

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

April/May 2021

ISSUE 123

FREE

Councillor Proposes Ward Summit to Discuss Local Road Conditions

The surge in construction activity associated with the Windy Rig and South Kyle windfarms over recent months has exposed the woeful inadequacy of the Glenkens roads network to cope with the sheer volume and weight of the exponential increase in HGV traffic.

Road surfaces are being pummelled into potholed submission as huge vehicles – from wood wagons clearing timber from the South Kyle site and aggregate lorries to cement trucks and low level transporters carrying heavy plant and machinery – thunder along country lanes that are not designed for such treatment.

Council road repair gangs are finding it difficult to keep up with the amount of remedial work needed.

Matters came to a head a few weeks ago when, in separate incidents, two 80-tonne multi-wheeled cranes heading to Windy Rig toppled off the B729 (Carsphairn to Moniaive road) and a temporarily widened section of the C35s (Lorg Road), creating badly damaged road surfaces and verges and necessitating extended road closures for crane recovery and repair work.

This latest episode brings into sharp focus the extent to which Glenkens roads cannot deal with the size, weight and relentlessness of windfarm and commercial forestry related vehicles which are a consequence of the current increasing industrial development of our rural environment.

But it is not just the roads and the countryside which are suffering. Lives and livelihoods are being affected on

a daily basis. In Carsphairn, the owners of a successful B&B – which has won numerous accommodation awards over the years – have sold up and moved away because they could see the writing on the wall for tourism in the face of creeping industrialisation. Now the village's second B&B is also on the market.

Continued on p2...



Tight fit... two HGVs try to pass each other on the narrow B729.

Sustainable Transport in the Glenkens

Galloway Community Transport (GCT) has been travelling in new directions and some exciting developments are afoot.

With sustainable local transport a key aim of the recently published Glenkens & District Community Action Plan, now is the perfect time for GCT to move into carbon-zero transport.

With this in mind, GCT have purchased a brand new ecar, which is available for a variety of community uses. Also, an ecar charging port will be installed at

The Smiddy in Balmaclellan, which will be available to use for free.

Finally, GCT are initiating an ebike hire scheme to allow residents and visitors to try ecycling and, if they enjoy it, to be able to hire bikes as and when they want. Starting out

with six bikes the project aims to expand the fleet as demand requires and possibly to encourage people to acquire their own ebikes.

Turn to p6 for full article...



CatStrand



This Gazette has been delivered thanks to support from CatStrand.

See centre-page pull-out guide for CatStrand's new online platform.

CatStrand reopening - see p2!

CONCERNS OVER GLENKENS ROADS

Continued from front page...

Jim and Fiona Clubb have been forced to shut down their hay delivery business because of the disruption caused by stranded HGVs persistently blocking the B729 access to and from their premises at Blackmark.

"The situation has come to a head for us personally, and we have made the decision to close our hay delivery business," says Fiona. "It is now unsustainable because of the chaos on the public road. This is also in light of the disruption continuing for at least the next 10 years."

The severely potholed roads with crumbling verges and very few passing places have created logistical difficulties for local delivery businesses and supermarkets taking groceries to outlying homes. And whenever there are road closures, traffic delays are compounded by the necessity for huge detours.

With the prospect of ever more windfarms and commercial forestry schemes throughout the Glenkens in the

pipeline, the end is nowhere in sight for local residents who have grown weary and worried about the over development of the area and the day-to-day damage it is causing to their way of life – not to mention their emotional and psychological wellbeing.

Things have reached such a state that local D&G councillor Pauline Drysdale is proposing a ward summit with council officers, community councillors, wind farm representatives and constituents to discuss the infrastructure and roads network in and around the windfarms and across the immediate area.

The aim of the meeting is to improve management and communications with a focus on winter management as an additional factor. Its objective is also to facilitate better relationships between contractors, windfarm management and D&G Council and to clarify where each tier of responsibility lies.

The A713 has the designation of 'tourist route from Gretna to Ayr' but currently – in the absence of visitors because of

coronavirus restrictions – the road has taken on a new mantle of 'windfarm construction access'. It's a title that will probably continue for many years to come...

Nigel Martin

Pictured: Bottom - photos of the crane which toppled off the Lorg Road, and its recovery, taken by Joe Ade (see p29 for more on this). Below - an example of road edges crumbling under the weight of traffic.



SCOUT GROUP

Diana, our Beaver leader, has decided to step down after more than 20 years of service to the Glenkens Scout Group.

She has been an inspiration to the other Leaders and youngsters she has served so faithfully. We would also like to thank Jim and Chrissie who gave up their time latterly and ably assisted Diana in making the colony meetings such a happy place to be.

Beavers are boys and girls aged 6-8 years and their motto is "Fun and friendship". We are now looking to recruit new Beaver Leaders.

This may suit two parents who have children in the age bracket or someone just interested.

As, like everyone else, Scouting has

been badly hit by the pandemic we have not been able to hold our AGM. What we do know is we are looking for a new chairman, treasurer and secretary. Again all these posts have been held by Catherine, Heidi and Lynn for many years and we are most grateful to all three for their commitment in their time of office. We are appealing to parents or anyone in the Glenkens who would be interested in filling any of these positions.

In line with National Scout Guidelines, we are still on red, which means no face-to-face meetings but hopefully it won't be too long before it moves to green, and we can meet again.

Any queries on the vacant positions please ring Heather on 01644 420 375.

Thank you,
Heather (Cub Scout Leader)

CatStrand Reopening

Further to the government announcement on 16 March, CatStrand is planning to reopen on Monday 26 April at 11am.

The café will be open with outdoor and indoor tables and the gift shop will also open again. Numbers and households at tables will be restricted in accordance with government guidance. Some limited indoor activities and classes may be able to start back from 17 May.

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back on 26 April but please note that this was the planned date at the time of going to press based on the government advice at that time and may be subject to subsequent change. Please see www.catstrand.com for latest updates.

Remembering Simon Winstanley

A gentle and kind soul, we remember Simon Winstanley who sadly passed away on Tuesday 9 March 2021.

He and his late wife, Annie, made a wonderful life in the Glenkens for themselves and their four children.

A widely respected architect, Simon built a successful local career and achieved the highest accolade in his field, an RIBA award, for the house he designed and lived in for the last ten years - The Houl, on the High Carsphairn road.

Simon enjoyed his brief period as a grandfather of two and these grandchildren, along with the many more who may come

along, will learn about their grandfather through shared memories of his love of and dedication to his family and friends, his passion for architecture and music, and his heartfelt connection to the Scottish countryside which inspired him in so many ways.

Simon will be greatly missed but his memory will continue to live on, spreading joy for many years to come through the buildings and living spaces he designed.

Simon is pictured with his first grandchild, Maisie Lou Winstanley Gonzalez.



LOCAL FOOD KEEPS GROWING

Despite the continued lockdown, the work to stimulate a local food economy has not gone away.

The Glenkens Producers Market has found a way to keep going and supply good food to local people; and off the heels of the recent Glenkens Summit there will be a project to investigate aspirations and barriers around the supply and demand for local produce.

The January and February markets did not go ahead, lockdown restrictions creating a bit of rest for producers and the opportunity to plan ahead for the market volunteers.

In February, market organisers started looking at the possibility of a click-and-collect style market using the online hub set up last year for pre-orders.

The online hub opened at the beginning of March, giving customers ten days to order, and was advertised via social media and local posters. Shopping to choose from included jams, homegrown veg, plants, tarts, cakes, cheese and liqueurs. It was very successful and people were obviously keen to support local food with many quickly getting on board and taking advantage of the new system.

On market day, customers were allocated a time slot for collecting their items from Dalry Town Hall and most stayed about for a quick socially distanced outdoor chat.

The market on 10 April will be the same arrangement, so check the hub website from early April to see what's on offer – new producers will be coming on board with exciting products! (See ad on p19 for details).

In May, the market volunteers are planning for a big re-opening. Volunteer Lesley Blisset said: "It'll be all singing, all dancing, bells and whistles – an event not to be missed!"

In addition to the great range of producers, plans also include an outdoor café area, entertainment, community information stalls and more. If you would like a slot on the busking pitch, please contact Anne Chaurand at anne.chaurand@btinternet.com or 07846 252 848. Musicians,

jugglers, magicians and more all welcome! The event will be on Saturday 8 May from 10am to 1pm.

Glenkens Community Transport (GCT) will run a shuttle bus from New Galloway and Balmaclellan to Dalry to help people get to the market. Other stops can also be arranged – please get in touch with GCT manager Glen to 07841 512 449 to arrange a pick-up.

Building on the increasing success of the market, local sustainable food enterprise Propagate has the task of digging deeper into the needs, aspirations and barriers facing producers and consumers across the Glenkens. A scoping study will seek to find out what food is currently available locally, how people access it and where the gaps are. This will include looking at existing and potential food production and ways this can reach local markets – from locally grown veg to locally produced dairy and meat products. Propagate will work collaboratively to create a routemap for a resilient local food system, with elements that can be developed into projects.

If you're a local food producer looking to get your product to local people, if you're involved in supply chains or food retail, or if you have a great idea that can increase the diversity of available local food, your voice needs to be heard. Please get in touch at the email address below.

The scoping study will also talk to people about how and where to access local food including box schemes, shops, cafés and delivery services.

Find out more about this work by contacting Abi at abi@propagate.org.uk or 07340 531 506.



A customer at March's click-and-collect Glenkens Producers Market.

Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by
natural power

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

FREE

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

90mm plastic scoops, small square plastic boxes with handles and lids (will stack) roughly 3kg and 1.8kg (good for use as compost caddies).

Bottle brush and syphon tube for wine making. I would also like to say thank you for all the generous people sending used stamps for the horse charity – keep them coming! Contact: Sue 07563 718 011

2x 2metre plastic curtain tracks with hooks and fittings. Contact: 07724 878 796

Oil tank. Contact: 07703 303 805

Any drummers out there? I'm clearing out the shed, drums & bits, 3 drums, some cases, cymbal stand, spare parts - stands, etc. Contact: Blue on 07934 361 526

Sewing Machine, needs a little maintenance to get it working properly. Contact: 01644 430 380

FOR SALE

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

WANTED

LING would welcome any **spare paving slabs** to help with making muddy sections of walks passable. Please phone David Hardy on 01644 420 422.

2-drawer filing cabinet. Contact: 01644 420 267

Fridge-freezer. Contact: 07952 280 902

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

Looking For Land! Can YOU help?



Hidden Veg is a market garden on the Hidden Road near Balmaclellan. We use organic methods and deliver our seasonal vegetables to local people and cafes.

We currently rent about half an acre from friends. We would love to upscale our activity, producing more food to supply locally by establishing a Community Supported Agriculture project. We will also run workshops, and host apprentices to upskill more people in organic vegetable production and agro-ecology.

We have cash waiting to buy around 10 acres. We are a little in love with the Glenkens, and want to stay here with all you lovely people to be part of growing a local food economy.

If you can help us - or know someone who might – please share this and get in touch with Abi via 07340 531506 or abi@mordin.net

DIRT EDITS

CALLING ALL ADVENTURE SEEKERS!

JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF MOUNTAIN BIKING AND FILM MAKING ON THE TRAILS AT KIRKROUGHTREE.

SATURDAY 8TH & SUNDAY 9TH MAY

FREE
AGES 12+

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Catstrand, New Galloway, DG7 3RN, 01644420374

Eco Feature

SIGNAGE TO SUPPORT LOCH KEN

sponsored by



New signage installed on the west bank of Loch Ken is the latest mark of progress by partners around the loch, helping to provide information and encourage responsible behaviour from visitors.

Loch Ken is the largest body of freshwater in Southern Scotland, hosting a variety of users and groups. Loch Ken Trust was established to

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

Work is proceeding on several fronts under this aim, both on a strategic level but also – of equal importance – making tangible improvements around the loch itself. This week sees the installation of three new signs on the west bank of the loch which set out guidelines for use of the loch, outlining how to obtain a fishing permit, how to register a motorboat and other information.

Loch Ken Trust chairman, Alan Smith, said: "Loch Ken Trust has identified the need for better, coherent

signage around the loch. A good first step last year was the installation of a new information board at the public slipway on the east bank and we are now delighted to have worked with New Galloway Angling Association to install three new signs on their stretch of the west bank. A lot of thought has gone into the physical design of these signs as it was important that, whilst providing a lot of important information, they also sit well in their beautiful locations."

If you would like to get in touch with the Loch Ken Trust, or if you would like to join as a member, please contact Barnaby Fryer, Loch Ken Trust Officer at barnaby.fryer@lochkenalive.co.uk

Loch Ken is the largest body of freshwater in Southern Scotland...






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New Directions for Galloway Community Transport

The COVID-19 lockdown has had a big impact on community transport in the Glenkens/Stewartry area, mainly restricting services or stopping them altogether.

However, while keeping as many existing services running as safely as possible, Galloway Community Transport (GCT) has been travelling in new directions. With sustainable local transport a key aim of the recently published Glenkens & District Community Action Plan and the Glenkens now part of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere, now is the perfect time for GCT to move into carbon-zero transport.

LEADER funding awarded to Glenkens Community & Arts Trust's Connecting in Communities project has allowed GCT to acquire an electric car that will benefit the community in a variety of ways. With full wheelchair access and four additional passenger seats the ecar is ideal for transporting small groups and people with disabilities. Since mid-January, the car has become a familiar sight around the Stewartry with Castle Douglas Golden Day Club using it for their meal delivery service and GCT drivers taking

pupils to school. Economic to run and environmentally friendly, the car looks set to find a range of other uses such as taking people to events, local patient transport and getting young people to employment interviews.

The network of e-vehicle charge points across the region is growing all the time and cash from Glenkens & District Trust and the Blackcraig Windfarm Community Fund is paying for the installation of a free-to-use one at The Smiddy in

to encourage people to acquire their own ebikes.

The plan is for there to be ebikes based at New Galloway (CatStrand), Balmaclellan (The Smiddy), and Dalry (location to be announced) which can be booked online or by telephone for a modest charge. Full details will be available soon on the GCT website (www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org). There will also be bike shelters at The Smiddy and CatStrand with a public bike

maintenance station at the latter, for the use of local and visiting cyclists.

The launch of GCT Ebikes is scheduled to take place at the CatStrand on Saturday 29 May, with 'have-a-go' rides, introductory talks, and showings of *Motherload*, a

wonderful, crowdsourced documentary about the history of cycling and "how cargo bikes will save the world".

Volunteers are needed to help with checking bikes out and in and with other aspects of the administration of the scheme.

If you are based locally and would like to volunteer to help with the GCT ebike scheme please contact GCT Manager, Glen, by email on gct@catstrand.com

Pictured is Martin Fortnum of the Castle Douglas Golden Day Club using the new ecar to deliver meals during the pandemic.

...GCT's ebike hire scheme will allow residents and visitors to try ecycling and, if they enjoy it, to be able to hire bikes as and when they want.

Balmaclellan which will attract visiting electric vehicles and become one of the ecar's bases.

What better way to help keep people fit and reduce air pollution than getting as many people as possible cycling? Ebikes make cycling more accessible to more people than the non-assisted variety and they are a great way to get from place to place for work, socialising or simply for pleasure.

With funding from Cycling Scotland and the Transport Scotland Energy Saving Trust, GCT's ebike hire scheme will allow residents and visitors to try ecycling and, if they enjoy it, to be able to hire bikes as and when they want. Starting out with six bikes the project aims to expand the fleet as demand requires and possibly



GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

*The Surgery
High Street
New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

Many a Mickle Maks a Muckle

The Inaugural Glenkens Community Summit

The inaugural Glenkens Summit took place online in March.

The summit was the first in what it is hoped will become a series of similar events and was organised by Glenkens & District Trust (GDT) with the support of Community Enterprise.

The event provided an opportunity to discuss and debate some of the big issues for the Glenkens communities and think about what these might mean for the review of the five-year Glenkens & District Community Action Plan.

While GDT took the lead in organising the event we, as a fund distribution body, have the primary purpose of resourcing and enabling community development rather than carrying out projects. Therefore the natural next steps will be to identify and support, in an open and transparent manner, community organisations that want to get involved in implementing the plan.

The summit was open to the whole community and to anyone with an interest in the Glenkens. We were delighted that 102 people attended on the night.

During a busy and stimulating two hours, the audience got a brief update from Douglas Westwater, CEO of Community Enterprise, on the early work underway with different

community groups around short term priorities as set out in the plan. There was helpful feedback about some areas that needed further

consideration, such as work to maintain the biodiversity of the area, the outdoor 'assets' and the problems in some areas of poor broadband service.

We then heard from three inspiring speakers. Ailsa Clarke, Development Manager of Inspiralba, a social enterprise consultancy based in Argyll and Bute and developer of the digital Rural Social Enterprise Hub, spoke about rurality and community development. Neil McInroy,

CEO of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, spoke about Community Wealth Building and the positive move to create a more local economy in the Glenkens. And finally Phillip Revell, Chair of Scottish Communities Climate Action Network, spoke about community-led action to address the climate emergency.

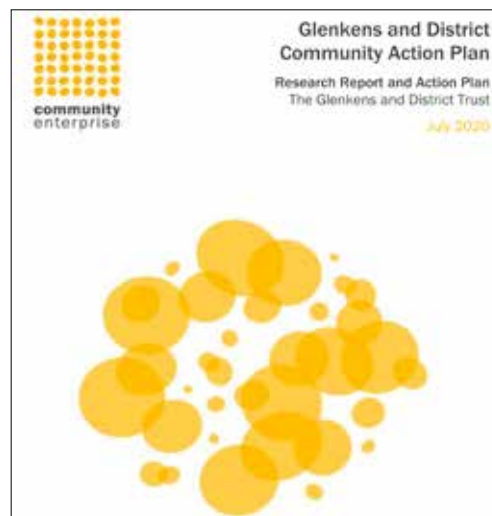
There were questions from the audience on what is needed for effective community involvement in decision making, what practical steps we as a community can take to address the climate emergency, how we should think about the local energy economy and, in developing the plan, how we ensure that benefits flowing from the work remain in the community for the long term.

Some messages that really resonated with the audience included the need to have many small things working together to create something good (Neil McInroy reminding of us the good Scots phrase: "Many a Mickle Maks a Muckle"); the need to nurture and support community groups to take risks and try new things; and the imperative to make the climate emergency an essential part of our thinking. All the speakers identified community involvement as key to success and suggested different means to achieve this.

...the need to have many small things working together to create something good..."Many a Mickle Maks a Muckle"...

The thought provoking comments from the floor fed into smaller group discussions where people had the opportunity to get into some detail about the four thematic areas of the Community Action Plan.

The event was ably concluded by Jane Morrison-Ross, who has recently taken on the role of Chief Executive of South of Scotland Enterprise and who personally tweeted after the event "What



an absolutely brilliant summit. The innovation, ambition and passion shines through. Fantastic speakers and really exciting plans."

As one community member attending said later: "Last evening's event was an excellent interaction, large number of people, lots of energy and ideas."

We will consider the points raised in the meeting, as well as in other discussions, and feed these into on-going development of the plan. An important next step will be to identify how delivery plans for identified

projects can be created and what capabilities and organisations are needed to enable this. Underpinning this there is a need to agree how we as a community want to oversee, monitor and evolve

the plan. This will include considering the current Steering Group membership, processes and resources.

Please feedback any views to Douglas Westwater of Community Enterprise, at douglas@communityenterprise.co.uk or Fiona Smith, chairman of Glenkens & District Trust, at Fiona.Smith1@btinternet.com

Fiona Smith, chairman, GDT



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Hello from Dalry & Kells Primary Schools

Over the last few weeks, I have noticed birds beginning to sing, buds appearing on the trees, new spring lambs and, more recently, frogspawn.

Spring is here and a renewed feeling of optimism is in the air. Likewise, our Primary 1-3 children have been back a few weeks and this week were joined by their Primary 4-7 peers. In school, there was a sense of excitement, of happiness to be with friends after such a long time. I could feel the same sense of optimism (a new beginning) as I walked around the playground and put my head around the classroom doors.

The children know the drill - hand washing, trying to be distanced and which doors to use, etc. The sun shone, and everything went smoothly as everyone came into school. Staff, having learnt much from two lockdowns and remote learning, are continuing to think about how the different ways of using technology can benefit teaching in the classroom.

During lockdown, many children enjoyed family activities such as cooking and shared pictures of their completed dishes on our closed Facebook page. Children also shared pictures of the wide variety of school-based and non-school-based activities. This continued as children were given opportunities to share things they had done. One child



shared with the class that he had been helping with the lambing and talked about a photograph he had sent in. He looked like a real vet in miniature!

Some budding writers and journalists from across the two schools worked together using Microsoft Teams during the latest lockdown. They designed, wrote articles for, and published the first edition of *The Scribbler*. What an amazing, good read! Thank you to all the children and staff who participated to bring this to fruition. This is going to be our schools-based magazine which we hope to extend further to community readership and maybe even rival the *Glenkens Gazette*! (See page opposite for more on *The Scribbler*).

Similarly, Paul Goodwin, a retired colleague has given up a lot of his valuable time to create a series of videos for us to use for a writers' club across the schools. The videos draw on Paul's experience and studies into writing short stories and other genres of creative writing. Thank you Paul.

Members of the community have also worked hard on our behalf during

lockdown. I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for their support. Members from the community group Local Initiatives For Dalry (LIFD) have raised money so we can buy books for use in school, a much-appreciated action and we thank them for this. We have seen many acts of kindness and the community coming together to support one another and again, thank you to all concerned. If I have not mentioned you by name, please accept my apologies and know that you are very much appreciated.

Moving forwards, like the march of spring as it gains momentum towards summer, we will go forth. Even though there is still dismay and challenges, we have much to look forward to, much to be optimistic about and much to hope for. Happy Easter everyone!

*Paul Scrimshaw,
Glenkens Partnership head teacher*

Pictured above are pupils out on the playing field for PE, happy to be with their friends enjoying the spring sunshine.

PUPILS COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

Can you help give young people in the Glenkens a boost this summer?

Every two years P6 and P7 pupils from Dalry and Kells schools have a residential trip to Edinburgh. It's an opportunity the children look forward to with huge excitement - a rite of passage as they grow in independence and an opportunity for the young people from both schools to get to know each other better in preparation for High School.

Among all the disruption to learning caused by COVID-19, it is looking likely that this year's P7 cohort will miss out on the trip as well as the usual activities that form part of the transition to High School and celebrations that mark the end of their time at Primary.

However, parents and carers are hoping to provide an alternative for this year's P7s and are planning to offer a local

weekend camping trip led by parent and carer volunteers later in the summer term if restrictions allow.

With this in mind, Kells and Dalry parent councils have launched a community 'Go Fund Me' campaign to help fund this and to give all Glenkens young people a boost at this difficult time. We hope this will be an opportunity for the community to show support, especially as the usual fundraising activities and events the children would be doing are not possible just now.

All money raised will help fund camping and activity fees for the P7 trip and the purchase of outdoor equipment for use by young people of all ages, to help make gathering safely outside to socialise and learn easier and more accessible.

Everything raised will be divided proportionately between the two parent councils and will help us secure additional funding from other sources. If a lot of



us contribute just a small amount, we will soon be on our way to making this happen!

You can contribute easily through our Go Fund Me page - visit www.gofundme.com and search for Give Glenkens Young People a Boost.

Alternatively you can send cash or a cheque made payable to Kells Parent Council, posted to Kells and Dalry Parent Councils Fundraiser, c/o Kells Primary School, Braeside, New Galloway DG7 3RL. Please include that it is a contribution to the outdoors fund, and your name and address if you would like to receive a 'thank you'!

If you would like more information, please contact maryzair@gmail.com

GLENKENS SCHOOLS MAGAZINE

Over lockdown and during another period of remote learning, a dedicated and talented group of P1-7 pupils from Dalry and Kells Primaries have been creating a very special magazine for kids that they call *The Scribbler*.

This writing project, the brain-child of class teacher Jenna Devlin, came about through discussion with pupils and staff and the consensus that there was a need for a project that the pupils could collaborate together on through these tricky times.

The Scribbler, a magazine for 'inquisitive kids,' has been planned, designed, developed and edited solely by the pupils. This has been a momentous task in its own right as it has all had to be

done independently and online at home. The finished first issue is a real testament to the pupils' grit, determination, talent and resilience as they adapted to new ways of working and sharing online with their peers.

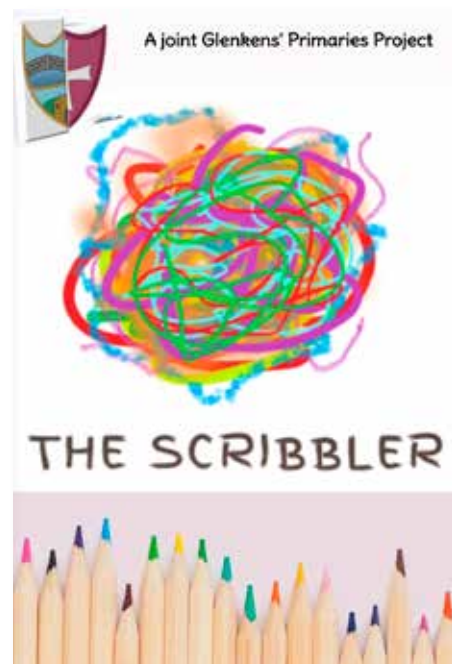
Jenna said: "I am extremely proud of every single member of *The Scribbler*, what they have produced is very special and really showcases the talent that we are so lucky to have in our Primary Schools. The dedication that this group of children have shown has astounded me with the pupils each week turning up to online meetings, meeting set deadlines and producing quality pieces for publishing. I just can't wait to see what the next issue brings!"

If you would like to take a look at *The Scribbler*, there is a link on the *Glenkens Gazette* Facebook page through the post on 10 March.

If you would like to include anything in our magazine please get in touch with Jenna at gw08devlinjenna@glow.sch.uk -

we are always so keen to include articles from members of our community, to share with our school community.

Jenna Devlin



What's on Spring Term At Catstrand

Events will be hosted either via Zoom or Catstrand at Home and hopefully in person very soon!

To sign up please contact jamie@catstrand.com

What's on!

5-11 years

Hopeful monster Puppet Movie

Monday 5th April

11am-8pm @ dgartsfestival

A story of survival and struggle, of connection and transformation and a reminder of the playfulness of living. After all, we humans are animals too.

5-11 years

MOVING MOUTH MONSTERS: £3

Monday 5th April

12pm-8pm @ Catstrand at home

With just a few materials, such as paper bowls and paper plates, you can make your very own Moving Mouth Monster puppet. Learn how to make them talk and sing in this fun workshop.

WIBBLE WOBBLE CLOWN: £3

Tuesday 6th April

12pm-8pm @ Catstrand at home

These puppets are collages made from simple shapes then assembled with split pins. Once they're made we'll take them on a clown parade to test their tippie topple, wibble wobble.

Play in a week: £3

12th April - 16th April

3pm-5pm on Zoom

Join us as we devise and create a play in just 5 days!

12 years +

Play in a week:

12th April - 16th April

5pm-7pm on Zoom

Join us as we devise and create a play in just 5 days!

Dirt Edits

8th and 9th May

Times TBC

Calling all adventure seekers ages 12+ Mountain biking through the trials in Kirroghree with a MTBI instructor and an adventure film maker to gather the footage then edit the footage together to create a movie!

No experience required! Transport Provided! All equipment will be provided!

Youth Spaces

Every Friday 4pm-6pm starting in May Be part of a team of young people and help develop and create a space for young people to hang out!

Lockdown '21: A Teacher's Perspective

Daffodils and spring flowers are beginning to come into bloom; shoots are appearing on trees and leaves are beginning to unfurl.

Schools too are beginning to emerge from lockdown hibernation and open up. February saw our youngest pupils back in school, along with some senior pupils studying practical subjects who need to work on completing their practical assignments. For both pupils and staff that has been an exciting step – the small change in routine back to some sort of 'normality'; meeting up with others than just your nearest and dearest at home! Have we ever all been so excited about the prospect of a return to school??

It has been wonderful to see pupils face-to-face again – albeit at a two metre distance with face masks on, looking as though we're extras in a Bond movie. It has been wonderful to do some 'proper' work again, rather than being tied to a computer. In my case, as a music teacher, actually being able to play music together with others. Singing is proving a challenge for pupils who have voice as their first instrument. We're not allowed to sing indoors, but we can outdoors. So far, we've managed to avoid going out in the rain – we've had one sunny day and one dry but windy day; holding on to our music has been the greatest challenge.

It's been a novelty having a small group of pupils in school – we've enjoyed and

benefited from this focused time. Pupils say they've been able to concentrate better being in school without the distractions that home presents and with the structured support of staff, even though not all subject staff are in school. I've enjoyed being in school with them but have found that there are more distractions in school than at home. And I've missed the flexibility of working from home – not having the drive to work; being able to work early in the morning/late at night and not having to be tied to the hours of 9am to 3.30pm.

In the meantime, online learning and teaching – home school learning and teaching – continues. It has been a challenge for us all – staff, pupils, parents. It has been especially hard for those of us teaching practical subjects and for those trying to learn practical subjects. But we have managed. My creativity has been challenged in coming up with work that can be done online, and trying to retain a practical element in that.

It has been fascinating to see how pupils have engaged with the work – sometimes in a way that is expected; sometimes in a way that is completely unique as pupils display their 'creative' approach to the tasks set; you never quite know what you're going to get! It has been interesting to see how pupils have progressed since the lockdown a year ago. How much more skilled they – and we – are at coping with the challenges/work/requirements. It's only by experiencing events such as these and learning how to cope with them that we build resilience. Building resilience is a difficult learning experience, but it's obvious from the

contrast between lockdown 2020 and lockdown 2021 that pupils are becoming more resilient.

Returning to school on a fuller basis and being able to see everyone face-to-face is something we're all looking forward to. Will we recognise one another with our lockdown hair styles? We're looking forward to finding out more about how people are; what's been going on in their lives; how they've been coping. Whilst there is a level of anxiety about how it's all going to work, it will be good for everyone's wellbeing to be back together. We've been 'in it together' in our own little bubble; it will be good to take the next step of being 'in it together' in the Dalry bubble.

As with everything to do with this pandemic, adapting to the changes has been a challenge. At the end of the Christmas term, the mood was upbeat and optimistic; the prospect of a return to 'normality' seemed imminent. Then the world turned upside down with the news of the new variant of COVID and we were back into lockdown. By February, we had just got used to being in lockdown and the prospect of bringing even a limited number of pupils back into school was daunting. But we've risen to the challenge and coped! The return of all pupils on a phased basis in March is the next change and challenge – another daunting prospect, but together we'll cope and make it work. We are resilient! And we'll hope that the plans for next term will see a return to a more normal way of life – both in school and out of it.

*Sue St Joseph, music teacher,
Dalry Secondary*

Wednesday Afternoon Activities

Part of Dalry Secondary School's music study related to one of a series of challenges set during lockdown 2020 by the Royal Scottish National Opera (RSNO).

This challenge concerned breath control and was set by the RSNO's principal trombonist Dávor Juul Magnussen. The three challenges he set for this exercise were:

- Pin the Fiver – how long could you 'pin a fiver' to the wall just by blowing on it? (5.18 secs).
- Blow a Candle – what's the furthest distance from which you can blow out a candle? (133cm)
- Immerse the Balloon – blow up a balloon and immerse it in a bucket of water. How much water do you displace? (5.5 litres)

Izak Entwistle chose to have a go at these three challenges, with spectacular results, and a little 'help'!

Here are Izak's results...

Pin the Fiver - I used a £20 note because we did not have a fiver. It stood up for 5.5 seconds.

Blow a Candle - I originally did the candle blowing on a table but our table wasn't big enough, so I went on to the floor instead. I got up to 4.5 feet. While I was doing the candle challenge my dog decided to interrupt it and lick me...

Immerse the Balloon - When I watched the video, I thought that you had to blow up a balloon and dunk it into some water, but I did not realise that you had to measure it until I'd already done it, so I had to do it again. The result is six litres.

Pictured is Izak completing the challenges - top left is Immerse the Balloon, top right is Pin the Fiver (or £20), and to the right is Blow the Candle, with help from the dog (see the candle and measuring tape behind Izak's canine helper).



Local Initiatives In New Galloway

What's-a-cooking in New Galloway Town Hall?

Taking advantage of lockdown, and considerably assisted by grant support and permissions from Dumfries & Galloway Council, we have been able to embark on some major renovations. A spanking new kitchen is being installed, complete with a fabulous 'community-sized' range cooker and a long-awaited commercial dishwasher. This means we will comply with health and hygiene requirements and the kitchen will be of value for all kinds of community events, including cooking lessons or group cook-ins. A specially created lower worktop section will provide space suitable for children or wheelchair-users.

The photograph gives an inkling of the interim chaos involved, illustrating why lockdown is a good time for getting ahead with this work!

We are also in the process of replacing the downstairs gents-only toilets with two unisex toilets. At last ladies will no longer have to face the climb up to the first floor to access a toilet, as for some this is daunting, if not impossible. What is more, one of the new toilets will be a fully compliant disabled toilet, achieving accessibility at least for any events taking place in the Lesser Hall.

We are so fortunate to have a retired architect on our board managing this project. Glynne Shackleton joined us a year ago and has been worth his weight in gold. As you can imagine, we are very excited about all this and very much looking forward to the time when we can open our doors and welcome everyone in to see what has been achieved.

LING Lockdown Lunches

Although LING Lunches in the Town Hall have had to be suspended, we have been able to offer a lockdown lunch delivered to your door once a month. We had an amazing 44 orders for the February lunch, which had Dawn Spornagel of 'Love to Eat' rushed off her feet in her kitchen preparing soups, breads and puddings

ready to bag up for volunteers to deliver.

Unfortunately, we can only include New Galloway and Kells households in this offer as numbers might otherwise overwhelm us.

It has been interesting to find that, although people are having to heat up and eat their lunch in their own homes, it nevertheless feels like a bit of community contact. Perhaps just knowing the experience is being shared by others at the same time makes the food taste even better!

A Brew and a Blether

We have started up a regular online Zoom chat opportunity on Tuesdays at 2pm. Lockdown lunchers, in particular, are invited to drop in to say hello to familiar faces, but anyone can come along. It's been surprisingly lovely to have a proper chance to chat, rather than just pausing in the street in the cold - and it's so friendly. We divide up into small groups of around four, rather as you would if you sat at a table in the hall. Talking to a whole roomful of people (or a whole screenful if you're on Zoom) is not very comfortable, but suddenly finding yourself with just a few smiling faces, for ten minutes or so at a time, is quite a treat. I think we have all been astonished at how nice it feels. If you'd like a Zoom invitation to drop in on a Tuesday, please just email us at newgallowaytownhall@gmail.com - the only downside is that you have to bring your own tea and biscuits.

This project is a collaboration with New Galloway Community Enterprises and anyone in New Galloway and Kells who hasn't tried Zooming and would like some help to get started, please get in touch. Help is at hand (grant-aided) and that includes not only friendly expertise, from the IT Centre in Castle Douglas, but also the possibility of equipment and internet access on loan from New Galloway's community engagement worker, Sam Rushton.

Broadening our Board

The Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) AGM took place on 25 February, by Zoom - a first-time for everyone, but it all seemed to work satisfactorily (sighs of relief all round).

We were delighted to be introducing and welcoming our three new trustees, Lynn Gallacher, Mary Smith and Jude Crooks. Between them, they bring a wide range of valuable experience and expertise to the LING board, which is going to be a huge help. They also dramatically reduce the average age of the board - another very welcome benefit. The continuing



board members are Ros Hill, David Hardy, Glynne Shackleton, and Ann and Bob Glaister.

Walking Our Way to Health

We have talked before about the pathway clearances, descriptions of the walks and the Walled Garden, with lots of detail now available on our website newgallowaytownhall.com

Recent discussions have been about planning guided walks or outings for families, perhaps for children or young people. Some events offering chances to join in the volunteering to carry out repairs and improvements are also envisaged. As these ideas are firmed up, we will provide details on posters, on our Facebook page and on our website.

So much is known now about the health-giving value of walking or even just being outdoors and we have such wonderful places on our doorstep. It has been lovely to know how many people are beginning to try out some of the walks that Gerry Cinderby and David Hardy have cleared and described. It's not just about physical health either. We're all going to be struggling a bit as we emerge from this stressful time, and who knows when it will be truly over.

Being outdoors, whether striding out, wandering through woodland, or enjoying the gentle peace in the lovely Garroch Estate walled garden - all can offer balm to the soul.

A Stitch in Time

Finally, a delightful new fund-raising venture. John Johnes has offered to repair antique or vintage sewing machines in return for a donation to LING's new 'Crafty Group'. The intention is to support opportunities for developing new skills. The machine may be yours to keep for posterity or it may be that you want to sell it on subsequently. Some will also be offered for sale. Enquiries to John at jjohnes@gmx.com or on 07731 548626. The first one for sale in Ros's window display, sold within a few hours. I remember learning on one just like that as a child!

Ann Glaister

Pictured are, top, the fitting of the new kitchen in New Galloway Town Hall and, left, the Stitch in Time project sewing machine for sale.



Carsphairn History Goes Global

It has been a monumental journey of discovery for Carsphairn Heritage Initiative (CHI) since embarking upon ambitious plans to digitise their vast collection of local historical photographs, documents and artefacts, collected over the last 30-plus years.

In 2017 the group set out to collate and scan thousands of items and present them as a digital heritage archive via the Carsphairn community website. The project was designed to make the collection accessible to anyone anywhere in the world; make previously inaccessible material available to visitors, researchers and anyone with an interest in the cultural and social history of Carsphairn and, most importantly, preserve the collection and the wealth of local heritage information it contains by presenting it in an engaging, user-friendly manner.

During the three-year programme Carsphairn Heritage Initiative (formerly Carsphairn Heritage Group) has received funding to support the project from Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP) 'Our Heritage' small grants scheme.

This huge and ambitious task, now complete, sees over 3000 items of local historical interest available to search and view via the Carsphairn community website.

The vast collection of items has been donated by local families with a connection to Carsphairn over the last 30 or so years and now has a secure and dedicated home visible to all by visiting www.carsphairn.org/CarsphairnArchive

Karen Hall, CHI chairperson, said: "I am delighted that we have successfully completed this ambitious project. It's been a huge undertaking, some of it in very challenging circumstances."

"The dedication of our small team of volunteers, who have worked tirelessly in their own time at home, has been incredibly humbling," said Karen Hall. "They have never lost sight of our shared goal and they should be extremely proud of this wonderful achievement."

"I would like to thank all the wonderful contributors to our collection for their generosity and for entrusting their precious donations to us; our hardworking volunteers for their time, patience and motivation especially over the last twelve months; Carsphairn

Community Council for enabling us to display our Heritage Archive via their website; and our funders GGLP and Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd for their continued financial support. None of this would have been possible without them all and I feel honoured that so many have shared our vision and together we got the job done, ensuring that this nostalgic and historically important information is preserved for future generations".

The interim trustees of CHI were planning to convene their first Annual General Meeting in May 2020 but, due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was postponed. The group will reschedule the meeting for later this year, as soon as it is deemed safe to do so. A new Board of Trustees will be sought and if anyone is interested in becoming a Trustee or simply volunteering some time to the group's future projects then they would be delighted to hear from you. More details here can be found at www.carsphairn.org/CHI or email carsphairnhi@gmail.com

The archive still requires some final enhancements and the group are looking for willing participants to volunteer their time transcribing documents such as hand-written letters and poems, newspaper clippings and event programmes. If you have some free time, a good eye and some patience perhaps you might like to help. Further details of how to get involved can be found at carsphairn.org/archive or email carsphairnhi.archive@gmail.com

Helen Keron, GGLP education & community engagement officer, said: "The amount of volunteer work that has gone into this project is quite staggering.



It must have seemed insurmountable when they started, and now here it is completed. The Carsphairn Digital Archive will be an invaluable and permanent resource for people both near and far wanting to find out more about the history of Carsphairn and the surrounding areas. Hats off to all involved!"

Pictured from the Carsphairn Heritage Archive is a photograph of, below, the Salutation Hotel in 1920 and, above, Mr & Mrs Hyslop outside the Carsphairn village shop, pre-1920; one of the photographs from the CHI collection.



Ken Words

Ken Words is a creative writing project designed to help people connect with the landscapes of the Galloway Glens through an imaginative response. One of the main ways it does this is through guided Poetry Walks, where participants are led by a professional poet who offers prompts to encourage a response to the place in writing. The emphasis is very much on engagement and enjoyment – no one is asked to share their writing unless they want to, and many participants have no prior writing experience.

Ken Words is co-ordinated by Jane McBeth and is a GCAT project, core-funded by the Galloway Glens and Creative Scotland. It has also received support from the Blackcraig Community Benefit Fund through the Glenkens and District Trust, Dalry Community Council and the Glenkens Community Shop, meaning that all its events can be put on for free or at very modest cost to the participant.



Jar of Jam

Opening a tight lid
on a new jar of jam
there is often a breath,
inward or outward
I do not know.
It is the first breath
in which all our breaths
are to be found
and which we will meet
again, when we go.

Roland Parker,
regular Café-goer

After a year of COVID restrictions, Jane and the team have got some exciting plans for the summer. Poetry walks and outdoor workshops are planned around the Ken-Dee marshes by Loch Ken, on the Watson Bird trail from Dalry, and along the old Pack Road to Polmaddy. You'll see these advertised on the Galloway Glens and CatStrand websites and social media. Do book promptly if you'd like to go along, as they're always well attended and places are limited.

Ken Words has also been very nimble in its COVID response, moving its popular Writers' Café into a fortnightly virtual session. Experienced and new writers bring along their work-in-progress to share and receive feedback and suggestions on it. Unusually for these times of Zoom, its not done online, but instead by email and phone, which makes for a creative and productive evening of conversation and correspondence.

If you'd like to get involved (even if you don't yet have work to share), contact Jane on jane.kenwords@gmail.com

What's Been Happening in Dalry

Dalry's Community Kindness Cupboard

An exciting new project for the village can be found outside the front of Dalry Library. Come along and see our Community Kindness Cupboard. Inside you will find a variety of groceries, toiletries, pet food and washing and cleaning products, as well as an assortment of games and books for all ages.

The cupboard is for everyone in our community to use. So, if you run out of or need any of the above products just pop along and have a look to see what's inside - hopefully our Kindness Cupboard will give you a reasonable choice. You can access the kindness cupboard 24/7. The only thing we ask is - please take only what you need and leave for others... "a little treat from us to you, we hope this makes you smile all day through".

It is important that we always follow COVID-19 guidance, so we ask anyone accessing the Kindness Cupboard to sanitise your hands and any replaced items. Please share and respect - hopefully sometimes we'll need to borrow something, and another time we'll have something to give to the cupboard.

Thursday will be a special day for

our Kindness Cupboard as local bakers will be adding fresh produce for the community to share.

If you wish to give a donation for the baking, please use the envelopes provided and post it through the letter box at 75 Main Street (house next to library with the blue door). Thanks go to New Galloway Community Enterprise for sharing the funding from The Princes Countryside Fund and the Barscobe Family for providing the community with cupboards.

Telephone Box

Hopefully everyone will be aware that our old phone box on the Ayr Road is being restored. We are eternally grateful for Duncan Jordan's ongoing commitment and patience, spending numerous hours at this task - his hard work and dedication is clear for us all to see. We are lucky to have such a generous and skilled member in our community.

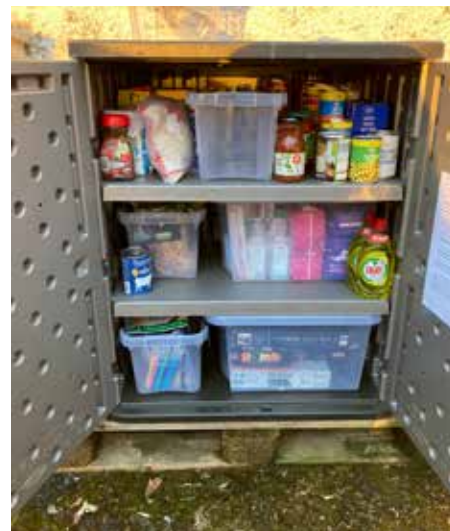
The future of the telephone box is yet to be decided, so if anyone has ideas and suggestions for its use, please mention it to a member of Dalry Community Council or put your suggestions on the St John's Town of Dalry Community Council Facebook page.

Special thanks should be given to the Glenkens Community Shop, St John's Town Services and Dalry Community Council for their financial support with this project.

Dalry Eco Flower Group

Last year this group was set up to add colour to our village and to support people's mental health. We wanted to show that we care about the people in our community and the environment which we live in.

We planted containers of different shapes and sizes, giving us an array of colours, splashed around our village, making it a lovely, cheerful



The Community Kindness Cupboard outside Dalry Library.

place to live in during what have been incredibly 'challenging times'.

This was only made possible through the commitment of four volunteers - Jane Trueman, Linda Carter, Fiona Davidson and Angie Bradford - along with funding from a 'micro grant' from Dalry Community Council. Plants were generously donated by Dumfries & Galloway Council. Towards the end of the year, bulbs were added to the containers and these will hopefully be seen blooming in soon. The next stage will be to add new plants and more containers to continue to brighten up our village once more.

If anyone is interested in helping out with the group please contact Angie on anji1206@hotmail.co.uk or chat to any of the above named people on the street!

Supporting Our Community's Children

The past year has been so challenging for everyone, but thankfully now our children are heading back to school and hopefully things will settle into something more normal.

To help support our children in these challenging times, Dalry Community Council have donated to Dalry Primary School six packs of books that aim to support children's mental health, and the school were also able to purchase some more books thanks to funding from Local Initiative for Dalry (LIFD). The LIFD donation came from the successful mental health baking stall which was run by local people in the summer - thanks go to those who ran the stall.

Angie Bradford & Fiona Davidson

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Galloway and West Dumfries



If you would like an appointment, please get in touch

Write to:

107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

Phone: 01556 504991

Facebook: [FinlayCarsonMSP](https://www.facebook.com/FinlayCarsonMSP)

Twitter: [fincarson](https://twitter.com/fincarson)



Scan here to watch a video walk through



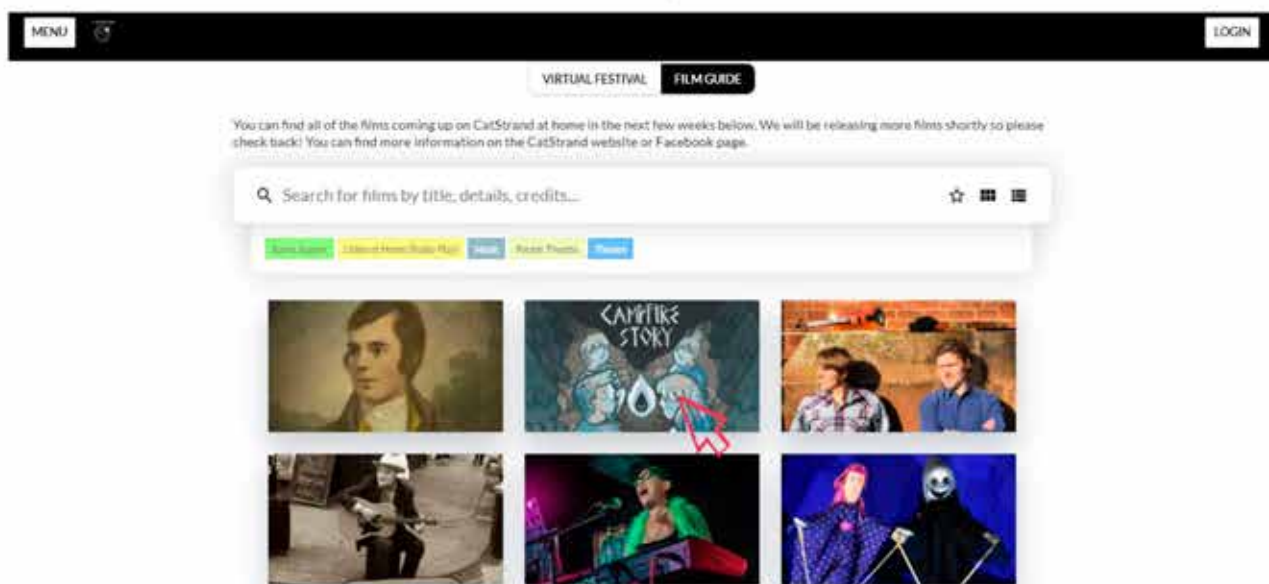
How to Guide for CatStrand at Home

catstrand.eventive.org

How to watch our programme of events online!

To find out what's on you can visit www.catstrand.com and select the tab 'Events' - click on the booking button to be taken to CatStrand at Home. Or type catstrand.eventive.org into your browser to go direct to our CatStrand at Home page.

1. Once you're here - scroll through the events or search in the top for the event you wish to watch, then click on the event you'd like to see or book.



2. Here you will see your chosen event with a description and showing times. Click on 'Select Showing'.



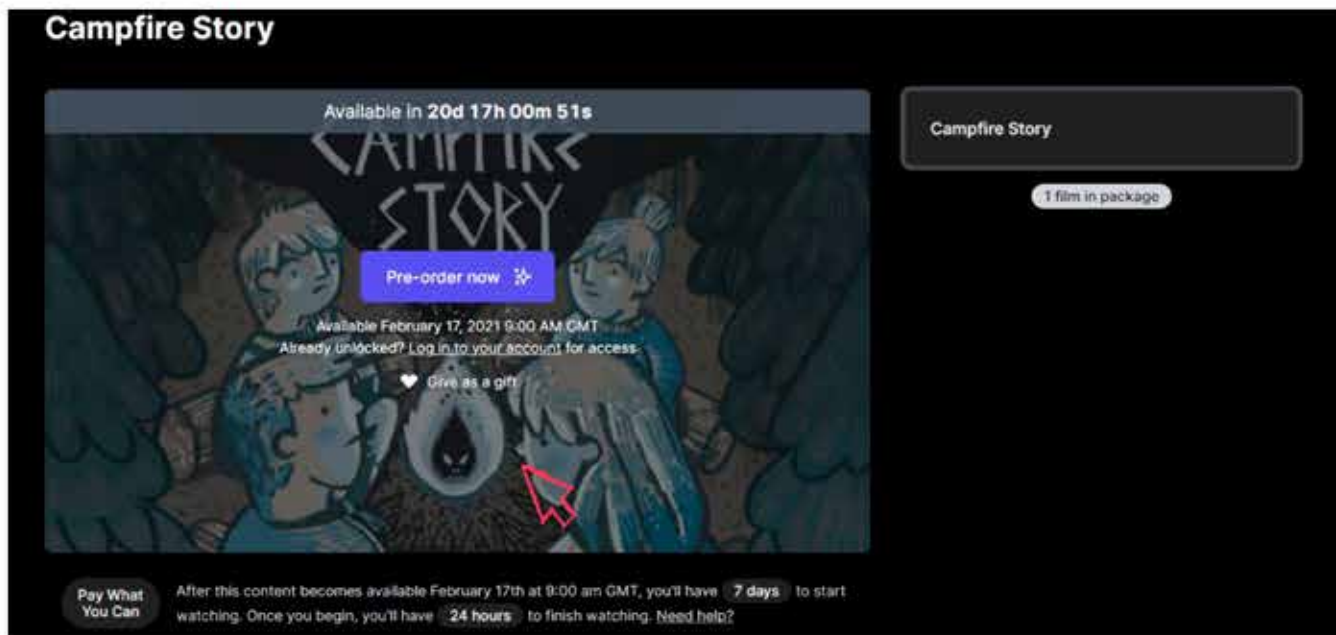
www.catstrand.com
CatStrand, High St, New Galloway
DG7 3RN 01644 420 374 Reg Charity SCO

Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust

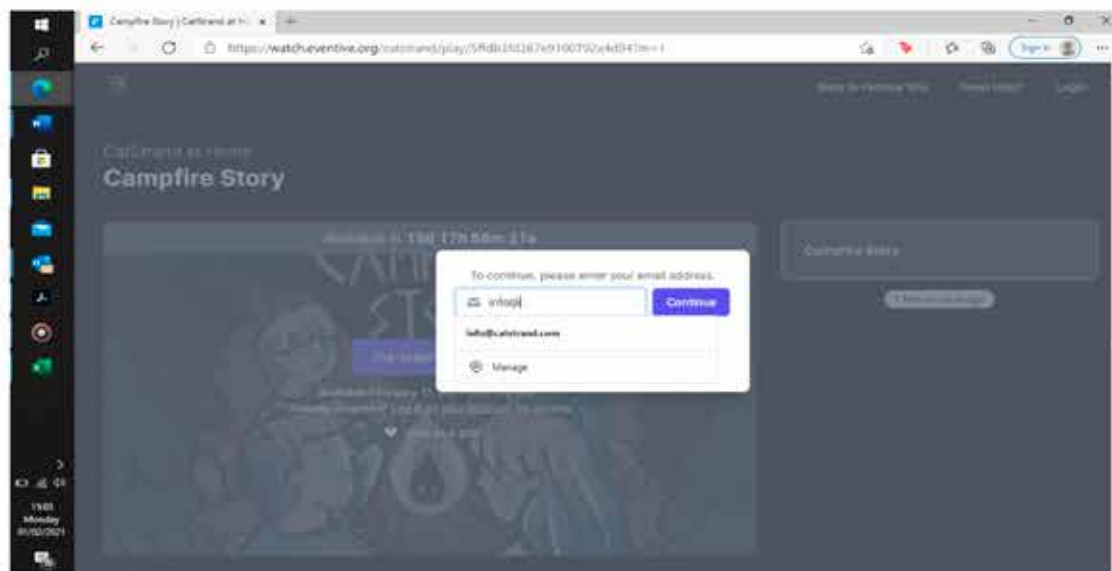


CREATIVE
LAND
ALBA: CHRUTHADHAG

3. This will open a new page which will allow you to pre-order or unlock the event you have selected.



4. After selecting the pre-order or unlock event tab, you need to enter your email and password if you are a returning viewer or if you are new you will need to set up your account with your email and make a password.



Pre-order Campfire Story at a price you choose

Have a discount code?

Access to this program is available on a sliding scale. Please pay what you can.

£0 - £50 Drag ↑ or type → £0

☒ Yes, please add me to your mailing list.

Pre-order now (£0)

You will not be charged.

Pre-order Campfire Story at a price you choose

Have a discount code?

Card number MM / YY CVC

Add payment method

This screening is available on a sliding price scale. If you would like to purchase it for free, you can [skip ahead to checkout](#).

We'll securely save your payment information for seamless future purchases. Remove it at any time.

5. After you have created a new account or signed in you will be presented with a payment option. These events can fall under three different categories.

Set price – you pay the amount presented e.g £8/ £4 u25

Free – you can watch this event for free

Pay what you can – you pay as much as you want to for this event on a sliding scale.

If there is a discount for this event you will be able to enter your discount code here.

You will have the option to be added onto our mailing list.

This is a way for us to be able to reach out to you about future events.

6. After selecting a price you will be asked for bank details to pay - or if you're returning you may already have a payment method saved.

If you are accessing a free event - click the skip ahead option below and you don't need to enter details here.

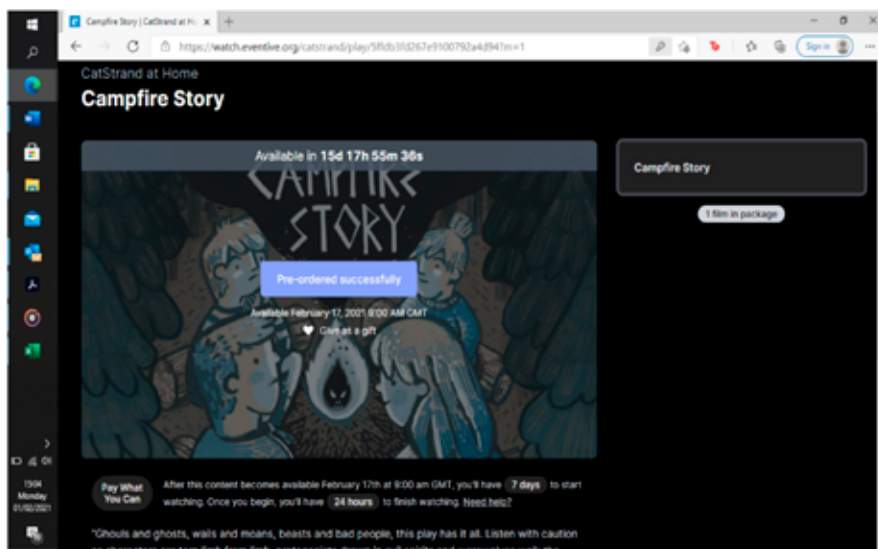
8. Click on 'process' and you will receive an email confirmation with details of your booking.

On the date of the event return to the CatStrand at Home page and you will be able to click **Watch Now** on your booked event. If you have booked in advance the event will show that you have **Pre Ordered Successfully** until it is available to watch.

Some events are available for a limited window of time - like a weekend. You can watch it any time of the day during the dates it is available to suit you.

9. Sit back and enjoy!

Once you begin watching the event, you will have 24 hours to finish watching - so you can come back to it any time during this time period.





CatStrand

Arts & Visitor Centre

www.catstrand.com 01644 420 374

Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust

April Events from CatStrand at Home



Absolute Classics:
Nicolas Jones & John Lenehan

£8 / £4 U25s
Run time: 1hr

Thu 08 April 7pm - Sun 11 April

Absolute Classics

We are pleased to be working with Absolute Classics to support the presentation of their virtual concert series this year. This month's concert combines Nicholas Jones on cello and John Lenehan on piano.



**McGoldrick,
McCusker
& Doyle**

Years 12+ £12 / £15
Run time: 1hr

Fri 16 April 7pm - Fri 30 April

Active Events

McGoldrick McCusker & Doyle have been sell out visitors to CatStrand for many years. They've created an online show that is touring Scotland's venues virtually. We're delighted to bring it to CatStrand at home.



**Evening in with
The Slocan
Ramblers**

Years 12+ £8 / £4 U25s
Run time: 40mins

Fri 23 April 7.30pm - Sun 25 April

True North Music

Join us for an evening in with bluegrass 4 piece The Slocan Ramblers. Pre-show chat with banjo player Frank Evans from 7pm on zoom. Ticket holders will receive a link to join us.



FILM:
Ioramm (Boat Song)

Years 12+ £5 / £4 U25s
Run time: 1hr
Fri 30 April 7pm - Mon 03 May

Bofa Productions and Tongue Tied Films,
in association with MG ALBA

The first-ever theatrical documentary entirely in Scottish Gaelic. Ioramm is a haunting evocation of life among the fishing community of the Outer Hebrides using archive and new footage.

Glenkens Cinema Survey



A survey from CatStrand and Dalry Film Club to gather your views on cinema in the Glenkens to help us better programme and provide great film access locally! Please tear out and return to Wrights Shop, NG Shop or Balmaclellan Shop. Or complete online - www.catstrand.com/filmsurvey Thankyou!

What type of films would you like to see?

Action Family Scottish Titles
Drama Period Drama International Film
Comedy Romance Horror
Other: _____

Would you like to see us increase the number of screenings locally?

Weekly Fortnightly Monthly
Multiple Screenings over a Weekend

Anything else you'd like to tell us:

How we can improve our events?

We know sound is an issue for our audiences at Dalry Film Club- we're working on installing acoustic clouds to improve this.

1. If we ran subtitles routinely, would that distract or enhance your visit? Yes/ No
2. If we ran dementia friendly supported screenings would you think this was something needed locally? Yes/No
3. We try to show on Wednesday evenings. Would Saturday evening be better? Yes/No
4. Do you like attending day time screenings? Yes/No
5. Are screenings affordable at £5 per ticket? Yes/No

Would you rather complete this survey online?

www.catstrand.com/filmsurvey

THE GARDEN SPOT

COVID-19 is receding and spring is advancing at a pace.

It's important to keep on top of things or the weeds and wildlife will just take over. Nature abhors a vacuum, so if you have any open soil you need to cover it by planting, sowing or covering it with a mulch otherwise you will find that you have unwittingly got a garden of native species (weeds to you and me).

As I write this, we have no idea when the garden centres might reopen so I am resorting to buying all my plants and seeds either online or at the supermarket. One thing about buying plants at the supermarket is that they tend not to be as well kept as garden centre stock - great when they arrive but not so good after a week or so - so try to buy your plants as soon as they arrive in the shop.

The tasks mount up at this time of year; prune the roses (I like to finish that by the beginning of April), clean the glass on the greenhouse, get seeds planted (check the packets - some need to wait a few more weeks),

check the tree ties are loose enough for a new season's growth... the jobs never seem to end. Now is also the time to prune your hardy fuchsias and penstemons - down to around two inches high I suggest.

Many health professionals are now using 'green prescriptions'. That is, they



New season's promise...

are telling people to get out into green spaces for physical exercise but also for mental health. What better way to do this than by gardening? And there

is no right and wrong; if your idea of gardening is to paint stones and arrange them in patterns or grow all 'native species' for wildlife or have neat rows of marigolds, then all of that is fine.

TV's *Beechgrove Garden* and *Gardeners World*, along with Radio 4's *Gardeners Question Time*, have all reported an increase in audience figures over the last year so gardening is certainly in the ascendency. We also need to encourage

the next generation to have an interest in growing food crops and ornamentals because I believe there will be increased job opportunities in horticulture in the UK because of import complications caused by Brexit.

One important job that we always seem to overlook is to take the time to walk around the garden and look and listen, without being tempted into chores. Sit in peace and wonder at nature, the birds flitting about their business and the buds breaking for a new year.

I am going to sign off now. I have written this column for the last two-and-a-half years and I hope you have enjoyed my musings. This is my sixteenth and final submission. If anyone is interested in writing on gardening subjects in the future, please

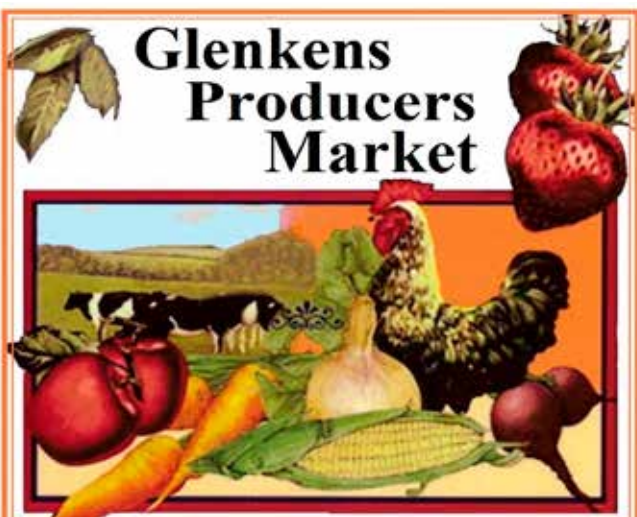
contact the editor and I will enjoy reading what others get up to in their garden!

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ARCHAEOLOGY MEETS POETRY ON THE RAIDERS ROAD

Remains of rural life from a remote Raiders Road farmhouse affected by the Lowland Clearances have been brought to life in a new poem for StAnza, Scotland's Poetry Festival.

In 2019, archaeologists and volunteers from the Can You Dig It (CYDI) community archaeology programme investigated a deserted farmstead named Upper Gairloch along the Raiders Road which runs through the Galloway Forest Park, beginning near Mossdale.

Looking to showcase a fresh perspective on Scotland's past during the pandemic, Dig It! – a hub for Scottish archaeology – commissioned Mae Diansangu to write a poem inspired by the site.

Diansangu is a spoken word artist and performer based in Aberdeen whose work centres on anti-racism, intersectional feminism, and LGBTQ+ rights. They worked online with Claire Williamson, an archaeologist from Rathmell Archaeology and Project Manager for CYDI.

In use as a steading since the seventeenth century, the surviving remains of Upper Gairloch consist of a

farmhouse rebuilt in the late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century and a kiln barn of similar date.

The CYDI team – who have reworked their programme of talks, workshops and excavations to an online offering during the pandemic – were able to marry up the site's archaeological record with written sources, such as maps and census records, to piece together the lives of the people who once lived there.

A broken slate stylus, for example, was found on the site of the farmhouse and may have been used by the children of Elizabeth McQueen who listed herself as head of the household in the census record of 1851.

Following the Lowland Clearances when many land workers were compelled to leave their settlements due to changes in land use, this particular ruined settlement later became part of a larger sheep farm cared for by a shepherd named William Little, who used farm ruins like this one as sheiling huts. Many such steadings, like the Upper Gairloch farmstead, survive today hidden in dense vegetation waiting to be uncovered.

Dr Jeff Sanders, Project Manager at the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland's Dig It! project, said: "Despite the pandemic continuing to postpone community-led archaeological activities, we're still finding ways to take inspiration from Scotland's past inhabitants. Diansangu's creativity and empathy helps us reflect on what

was important to these people and ultimately re-examine what is still important to us today."

Helen Keron, Community and Education Officer for

the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme, which hosts CYDI, said: "We were delighted that one of our sites was chosen as the inspiration for Mae's poem. Can You Dig It is all about connecting people with their heritage, and this is such an innovative way to do that – a great idea by Dig It!. Mae's poem is fantastic and really evokes the hardship of life in Galloway as it was then, but also the connection that archaeology gives us to our predecessors. It's well worth a listen – in both languages!"

Diansangu's poem, *nuhin new unner the sun*, has been released in Doric and English to coincide with StAnza 2021 (6–14 March 2021) and can be read or listened to on the Dig It!, StAnza and CYDI websites.

Dig It!, which advertises online and 'in person' archaeology events for members of the public throughout the year, is coordinated by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and primarily funded by Historic Environment Scotland.

nuhin new unner the sun

we'll niver ken, jist
foo mony

tales
are scribed
a'neeth the
clay

the mud is thick
wi fit's bin tint:

stories only hauf telt;
wirds an warlds,
tashed an torn by time;
mockit scraps fae past
lives

aa that wis scrat wi
sklate,

swallad up
by the wither,
so fan folk gather

up
the fragmentit hale
aats bin left,

they've tae guess
fit haun wis huddin it

the memry o a mither
stravaigs

doon Raider's
Road,

it settles like a smirr,
queart an saft,
amon the shrapnel
fae the past

here wis a wifey
fit played the manny
o the hoose

een pair o hauns
tae mak
a guid man's toil
intae
her ane



For more
information,
visit www.DigItScotland.com

Pictured are:
Top - the start of
the poem *nuhin
new unner the
sun*, the rest of
which can be
viewed/listened
to online. Far
left - a volunteer
exposing the
floor of the
Upper Gairloch
farmstead ©
Galloway Glens.
Left - pieces of
pottery found at
Upper Gairloch.

The Church and the River Crossing

One of the fascinating details in the 1781 plan of the river crossing at Dalry, accompanying the court case brought by John Newall of Barskeoch against the Earl of Galloway, is the sketched drawing of Dalry Church that it contains.

Admittedly it is only a rough sketch, but it clearly shows the church with roughly the same shape as the current building but without the bell tower. The bell tower has the date 1831 on it, and it has sometimes been assumed wrongly on this basis that the church was built in that year. My transcription of Presbytery of Kirkcudbright minutes has revealed that most of the current church was actually built in 1771, and only the tower was added in 1831. In the 1771 church the bell was housed in a small bell house built onto the west gable end. Kells Church had been rebuilt in 1822 with a fine bell tower and Dalry did not want to be upstaged by New Galloway and contracted the same architect, William McCandlish of New Galloway, to add a tower to the Dalry Church building. Some other improvements were also made, such as enlarging the windows and relocating the stairs, which had been accessed within the sanctuary near to the west and east doors so that they were accessed instead through enclosed stairs at the north end of the church.

High on the east gable end there is a square plaque with the date 1771, the name Jo. McNish and mason's marks (see photo). John McNish of Kirkcudbright was the mason who built the church, and was later given the task of building Dalry manse in 1784 – though the manse was later enlarged in



1828. He used some of the stone from the old manse, which had originally been on the site of the Lochinvar Hotel, in the construction of the new manse.

The initial plan for the 1771 church had been for a rectangular building, but the minister, Alexander Dick, had declared that the proposed building was too small. John Newall, one of the principal landowners (heritors) with responsibility for maintaining an adequate church building in the parish, offered to add a north aisle to the church at his own expense provided he was released from being required to contribute to the cost of the rest of the building. His offer was accepted. This was the same John Newall who brought the court case against the Earl of Galloway, the main local landowner, ten years later.

Some of the witness statements in the court case make reference to the churchyard. Several of them comment that the churchyard dyke was repaired seven or eight years earlier, soon after the church was built. Robert Ferguson of Millmark mentions that it was a drystone dyke covered with sods. He also comments that two-thirds of the dyke resembled a sunk fence with the ground being nearly on

a level with the top of the churchyard dyke on the inside. Apparently after the earlier embankment had been breached the churchyard would often get flooded when the river level rose, and the new embankment now protected the part of the churchyard wall where the water had got in. John Gordon of Dalry said that three years before the water had invaded the churchyard on three occasions. The first flood had surrounded the Newall family mausoleum (marked on plan as 'monument') and the last flood at harvest 1778 had been even higher. After the creation of the new embankment, however, there had been a problem of cattle getting into the churchyard along its top. They gained access to the embankment at its unfinished sloping west end.

David Bartholomew

Pictured: Above - 1781 plan of Dalry churchyard, with rough sketch of the church and the Newall mausoleum. Below left - Dalry churchyard, showing current church and mausoleum and the higher ground level within the churchyard. Below right - Mason's 1771 plaque on east gable of Dalry Church.



GLENKENS PLACE NAMES: PART IX

In the last piece I wrote: "It might be interesting to hill walkers who ascend Millyea, Scots Gaelic *Am Meall Liath*, 'the grey lump', from Clenrie that there 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."

David Bartholomew kindly got in touch with a response which was so interesting that I include it here in full (with David's permission).

You mention a summer shieling high on Meikle Millyea. I came across it in the summer – or what I assume is the same ruin. I suspect it may actually be a hilltop hideaway dating back to Covenanter times. Simpson in his 1846 book *'Traditions of the Covenanters'* in his chapter on Roger Gordon of Largmore writes the following on p257, referring to a time Roger escaped from the dragoons one night when the dragoons surprised him at Largmore: 'He then repaired, with all convenient speed, to his accustomed hiding-place in one of the lofty ranges of the Galloway mountains, called the Mill or Meaul ae. A place of greater solitude than this can scarcely be found, and a retreat which, in the night season, it was impossible for the troopers to find.' His name for the mountain is a bit garbled, but I'm sure he is referring to Meikle Millyea rather than Meaul. Roger had sasine over Clenrie as well so it would make sense that he might have built a refuge on the higher reaches of his own land where he would have been unlikely to have been troubled by soldiers. I only noticed the ruin when I was almost upon it, and he would have likely camouflaged it with heather and have given it a turf roof, so that it would have been even less visible in those days.

The Covenanters who were trying to avoid capture must have had a number of refuges where they could gather. I know of the ruin of one in Earlstoun wood used by the Gordons of Earlstoun. I found another ruin that may have a similar origin high up on the western

slopes of Meaul hill. John Dempster, who was shot dead by dragoons near the top of Meaul may have been making for that very refuge when the soldiers closed in on him.

They could be just summer shielings, as you say; but they are so high up that I think serious consideration must be given to them being Covenanter hideaways. So many were hiding away in the hills in those days, and it would make sense that many of them had places high up on the mountains so that they were well off the normal trails and had a good view of any approaching soldiers.

I think on reflection that David is probably right about the Clenrie structure and thanks again to David for this information and the photograph of the structure.

Anyhow, now we will continue the journey up the Forrest Glen looking

the glen roughly north-south near Knockreoch, *An Cnoc Riabhach*, 'the brindled hill'.

Garrainie itself is a tricky one. The forms recorded in the OS name book and on Ainslie's Map of 1797 suggest the stress was on the first syllable. My best guess would be Scots Gaelic *na gàraidhnean*, a plural form of *gàradh*, normally 'gardens' but here perhaps 'dykes'. Loss of the final -n in Scots wouldn't be surprising, especially after the syllable-initial n. The Place-Names of the Galloway Glens website perhaps wisely, doesn't attempt an etymology of this place-name and shows it in the wrong location, south of New Galloway. I think there must have been confusion between Knocknalling and Knocknairling. The 1854 map shows several ruined buildings at Garrainie. It would be interesting to try to establish if some of these buildings were kennels.

Between Garrainie and Craig Michael is what the OS described as a 'cothouse' called Kingston. It was in ruins as well by 1854. The Name Book states 'It is not known in the locality how it got the name'. There are a number of probable 'royal' place-names in and around the fringes of the former royal hunting forest. One further up the Forrest Glen is King's Holm, near the ruins of Ringreoch (which I will return next edition). At the head of the Polmaddy Glen are the Blaree Burn, perhaps

from Scots Gaelic *Blàr Rìgh*, 'king's field' which rises near the King's Well and Stone on the slopes of Meaul (*am Meall*, 'the lumpy hill'). These place-names may relate to the former royal forest. Local tradition tends to link place-names associated with royalty with King Robert the Bruce and the Wars of Scottish Independence but I think its at least as likely that they reflect the hunting tenure of the land hereabouts.

Near Kingston, just north east of Knocknairling House walled garden is Wally Stane, marked on the OS 1st edition 6" map. This stone seems to be subsumed within deciduous woodland policies surroundin 'the big hoose' but in 1854 it was open ground. It would be interesting to establish if this stone can still be located. This will be a Scots place-name from 'wallie' meaning 'fine, beautiful, excellent'.

Michael Ansell,
Cars Fèarna

* Thanks to Alan James for suggesting this piece.



Millyea shieling.

for abandoned farms and their place-names.

One such close to the mouth of the Polharrow near Knocknalling, is marked on the OS 1st Edition 6" map of 1854. This is Garrainie. David B kindly reminded me about this one as well and pointed out the OS Name Books description of the place.

The Site of a Small Hamlet on [the estate] of Knocknalling. It formerly [consisted] of 7 or 8 houses, but now nothing [of it] remains only with the exception [of the] ruins of two houses. It is not [known] in this locality how it got the [name]. Tradition says these old houses were [founded] by Earl of Bothwell to accommodate his hunters & Dogs during the period he was residing in Earlstoun Castle.

This is an interesting reference to hunting and it could be that Garrainie was the Forrest Glen equivalent of Castle Maddy in the Polmaddy Glen where tradition also has it that hunting dogs were kept. The Forest of Buchan boundary being probably the so called 'Deil's Dyke' which can be seen crossing

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

A Gallimaufry o' Bards



The editor of the poem to the right, *The Battle of Spearford*, neatly described it as "descriptive of a traditional fight in Crossmichael between the Gordons of Kenmure and the Glendonwyns of Parton".

The word traditional is code for 'no evidence it ever happened'. The bard was Samuel Wilson who was, according to Alexander Trotter, recognised as one of the "greatest of the numerous poets who sprang into existence in Galloway in the 18th and 19th centuries", no doubt inspired, as were so many, by one of Scotland's greatest fabricators - Walter Scott. He was born at Burnbrae west of Clarebrand, attending school at Ringanwhey (now Riganwhey) and Crossmichael, ending his formal education at Glasgow University.

He developed a successful business as a wood merchant but while working in Balmaclellan he was injured by the axe of a companion, necessitating the amputation of a leg. Before the accident he had been fascinated by archaeology and history. In the Highlands he learned to speak and write Gaelic. He was already known for his skill on flute and fiddle to which he added bagpipes.

A well-known local character he bawled out children who mocked his wooden leg. During his fifty years as a shop-keeper he advertised that he kept a loaded pistol on the premises. He never married, dying in 1863 aged 78.

It is disappointing that so few women in our general area seem to have written verse. Maria Trotter preserved some jingles but is much more valuable as a source of information about life in Galloway in days gone by. She tells us that she persuaded one of her sons to "write down a wheen odds and ends about the old notions of the people, and also a hantle of the bits of anecdotes of curious kinds of craiters, that used to enliven the farmer's fireside when I was young, in the lang winter forenichts, among the drearie muirs and mountains of our native Galloway. The most of the folk they are about are all dead, and their descendants crushed out of the country, to seek the living denied them

at home by absentee landlords, big farms, and game laws; but the few aboriginals that are left may like to read of the ways of their ancestors, and even the incomers may have a desire to know something of them that were here before them".

I have written before about this lady and I hope to do so again. She was nearly blind but was 'behauden to naeboddy' in describing something of the way of life some sixty years earlier. Her *Galloway Gossip* was a joint venture with her son Robert De Bruce Trotter who resided for a time at Dalshangan.

A more recent writer was Alexander G Hunter who published a slim booklet entitled, *Rhymes of the Glenkens*, which contains a selection of unpretentious and often humorous verse, straight out of the 'now'. He adores his 'Jean': "I hear her voice in ilka bird/That twitters i' the tree;/I'll luve her till the very en'/ Till sense and reason dee". Also appealing is his address to Cairnsmore of Deugh:

*What feet hae trod your massive braes
What een hae scanned your howes
What herds hae tramped ye up and doon
To seek for their bit yowes*

*What men hae stopped at orra times
To drink frae oot your lanes
Or cooied doon to licht a pipe
In the shelter o' your stanes?*

I would be glad to hear from anyone who knows of other verses by this bard.

A poet that I only recently discovered is Joan Rudal, originally, I think from London, who was inspired by the Moffat area, publishing *Songs of the Grey Country* in 1916 and *Peatsmoke* in 1919 both of which convey the massive disaster of war.

*From the Land you left behind you,
Where the mountains gird our home
Stray my errant songs to find you--
Will you read them where you roam?*

*Will you read, with eyes a-dreaming
Of the windy woods we knew,
And the grassy uplands gleaming
In the twilight - starred with dew*

*Till you hear the brown burns brawling
O'er the grey rocks, and the scream
Of the peewit and the calling
Of the hill-wind, through your dream.*

I suspect he was unable to reply.

Ted Cowan

*Proudly paraded the
hardy Glenkensmen,
Their broad tartans
wav'd in the wind of the
hill;
Gordon's loud pibroch
cheers on his bold
clansmen, The turrets of
Kenmure resound to the
peal.*

*Swiftly Maculloch
came, Maitland and all
his men
Stout Craigengillan and
haughty Knockgray;
Kennedy's bowmen true
Muster'd on Lowran's
brow;
Ken's rocky shore ne'er
beheld such array.*

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The Optimistic Environmentalist

What do Bank holidays mean to you: deckchairs or decorating?

If your house is anything like ours, it will definitely be decorating. There have been huge changes in paint technology over the last 20 or so years, for example – the introduction of water-based gloss, some of which can even be used outside; this in-turn allows tools to be cleaned in water, the reduction

of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) given off by paint.

If you remember painting with solvent-based gloss paint in the 1990s or before, VOCs are the things that made your whole house stink for weeks

– and invariably made our dogs ill. If you're buying paint for your latest project – try to buy low VOC



products – both for your nose and the wider environment.

So, you've got your paint sorted, what are you going to clean your brushes with when you've finished? If you're using water-based paint then water will do to clean up with. However, you may prefer the finish

only outdoors or in a well ventilated area. Wear nitrile or PVC protective gloves. Store locked up.

It makes rather sobering reading – if you want the full picture, the safety data sheet for white spirit is freely available on the internet and is possibly even more scary. Do you

really want to use a product like this in your home?

Probably not, but what's the alternative?

Here comes the good news – 'clean spirit'. Clean spirit has been around for over ten years

White spirit is a common enough household product but before you automatically reach for it, have a close look at the product label.

that solvent-based paints provide and if your project involves external metalwork you haven't got much alternative. You're then faced with the inevitable: 'Clean-up with white spirit'.

White spirit is a common enough household product but before you automatically reach for it, have a close look at the product label. I lifted the following information from a bottle we have in the shed:

DANGER – Causes damage to the central nervous system through repeated or prolonged exposure if inhaled. May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways. Repeated exposure may cause skin dryness and cracking. Flammable liquid and vapour. Toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects. Use

but, judging from the shelves of hardware stores, is still something of a fringe product. It's a mixture of ingredients often including alcohols and bristle softeners that will perform the same brush-cleaning function as white spirit. The difference is it's deemed non-toxic, non-flammable, biodegradable, has low VOCs and virtually odourless – and yes, it does work! Some solvent-based paints are harder to remove from brushes than others. We have found the solution for stubborn paints is to have a small amount of white spirit (that you can re-use time and time again) to soak the brush in initially, then do the proper cleaning with clean spirit.

Is it a panacea? In our experience, no, but it does drastically reduce the amount of white spirit you need and used with a bit of care, really does work. On top of that, because it's classified as non-hazardous, mail order suppliers are much more amenable to sending it through the post. At least one of the big online DIY suppliers will only sell white spirit to you in person at the store counter but will happily send clean spirit to you in the post. Oh, and if you happen to drip some paint onto your new carpet, you can also use it to remove that too – with less chance of ruining the carpet. Again, it really does work – our 'oatmeal' coloured 80% wool carpet came up as good as new after a mishap with some bright red anti-rust paint.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan



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Revisiting Detective Classics for Lockdown: *Edmund Crispin*

Edmund Crispin is the creator of the amateur sleuth, Professor Gervase Fen, and prolific writer of crime fiction (as well as being a musician and composer of some distinction).

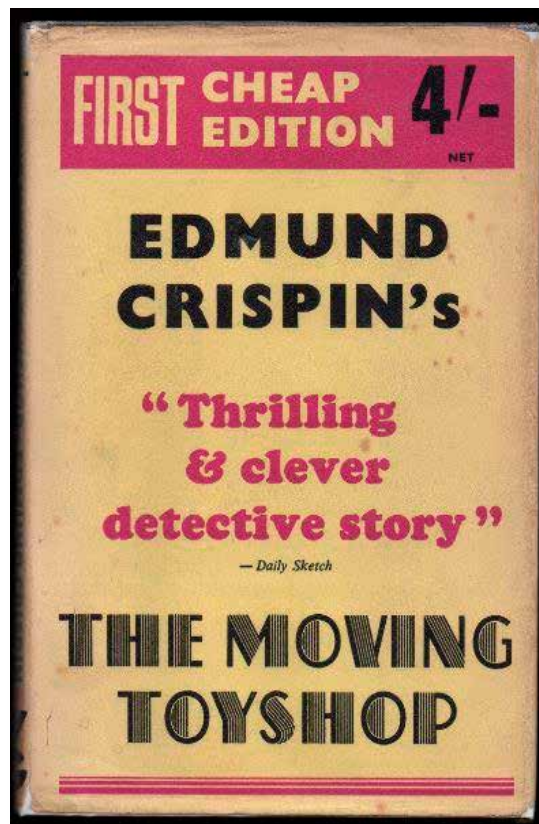
Crispin was the pen name for Bruce Montgomery. The style of the books contains a good deal of humour and the ridiculous, a light touch with human weaknesses, complex plots and quite a lot of fun. They are well written in the classic detective novel fashion. In many ways he did not enjoy the rapid changes brought about by the twentieth century and this comes through in many of the books. Most reviewers mention the high-spiritedness and charm of his novels.

The first Crispin novel that I read was *The Moving Toyshop* and it remains one of my all time favourite novels to this day. I think that if my house was burning down I would grab it to keep it safe! Other favourites include, *Holy Disorders* and *Glimpses of the Moon*.

Professor Fen is drawn to be insufferably arrogant and pompous, solving the mysteries he is presented with through wild and intuitive thinking with some provocative behaviour. Nevertheless, he is still a very likeable individual and entertaining character.

Many of his ten crime novels are still available on Amazon. Interestingly, nearly all of them are also available as audio books with various lengths from five through to nine hours.

Bruce Smith



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PUT RECOVERY FIRST

Hug in a Mug Cheers Dalry Residents

A small group of residents who got together on WhatsApp under the name Friends of Dalry organised a wonderful gift for Dalry's elderly residents.

On a cold Wednesday in February over 200 residents of Dalry and surrounding area received a surprise hug in the form of a small gift consisting of a

delicious home made mug of soup and cake.

The 'Hug in a Mug' gesture was a way of showing anyone who may have been feeling isolated, lonely or a bit fed-up that they were not forgotten and the rest of the village was thinking of them at this strange time.

The community came together to produce pots of scrumptious soups and trays of homemade cakes which brought a smile to each and everyone and were accepted with tears of joy and happiness.

From all the thank you messages that have been received it can safely be said

that it was a resounding success.

This whole venture would not have been possible without the help of the residents of Dalry and a huge thank you goes out to all of you - well done Dalry!

A dismal day turned bright and sunny by this act of kindness and community spirit - looking ahead to turning virtual hugs into real ones...

Lesley Blissett

See 'Thanks' on p28...



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What Do Peatlands Mean To You?

Peatland Connections is a new and exciting Crichton Carbon Centre project that will take you on a journey to re-discover our diverse and unique Scottish peatlands in the heart of Dumfries and Galloway.

This three-year project, funded by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, will explore the many connections we have to this sometimes-forgotten landscape.

It is widely appreciated that healthy peatlands store carbon, reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere, support unique plants and animals and have a role to play in water quality and regulation. This project will not only explore how we can help support peatland restoration and management in the Galloway Glens area to maximise these benefits, but will also bring alive our peatlands by celebrating their rich history and culture of stories,

songs and ancient myths.

Jayne Murdoch, Project Officer for Peatland Connections, says: "I aim to connect with as many different people as possible so we can better understand the importance of peatlands and the benefits they have for us all. I want to ask people in the Glenkens area: what do peatlands mean to you? We want communities and organisations to get involved in field trips, research and workshops and share your stories, songs poems and photographs with us. Please share your thoughts and experiences of peatlands - just type 'peatland connections sharing' into the Facebook search bar.



Peatland landscape at Clatteringshaws.

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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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Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is Nigel Spencer from Smittons with his photo, *Face at the Window*, showing a thoughtful-looking baby owl peering out.

Nigel 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: "Again a wonderful selection of photographs, but seeing the wee owl at the window jolted Dave's memory back 50 years to when the Warren family had two young rescue owls. Their sons and Dave had great fun feeding the owls with slivers of meat wrapped in wool until they were successfully released."

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



To the organisation supplied the aged of Dalry with soup and a bun on a cold frosty day in early February - what a lovely surprise!
Regards,
Ernest

See article on p26 ('Hug in a Mug')...



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m: 07766 978568
e: rj.mcculloch@aol.co.uk
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R J McCulloch is a family run plumbing, heating and renewables company that is a trusted provider of affordable heating solutions. From a rural cottage to a country estate, we can design and install a heating system to suit your needs. We wholeheartedly believe in the future of the Scottish renewables industry and are committed to furthering our high standards of workmanship and customer service in this field.

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INSTALLATION

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- Oil
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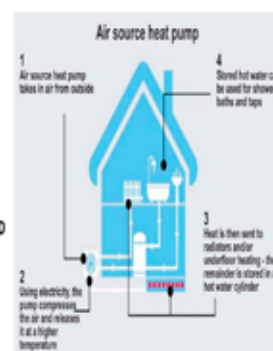
SERVICE

- Ground Source Heat Pumps
- Solid Fuel
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- Bathrooms

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Corsock Village Hall Book Swap

This March, the Corsock Book Swap was launched, situated in the village hall.

Over recent years the plant swap box outside Corsock village hall had developed beyond its initial remit, including books and publications such as the Glenkens Gazette.

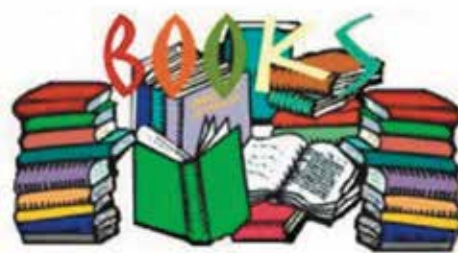
Keen to set up a more weatherproof facility, Corsock residents came together to use some of the Community Council's COVID-19 resilience funding to buy a small bookcase and PPE equipment for the porch of the hall.

A range of books have already been donated by the public and the facility is in regular use.

Further donations of

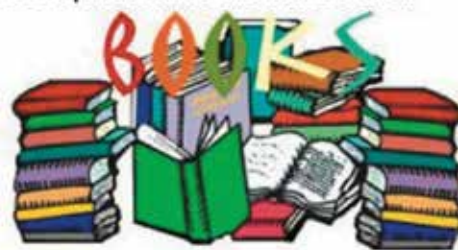
books are welcomed, to be left in the quarantine box.

What a great example of a positive local community response to these odd times... WL



Book swap bookcase is now in place in Corsock Village Hall

everyone welcome but please follow the simple instructions to keep us all safe. Copies of Glenkens Gazette and other local publications are here as well.



WINDY RIG WIND FARM PROGRESS UPDATE

At the beginning of March there were two incidents involving crane vehicles on their way to the Windy Rig Wind Farm site.

There were no injuries at either incident and the relevant authorities were notified. As a robust plan was formed to safely remove the vehicles, appropriate environmental measures and monitoring was put in place.

This included redirecting the water course around the cranes and using pumps to move the water away from the vehicles. The fluids

were removed from the vehicles and personnel were placed at the incident sites round the clock to monitor for any possible contamination.

Preparatory road works were required on both sides of the C35 to allow access for two larger cranes to lift the vehicle out of the verge and onto a transporter to be removed from site. During this period, we communicated with local residents through the

Community Council, our website and our text messaging service. Deliveries of turbine components commenced shortly after the crane removal and will continue for several weeks. We would like to thank local residents for their patience and understanding during the difficult few weeks in March.

We are currently operating a text message service to alert residents

to turbine delivery information and minimise 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





www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org
 M. 07841 512449 L. 01644 420374
gct@catstrand.com

Check the GCT website for regular updates and news.

A loosening of the COVID restrictions is on the horizon and GCT is looking forward to restarting previously operated services and to offering some new ones as restrictions are lifted.

The Wednesday evening Glenkens to Castle Douglas (Tesco) GK2 service continues to operate as normal (see timetable etc on right) as does our Kirkcudbright-Brighthouse-Borgue service and the patient transport support we provide in collaboration with the Scottish Ambulance Service. The Weekly (Tuesday mornings) service to Newton Stewart and back is also back in operation. Seats can be booked on these services via the GCT website or by phoning CatStrand on 01644 420374.

The GCT/Connecting in Communities wheelchair-accessible electric car arrived in January and has been busy since then and our new ebike hire scheme is taking shape nicely and will be launched on Saturday 15 May. See the GCT article in this issue.



The GCT-CiC electric car in Kirkcudbright getting charged and ready for action.

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		

Glenkens to Newton Stewart Tuesday Mornings

Outward Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930
 New Galloway (Town Hall) 0935, (CatStrand) 0937
 To Merrick Leisure Centre and Aldi
 Return Pickup Newton Stewart (Aldi Car Park) 1130
 Return fare £3.50 Advance booking required.

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

Covering the Glenkens & further afield

07709 144 299

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

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Councillor Dougie Campbell

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

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk



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Councillor Pauline Drysdale

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

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

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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



The Community Kindness Cupboard outside Dalry Library has home baking in every Thursday (see article on p14).

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

(price per issue incl VAT)

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

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

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

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

Call 07727 127 997

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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

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 garylissett51@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:

Sunday Services

Balmaclellan: 11am - 4 Apr & 2 May.

Carsphairn: 11am - 11 Apr & 9 May.

Kells: 11am - 18 Apr & 16 May. Dalry:

11am - 25 Apr, 23 May & 30 May.

There will also be an Easter Dawn Service outside Dalry Church at 7am on 4 April.

Communion will be celebrated at Balmaclellan on 2 May.

The local Church of Scotland congregations are continuing to prepare weekly prayers and reflections 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 email if they contact him at

dbartholomew@churchofscotland.org.uk
Paper copies can be provided to those who do not have internet access. Call 01644 430380 if you would like to receive these resources, or simply if you would like to have a chat.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

Communal worship at St Margaret's New Galloway resumed on Palm Sunday, albeit with last year's social distancing measures still in place. Sunday services, usually including the Eucharist, are at 10.30am every week. Visitors are always welcome. For further information, please see website <https://stmargaretsnewgalloway.org> or call 01644 420259.

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

Concerns Over New Pylon Route

This February, a group of local people from Laurieston got together (in a socially-distanced manner) to protest against the proposed Glenlee to Tongland power line.

Richard, one of the protest organisers, said: "Our main objections to the project are the destruction of endangered species and habitats, and also the potential effects for local residents who make a living through tourism."

Campaigners accept an upgrade is needed but say the new line should be put underground to minimise damage.

Richard went on to say: "This is one project out of many that is adding to the ongoing problems facing our world, a world our children will inherit and ask us why we let this sort of thing happen. We would like to see the Scottish Government step up to the mark to ensure that this kind of environmental destruction in the name of 'green energy' is not allowed to continue."

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) has published a report for the Kendoon to Tongland 132kV Reinforcement (KTR)



"At what point will people stop and see that the costs are, indeed, too high?"

Project. The report looks to identify potential underground cable routes as an alternative to overhead lines. The study found that underground cables were technically feasible and would offer environmental benefits, but the additional costs would be too high.

Richard asks: "But how can you balance the cost of destruction to our environment, to our livelihood, to our future... At what point will people stop and see that the costs are, indeed, too high?"

Pictured above is the small gathering at February's lockdown protest.



You're right...you've seen this photo before, in the previous issue - but here it is in full resolution...

Poetic lines curated by Ken Words from their Waterside Hill Poetry Walk of 20 September 2020.

Contributors, in alphabetical order, are Michael Ansell, Angus Macmillan, Andrew Mellor, John Priestley and John Smith.

If you have any queries please contact jane.kenwords@gmail.com

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

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Design & co-ordination:
sarah.ade@gmail.com