have made it this far fairly in tact.

I think what the majority of people want now out of this year is a nice, 'normal' Christmas with all our friends and family. Unfortunately, due to the circumstances, sadly this may well not happen. However, I saw something rather funny recently in which someone said: "I think the only way to do Christmas this year is to kill the turkey, and have 30 people over for the funeral!". My sister read this and jokingly said: "Quite a dark funeral when we all start eating the body!"



In conclusion, I am a firm believer that there is light at the end of the tunnel and that we will defeat this virus. I am sure that this time next year things will be back to a somewhat normal existence, and that we can all go back to living our regular day-to-day lives, hopefully minus the facemasks. I just want to say that I'm incredibly grateful that the population of the Glenkens has come together to support one another through these hard times. I think we are all stronger because of it, and that now there is nothing we cannot deal and cope with.

So finally, I want to be the first to say, I hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and I wish you all the best for the new year, because I'm 100% positive that it will be more enjoyable and clearer than 2020.

James Wallace



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SLP14274 V1 (11/19)

Local Author's Twentieth Novel

Novelist John Dean has seen his twentieth crime novel break into print.

John, whose first novel was published in 2005, is the creator of detective chief inspectors John Blizzard and Jack Harris. He is with London-based The Book Folks, which has published many of his novels including the latest, *Kill Shot*. His sales with The Book Folks have topped 90,000 ebooks and paperbacks and another 90,000 read in the Kindle library.

The writer, 59, who moved to Dumfries & Galloway from Darlington three years ago, retired after 40 years as a journalist in March 2020 in order to concentrate more fully on his writing.

Kill Shot plunges Jack Harris into a scenario where the shooting of a birdwatcher on the North Pennines not only challenges his view of an old friendship but also turns out to have national and international ramifications.

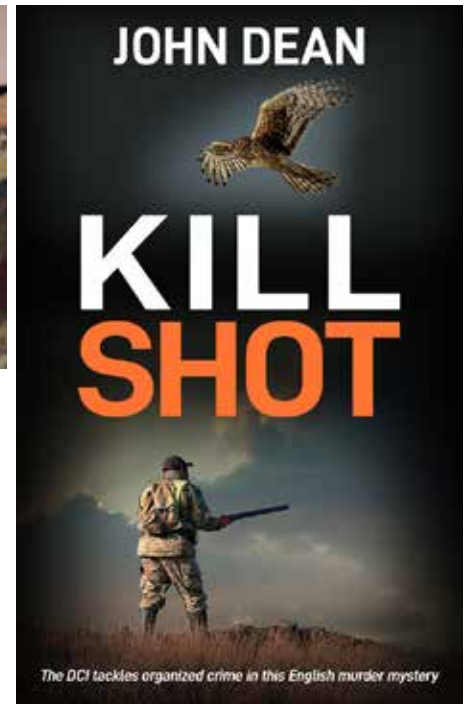
John, who specialised in crime



reporting during his award-winning journalistic career, said: "Like all crime novelists, I am fascinated by the dark side of the human personality and the way that it drives people to step over the line of what is deemed to be acceptable behaviour."

"Every time I sit down with a blank screen, wondering what my next novel will be about, something will trigger an idea and the author in me has to follow the story until it has been told."

John, whose novels regularly feature on the Amazon best-seller lists, is also a creative writing tutor and has participated in the CatStrand creative writing workshops as well as running



online courses, including crime fiction, throughout COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

For further details, you can visit <https://johndean.ning.com>

Windy Rig Wind Farm Progress Update

ONSITE PROGRESS

We have been making some great progress onsite despite the weather we have encountered over the past couple of months. The works along the B729 are continuing following the surfacing of the new passing places and we are working on the last stretches of the widening works to allow the delivery of the turbine components to start in the New Year.

Widening works along the C35

Onsite we have completed the main spine road for the wind farm and the concrete for 8 out of the 12 turbine bases has been poured with the remaining 4 bases due to be completed in the next few weeks. By sourcing stone from within the site and producing concrete onsite with our concrete plant we have taken

thousands of delivery waggons off the local road network.

OFFSITE PROGRESS

Offsite works are progressing on the blade laydown area to the south of Carsphairn. Over the coming weeks we will commence work on the access junction with traffic management installed on the A713 to provide safe access for pedestrians.

MESSAGING SERVICE

Are you a regular user of the B729 or C35? 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



SOUNDS LIKE KNOCKENGORROCH

Knockengoroch Festival has announced the release of a lockdown album, *Sounds Like Knockengoroch*, featuring 20 tracks from artists who performed at Virtually Knockengoroch – an interactive livestream of the festival held in May 2020.

One of Scotland's longest-running greenfield festivals, Knockengoroch is normally held in the beautifully secluded Carsphairn hills every May, bringing an exciting array of traditional, electronic and world music acts to the Glenkens hills.

Due to COVID-19, the event's 2020 edition was cancelled and organisers put on an online festival in its place. Despite being hosted digitally, Virtually Knockengoroch embodied the authentic, participatory nature of the event, with attendees able to interact with the performances via Zoom.

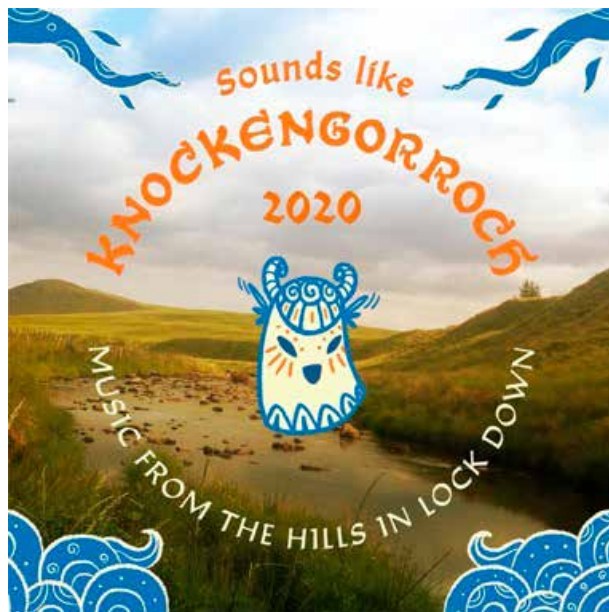
Following its success, organisers decided to pay tribute to the festival's unique atmosphere, and the feelings of

community and connection it evokes, by capturing the sounds of the festival in a specially curated album.

The 20-track double CD includes donated recordings from an inspiring mix of folk, world and electronic music acts who were part of the virtual celebration earlier this year including two tracks written in honour of Knockengoroch and another three recorded for the first time for the album.

Knockengoroch Festival organiser, Liz Holmes, said: "Virtually Knockengoroch was a way for us to share the sounds and feelings of the event with our loyal audiences and to lift their spirits during lockdown. Our festival is known for its sense of togetherness and solidarity, and this is what this lockdown album also projects.

"It was incredible to receive such thoughtful and emotive original songs dedicated to the festival from some of our favourite musicians for this record, and to receive contributions from so many much-loved acts. It's an joy to be able to combine the work of all of these artists on one album and mark their contribution to Knockengoroch over the years. With



acts not able to get out there and play live we wanted to champion their art and lift this up."

2020 would have been the 34th edition of Knockengoroch which first launched in 1998.

The Knockengoroch lockdown album, Sounds Like Knockengoroch, will be released on double CD and available to download and stream from 4 December.



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m: 07766 978568
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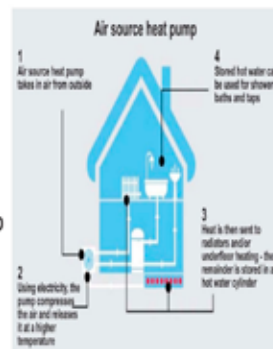
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Join the UNESCO Biosphere Board

In July 2012 Galloway and Southern Ayrshire was formally recognised as a world class environment for people and nature.

The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation) Biosphere was the first in Scotland to achieve this status, and is part of a family of over 700 Biospheres around the world. This title is the only global accreditation for an area demonstrating excellence in sustainable development.

The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere covers 5,268 square kilometers, recognising the amazing wildlife, landscapes and culture of south west Scotland, and the commitment of its communities and businesses to live and work more sustainably.

With a strong focus on sustainability, a commitment to facing up to the challenges of the climate emergency and biodiversity loss, and the opportunity to play a key role in supporting a post-COVID 'green recovery', the Biosphere designation is very much of its time.

Guided by a partnership board comprising representatives from public agencies, private businesses, local communities and environmental non-governmental organisations, our Biosphere

has delivered a significant level of activity, working towards sustainability outcomes and maximising the use of a minimal budget and only 1.5 full time staff. That team is now set to grow significantly, with the recent announcement of £1.9 million of funding support and recognition by the new South of Scotland Enterprise agency that the Biosphere has the potential to become a ground breaking catalyst, bringing together communities, businesses, land owners and individuals to help achieve a significant 'green recovery'.

The Biosphere's key priorities for delivery over the next five years are focused on how we can support and integrate the sustainability agenda into all of our lives, benefitting communities, businesses, landowners, land managers and individuals. These key priorities include:

- Delivery of practical marketing and branding projects to raise the profile, understanding, physical presence and economic value of the international UNESCO Biosphere brand to both locals and visitors
- Expanding and promoting the Biosphere Certification Mark to include new business sectors, offering them specialist advice and support in sustainability best practice.
- Creation of a specialist team who can offer guidance and support to land managers in the development and delivery of biodiversity and land management projects to add value through conservation, learning and

sustainable land use

- Developing the Biosphere Communities Scheme to support community level networking, collaboration, learning, discovery and new community based sustainability projects

- Contributing to the Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership Project.

Critical to its success is having an active and engaged Biosphere Partnership Board who can share their knowledge, expertise and networks to help our UNESCO Biosphere grow. So we are keen to expand membership of the board and would actively welcome approaches from potential new members who share the Biosphere ethos and can bring with them skills and expertise in areas such as corporate sponsorship, sustainable forestry, climate change and community development.

The partnership board meet quarterly – normally these meetings revolve around locations in East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway, although currently due to COVID-19 they are all held online. They normally last for a morning and are occasionally followed by a presentation on a topic relevant to the work of the Biosphere.

If you would be interested in joining the board please contact Ed Forrest ed@gsabiosphere.org.uk

For more information on the Biosphere current job vacancies please go to www.gsabiosphere.org.uk

Ed Forest

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

The new Connecting in Communities Project (CiC) is a month old now and already well up and running.

It's still managed by Brian Jones and Chris Jowsey, but now based at the Smiddy in Balmacellan and busy recruiting for a third member of the team. There's a fantastic opportunity for the right person to join us as volunteering, capacity building & community resilience officer to develop a Glenkens-wide volunteering strategy and help roll out the Glenkens Community Action Plan.

Thanks to a National Lottery award from The National Lottery Community Fund, Connecting in Communities has now started a new, exciting, two-year project. Based at The Smiddy in Balmacellan, we're still featuring loads of your favourite groups and activities, mainly on Zoom, but we now have some 'in person' sessions too, COVID-secure of course! Monday afternoon is the Margaret Morris Movement Adult Dance with Sara Lockwood and the self-led Tai Chi group is socially distancing on a Wednesday afternoon, all made possible thanks to National Lottery players!

Lifelong-learning is a key driver for the new project and The Smiddy is

a fabulous venue for a whole host of related activities. Check out our giant SmartScreen, pictured with James from Computerfixer in Dumfries and Brian during installation; this is one of the main legacy items made possible by our friends at LEADER, an absolutely stunning piece of kit with huge educational potential.

Also, look out in the new year for our CiC liveried electric vehicle, a seven-seat, fully accessible Nissan, which will be managed by Galloway Community Transport and available to support the wider Glenkens communities.

We're always looking for new things and the COVID age has brought a myriad

of changes to our lives; so instead of the Photography Group's exhibition gracing the walls at CatStrand, it's now online, viewable via the CatStrand's website, www.catstrand.com. Our writing group, Write On, managed by Margaret Elphinstone, have just published a new book, *WriteDown*, about local experiences during lockdown. Copies are available at CatStrand and it's well worth a read or even as a Christmas present (see article on p6). We are also delighted to have teamed up with local yoga teacher, Amy Fowler, to bring you Winter Wellbeing a 90-day movement challenge during December, January and February. Exercise and movement are well documented in the relief of stress and helping improve mood and wellbeing, so why not be kind to yourself and join in - it's easy and it's free. Check out our Facebook page or CatStrand's web pages for details.

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.

To find out more call 01644 420 274 or email brian@catstrand.com or chris@catstrand.com

Chris & Brian



The new SmartScreen, pictured with James from Computerfixer in Dumfries (left) and Brian Jones.

Bright Stars

Over the last couple of weeks I was among those who cleared the last of the toys, equipment, pictures and paperwork from Bright Stars nursery.

I would like to offer thanks to the happy, loving and creative place it clearly was - to all the children who first met, played and explored there together, to all the staff and their dedication, and to those who have given so much of their time and energy over the years to make it happen. May the building always hold the happy memories of children's play, and may we continue to hear happy childhood laughter across the Glenkens as things change and move on.

MS

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November 2020

The current COVID19 situation means that several of GCT's usual services (Ayr and Carlisle monthly, Castle Douglas Golden Day Club weekly, member hire, excursions, training) are temporarily not operating.

We are constantly monitoring the situation and will resume these services as soon as COVID restrictions allow.

However, the Tuesday Glenkens to Newton Stewart and Wednesday Evening Glenkens to Castle Douglas (Tesco) services continue to operate as normal (see timetables etc on right).

GCT is also delighted to announce that in cooperation with the GCAT Connecting in Communities project we will shortly be running a community car scheme using a fully wheelchair accessible electric car. This service is expected to be fully operational early in 2021.

GCT has also been fundraising to set up an ebike scheme based on New Galloway, Dalry and Balmaclellan to encourage and support more sustainable, active transport in the area. We now have funding to acquire 6 ebikes and other equipment to establish this scheme and it, too, should be operational early in the new year.

Watch the GCT website (www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org) for developments.

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

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Dougie Campbell

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

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk

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& 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

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Dumfries
& Galloway

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

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 December & January.

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

*The Surgery
High Street
New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

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

Dalry Communities Properties Trust (DCPT): Contact Andi Holmes on andiholmes@hotmail.com or 07729 292 126

Dalry Town Hall: Contact Jim Reid on 01644 430231 or jamescreid@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

Balmaclellan Community Trust: Contact Julia Higgins on julia.higgins55@outlook.com

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

Schools: Visit the school office or call Dalry Primary on 01644 430 105 (for Nursery/ELC too), Dalry Secondary on 01644 430 259 or Kells on 01644 420 340

Carsphairn Heritage Group: carsphairnheritagegroup@gmail.com

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

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

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

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: 6 Dec & 3 Jan; Carsphairn 11am: 13 Dec, 10 Jan & 31 Jan; Kells 11am: 20 Dec, 27 Dec & 17 Jan; Dalry 11am: 24 Jan

Special Services & Events: Christmas Watchnight Service: 11.30pm, Dalry Church. Christmas

Day Family Service: 11am, Carsphairn Church

Videos will continue to be posted on YouTube, accessed by typing 'Balmaclellan, Kells and Dalry with Carsphairn' into the YouTube search box. For further information call Rev David Bartholomew on 01644 430 380.

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

Celebrating James Clerk Maxwell

Did you know that the father of colour photography is buried at Parton Kirk?

James Clerk Maxwell died in 1879 but all around the globe we use modern technologies based on his discoveries. His electromagnetic theory is considered to have paved the way for both quantum mechanics and Einstein's theory of special relativity.

This winter, Parton has been celebrating this local figure and his amazing legacy with a community photography competition and exhibition. Hop online to see the entries in a virtual gallery at <https://maxwellphoto2020.wixsite.com/gallery> or pop down to Parton Village Hall car park to see the shortlisted photographs being displayed in an outdoor exhibition during the Christmas holidays.



Above is one of the competition entries, Loch Ken Ice Eye by Sarah Donovan.

There were two categories - 'A Glenkens Winter' for the under 18s, and 'Glenkens: Light & Colour' for the over 18s. The two winning photographs in each category will be printed in the next edition of the *Glenkens Gazette*.

For further information please email maxwellphoto2020@gmail.com

Give a **Festive Hamper**
from New Galloway Community Shop

delicious local food and drink, Christmas treats and traditional favourites

Drop in to the shop to select the goodies for your hamper, presentation box or gift bag or Email shopteam@newgallowaycommunity.shop or visit www.newgallowaycommunity.shop

A Glenkens
HOGMANAY

This year's celebrations are going to be a bit different, but we can still come together as a community.

Let's celebrate Hogmanay across the Glenkens over Facebook and YouTube. It'll be a festive run-up to midnight, hosted live by Brian Edgar and featuring the Shore Road ceilidh band as well as lots of familiar faces!

For more details and to keep informed, follow your local community Facebook page or contact Sam on **07741 656601** or glenkenshogmanay@gmail.com

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

FEB/MAR COPY DEADLINE: 5 JAN



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