

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

February/March 2021

ISSUE 122

FREE

Glenkens Community Summit

The first ever Glenkens Community Summit will be a high-profile event bringing together visions for the future of the Glenkens from folk across all of our communities.

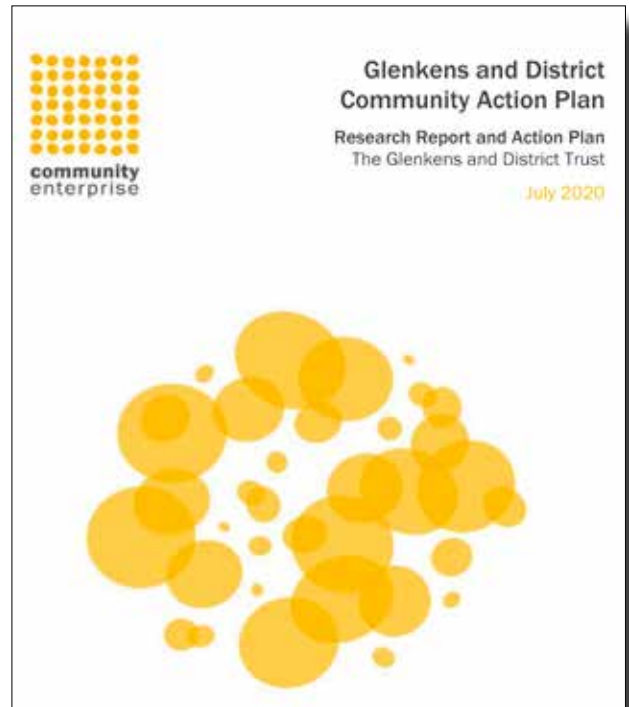
The focus of the summit will be the areas highlighted in the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan (CAP), published last year, which is a roadmap for the whole community over the next five years with the goal that "the Glenkens and district will be a connected, resilient and carbon neutral place, where people will want to live, work and visit, to bring up their families, and to grow old". You can find a copy of the plan in your local village shop or online by searching for

'Glenkens Community Action Plan'.

The event will take place on 2 March at 7pm and, due to COVID-19, will be virtual.

The first year of progressing with the CAP - the implementation phase - is well under way, creating the foundation on which future activities will be built. Since the last Gazette update, national organisation Community Enterprise has been appointed to take forward this work with local body Sleeping Giants. Work has been ongoing since September to get things moving in relation to the four thematic areas, and funding for this has been provided through Blackcraig Community Fund.

Continued on p10...



Our Biosphere Gains Momentum

It's exciting news to hear that the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire (GAS) UNESCO Biosphere

has been awarded £1.9 million to deliver a range of objectives throughout the area.



Garroch Glen Shepherds' Huts, one of the local businesses under the UNESCO Biosphere Certification Scheme, with business owner Carylann Williamson at the helm.

With everyone now familiar with the positive impact funded projects such as the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership have had in the Glenkens, we can be confident that this will mean positive change in many ways.

A key area in which the Biosphere will be focussing is in

expanding their team, initially with six employment opportunities, then over time increasing by another six. Also exciting is that the Biosphere team plan to make their base in the Glenkens - see article on p9 for more on this.

With the fantastic announcement of funding support from the South of Scotland Enterprise agency, along with recognition that the Biosphere has the potential to become a ground-breaking catalyst in bringing together communities, businesses, land owners and individuals to help achieve a significant 'green recovery', things are set to gain a lot more momentum.

Continued on p7...



This Gazette has been delivered door-to-door thanks to support from the Loch Ken Trust

Fancy Joining the GCAT Board?

Most readers of the Gazette will have an idea of the role that the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) plays within our Glenkens communities.

Some of the projects under GCAT's umbrella are:

- CatStrand
- Balmacellan Smiddy
- Connecting in Communities
- CatStrand Youth Arts
- Galloway Community Transport
- *Glenkens Gazette*
- Watson Birds

Within this basic framework there are many subsidiary projects covering myriad aspects of community and arts activities. We have a committed staff, many volunteers and an engaged board of directors who all work hard to ensure we continue to play an

important role in many of the things that happen in the Glenkens.

GCAT work closely with numerous partners with the aim of advancing wellbeing and sustainability through community engagement, arts and culture. Never has this been more important than in the current crisis.

While we have an established track record in delivering projects with assistance from funders on both a local and national scale, we also recognise that we can never be complacent about the future. The nature of our activities means that income is seldom secure for any length of time which provides a constant challenge.

Would you be interested in joining us and assisting us in this important work? We are currently looking to refresh our board and if you have

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

skills and the enthusiasm to play a part in our ongoing and future projects then we would love to hear from you.

There is no specific personal specification or employment history necessary to become a board member - we are just looking for someone with energy, enthusiasm, time and skills that will enable GCAT to continue meeting the needs of our communities.

If you are interested in discussing this further please contact me at alan.smith12345@btinternet.com or on 07769 680 938.

Alan Smith, Chairman, GCAT

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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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New Year Plans at Loch Ken Trust



As we head into 2021, it is exciting times here at Loch Ken Trust. Although the year ahead has some major challenges, we have some positive news to share about our plans.

Climate Ready Ken questions

Is action needed for Loch Ken to adapt to the impacts of climate change?

- ☐ very urgent action
- ☐ urgent action
- ☐ some action
- ☐ little action
- ☐ no action

How disruptive has climate change been to your life and work in Loch Ken?

- ☐ very disruptive
- ☐ somewhat disruptive
- ☐ I haven't experienced any disruptions

How resilient (able to withstand and respond to changes in climate) do you think Loch Ken is in the face of climate change?

- ☐ very resilient
- ☐ somewhat resilient
- ☐ not resilient at all

Loch Ken Plan questions

What is the best thing about Loch Ken?

What is the worst thing about Loch Ken?

What would you most like to change to make Loch Ken better?

Membership

We've only been in existence for 6 months, but we're fast approaching our 100th member. Thanks to everyone who has applied, but we are still keen to hear from more of you. It's completely free and gives you a say in how we work to make Loch Ken a better place.

If you are interested in becoming a member, you can find application forms and more information at lochken.org.uk/membership.

We are also pleased to announce that Loch Ken Trust now has its first full Board of Trustees. The trustees are all volunteers who live around Loch Ken. They are: **Alan Smith (Chairman)**, **Anne Halliday**, **Elizabeth Kelly**, **James Ingall**, **John Barker**, **John Nelson**, **Kate Adamson**, **Lizanne Henderson**, **Mungo Bryson (Vice Chairman)**, **Richard Hermon** and **Robert Johnston**.

Climate Ready Ken

How do our communities get ready to thrive in a changing climate? That is the question that the Climate Ready Ken project aims to answer.

During the summer, we were delighted that Loch Ken was chosen by Adaptation Scotland to become its latest 'Climate Ready Locality'. For the community around Loch Ken, this now signals the start of a period of intensive support and activity on this subject.

**Adaptation
Scotland**
supporting climate change resilience

Right now, we would like to know what you think about the need to adapt our communities to deal with the impacts of climate change. This is important to establish a baseline for the area, which will enable us to measure the difference the project makes. We would really appreciate it if you would answer the short questionnaire on this page.

Loch Ken Plan

During the current crisis, it can seem almost impossible to make longer term plans. Watching as months (or even years) of planning and preparation is discarded when events are forced to cancel, is a painful business. Yet we must plan for the future.

Over the last few months, we have been hard at work on the Loch Ken Plan, a 10-year plan to guide the sustainable development of our communities around Loch Ken. Barney Fryer, the Loch Ken Trust officer, has held a series of workshops and consultation events to develop the initial draft of the plan.

The next step is to carry out much wider public consultation with all the Loch Ken communities. This is obviously made much trickier with the current Covid restrictions. Most of the consultation activity will have to be carried out online, inevitably, but we are keen to try and hold face to face sessions as soon as it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, we have put a mini-consultation on this page. It really helps us to know what people in the community would like to see happen around Loch Ken. We would really appreciate it if you can find a few minutes to respond.

How to submit your response

If you would like to complete the survey online, please go to: lochken.org.uk/loch-ken-plan-survey/

You can either cut out this page of the Gazette and leave it at the Catstrand, or email your answers to the three questions to LKToffice@protonmail.com

If you are not able to do any of the above, please call **Barney on 07470 557742**

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



Glenkens Freecycle

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

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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

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

This issue's winner is Fiona Clubb with this classic setting of a man and his dog up at Troston cairn, enjoying the hills of the Glenkens.

Fiona wins an evening meal for two up to the value of £30 at the Ken Bridge Hotel, when COVID-19 regulations allow.

Competition judges Dave and Sue said:
"This issue we're going with one man and his dog at the cairn. Lovely to see them savouring the wonderful scenery after a good walk."

How to Enter:

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



If you are a winner, the Gazette will send you out a voucher - please call the Ken Bridge to check opening times in light of current COVID-19 guidelines.



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Eco Feature

Salmon in the Upper Dee River System

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A report published in November details the distribution of Salmon in the Upper Dee river system.

The report is based on electrofishing surveys which use a weak electric current to stun the fish, enabling them to be counted. These were undertaken by the Galloway Fisheries Trust through 2019 and outline a series of proposed habitat works that would support the salmon population.

The main findings of the report are included summarised below.

Wild juvenile salmon were present in five out of twenty electrofishing sites surveyed and production of salmon was concentrated within the Polharrow Burn, where salmon were found as far upstream as an impassable fall within Waukers Linn.

The first electrofishing record of salmon production within the Earlstoun Burn was made during the surveys undertaken within this project.

Habitat improvement works should be considered, particularly the addition of woody debris. The lower Earlstoun Burn is an area where active bankside erosion was recorded and could be addressed.

The Water of Ken between Carsfad Dam and Craigs Linn has a lack of smaller substrates which appears to be limiting fish production. Possible option to increase smaller substrates here should be considered.

Further electrofishing surveys should be undertaken within the upper reaches of the Polmaddy Burn to confirm salmon are not utilising the burn in favourable habitat.

Water management practices should be discussed to see if there would be any potential to increase river flows between Polmaddy Burn outflow and Kendoon.

A drone survey should be undertaken within the gorge section of river downstream of Polmaddy settlement to investigate for the presence of further impassable falls.

Smolt (juvenile fish) sampling methods should be investigated surrounding the outflow of Polharrow Burn in order to input to a smolt tracking study planned for the river.

The work was undertaken as part of the Galloway Glens Scheme's aim to better understand and support the fish populations in the Ken/Dee Catchment. The full report is available on the Galloway Glens website at www.gallowayglens.org.

Reviewing the completed report, Jamie Ribbens from Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) said: "Salmon populations across Scotland are in desperate need of help due to falling stocks. GFT are working closely with key stakeholders on the Kirkcudbrightshire Dee, including land owners, forestry organisations, SEPA, DRAX and the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board, to restore salmon stocks through a range of projects.

To ensure these work, it is crucial to understand and identify where key sub-populations are located so that effective actions can take place in the right places. This report has shown the importance of the Polharrow Burn for supporting a juvenile salmon population but it has highlighted that they, and surrounding waters, need to be enhanced and protected.



Salmon parr.

GFT appreciate the support we have received from Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership for this work."

The report formed part of the Galloway Glens 'Fish Loch Ken' project. Nick Chisholm, Galloway Glens project officer, said: "Salmon are an iconic Scottish species - our cold, clean fast flowing rivers on the Atlantic fringe made this species super abundant in the past. Indeed there are apocryphal tales of abundance being so high in the past that farm workers complained about how often they had to eat them. Over the last few decades, the numbers of this noble fish have declined markedly. This report shines a light on their status in Dumfries and Galloway's largest freshwater system and whilst the picture is grim in many places there is room for optimism. Fish are still present, albeit at alarmingly low numbers. The next stage of the process will be to work out how we can work with this population and support Galloway Fisheries Trust's activities to boost their numbers."

For more information about Galloway Fisheries Trust's wider salmon counting work visit www.gallowayfisheriestrust.org




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Funding Well Spent in Corsock & KPD

Each year Corsock & KPD Community Council receives £2,000 from Blackcraig Windfarm.

Proposals are sought that benefit the local community, each being assessed by members of the community council. It has been agreed that the 2020/21 award of £2,000 be distributed between the following five initiatives:

A contribution towards new doors at Knockvennie Hall; supporting

running costs of Kirkpatrick Durham's Bothy; Kirkpatrick Durham Village Hall; Corsock Vehicle Activated Speed Signs; and Corsock Kids' Club.

Corsock & KPD Community Council secretary, McNabb Laurie, reviewing the awards, said: "Our thanks go to Temporis Capital, the operators of Blackcraig Windfarm, for the funding. It is great that the challenges of 2020 have not stopped the work of community groups in our part of the Stewartry. Hopefully these awards, through the micro grant scheme, will be a real help. The community council has adjusted to the 'new normal'; we are still meeting monthly, albeit



KPD Hall dishwasher being loaded by Rae Little who sits on the KPD Hall committee.

virtually, and working to represent and support our local community."

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"Thank you for another brilliant copy of the Gazette! It is so nice to know what is going on around here."

Ruth

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CatStrand Highlights

During February we're back online with our CatStrand at Home programme.

Although we've had to stop in-house recording for the time being we'll be back with new 'Evening In' performances in March from some word class local musicians including Moniaive based Pete Garnett and Gregg Lawson of **Moishes Bagel** fame and **Sarah Jane Scouten**, who will also be offering a songwriting masterclass online as part of a tour of songcraft sessions she is delivering around Scotland and Canada - virtually of course!

If you missed our previous 'Evening In' performances we've made these available online again until the end of February - visit www.catstrand.com for links to our CatStrand at Home page to watch **Hope London**, **Ollie Rigg & Michael Muir** and **Adam Blake** performing for us from the CatStrand auditorium. Tickets are £8 or pay what you can.

For families we've got a make your own rod puppet video specially made by **Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre** for ages 6-12. Learn how to create a rod puppet using materials you will have lying about

the house and then watch these seasoned puppeteers show you how to technically move the finished puppet - available from mid-February on CatStrand at Home.

We're glad to support regional theatre producers during this time too and will be presenting Townsend Theatre Company's new play **We Are the Lions Mr Manager** on CatStrand at Home from 5 to 7 February. The play relives the extraordinary true story of the Grunwick Strike, a dispute that challenged the way women and immigrants are treated in the workplace. A live Q&A with the company will take place after the premiere showing on 5 February. For tickets and more information visit www.catstrand.com

We look forward to welcoming you back to CatStrand for live performances and films when we are able to do so.

If you need help accessing our CatStrand at Home programme of events please do get in touch with aidan@catstrand.com

The CatStrand Team



LOCKDOWN 3.0:
'THE MAILCHIMP PROJECT'

We here at Catstrand are always looking for ways to keep young people engaged in the arts and this time is no exception! We are introducing our weekly Mailchimp Arts Extravaganza!

Mailchimp is an e-newsletter that is sent straight to your email!

Weekly videos and prompts to help you stay creative. From theatre prompts to film making challenges, we have something for everyone - feel free to get the whole family involved!

To sign up or get more information please contact:
jamie@catstrand.com

Changes Afoot for the Biosphere

Continued from front page...

The UNESCO Biosphere designation offers international recognition of an area as a world class environment for people and nature.

It is a reflection of the amazing wildlife, landscapes and culture of south west Scotland, and the commitment of its communities and businesses to live and work more sustainably.

The Galloway & Southern Ayrshire (GSA) Biosphere was the first UNESCO Biosphere in Scotland and is part of a family of over 700 Biospheres around the world who offer a network through which to share learning both nationally and internationally.

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-19 'green recovery', the UNESCO Biosphere designation is very much of its time.

Our Biosphere is guided by a partnership board comprising representatives from public agencies, local businesses, land managers, communities and environmental groups. A full list of board members is available www.gsabiosphere.org.uk and currently includes members from all across the catchment, including the Glenkens.



Biosphere manager, Ed Forrest

Since its inception in 2012 the Biosphere has delivered a significant level of activity, operating with only a minimal budget and the equivalent of just 1.5 staff members. The Biosphere team worked closely with colleagues in D&G Council to initiate the development of the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership scheme, which has gone on to be a fantastic example of the Biosphere in action. A Biosphere representative also sits on the Galloway Glens Board and we are currently working closely with the new Loch Ken Trust in the delivery of the Climate Ready Ken initiative.

Other work has included the development of a natural heritage

management plan that identifies high focus species and habitats including red squirrel, golden eagle, black grouse, upland oak woodland, purple moor grass and peat bogs, many of which can be seen in the local area.

The Biosphere have also worked with local businesses, including the first UNESCO Biosphere Certification Scheme in the UK, which recognises the sustainability credentials of local business and has seen Garroch Glen Shepherds Huts (pictured on front page), Loch Ken Eco-Bothies, Galloway Activity Centre, Galloway Cycling Holidays and Galloway Flowers all go through the audit process. For those looking for an easier way to engage, you can sign up online to become a Biosphere Proud Supporter and join a network of 350 local businesses, organisations and individuals, many based in the Glenkens.

St John's Town of Dalry has been recognised as our most recent Biosphere Community. This involved community representatives joining the Biosphere team in using our Sense of Place Toolkit to identify the positive things that are happening in the local area and using that to 'tell a story' that promotes the village as a destination in our UNESCO Biosphere.

*Ed Forrest, GSA Biosphere Manager
ed@gsabiosphere.org.uk*

BOOKS IN BALMACLELLAN

Reading for pleasure is one of the most important things we can do - books inspire, motivate and encourage us.

If you are looking for somewhere locally to browse a large selection of books you need look no further than 'Books in Balmaclellan'.

Books in Balmaclellan is a community-owned facility which has been developed over the last 12 months by both the Balmaclellan Hall Trust and Balmaclellan Community Trust to provide community access to books which can be borrowed

or exchanged. There is also a selection of books for sale.

Books in Balmaclellan is situated in the Templeton Room at Balmaclellan Village Hall and, thanks to enthusiastic volunteers, the room has been refurbished and decorated to provide a welcoming and comfortable environment to browse the books on display.

It currently offers over 1,000 books donated by members of the community, covering a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction topics. The most recent donation of books was by Annan Academy and our thanks go to Mrs A Nixon, the librarian at the academy, for the books which are primarily aimed at the 12 to 18 age group.

Unfortunately, due to current COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to open at the

moment, but once restrictions are lifted books can be borrowed or exchanged on the following days:

Saturday - 10.30am to 12.30pm

Monday - 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Wednesday - 10.30am to 12.30pm

We also plan to introduce a book subscription service during 2021. Please visit the Balmaclellan Facebook page for further details of when this will be available.

We are always grateful for anyone wishing to donate books, and do get in touch if you can spare some time to help and support us in any way. Please contact either Julia Higgins at julia.higgins55@outlook.com or 01644 420 297, or Ailsa Malone at ailsamalone@aol.com for further details.



Revisiting Detective Classics for Lockdown: *Michael Innes*

Michael Innes was the creator of Inspector Appleby and he wrote a number of detective and crime novels for over 40 years in the mid-20th century.

Under his real name, JIM Stewart, he wrote a good deal of serious literature and was a Professor of English at a university.

In many ways his crime novels are timeless, complex and well-written [what one would expect from an ex-pupil of Edinburgh Academy and Oxford]. Almost all of his crime novels are enjoyable, often with fantastic or bizarre twists to the plot.

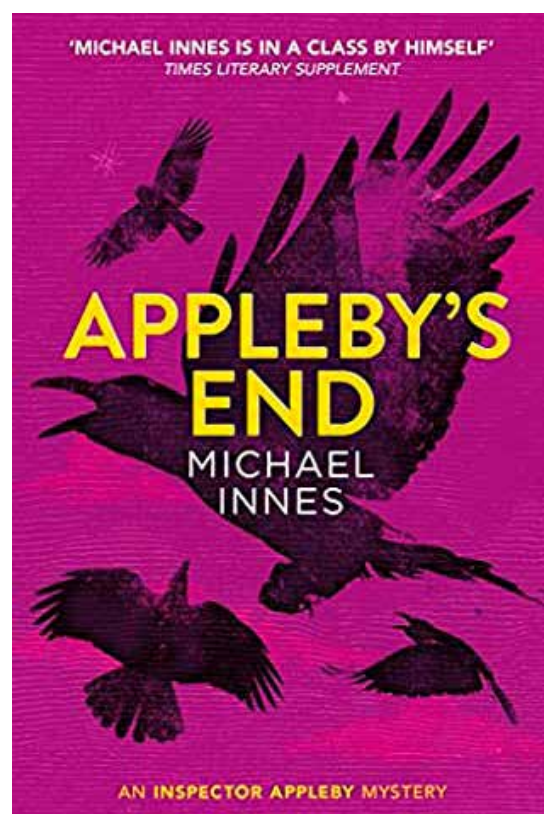
The reader is guaranteed

humour, beautiful and precise language and pleasant heroes and heroines [not always young] striving to foil evil, selfish or unattractive individuals.

My personal favourites are *Appleby's End*, *An Awkward Lie*, *Death At The President's Lodging* and *Hamlet, Revenge!*

Many of his books are easily, and cheaply, available on Amazon. *Appleby's End* was made into an excellent two-hour radio play and is available on YouTube. A small number of his novels are available as audio books on YouTube for those who find small print difficult. Most are between six and eight hours long and should fill some of the tedious lockdown/shielding or winter hours nicely.

Bruce Smith



NEW BEGINNINGS IN DALRY

The Glenkens Community Centre on Kirkland Street, Dalry, may be on the cusp of a rebirth in partnership with the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere.

Constructed in 1878 as the schoolhouse, for many years the community centre has been the beating heart of the village with numerous groups and clubs making use of its facilities and location. Over the last few years user groups have declined, with lockdown the final blow to the centre.

Some months ago the Dalry Community Properties Trust (DCPT), owners of the centre, were approached by the Biosphere group enquiring whether there was any office space available to rent, but at that time there was only a small room available, which wasn't much use. Fast forward a few months, and we suddenly found ourselves in a position to offer the whole of the building to the Biosphere project who have recently secured funding from South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) to the tune of £1.9 million, and are therefore looking for office space for their growing team (see cover story and p9 for more on the Biosphere).

Whilst we are still very much at the

beginning of the negotiation process, DCPT has now agreed in principle to lease the building to the Biosphere organisation for an initial period of five years, enabling the project to have its main office in Dalry. Surveys are due to be carried out and plans drawn up to determine the suitability of the building for conversion.

Needless to say the relocation of the Biosphere headquarters to the village would be a major coup and boost to the local economy, putting Dalry on the international radar and attracting visitors from all over Scotland, the UK and indeed the whole globe. This in turn will benefit our local shops, pubs, restaurants, hotels and B&Bs, etc, so is very much a win-win scenario. There is also the added bonus of up to 12 new jobs - another boon for the area.

It is also worth mentioning that there are a number of other ongoing projects in Dalry. The partial redevelopment of Barone on Main Street, former residence of the well-known bird artist Donald Watson, is continuing at pace with the aim to establish a visitor centre and cafe.

DCPT is also looking to purchase the MUGA (Multiple Use Games Area) adjacent to Dalry Secondary School. The facility would be totally refurbished and made available to schools during the day and the general public at other times, catering for five-a-side football, tennis, basketball, netball and other activities.

The Town Hall aims to expand its



provision of activities to cater for other groups and organisations. Building on its current successful monthly film night and the Glenkens Producers Market, some of the user groups who used to be based in the community centre could make a welcome return. The Town Hall Covenanter Project has reached a significant milestone with the completion of a video for visitors to Dalry. Spalding Bowling Club goes from strength to strength, and there are also plans to refurbish the servicemen's hut on Throughgate which currently caters for a snooker and carpet bowls club.

Gary Blissett, Chairman, DCPT
garyblissett51@gmail.com

Celebrating James Clerk Maxwell



Parton's James Clerk Maxwell photo competition had many great entries.

The outdoor exhibition was impacted first by the problems at the Channel Tunnel delaying delivery of the shortlisted prints and now by the latest lockdown.

Please keep any eye on the website for a notice of when

the outdoor exhibition is up and running.

Thanks to everyone who took part - you can take a look at the entries at www.maxwellphoto2020.wixsite.com/gallery

The winners (pictured) are *Bonnie White Galloway* by Erin Wilson in the under-18s category and *Morning Tranquility* by Debbie Stevens in the over-18s category.

Suzi Mercer



Community Action Plan

Continued from front page...

Improving the use of community assets and buildings emerged as a key priority in the plan.

A meeting took place with representatives of many of the local halls and buildings and there is a plan to map what the community has, so that these assets can work together more easily and effectively. There is a huge amount happening with food, from the local Producer Market and Glenkens Food Month to community-owned shops and a project is being funded to start to develop a better and more affordable food ecosystem locally, linking growers, retailers and users in a better way.

Discussions are moving ahead with the design of a Glenkens youth

project, and a piece of research is being commissioned to consider how to develop accessible childcare across the Glenkens. And finally, because communication and information is so vital, the *Glenkens Gazette* has received a small grant to research what is needed in this area.

There will be information locally about the upcoming summit over the coming weeks, but to register now for the event you can go to <https://tinyurl.com/glenkens>, get the link from Facebook or Twitter using the handle *glenkenstrust* or by emailing douglas@communityenterprise.co.uk or Fiona. smith1@btinternet.com

*Douglas Westwater,
Community Enterprise*

Income Tax Allowance for Working From Home

If you have had to work from home because of COVID-19 then you may be eligible to claim a tax allowance, even if you only had to work from home for one day.

For further information visit www.which.co.uk/news/2021/01/government-makes-125-working-from-home-tax-relief-easier-to-access-can-you-claim



LING

Local Initiatives in New Galloway

There are various community projects in and around New Galloway under the LING banner.

New Galloway Town Hall

By the time you are reading this the Town Hall will have been closed for nearly a year, and it is well over a year since our feasibility study was completed with a very positive response from the folk of New Galloway. The next stage was to discuss the possibility of an asset transfer from D&G Council. Here is where we came up against our first problem; we were told that the building was an 'inalienable common good' property, which means it cannot be sold unless it goes through the courts after full consultation. Also it appears it cannot be used for activities other than for the burgh council without the permission of Kenmure Estate, so there was lots of legal work to do. Then along came COVID...

With D&G Council understandably currently involved in more pressing matters, this has gone into limbo. Towards the end of the year we thought we might have been able to move on but, with the new lockdown, we have been told that no more work is taking place for the time being.

One bright star has been that we got a grant from the Stewarty Area Committee which will enable us to go ahead with revamping the kitchen and downstairs toilet. At the moment we are only allowed to reheat food in the kitchen, but a revamp would provide facilities to enable

us to actually cook. An update to the men's toilet would give us an accessible toilet and a separate unisex toilet. These improvements will necessitate liaising with D&G Council.

We are able to hold on to the grants we received for the lift installation, but we cannot actually claim them while until we own the building.

More activities are planned for when the hall can open. With some new babies in New Galloway we had just started up a new childrens group with D&G Lifelong Learning, and hopefully this will continue. Martial Arts Self Defence Group have requested to move to New Galloway. Under the auspices of several people who have moved here, it is planned to start up a craft group for various types of activities. We are also aware that there is interest from young people to have access to a space. Another idea which has been suggested is a community library/book group.

Remember, we still hope to have our LING Lunches, carpet bowls and table

tennis, as well as circuit training, IT sessions & internet cafe and Art Group.

Zoom Activities

When it became obvious that the town hall wouldn't be accessible in the near future we decided we needed to move into modern times and held a Zoom cheese and wine evening for our members as well as a general BINGO. Both went well so keep an eye open for other activities.

Exploring New Galloway

Gardening in the Garroch walled garden has continued under the COVID-19 guidelines and new gardeners have joined in and are looking forward to planting their plots in the spring. If you would like an individual plot, or to join in generally, please contact us.

With so many of us confined to local exercise we have appreciated the footpath work done throughout the year by our volunteers both in the golf course woods and the Garroch paths. Again, anyone who would like to join just let us know.

In order to enable the long distance Galloway Glens footpath to continue past New Galloway, LING contributed to the bridge across the Knocknairling Burn. This will enable off road walking to continue from the golf course woods through to Mossdale and beyond (see p12).

The New Galloway Story

Although a bit delayed due to cancellation of the planned meeting at the beginning of lockdown, this is now getting underway. If you missed this, the idea is to create information boards within the town and also on the LING website, which has been much expanded over the last months.

LING Christmas Lunch

Thank you to Sam Rushton and her volunteers who stepped into the breach and organised this with local company Love to Eat when I was incapacitated.

Annual General Meeting

The LING AGM will be on Thursday 25 February at 7pm. This will be held as a virtual meeting by Zoom.

Ros Hill



A view of Loch Ken taken near the walks in New Galloway Golf Club woodlands.

PROTECTING OUR SPECIAL PLACES

Curtilage and Courtesy

We live in such a peaceful part of the world that we rarely consider the many threats which undermine our health and wellbeing.

Looking to history, it is interesting to see how people protected their special places without resorting to war.

Civil society was built around the concept of curtilage derived from the word 'cohors' which is Latin for an enclosed yard. The words courtesy, curtsy, courtesan, court and cohort all have the same root. Curtilage is a way of legally defining a boundary wherein a homeowner or resident can expect reasonable levels of privacy. In essence, our curtilage is expected to deliver wellbeing and civility.

In Britain our fenced garden space developed as a means to keep animals out of the vegetable plot, whereas in America the primary line of defence for curtilage was not a fence but the gun.

I believe that the whole concept of curtilage needs to be rediscussed thoroughly so that our modern planning system may operate efficiently. The current Scottish Planning Framework is tremendous for encouraging developers to be courteous but there is no means by which that courtesy can be reflected in the mitigation of curtilage damage. Negatively affected neighbours simply have to accept a reduction in wellbeing or move. The main reason is that very few of us have any idea of what curtilage is really about and how it protects what is most precious to our sustainability.

You would expect a courteous developer to ask the whereabouts of a neighbour's water source. Likewise, you would expect a courteous resident to tell a developer about the location of a septic tank soakaway. With most large historical estates being carved up over the last few centuries, it is very common for our services of basic need to be spread through, under and over multiple ownership titles. Those who live in villages have a certain amount of protection from unscrupulous development, but the rest of us in rural settings are sitting ducks for

the modern corporate developer to clear us from the land. It is a well known fact that in past times forestry plantation damaged countless residential water supplies through unregulated power and ignorance. As a society we must learn not to repeat the same mistakes over and over again if our special places are to survive.

In 2019 the SNP and the Conservatives joined forces to ensure that the public could not appeal planning determinations. The necessary civility must occur in the planning stage. For this reason it is imperative that we are all courteous when it comes to threatening the curtilage of others. We need to understand the collective world of basic need, and how it all fits together.

How many of us possess a really sound understanding of where our basic services come from, or go to?

If we are to protect our special places we need to adopt an attitude of courtesy and build a more joined up concept of curtilage through which we can negotiate 'win-all' development. Not everyone has a nice garden enclosed by a fence. As a society we need to understand that citizens without traditional curtilage still have basic needs, and that their curtilage will take form, not in ownership, but in a community garden or the summit of a wild Scottish mountain. In essence our community space is



Troson Loch

our communal joint curtilage and without protection, our priceless sense of Home, The Glenkens, Galloway and Scotland will be lost.

Fiona Clubb

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** NICE draft clinical guideline published 3rd August 2020*

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

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NEW GALLOWAY LINK PATH

A new path is being planned to provide an off-road link between New Galloway and the Galloway Forest Park.

The new route, referred to as the 'New Galloway Link Path', means pedestrians will have off-road access from New Galloway Golf Club woods to the Forest Park's network of paths.

Walkers currently have to negotiate the A762, with limited visibility and fast traffic. The new section of path, running from the Cairn Edward forest road at Strachan to the existing network of paths in the New Galloway Golf Club woods, allows users to avoid the road. The route boasts marvellous views over Loch Ken and into Galloway Forest Park.

The need for the project was identified by the local community, particularly Gerry Cinderby and the Local Initiative in New Galloway (LING) volunteers. Over recent years, the idea has been worked up into a detailed proposal by the Galloway Glens Scheme, with the backing of the Council's Environment Team. Now, with the generous support of the Kenmure Estate landowner and the assistance of the Dumfries & Galloway Outdoor Access Trust, plans are afoot to establish the new route in Spring 2021.

The project will cost more than £30,000

in total. This is being funded by the Galloway Glens Scheme's National Lottery Heritage Funding, matched to contributions from the Council's Environment Team, the Dumfries & Galloway Region Wide Community Fund and a contribution from LING.

Final fundraising for the route is now underway.

The path route will complete a missing path link between New Galloway and the path network in the Forest Park to the south. The work undertaken will include creation of new lengths of path, upgrade of existing paths, and a new footbridge over Knocknairling Burn.

Gerry Cinderby, New Galloway resident and Local Initiatives in New Galloway volunteer, who identified the opportunity for the project initially, said: "This path will be of great benefit to local walkers and to



visitors. It will give safe access to areas of old woodland as well the network of paths in the Forest Park and could form part of an ambition to develop a long-distance path from Carsphairn to Kirkcudbright. Our grateful thanks to all the funders of this project and to the landowner who generously supported this idea".

Further applications for match funding are currently underway, but it is planned that the improvements will be delivered in March 2021.

Any queries or comments on the project are welcomed to jonathan.barrett@dumgal.gov.uk

Balmaclellan Community Garden

Plans are underway to create a space for the local community to use, at the Balmaclellan Village Hall.

Locals will know that there is a substantial area of land around the hall that will benefit from a spruce up, and local people will have opportunities to be involved in the planning, design and creation.

A survey has been launched to find out what local people want to see in the

space. You can have your say by using the URL at the end of this article – or look out for hard copies available in your favourite usual local outlets.

Community gardens are about more than gardening. They are social spaces, places for people to meet and mingle, for events, barbecues and picnics. They can also be educational – a space for local gardening enthusiasts to swap tips and knowledge, or swap seeds and cuttings. Children and young people can learn how to grow, and learn about biodiversity, or just have space to play and picnic.

The garden at Balmaclellan will incorporate a heritage display in the

village hall to showcase the rich history of Balmaclellan and its people. This will be a social and educational resource for residents and visitors to the village. The Balmaclellan Community Trust received funding for the heritage project from Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership small grants scheme.

The Trust are working with local food enterprise Propagate, who will help design and create the space. Abi from Propagate has over 20 years experience working with communities on local food projects, including developing community growing projects.

Propagate are also the lucky recipients of a Galloway Glens grant. A series of outdoor skillshare workshops will be happening during 2021 at The Hidden Mill. The first of these is 'Soil and Soul', a mulchy journey into soil health and soil building. This will take place on Saturday 17 April, with the others taking place later in the year.

The link to the survey for having your say in how the community garden should develop can be found at <https://forms.gle/YMPqSozhvrx27W7E7>

Find out more about the workshop by searching for Soil and Soul on www.eventbrite.co.uk and more about Propagate can be found at www.propagate.org.uk or by searching Propagate Scotland on Facebook.



The Optimistic Environmentalist

It is estimated around 1 billion (yes, billion) Christmas cards are sent each year, 25 million at Valentine's day, and a further 16 million at Easter – and these figures are just in the UK.

Why not use these to create gift tags for next year or, if that's not for you, try to recycle them. If you've received parcels in cardboard boxes, why not use the flattened boxes as mulch under your plants which will help retain moisture in the ground and keep down some of the weeds. If you don't need it, give it to someone that could use it. As a Braille reader, I supply my husband with Braille paper; it is much thicker than paper for print so that the Braille dots do not get squashed too easily. It has a strange property - ordinary paper gets wet and breaks up; for some reason Braille paper does not so stays on the ground for a long time, wet but intact. If you are not lucky enough to have access to this, make sure you buy Valentine's chocolates or Easter eggs in cardboard or foil, and with as little packaging as possible.

The other month I bought six bars of

Lindor chocolate over the internet. I was shocked that each bar was wrapped in bubble wrap - whilst chocolate is precious to me, I fail to see why it needed so much packaging when it was all sent in a box! Some companies are now changing to plastic-free or plastic reduced packaging. Next time you order something, why not ask the supplier to leave out the plastic?

I love Ferrero Roche but had stopped buying them because they come in that very thick plastic container that you can't do anything with and which is not recyclable. However, I was given some in a Christmas tree shaped box made of card - I hope this is a good sign, it certainly was for my taste buds! Remember to recycle the aluminium foil around the chocolates too, at the council household waste sites.

Finally, I'd like to harp on about toilet paper. Before Christmas, I found a company who were selling recycled paper rolls in brightly decorated paper. According to an article published by National Geographic an astounding 40% of the plastic produced is packaging – used just once and then thrown away. Unfortunately, these toilet rolls are a little more expensive than some other brands, but the cost does include a donation to a charity to improve hygiene and sanitation throughout the world. It made me think though - why do we need to see our toilet rolls through plastic, anyway?

I searched the internet. The next best



product I could find was from Suma - recycled toilet rolls with no chlorine-based processing in potato starch industrially compostable 'Bioplast' on certain packs. You cannot put this in your own compost bin as it does not get hot enough. Some councils do take it in their garden waste. The good news is that Suma Ecoleaf loo rolls, which are available in supermarkets, have emailed me back and are in the process of changing to fully recycled paper wrap. The current rolls are competitively priced so I hope the changes will still keep them like that.

I have written to the supermarkets I use regularly to ask them to encourage other producers to change too.

It's amazing how such basic changes will help with lowering our carbon footprint and reducing landfill.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

THE GARDEN SPOT

This is the season when I think of the three Ps: Planning, Pruning & Planting.

In these uncertain times, we don't know if we will be able to get into garden centres but the restricted range in supermarkets of seeds and plants is not our only choice. There is much more available on the internet than you might at first think and you are not restricted to Amazon and eBay. You can buy many items online from Dobbies garden centre (and others), seeds from Suttons, etc, and dahlias and chrysanthus from Halls – I am sure that you will all have your own favourite suppliers.

The internet is also useful for advice and ideas. Some sites I use are Gardeners World, Beechgrove Garden and Gardeners Question Time, but a word of advice – don't try and follow advice given on websites that are not UK-based. Growing conditions in other countries vary significantly and, if you are looking at GQT or Gardeners World sites, their advice is often focused on England so add a week or two to the advised planting times. There are some

good videos on YouTube as well, but do double-check any advice from videos. The time is approaching the last chance to order and plant bare-rooted trees and shrubs (including fruit trees), so don't hang about.

Now is the time for winter pruning. Much is specific to individual plants but wisteria is one that people often get wrong – each of last year's new growths should now be cut back to two or three buds; don't cut it right back as those buds are where the flowers come from. For roses, cut out dead/dying wood, remove crossing branches and cut back the rest to an outward-facing bud, I usually cut back to about half the height that it reached last year. Keep your tools clean and sharp to avoid spreading diseases and, if you are using a ladder, move it frequently and don't overstretch. Clear away dead leaves, etc, from the ground as this is where pests and diseases over-winter.

Get slow-growing plants such as chilli started by sowing seeds in a propagator or indoor on a windowsill, and don't be too keen to plant seeds outdoors if the soil is still cold. If the weeds haven't started to germinate then there is no



Azalea flowering in February snow.

point in planting your annual flowers or veg out yet either – better to be a little late, they will soon catch up. Remember to check over any plants that are overwintering in the greenhouse or shed and pick off dead leaves before they attract mould. Make sure they don't dry out and, if they look dead, don't give up too soon – I have known apparently-dead plants come back to life as late as mid-June.

Finally, a plea for hedgehogs. They are the gardener's friend, eating slugs and other nasties, so avoid slug pellets and make sure that hedgehogs have a way to get into and out of your garden as they need to roam far and wide. And to brighten the day, a photo from a previous season.

The Intrepid Gardener



cars like ants / in the valley below— / the sil

jackdaws squawk contrapuntally /

The curve of river and road / swinging into proximity, / then turning away, ever fluid

the calm of th

Hawthorn:

seann sgitheach a' shea

old hawthorn standing

*The coming of snow is often from a sky of glittering blue, with serried battalions of solid white cumuli lo
so fine one is hardly aware of their presence, eddy lightly in the blue sky. And in a few minutes the air is
green is the most characteristic colour in sky and water... A snowy sky is often pure green, not only at s
washed in blaeberry.*

*I think the plateau is never quite so desolate as in some days of early spring, when the snow is rather di
and rotted berries and grey fringe-moss and lichen appear, the moss lifeless, as though its elasticity has
passed earlier. This seems to me chiller than unbroken snow.*

*But even in this scene of grey desolation, if the sun comes out and the wind rises, the eye may suddenl
Light blows through it, so transparent the fugitive spindrift feather has become. And suddenly the world*

The poetic lines displayed here have been written following the **Ken Words Poetry Walk on Waterside Hill, 20th S**
Contributors, in alphabetical order: Michael Ansell, Angus Macmillan, Andrew Mellor, John Priestley, and John Smith.
With thanks to Laura Rimmer for digital presentation, and Dalry Community Council for the Micro Grant (awarded on beha
Details of Ken Words activities can be found in CatStrand's current programme, www.catstrand.com, or please feel welcome



Two chimes from the Town Hall clock /
 time my steps by the fish-rippled river
 above the hum of traffic
 sheep graze in the fields / while over the Rhinns /
 the wind herds the clouds
 the river, reflecting
 in the shape of the hawthorn / the warp and weft of the winds
 the grain of the hawthorn's trunk / the memory-map of the weather
 scales of white lichen on the bark; blood of broken berries
 samh gu siochad / am meadhan na deanntagan / an aghaidh na craobhan chònach / eilthreach
 alone in the midst of the nettles in defiance of the foreign conifers

w on the horizon. One of them bellies out from the ranks, and from its edge thin shreds of snow,
 thick with flakes. Once the snow has fallen, and the gullies are choked and ice is in the burns,
 sunrise or sunset, but all day... Against such a sky, a snow-covered hill may look purplish, as though
 rty, perished in places like a worn dress; and where it has disappeared, bleached grass, bleached
 gone. The foot sinks in and the impression remains. One can see in it the slot of deer that have
 y perceive beauty. For on the ground the down of a ptarmigan's breast feather has caught the sun.
 is made new.

Nan Shepherd, from *The Living Mountain*, pp. 37-45 (Canongate, 2014)

September 2020.

lf of Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund) which made the Poetry Walk possible.
 to contact Jane McBeth (Project Co-Ordinator) on jane.kenwords@gmail.com.



Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust



Building a fossil free future

Ray Wind Farm, Northumberland

Vattenfall is exploring the potential of developing wind farms at Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk in Dumfries and Galloway.

Both proposals are at an early stage, with opportunities for local people to influence the scheme designs before they are submitted to planning.

We are keen to hear the views of local people on the size, scale and location of the wind farms, and also on how they could be catalysts for jobs, business and education; how they can protect and enhance natural habitats, and how harnessing the natural wind resource of these areas could unlock socio-economic opportunities through millions of pounds of community investment.

Find out more

For everyone's health and wellbeing, we have postponed hosting local events until it is safe to meet. In the meantime, to help you find out more about the proposals we have created online exhibitions, visualisations, FAQs and a community update.

These can be found at
www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm
www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm

Online discussions

In February, we will be hosting live online Q&A sessions for each project. Please visit the webpages for dates and details of how to join.

Not online?

If you are not able to view the information online, please get in touch either by post or phone and we will discuss the best way forward to engage with you.

Provide Feedback

Feedback from local people will help us design the best wind farms we can. You can email the project teams at:

→ quantanshillwindfarm@vattenfall.com

→ whiteneuk.windfarm@vattenfall.com

Or write to us at:
 Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill Wind Farm Team
 Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd.
 St Andrew's House, Haugh Lane,
 Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3QQ
 Tel: 01563 595044



Proposed location of Quantans Hill Wind Farm



Proposed location of Whiteneuk Wind Farm

Looking Forward to Seeing You

From our perspective at Balmaclellan Village Hall, 2020 was a very frustrating year.

With the COVID-19 lockdown closing the hall in late March, all the events which we had planned were postponed and indeed at the time of writing, the Hall remains closed. However, this does not mean that things have not been happening.

Work on refurbishing the building has continued and new facilities are ready to be used when lockdown is lifted. Plans are in hand to restart activities in the Hall when community groups are allowed to again use the venue. The Books in Balmaclellan project has successfully rekindled people's interest in books and a substantial collection of books on a wide range of topics are now available.

The events programme for 2021 has now been published (see Balmaclellan Facebook page and posters) and includes a range of activities from quiz nights to plant shows, barbecues to talks, a ceilidh or two and not forgetting the pre-Christmas community gathering and Hogmanay



"We will do this again!"

party. It will feel great to get these events started again.

All of this is of course subject to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, but we believe it is important to think positively and be ready to launch our events when the time comes.

Balmaclellan Village Hall has been

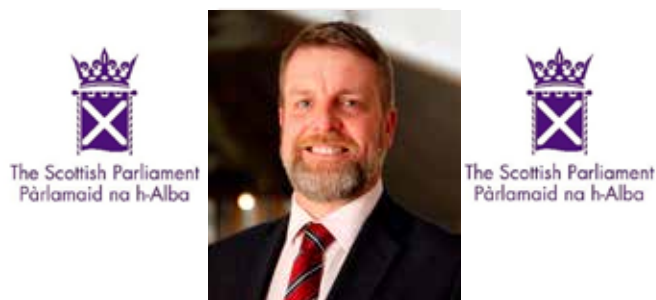
serving the community since 1924 and we plan to do so in 2021.

If anyone would like to help with any of these activities please contact Ailsa Malone at ailsamalone@aol.com

*Stephen Bullock, Chairman,
Balmaclellan Village Hall Trust*

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Primary Schools Update

Just after the schools broke up we received the news that we would be returning to remote learning after Christmas.

This was then extended on 4 January. It didn't feel like the new start/new year we were all hoping for. However, Dalry and Kells Primary staff, children, parents and the local community appear to be coming together again to face the challenge.

Although we are only a week into the new remote learning term, we have managed to improve on some of the challenges we faced last time. We have held some successful class 'Teams' meetings online, have a new closed Facebook group to share learning and buckets-full of hope, enthusiasm and community spirit.

One of the other exciting projects we are planning is a magazine created by the Glenkens Primary Schools. It appears to be quickly evolving into a community effort. Not only have we many children on board, we have contributors to the *Glenkens Gazette* and other local groups wanting to

support us. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time and effort. We look forward to being able to share this with you.

Although the data for Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland and UK-wide is worrying at present, we do have the rollout of vaccines and a better understanding of the virus to support us this time.

If you have any thoughts or ideas on how the schools could help or interact with the community, especially those who are feeling isolated at this time, please get in touch with us. In the meantime, stay safe and continue to follow the rules.

*Paul Scrimshaw, Head Teacher,
Glenkens Primary Cluster*

Glenkens WW2 Deaths: Part II

This is the second article covering Glenkens deaths in WW2.

After the article in the last edition I was sent a photograph of Robert (Bobby) Little who was killed on 14 March 1941 and is buried in Dalry churchyard. If you have any photographs please send copies (not originals) to the Gazette so that I can include them with future articles.

Corporal George Verdun Bell Penman served with the RAF Volunteer Reserve and was taken prisoner by the Japanese on Java. He was one of many prisoners taken to the island of Haruku. He died there on 17 May 1943 and was buried at Cape Marakee but was re-interred at Ambon in February 1947. George was born 1917 in Kells Parish, the son of George and Margaret (Bell) Penman of Dalmae, Dalry. He is named on the Kircudbright Academy War Memorial as well as the memorial in Dalry.

It was a grim day in New Galloway on 19 June 1943 with two deaths reported - gunner George Maclure and conductor John Robb. George Richard Maclure, served with 148 (Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. George was born in 1912 in Ceylon, the son of Richard and Mary Margaret Maclure of New Galloway. He was taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore in 1942 and died at the age of 31 at the Kinsayok Prisoner

of War camp. He is buried in the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand.

John Robb was a warrant officer class 1 in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and was appointed to the position of conductor. Born 1914 in New Galloway, John was the son of John and Agnes (Milligan) Robb. He served in the 51st Highland Division and was captured at the surrender at St Valery-en-Caux in June 1940.

John died suddenly in the prisoner of war camp hospital at Hildburghausen in central Germany at the age of 29 and was buried there. His body was re-interred in Berlin in August 1950.

James Howatson was born in 1920 in Carsphairn, the son of Francis and Elizabeth Howatson of Lowe Cleugh Farm, Dalry. He enlisted into the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in March 1940 and served with 40 Squadron as a Sergeant wireless operator/air gunner.

The squadron's Wellington bombers had been operating from Malta since October 1941 against targets in Italy and North Africa. In May 1942 the surviving aircraft were flown to Egypt, eventually moving West to the airfield at Hani West, Tunisia, flying against targets in Sicily and Italy. James was reported Missing in Action on 8 July 1943 at the age of 23 and is named on the Malta memorial to the missing. It is not clear why James is listed on the Dalry war memorial and not on the one in Carsphairn.



Bobby Little.

Christopher Martin Bell (known as Martin) was born in 1920 in Kells, the son of Robert and Letitia (Morgan) Bell of Dalry. He served in the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards as a Sergeant and was killed in action on 11 September 1943, being buried in Salerno War Cemetery, Italy. Martin is commemorated on the Kells parish War Memorial in New Galloway.

Alan Richard MacDonald was born in 1921 at Eton, Buckinghamshire, the son of William Elder and Grace Eileen (Young) MacDonald of the Schoolhouse, Balmaclellan. He served as a flying officer in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He was declared missing in action on 29/30 October 1943 at the age of 21 when his aircraft disappeared on a training flight from RAF Long Kesh in Northern Ireland. Alan is listed on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey and on the Balmaclellan War Memorial.

...to be continued... Paul Goodwin

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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The River Crossing at Dalry

The witness statements in the court case brought by John Newall against the Earl of Galloway in 1781 over the building of an embankment to protect the Holm of Dalry from flooding provide interesting details on how the river was crossed here in those days.

The ferryman lived at Boatgreen on the west side of the river crossing and, prior to the building of Allangibbon Bridge, this crossing was the main local route to the western side of the Ken valley. I have found with my metal detector coins going back to the reign of Elizabeth I and many Georgian halfpennies around the site of Boatgreen – but notably no Victorian coins, tying in well with the building of Allangibbon Bridge in 1816.

The boatman in 1781 was William Smith, aged 63, who had operated the ferry for 18 years. He had the ferry in a sublet from William Newall, the brother of the principal tenant John Newall. There was no machinery on either side to assist the loading and offloading of carts and 'trail carrs'. This had to be done by men.

Various places were used for embarking and disembarking. When the water was low the ferry generally took foot passengers between **m** and rock **d** (see plan), along the line which the suspension bridge now follows. Those on horses would cross a little downstream at the ford, which is often called the 'horse ford' in the witness statements. When the river was higher horses were transported across on the

ferry and landed at **e**, about 30 metres downstream from **d**. Most traffic from the ferry used to follow the path skirting round the south side of the churchyard and then heading up into the village of Dalry. The remains of the earlier embankment gradually got worn down close to the churchyard wall by those on foot and by cattle, allowing continued access to haven **e** along the traditional path. However, carriages and carts had to skirt around the south end of the old embankment and approach haven **e** along its inner side until a wider path was made when the churchyard dyke was repaired eight years previously. The new embankment interfered with all such traffic that had followed that wider path.



1781 plan of the River Ken and crossing points at Dalry.

Haven **e** was the only point where carriages and carts were loaded onto the ferry or offloaded from it. When the water was very high horses, and sometimes cattle, were landed at Clauchanmark burnfoot (**b**) or at Red Scar (**c**). Two witnesses also commented that coffins carried on handspikes were landed at **b** and **c** when the water was too high at haven **e**. To access these higher landing points the ferry would creep up the western bank before launching across the stream.

When the ford was impassable black cattle and sheep were sometimes swum across from **m** to **e**. One witness, James Douglas of Kirkstyle, commented that

when the river was high it was usual to put cattle in the river a little upstream of the usual ferry point on Mr Newall's side of the river so that they might land at either Red Scar or **d**, as it was dangerous for them to land any lower on account of the strong current. He had from time to time seen beasts carried further downstream by the current.

The other route into Dalry was the steep one up from rock **d** by the north corner of the churchyard, which the present-day path follows. Foot passengers sometimes used this and riders would lead their horses up this way, but it was really too steep for carts. Some years previously, Alex McMillan had put a ditch and a stake and ryce hedge (small horizontal branches woven

between stakes) across this path to stop cattle getting up to the crops he had higher up above the motte, but this had been broken down by travellers.

More recently, with the building of the new embankment, the path from **e** leading round to the north corner of the churchyard had been widened and strengthened by wood, to allow travellers more easily to use this route.

It was also revealed that John Newall himself had built an embankment some twenty years earlier on his side of the river roughly opposite the new embankment, and also one below the Cat Craig. These embankments consisted of woodwork filled up with sand and stone. But the witness who mentioned this, John Barber of Clauchanmark (where Kenbank House now stands) said that he didn't think they stood beyond a year.

The boatman William Smith spoke of how in the very high flood of harvest 1778 the water stood three feet deep in the Boatgreen houses. This flood also threw up the sand bank at the ford and deepened the water there, making fording there more difficult.

David Bartholomew

Glenkens Placenames Interest

I have been following with interest your instalments on Glenkens Placenames, in particular Part VI which dealt with Tydeaverries.

My grandfather Walter Maxwell was born at Lagan near Loch Howie on the Corriedoo side of Blackcraig hill. His father, Alexander, was gamekeeper and died there in 1896 of diphtheria. Although Tydeaverries was recorded as a ruin in the 1860s it was occupied in 1901 by my grandfather, his mother Margaret, and four of his nine siblings, following Alexander's

death. They probably 'flitted' using the footpath that ran from Loch Howie to Halfmark. This would suggest that either the original Tydeaverries was uninhabited or there was another residence in the vicinity that used the name. Margaret's aunt was Anne Hannah who was murdered by Mary Timney at Carsphad in 1861.

Barbara Barker

GLENKENS PLACE NAMES: PART VIII

Let's continue our look at the meanings of now deserted former Glenkens farms.

Continuing up the Ken on the west bank and exploring up the tributary glens like Glenlee, *An Gleann Liath* or *Gleann Laoigh* 'the grey valley or calf valley' and the Garroch Glen, *Gleann Gadharach*, possibly 'hunting hound valley' or as suggested on the 'Place-Names of the Galloway Glens' website, *Gleann Garbhach*, 'rough glen'.

Starting up Glenlee then, we pass a significant Glenkens landmark, the somewhat conical shaped hill called Dunveoch. This is most likely derived from *Dùn na(m) bhFitheach*, fort or hill of the raven(s). This is an interesting hill name as it shows that the Gaelic spoken by Glenkens folk shared some affinities with Irish and Manx Gaelic. The altering of the /f/ to /v/ sound in the genitive (called eclipsis) is characteristic of Irish. Compare the Scottish Gaelic place-name form *Creag nam Fitheach*, 'rock of the ravens' in Knapdale to see the difference.

Upstream from Dunveoch and past the recently built hydro scheme on the Glenlee Burn are two abandoned farmsteads towards the upper reaches of the glen, before the hills called Benbrack, *A' Bheinn Bhreac*, 'speckled peak' and Craigrine, *Creag Rinne*, 'pointed rock or cliff' block progress westwards. These are Drumbuie and Lochsraig. The former was in ruins by the time of the first OS survey around 1850 and no doubt derives from *An Druim Buidhe*, the yellow back or ridge, referring originally to what is now called the Rig of Drumbuie. Lochsraig is quite a puzzling place-name, there is another Lochsraig near Bargrennan in the Cree Valley. Given that there is no loch in the vicinity and looks like there never has been one there, I think the generic element might be *log*, a variant of the more familiar *lag/lagan*, 'a hollow or declivity'. The specific element may well be *sprèidh*, cattle, livestock, ie *Log Sprèidhe*. The Place-Names of the Galloway Glens website (op cit) would dispute this but I have heard *sprèidh* being pronounced by native speakers in a way that would give rise to the hard terminal 'g' sound in Scots. Incidentally there is another potential example of the generic term discussed here in the former farm of Lochmeharb, now engulfed in commercial Sitka just over the Carsphairn parish boundary into East Ayrshire. This is probably *Log na h-Earba*, 'hollow of the hind', compare Craigmaharb for *Creag na h-Earba*, 'rock of the hind' in the Forrest Glen.

Proceeding now up the Garroch Glen we come to an abandoned farm on the edge of the wonderful Hannaston

Oakwoods called on the OS 1st Edition 6" map Greenloop. This may refer to a green loop in the Garroch Burn. It is approximately in the same location as the settlement named Kaen on the Blaeu atlas, surveyed around 1590. Kaen then may have been an earlier name for Greenloop and could be derived from *ceann*, 'head, point, top, promontory, etc', probably the same element as occurs in Kenmure Castle, earlier forms of which include Canmoor 1456, Kennemor, 1471 for *An Ceann Mòr*, the big head. This probably referring to the prominent natural mound on which the castle was constructed.

Loan Fell is a Scots place-name meaning 'hill beside a path or track' and this ruin is situated on the opposite bank of the Garroch Burn on the edge of Garroch Wood. Not far away, beside the surviving farm house of Hannaston is the abandoned settlement called Cavan, *An Cabhan*, 'the hollow' the same term as found in the Irish County Cavan.

Further up the Garroch Glen we pass the continuing farms of Knocksheen, *Cnoc Sithéan*, 'fairy hill', the former farmhouse of Largmore, *An Learg Mòr*, 'the big hill slope' and another Drumbuie, see above. On the hill north of Largmore, at the side of the upper reaches of the Crummy Burn is the abandoned settlement called Broadpark on the OS 1st Edition, 1853. This seems straightforward 'broad enclosure' but it was Bred House with Upper and Nether Bred on an estate plan of 1768 by James Gregg. This suggests *Am Bràghad*, 'the slope' possibly lies behind the anglicised Broadpark.

Leaving the public road we then climb up the unmetalled road towards the remote shieling of Clenrie, *An Clao Airigh*, 'the sloping shieling', but before reaching there on the left, surrounded by broken down dykes is the abandoned settlement of Allwhillam. This had been abandoned by 1853 and the derivation given in the Place-Names of the Galloway Glens website, *Aill Choluim*, 'Calum or Colum's rugged bank, rough steep, steep river-bank, place or stead' is appropriate. I think the most likely meaning is steep river bank here as the farmstead is built on a little plateau of better drained ground which slopes steeply down to the Garroch Burn.

It might be interesting to hill walkers who ascend Millyea, *Am Meall Liath*, 'the grey lump' from Clenrie that there



The site of Allwhillam, Aill Choluim on the Garroch Burn looking southwest towards A' Bheinn Bhreac.

are remains of a summer shieling much higher up the hill than Clenrie (on Meikle Lump, Scots 'big lump'). The foundations can still be seen.

It is evident from the OS 1st edition 6" map of 1853 and earlier maps that most of the upper Glenkens tributary glens were once much more densely populated than is the situation today. Many of the former farms and shepherd's cottages have been engulfed in a monoculture of Sitka spruce, especially so in the Forrest Glen. This valley seems to have been particularly heavily settled in the past.

The Crummy Burn is a significant tributary stream of the Polharrow, *Pol na h-airbhe*, 'burn of the boundary', probably referring to the so called Deil's Dyke which most likely was a boundary marker for the eastern perimeter of the hunting Forest of Buchan. The Crummy Burn has generated the nearby settlement names of Crummypark and Crummyfoot, the latter being long abandoned. The burn name probably comes from *Cromadh*, 'the bending, twisting one'. Near Crummyfoot 'foot of the Crummy Burn' is the ruin of Burnclose which according to the OS was a former smithy. This will be Scots 'enclosure by the burn'.

Just above Knocknalling, probably *An Cnocan Àlainn*, 'the beautiful hillock' is the former stead called, on the OS 1st edition map of 1853, Kingston. The Place-Names of the Galloway Glens website suggests that 'the name probably reflects royal rights over the land in this part of the parish, being part of the hunting forest.'

A striking landmark on the way up the Forrest Glen is the line of cliffs on the north bank of the Polharrow called Craig Michael, *Creag Mhicheil*, 'Michael's Cliff'. This feature has given its name to an abandoned farm at its north-east end, not far from the Kingston mentioned above.

We will continue the journey up the Forrest Glen in the next edition.

Michael Ansell,
Cars Fèarna

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

The Gaddgedlar Hoard



A medieval Icelandic saga conveys the information that Gaddgedlar is the place where Scotland and England meet.

In a previous brief discussion of the Vikings in Galloway, based on an article I published in 1991, I pointed out the very slight remains of Viking activity here in the Southwest. This has always seemed something of a puzzle because the Vikings were fairly numerous on the south side of the Solway, as they were in the Isle of Man and of course Ireland. They colonised Shetland and Orkney, Caithness and Sutherland while replacing many Gaelic place-names in the Outer Hebrides with Viking ones. These warriors also moved into the

Clyde and on one occasion achieved the remarkable feat of capturing Dumbarton Castle. We are still not sure why their presence in Galloway is so scanty. However, many of you will have seen in the Press that the Vikings, or at least traces of their presence, are set to return to Kirkcudbright this

summer. Items from possibly the most important hoard ever discovered in the UK are to be exhibited in Edinburgh in February this year, before moving to Kirkcudbright Galleries. The launch celebrates a three-year project for which £1 million has been awarded to thoroughly investigate the hoard's contents. Although the site of the find has been an open secret locally, until now it has been vaguely described as having been discovered in Dumfries and Galloway to deter future would-be Hoard Raiders. Now the Scottish Daily Record has revealed that the collection was "found on church land near Balmaghie in 2014 by Derek McLennan". We in the Glenkens have been fortunate to have heard excellent talks by Revd David Bartholomew and

Dumfries and Galloway archaeologist Andrew Nicholson, both of whom were involved in the finding of the treasure trove. It is now possible for us to shout about this glorious discovery from the top of Merrick, which incidentally on a good day is an ideal spot from which to enjoy distant views of some parts of Viking Scotland, England, Man and Ireland.

The collection includes gold ingots and artefacts, items in bronze, glass and crystal, and many items made of silver. See the National Museums Scotland website for short films on the find discussed by Dr Martin Goldberg, principal curator. Susanna Harris of Glasgow University, co-investigator, is understandably enthusiastic about some of the organic materials unearthed, such as wood, leather, wool, linen, textiles and silk, some unprecedented in a Scottish context.

It is up to us to talk up the find at every opportunity and to think about what these objects might actually mean, such as the symbols on the artefacts, or to question how Chinese silk arrived on the banks of the Ken.

As more folk view the treasures, new visitors as well as residents will regard their surroundings with fresh eyes. It is up to us to talk up the find at every opportunity and to think about what these objects might actually mean, such as the symbols on the artefacts, or to question how Chinese silk arrived on the banks of the Ken. In time the

study of the treasures will hopefully revolutionise our understanding of our surroundings in the tenth century. Who buried the objects and why? In which direction was the person, or persons, who buried them travelling? Were they even Vikings? Why were some items melted down while others were preserved? Why are the objects in four separate parcels? Why do there not appear to be any weapons so far? What do the remains tell us about the burier's sense of the aesthetic? Why did the buriers not return for their horde?

A new book on the Vikings of 570 pages has very few references to Scotland; Neil Price, *The Children of Ash and Elm: A History of the Vikings*. Although we sometimes may think there are already enough books on the Vikings to sink a thousand ships

this one, like the author's other publications, is excellent. His title is inspired by one of numerous Viking origin legends. It tells of two great lumps of driftwood washed up on the beach which are transformed into the first man and the first woman, Ask, the ash tree and Embla, the elm; 'from this couple are

descended all of humankind, down through the millennia to our own time'. It was to be a close-run matter in the twentieth century when 25 million elms died in the UK alone. It is currently predicted that ash dieback will kill a horrendous 80% of our ash trees. Price just manages to include

a quick reference to the 'spectacular tenth-century hoard of silver, gold and jewellery in Galloway. The ecclesiastical nature of a number of the hoarded items indicates they may well have been plundered from a monastery'. But which one? Inevitably there will continue to be more questions than answers but hopefully some kind of information board will be provided at Balmaghie before too long.



Galloway hoard artefact.

Ted Cowan

A Hebridean Journey

Behind an unassuming cottage in Moniaive lies a treasure trove.

This treasure is not gold nor silver nor jewels but something far more valuable – memories. The Vanishing Scotland archive is a collection of songs, stories, recordings, films and handmade artefacts gathered over 40 years by curator Alyne Jones. Great care is taken to protect this legacy, not just for the collectors but for those who entrusted their memories and work to the archive.

Alyne has collected hundreds of stories, memories and photographs of the people and landscape of Dumfries & Galloway recording ways of life and activities, often now sadly no longer practised.

Many in Glenkens have already been interviewed by her, and will appreciate

the genteel manner in which she gathers these stories. Whether this is whilst making bannocks with a farmer's wife at the top of Galloway glen, talking traditional techniques with a shepherd, or knitting with a fellow home artisan; they are shared moments, in front of the fire or on top of the hill, where knowledge and sentiment are passed on. As a private archive, Vanishing Scotland's contents are available to researchers through collaborative projects and endeavours.

This treasure trove of a collection also includes many gems from further afield – stories and songs that come from across Scotland and across time, that have found their way to Alyne. One such artefact is an extremely rare piece of history that has finally been brought to life after 100 years.

Early in 1990 Alyne interviewed Miss Winifred Shand, the last organiser of the Highland Home Industries, an organisation

set up in 1909 to promote handwork and crafts from the Highlands and Islands. During the course of these interviews Alyne became the book-keeper and Vanishing Scotland the repository for a handwritten journal recounting the birth of the



Highland Home Industries in the travels of the first organiser, Miss Isabell Burton MacKenzie.

A hidden diary, a lost world brought to life, the book reads like a feature film. Travelling from a castle on the Black Isle by steam train Miss MacKenzie, an Edwardian lady, moves from her usual high society social circle to journey (with her travelling bath) around the outer Hebrides by pony and boat.

After over 100 years hidden away, everyone can share in Isabell's adventures. *A Hebridean Journey* is available from Vanishing Yarns, the showcase for the archive website (see details below).

Kara Millen



Sketch and photograph from Miss MacKenzie's diary.

An Interview with Alyne Jones...



1) What inspired you to write *A Hebridean Journey* and what is the book about?

During my time studying ethnology at The School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh University, I was struck time and again by the fact that the lives and the work of remarkable women are rarely recorded.

The book is about a journey made to the Hebrides in 1912 by an extremely accomplished young woman artist and photographer, employed as the first organiser of the Highland Home Industries.

2) Some years ago you did an exhibition at the CatStrand. Do you have much research about the Glenkens, and is it accessible to local people?

The Vanishing Scotland exhibition, part of Homecoming Scotland, gave people the chance to see my portraits of exceptional people who were well known in Galloway as tradition bearers of indigenous knowledge.

I spent many hours and days in the Galloway hills listening to songs, tunes, stories, dances and collecting from the folk memory, recounted as if the events from half a century ago occurred yesterday.

I am planning for further access facilities as in the past few years I have had a number of successful research student placements.

3) Where are you from originally and what sparked your interest in history?

As a child growing up I was engaged in the life of a small market town on a river. I learned to swim in the Nith, rowed the ferry boat across it and played with frogs on its banks.

The countryside was a magical place where my father worked to get extra money for our annual holidays and put me to bed at night with stories from the farms.

It was becoming a part of the folk revival, going to the Dumfries Folksong Club every week as a teenager and learning those songs, that imbued in me a lifelong love of people's history.

4) Do you have another book

planned and, if so, what would you like to write about?

I have plans for three books; to share my collection of traditional knitting patterns, illustrated with pictures of knitters along with the history of the hill shepherding folk and artists; the story of the last organiser of Highland Home Industries, which will be called *Knitting by Bicycle*; and *Mullwharcar Memories - Stories of Galloway Folk*.

The hills and moors of Nithsdale and Galloway are being changed rapidly into an industrial landscape and the people, the land and the wildlife and plants will soon be just a memory. This saddens me more than I can say.

5) I believe you have an archive of Galloway folk music - is this something which focuses much on the Glenkens? And is it something you plan to make available for local people, or perhaps publish in some way?

When this pandemic is over I would love to collaborate with other local projects to produce a piece of legacy work with multimedia that will remind people living now upon whose shoulders they stand.

To find out more about Alyne's work call 01848 200 083, visit www.vanishingyarns.co.uk or contact her by post at Vanishing Scotland, Rosedene, Dunreggan, Moniaive, DG3 4HQ.

GLENKENS MUSINGS

Now as the festive season has wound down and we've all started to try and better ourselves for a new year, sadly the horrible memories and feelings of 2020 are still very heavily engraved upon all of our minds.

The year that triggered so much loss and so much pain will probably remain with us forever. And as I write, still the sinful and malevolent entity that is COVID-19 shows its ugly face and continues to rip apart our world.

However, a lot has happened since last I wrote and promising things have started to occur. The exciting news on the vaccine being rolled out was finally a little glimmer of

hope for everyone and now gives us a fighting chance of defeating the virus. In spite of this, when the Glenkens will receive this jab is a question I don't know the answer to. But then again, because we've come so far and suffered for so long, being patient is a thing we've become quite accustomed to.

Overall, the UK is now in a much better state than it has previously been in. The dark clouds that have hovered over us for the past 12 months are now slowly starting to disperse and we can see light at the end of the tunnel.

I've said it before and I'll say it again but I am still so thankful that the Glenkens community have still stayed strong and helped each other out through these difficult times. We are so nearly out of the woods! Just a little longer to stay strong together; if we all follow the rules and keep up morale, the finishing line is in sight.

So, I hope all that you do in 2021 brings you great joy and success and, if you ever have any doubts



about the year, please remember that surely it's going to be better than last year!

James Wallace

WINDY RIG WIND FARM PROGRESS UPDATE

Work continued to progress well on the Windy Rig development throughout December and January despite the weather and only one day was lost due to the snow in mid-December.

As we move into the next phase of the project - component deliveries - RJ McLeod will step back as the construction phase is nearing completion.

COMPONENT DELIVERIES TO SITE

Moving forward into the component delivery phase we

will be working with Collett who will be transporting the components to site and Vestas as the supplier of the turbine components. Vestas will also be constructing the turbines across the site.

SUCCESSFUL TRIAL RUNS

In December we held two trial runs of components to the site, one run to simulate a blade delivery and one to simulate a tower section. Both runs went very well and gave us vital information on the timings that we will need for the actual deliveries that we expect to start in early February.

LAYDOWN AREA AND LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The laydown area at Carsphairn is ready for the

deliveries of the blades and the road widening along the B729 and C35 is complete. In mid-January we carried out some strengthening work on the C35 to ensure the road surface wouldn't be impacted by the component deliveries. Across the site all the turbine bases were completed before Christmas and the last of the access roads will be completed in early February.

We are currently operating a text message service to alert residents to potential disruption, contact Doug Wilson if you would like to be added, doug.wilson@statkraft.com or call 07542 754642.

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

Support for Local Projects

The Galloway Glens Small Grants Scheme has just made its fourth round of awards, and a number of Glenkens projects were successful in receiving funding.

Some of the Glenkens projects to receive funding are:

Carsphairn Community Woodland Ltd: £4,885 awarded. The applicant is in the process of purchasing 49 hectares of woodland at Muirdrochwood forest, near Carsphairn (www.carsphairn.org/CCWL). This award will support the installation of visitor amenities, including picnic

benches, noticeboard, compost toilet and hide.

Balmaclellan Community Trust: £4,913 awarded. The group are seeking to install a heritage display in the village hall to showcase the rich history of Balmaclellan and its people, acting as a social and educational resource.

Propagate CIC: £5,000 awarded. The group, based at Ironmacannie Mill, outside Balmaclellan, will provide courses and training on topics such as agro-ecological land management, organic food growing and low carbon solutions.

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust: £4,015 awarded. The project will cast a bronze replica of the locally found Balmaclellan Mirror, dated from the first century AD, currently on display at the National Museum of Scotland (www.arthistoryproject.com/timeline/prehistory/iron-age/the-balmaclellan-mirror).

Jude Crooks, Galloway Glens Administrator, said: "The Galloway Glens Scheme has now made 22 Small Grant awards, worth more than £75,000 in total. This was our fourth funding round and I'm looking forward to working with the range of community groups that have received an award. We have a £100,000 budget for the Small Grants Scheme

and so will be advertising the next funding round in the near future."

Ted Leeming, the Chairman of the Galloway Glens Partnership Board, said:

"The Small Grants Scheme is a small but extremely valuable part of the work being done by the wider Galloway Glens Scheme, and has already supported a varied suite of projects that seek to connect people to their heritage in their own way.

"It is great to see such appetite and demand for innovative and forward-thinking projects in these strange times that we live in. My thanks go, as ever, to my fellow partnership board members, the Galloway Glens team, the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the award and all Scheme partners, including the Council's Environment Team and the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere."

Pictured are the representatives from two of the successful projects, Propagate (left) and Balmaclellan Community Trust (above).





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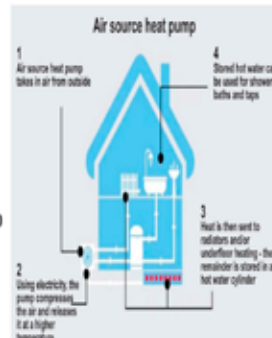
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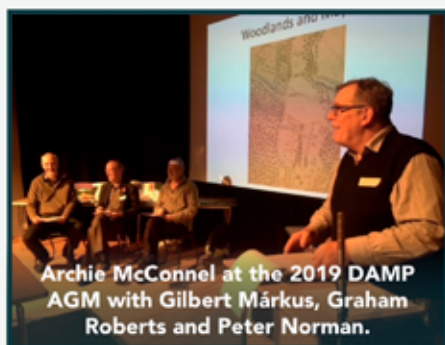


Dumfries Archival Mapping Project (DAMP)

DAMP was set up in 2012 by a small team of enthusiasts determined to preserve the amazing pre-Ordnance Survey (pre-1750) maps and Estate plans that still exist in Dumfries & Galloway. They do this by seeking out maps from all over the region and taking extremely high-resolution scans of them. The digital image files are then stored for perpetuity in the maps section of the National Library for Scotland website. Many of the maps are also geo-referenced so that you can look at the historical maps with modern maps underlaid behind them.



Although DAMP operates region-wide, it has had particular success recently in the Galloway Glens area, thanks to the huge efforts of the volunteer map-finders and to Galloway Glens funding. 60 maps of Dalry and 39 from Kells parish have been digitised already, plus many more from estates all over the Galloway Glens area. All of these are stored on the NLS here: <https://maps.nls.uk/estates/kirkcudbrightshire.html>. The hand-drawn cartography is fascinating to see, and some of the earlier ones in particular offer a totally novel look at our history, geography and society.



DAMP also puts on a very interesting rolling programme of talks about old maps and what they can tell us about our communities, past and present. The best way to keep up to date with upcoming events is to follow their Facebook page **@Dumfries Archival Mapping Project** or to sign up to their email mailing list via dumfriesamp@gmail.com.

They are always interested to hear about new maps that have surfaced from forgotten corners – contact them on dumfriesamp@gmail.com if you have a hand-drawn map or plan they could take a look at.

The Galloway Glens has been delighted by the success of this project, which is due to in no small part to the indefatigable energy and enthusiasm of Archie McConnel. With the ongoing commitment of all their volunteers, plus the Galloway Glens funding that is supporting the digitisation process, we're quite sure that DAMP will continue to go from strength to strength over the coming years.

Anyone Fancy a Game of Pétanque?

French bowles, or pétanque, is an outdoor game in which players roll their boules/balls towards a target ball.

The objective is to score points by having boules closer to the target than the opponent after all boules have been thrown. The game is normally and best played on hard dirt or gravel, and the

beauty of the game is you only need a small space and you don't have to bend down, as with conventional green bowling, which means it's great for those who are less mobile.

John McCulloch of New Galloway wondered if there's anyone in the area who may fancy getting together for a game now and then? Perhaps in time a local pétanque club could be formed if there was enough interest.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, you can get in touch with John on 07753 367 167.

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gct@catstrand.com

January 2021

When I was writing the GCT update for the December-January issue of the Gazette I was hopeful that the new year would bring an improvement in the COVID19 situation and allow our transport services to start up again.

Unfortunately, that hope hasn't been realised and we find ourselves in a new lockdown with restrictions in some cases more stringent than those of last Spring. So, I'm sorry to have to report that many GCT services are unlikely to resume in the period covered by this issue of the Gazette.

Those currently suspended now include the Newton Stewart and Castle Douglas Golden Day Club weekly and the Ayr and Carlisle monthly services, member hires, excursions and MiDAS and D1 training. We are constantly monitoring the situation and will resume these services as soon as COVID restrictions allow.

The Wednesday evening Glenkens to Castle Douglas (Tesco) GK2 service continues to operate as normal (see timetable etc on right) as does our Kirkcudbright-Brighouse-Borgue service and the patient transport support we provide in collaboration with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

The wheelchair accessible electric car that will be operated by GCT in cooperation with the GCAAT Connecting in Communities project will have been delivered by the time this issue of the Gazette appears and we expect that it will already have been used for patient transport and other community services.

Due to a shortage of ebikes in the UK in recent months the development of our ebike scheme based on New Galloway, Dalry and Balmaclellan has been a bit slower than planned but should be operational very soon. The aim is to encourage and support more sustainable, active transport in the area.

Check the GCT website
www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org
for regular updates

GK2 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

Dumfries
& Galloway

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Pauline Drysdale

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

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries
& Galloway

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Jane Maitland

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

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries
& Galloway

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: Graham West - 01644 430 503
- 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 February and March.

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 Gary Blissett on garyblissett51@gmail.com or 01644 430 521

Dalry Town Hall: Contact Jim Reid on 07776 034 260 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:

Church services have had to stop again at the time of preparing this piece. When they are able to resume they will be at 11am, and at the following venues: 1st Sunday each month - Balmaclellan; 2nd Sunday each month - Carsphairn; 3rd Sunday each month - Kells; 4th Sunday each month - Dalry.

The local Church of Scotland congregations are continuing to prepare weekly prayers and reflections that can be accessed on YouTube under 'Balmaclellan, Kells and Dalry linked with Carsphairn'. The services include hymns and songs and the whole service is accompanied by

pictures of the Glenkens. David is also happy to send these directly to people by e-mail if they contact him at DBartholomew@churchofscotland.org.uk. Paper copies can also be provided to those who do not have internet access. Contact him at 01644 430380 if you would like to receive these resources, or simply if you would like to have a chat.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

Services at St Margaret's, New Galloway, are currently suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions but please see website for up-to-date information as well as weekly reflections, <https://stmargaretsnewgalloway.org> or call 01644 420 259.

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

Blackcraig Community Fund Reopens

You may already have heard of the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund which got up and running in 2019.

The fund is provided through community benefit monies paid annually by the owner of Blackcraig wind farm and is run in partnership between Glenkens and District Trust (GDT) and Foundation Scotland. GDT exists to resource and enable community development and makes the decisions on grant awards, guiding the strategic priorities of the fund. GDT are all drawn from the local community and led by an independent chair, Fiona Smith. If you're interested in becoming a trustee, please get in touch.

Foundation Scotland is a national grantmaking charity whose communities team specialise in supporting community benefit arrangements. On Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, Foundation Scotland provides development work, grantmaking support and fund administration. Blackcraig's fund manager is Foundation Scotland's

south of Scotland communities team manager, also a Glenkens resident, Suzy Mercer.

Last year, despite lockdown, more than £104,000 was awarded through the Community Fund during 2020, with just under £10,000 also provided in additional COVID-19 Emergency Fund grants. This year the fund has just over £336,000 available for distribution and **reopens to applications on 1 February**.

Fiona Smith, chair of GDT, says: "We recognise this is still a difficult time for many organisations and groups to plan their activities, but we very much encourage people to get their ideas in for consideration if they can – Foundation Scotland are on hand to help with pre-application advice and support".

Online and telephone-based one-to-one information sessions will be available to book in February and March if you want to talk through your ideas before the **application deadline of 6 April 2021**. For further details on how to book, go to Foundation Scotland's website or email suzy@foundationscotland.org.uk

Applying is straightforward and GDT is keen to see applications that reflect community priorities in the area,



Foundation
Scotland



GLENKENS
& District Trust

particularly those set out in the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan. If you haven't see this plan yet, there should still be some copies in your nearest village shop or you can view it online at the website below.

The Fund is open to constituted groups based in or benefitting the residents of the community council areas of Balmacellan, Balmaghie, Carsphairn, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael, Dunscore, Glencairn, New Galloway & Kells, Parton and St John's Town of Dalry. Groups can apply for **grants between £500 and £25,000** for projects or activities that will help the communities become more connected, asset rich, economically flourishing or carbon neutral.

To find out more visit www.foundationscotland.org.uk/ programmes/blackcraig or email suzy@foundationscotland.org.uk or visit Twitter and Facebook @glenkenstrust

UPCOMING EVENTS

ONLINE PROGRAMME

20 01	GOOSE NEWS! THE GALLOWAY GLENS GREENLAND WHITE FRONTED GOOSE PROJECT	27 01	THE LOST WELLS OF GALLOWAY A CAN YOU DIG IT EVENT WITH DR. PETER HEWITT
03 02	COWS AND CONSERVATION: THE ROLE OF LIVESTOCK IN LANDSCAPE RESTORATION	17 02	RED SQUIRRELS: HELP FROM A PREDATOR. PINE MARTEN NUMBERS ARE ON THE UP - IS THAT GOOD NEWS FOR RED SQUIRRELS, BAD FOR GREYS?
03 03	FISH LOCH KEN: TO MIGRATE OR NOT TO MIGRATE	17 03	WET WOODLAND AND WILLOW TITS. WHY SCRUFFY WOODS ARE BEST.
31 03	HOW CLEAN IS YOUR SCREEN? WHY DO WE DON'T SEE AS MANY INSECTS ON OUR WINDSCREEN	14 04	BIRDS AND OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE: NATURAL HISTORY AND THE ARTISTIC INSPIRATION OF DONALD WATSON

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BOOK, VISIT THE EVENTS PAGE OF THE GALLOWAY GLENS WEBSITE

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www.ballardsbutchers.co.uk

Email: shop@ballardsbutchers.co.uk

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

APR/MAY COPY DEADLINE: 5 MAR



Design & co-ordination:

Sarah Ade
sarah.ade@gmail.com

Printing:

www.instantprint.co.uk