

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

June/July 2021

ISSUE 124

FREE

MEET THE LOCH KEN RANGER

Loch Ken now proudly boasts its very own ranger, a post managed by the Loch Ken Trust -

Ken Scott, who took on the role in April, explains a bit about what the role entails.

Since starting my post as ranger, I have regularly patrolled around the loch introducing myself to locals and visitors alike, as well as responding to people who contacted me directly.

On the first Friday I was on duty I was contacted twice about fishermen flying a St George flag, while lockdown rules prevented cross border travel. It turned out to be two local guys - one had family roots in Gibraltar and his friend had brought the flag along on St George's Day as a bit of a wind-up.

We want to encourage visitors to keep coming back to the loch, but to please visit responsibly and leave no trace behind. On several

occasions already I've cleaned up rubbish and even an abandoned tent from areas around the loch, some of which was a real danger to wildlife. Information regarding this was kindly passed to me by a concerned angler, via the Loch Ken Trust Facebook page.

I have been shown around the loch on land as well as viewing it by boat, gaining an appreciation of access and safety issues that I hope to be able to help resolve when out on patrol.

Hopefully my presence around the loch will reassure local communities and responsible visitors that there is someone in place to help directly with any issues or concerns they may have. Those concerns could be related to areas such as antisocial behaviour, irresponsible land access, poaching or littering. I see my part-time role as



Ranger Ken Scott (left) litter picking with local volunteers Kate and Andy.

sitting between the loch communities and partners at the D&G council community safety team and Police Scotland, calling upon and working alongside those partners as required.

Continued on p3...

Parton Photo Exhibition Takes to the Road

Parton community's Glenkens photo exhibition has taken to the road at last.

The display of competition entries planned for Christmas was delayed by lockdown but with the lifting of the 'stay at home' order, the exhibition went on display as promised in Parton village hall car park, mounted on a vintage Bedford truck, pictured here. The photos look fantastic.

Thanks again to all the participants and to my fellow Partonians Tom Marshall and John Simpson who put in time to make the competition and exhibition happen; to Dumfries & Galloway Council and Parton Community Council for supporting the printing costs; and to Gordy who was press-ganged into making the frame and mounts that made our truck display

possible!

If your village, hall or school would like to host the truck exhibition for a weekend or similar, we would be absolutely delighted to bring it over and park up - just drop an email to maxwellphoto2020@gmail.com

Suzy Mercer



Bea enjoying Parton's mobile photo exhibition

Are you struggling to find a house in the Glenkens? Do you know someone who is?

Whether it's to rent or to buy, we want to hear your story. The Glenkens is currently facing a housing crisis, with not enough homes available for those wishing to settle in the area and local families being forced to leave due to a housing shortage.

In the next edition of the Gazette we will take a look at this situation in some depth, hopefully starting an ongoing conversation.

Formal Objections to Pylon Route

Below is an update on the application by Scottish Power Energy Network (SPEN) for the Kendoon to Tongland 132kV Reinforcement Project.

SPEN's applications were submitted to the Scottish Government in September 2020. Dumfries & Galloway Council are a consultee in the process just like the RSPB, Scottish Forestry, Historic Scotland, NatureScot, etc.

After much discussion, D&G Council agreed to raise objections "on the grounds that it has not been proven as yet that the proposals would not have an unduly adverse effect on the landscape character due to this proposal running

through two Regional Scenic Areas and that underground would be the preferred option to protect these sensitive areas landscape views and visual amenity".

The government has written to SPEN asking them what they want to do - either withdraw the applications, modify their applications or ask the government to decide as it stands.

If the last is adopted the government will appoint a 'reporter' who will consider the scope of an enquiry which will be one of three options:

(a) Written evidence from interested parties

(b) A hearing session whereby the reporter asks questions to various stakeholders.

(c) Public Local Enquiry (PLI) - the bookie's favourite as this is a thorough and formal procedure.

To date there have been 909 objections sent to the government with 564



New overhead pylon route outside Carsphairn.

from Dumfries & Galloway. I have been informed by SPEN that these are phenomenal numbers so I sincerely hope the volume has an impact. About 60% of the objections have been regarding the Glenlee to Tongland section with only 40% objecting to the whole project.

Paul Swift

CLIMATE PANEL TENDER

Dumfries and Galloway Council have put out to tender the £50K contract to set up and run a 'climate pane' focused on implementing the Council's 12-point Climate Emergency Declaration Plan.

In response to a request through the Dumfries & Galloway Climate Group, several local organisations and individuals have responded and are pulling together a potential tender.

Those involved believe it is important that, in the spirit of 'climate assemblies', the agenda for its delivery should be set by as wide a mix of people as possible living in the local community.

The challenge of the climate emergency is felt most acutely by young people. So, those facilitating the bid very much want young people to become involved in the tendering process and, if successful, managing the eventual 'climate panel' process. Roland Chaplain is providing the contact point for anyone interested in becoming involved in however small or large a way - get in touch on 01644 420 361 or roland@glenkensbb.co.uk

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to send my thanks for a great article highlighting the plight of living in Carsphairn at the moment and dealing with the issues these wind farms are causing.

It's not the finished product that causes these difficulties, it's the constant disruption to our daily lives that becomes difficult to live with.

When wind farm operators put in for planning permission, the planning officers don't look at these things.

*Jackie Locke,
Carsphairn*

Clarification: The Gazette has been asked to point out that the owners of the "second B&B" in Carsphairn, as referenced in last issue's front page article, sold their business because they were retiring and not due to the impact of wind farm development in the area. The reference to the B&B being on the market was to illustrate, along with the sale of the only other B&B in the village, the impact on tourist accommodation in Carsphairn. We are happy to make this clarification as there was no intention to mislead.

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

*The Surgery
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New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

Covering the Glenkens & further afield

07709 144 299

- wood burners - multi-fuel stoves -
- open fires - Agas - Rayburns -
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DALBEATTIE SURGERY HOURS
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Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

FOR APPOINTMENTS AT BOTH SURGERIES
OR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

01556 502263

VETERINARY SURGERY
OAKWELL ROAD
CASTLE DOUGLAS

Carsphairn Road Network Ward Event

Local residents whose lives have been affected by the increase in traffic associated with wind farm construction and timber felling were able to air their grievances at a ward event, entitled Carsphairn Road Network, on 11 May.

Following multiple incidents that have affected Carsphairn residents, local councillor Pauline Drysdale agreed to arrange the ward event with council members and interested parties.

The event was put on to engage with the Windy Rig team, council officers, Smithy House Associates (who are responsible for communications during the Windy Rig construction process), councillors, Carsphairn community council, ward officers and constituents to discuss the infrastructure, the management of the roads network (in and around the wind farms and across the immediate area) and the communications regarding these works.

The purpose of the event, as explained by a council officer, was to "improve the management and communications surrounding the aforementioned work ... Also to facilitate better relationships between the contractors, the management of Windy Rig and our council and to understand where each tier of responsibility lies."

16 local residents joined the meeting, which was chaired by Councillor Drysdale, to share their concerns and discuss potential solutions.

The key concerns were the damage to small local roads by heavy vehicles

(both timber and wind farm), a lack of communication between Windy Rig management and residents regarding disruption on the roads, and the amount of disruption to local residents from wind farm traffic and road works.

With regard to better communication, Doug Wilson, of Smithy House Associates, agreed that they would endeavour to improve their messaging service to ensure residents were kept up to date with changes in times, etc, of component deliveries. D&G Council roads department representatives suggested that residents contact their

Carsphairn Community Council chair Liz Holmes said: "Thanks to councillor Pauline Drysdale and the various bodies involved in this meeting. Feedback from the meeting was largely positive and it is hoped that the Windy Rig messaging service will be improved further to ensure residents and businesses living along the route, who have experienced serious disruption to their activities, are kept up to date with transport and delivery schedules."

Councillor Pauline Drysdale said: "I was delighted that we were able to have a ward event during COVID. The follow-up report stated that some of the objectives were achieved, but it still needs some work going forward with regards to the Traffic Management Plan. As a councillor I feel it's my job to ensure that the council planning department are being as proactive as possible in terms of the processes and procedures to be followed. I will continue to strive to act as a voice for the community regarding their rights to use these roads for their daily needs. It is vital that people's needs are considered as a priority when planning strategies and wind farm developments are agreed."

Going forward, it seems that a discussion needs

to take place within D&G Council with regard to how they regulate wind farm developments. In the ward event, Statkraft, developers of Windy Rig wind farm, repeatedly noted that they were abiding by the agreement that had been set up with Dumfries & Galloway Council. If this is the case, the agreement process seems to be lacking significantly in prioritising consideration of the impacts of large scale developments on local residents.

With so many commercial applications being submitted across the region - for both wind farms and forestry plantations - it seems vital that the council has a robust strategy in place going forward; a strategy which ensures the needs and rights of local people are given equal importance to the demands of corporations.



Photograph submitted by Rita Fairgrieve of a wind turbine blade being lifted to make it round a corner on the B729 next to her house, Old Burnfoot Cottage.

local councillor or community council if the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) was being breached by any vehicles so that they could follow it up.

The TMP can be viewed at www.carsphairn.org/CCPlanning - issues can also be reported by emailing planningenforcementteam@dumgal.gov.uk

It was also noted that if there are significant areas of damage to roads, potholes, etc, it can be reported on the dumgal.gov.uk website under the 'Report It' function on the home page.

It was clarified by Doug Wilson that Statkraft is required to restore roads to their original condition following the completion of the wind farm. Also, upon the end of use of the laydown area outside Carsphairn village, the site will be landscaped with input from the local community.

LOCH KEN RANGER

Continued from front page...

To raise awareness and visibility I now have stickers on my car, making it far more visible when out on patrol which hopefully will encourage direct local engagement. So don't be shy - if you see the car parked up, come over and have a chat!

That same visibility should also help deter the small minority of

visitors whose reasons for visiting Loch Ken may fall outside of 'responsible'.

I am collating any concerns that are raised in order to identify patterns and repeated issues, what the busiest times are and any hotspots that may require more regular or more robust patrolling.

I cannot be at the lochside 24

hours a day and I am relying heavily on locals and visitors being my eyes and ears, and getting in touch with any concerns - if I am not told about problems, I can't do anything about them, so I urge anyone with an issue to either phone me, email or leave me a message on the Loch Ken Trust FaceBook page.

Get in touch with Ken on 07918 300 889 or lktranger@protonmail.com

SECURING OUR G



More than 100 people attended the Glenkens District Trust's first summit to debate the issues facing the Glenkens communities (as reported in the last *Gazette*). For many, the most inspirational part of the evening was contributed by the guest speakers who shared their expertise in social enterprise, community wealth building and community response to the climate emergency.

The *Gazette* has followed up by interviewing the speakers, specifically asking how the Glenkens communities should set out to secure their economic future.

Their first responses are encouraging. "You have already started!" says Philip Revell. "You have agreed a community plan. Many communities have not got that far." Neil McInroy adds: "You have already created social enterprises and have instances of community ownership. This is something to build on. It shows what can be done."

Philip cites the importance of supporting local producers by making people aware of what is available and providing opportunities

that are do-able, which will get quick wins," she says. Philip stresses the importance of not 'over-thinking' and, like Neil, encourages spontaneity rather than spending time and energy on complex integrated planning.

Ailsa has seen too many communities waiting for some outside agency to provide 'the big fix' with a major development. "Don't set your heart on it," she says. "Start with what you can do where you are. Tackle issues in bite-sized chunks. Twenty micro-

Pictured left to right: Philip Revell is convenor of the Scottish Communities Action Network on Climate Change. Neil McInroy is CEO of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies and advises the Scottish Government on Community Wealth Building. Ailsa Clark is founder and development manager of the social enterprise support organisation, Inspiralba and runs the Rural Social Enterprise Hub.

to buy their produce. This has been a focus of the successful Glenkens Food Month and its spin off - the Glenkens food hub.

All three stress that having got to this point the Glenkens communities must press ahead. Ailsa Clark advocates pilot projects. "Identify short-term objectives

businesses could be a better prospect. Some might fail but some might grow organically and provide future strength - and keep the wealth in the community." Neil also is wary of placing too much emphasis on a big investment from outside, which comes with the risk of financial extraction. Community energy is better directed at local small-scale initiatives, "where wealth sticks". As his mantra has it: "Many a Mickle Maks a Muckle."

None of the panelists believes securing agreement in a community is easy. "You will never please all of the people all the time" says Ailsa. "The priorities have to be the priorities of the majority. Keep the plan up to date and keep the community with you."

Philip believes consultation requires radical approaches. "The way you reach out to people is crucial," he says. "There are lots of new approaches which have been shown to work. People are tired of the traditional form of public consultation." He advocates citizens' assemblies, not of self-selecting activists but of ordinary members of the community. There are various ways of doing this including 'sortition' - a method of getting decisions from randomly selected citizens dating back to early Greek democracy.

LENKENS' FUTURE

Neil believes in monitoring people's needs, wants and desires - and identifying how policies are addressing these.

Ailsa stresses the importance of avoiding confrontation. "There are always going to be egos and personalities to deal with. Better to focus on objectives. We want to create job opportunities for young people? Who is going to be agin that?" Once such a consensus is achieved, people are then discussing the best way to achieve an agreed goal.

Ailsa adds that success must be shared and celebrated but warns not everything will go to plan. She believes 'space for reflection' must be created for considering what is not working and how to put it right without casting blame.

Economic prosperity should not be measured by GDP says Philip. "GDP tells you nothing about wealth or how it is distributed. It measures income not wealth and doesn't tell you where income goes." Neil is an exponent of community wealth building which aims to give communities a stake in the economic wealth of their localities. This, he says, is well beyond token consultation, or community development or economic development. It is about economic democracy, growing the wealth

of a community organically by sharing resources and linking up local supply chains, employment opportunities, etc. This is a different way of looking at the economy.

All three contributors mention community and land. For Ailsa, land ownership is not essential "but it can make things a lot easier". Neil adds: "Be clear first what community ownership of land can help with. Economic regeneration means attracting and retaining people with skills and this requires affordable housing and this requires land." The same, says Philip, applies to the desire to create affordable energy-efficient housing. If most people support these goals then there is motivation for the community to acquire land.

The panel's ideas are stimulating but challenging. How can a community of a few thousand people respond? "Scotland," says Philip, "is the most centralised democracy in Europe. In Finland, an area the size of Dumfries and Galloway would have 10 local authority areas, each with real power and resources." In many countries small communities can, and do, take major decisions.

All three speakers emphasise this is already happening across Scotland.

They represent organisations with vast experience and contacts. Numerous agencies can provide support and assistance such as the Scottish Land Commission and local authorities. There is information out there (see panel of sources below). For instance communities could aspire to own wind turbines rather than parley for hand-outs. "Imaginative partnership working can build up capacity for change," says Neil. The challenge is to build a local economy which works for the local people. "Keep your eye on the horizon" says Ailsa. "Take time to envision," says Philip. "What do we want the Glenkens to look like in 2030?"

See article on p32 regarding local food production survey...

Find Out More

There are many examples across Scotland and beyond of local communities working to develop their own economies. Here are the websites of our three interviewees which describe how ordinary people are working to secure their future:

- www.ruralsehub.net
- www.scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk
- www.cles.org.uk

For Want of a House...

Rory Paterson was among the 100 participants in the Zoom summit on the economic future of the Glenkens.

He found the event inspiring and surprising. Inspiring because of the ideas being presented by the speakers and taken up by the participants: surprising because, aged 34, he found himself the youngest person in the audience.

"If we are talking about building for the future we must have younger people involved," says Rory, who grew up in the Glenkens and now wants to return and settle here. He and his partner are expecting a son in the summer and want to make their home here and become involved in local food production. Talk of community farming and partnerships piqued his interest. With his brothers he has inherited some 30 acres of farmland and is keen to play his part

in creating a thriving economy.

But there is a major obstacle. "I am living in Dumfries at present because I can find nowhere to rent in the Glenkens." He is currently working as a therapeutic support worker with the organisation Common Thread. He wants to contribute to the community - after living and working in the US and as a fly fishing guide for Atlantic salmon in Norway and Strathspey, he wants to come home to the Glenkens and put down roots again. However, renting is proving so difficult he is now considering buying and is working hard to gather a deposit. Rory knows of others who want to settle here too but are also stymied by a lack of affordable housing and adequate public transport.

If people want to see a thriving Glenkens, then he believes these issues must be addressed.

"As soon as I am in the area," he says, "I'll be working hard to get involved with the community. I have some good ideas and being a son of the Glenkens, it's time to get back and get on with it."



Do you know of young people who want to work in the Glenkens but can't find accommodation?

The Gazette plans to take a look at the scale of the problem of available local housing.

If you have anything to contribute with regard to this topic, please contact us on glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

Community Councils - Why Bother?

I arrived in the Parish of Dalry as a curious 'comer-inna' wanting to know more, so I went along to the community council meetings, which happen monthly.

All general community council meetings are open and anyone can attend. With open curiosity, I attended every month. I learnt about upcoming applications for wind farms and the wind farm community funding. I observed how members discussed issues and took decisions for actions based on votes. I soon became aware of the good work that the community council does for the community, like the winter emergency shed which contains simple yet necessary items should we need them in times of extreme cold weather and power cuts. Meetings are often quite matter of fact. Issues are discussed and acted upon. Some issues are quite mundane, yet crucial, like checking the salt bins are stocked up in winter; others, more pressing. Dalry Community Council acted swiftly in March 2020 when the country went into lockdown, ensuring that the people of Dalry, especially the elderly, people with disabilities, people living alone, and

lower income families had much needed support. In all, community councils attend to ongoing nuts and bolts as well as more complex issues such as dealing with the influx of Sitka spruce plantation proposals.

Until I attended the meetings, I didn't know what community councillors got up to. I discovered that they are a bunch of involved and engaged individuals who get stuck in. They do this as volunteers. However, if no one volunteers, we will lose our community councils, which are valuable assets for our rural towns and communities. Our voices are heard and represented through our community councils - community councils do make a difference.

I thought I would write this because, even though meetings are open to all, very few people actually attend.

Our voices are heard and represented through our community councils - community councils do make a difference.

Perhaps it is because they aren't all that thrilling all of the time. However, they are informative and they are spaces for positive action. In Dalry, we are currently working on a Climate Emergency Declaration, which will hopefully be adopted and inform the future work we do. Our community councils are places

where anyone can have their say and - if agreed upon - enable positive things happen for our communities and our environment.

During the past 15 months, during a pandemic and lockdowns, restricted movement and social distancing, I've experienced important things getting done, things that have made a difference. I am proud to be a part of this hard working group of dedicated individuals.

So here's the crux. Dalry Community Council would love more people to become involved in whatever way suits them best. We would love to see more people attend the monthly meetings. More than that, we would love - and actively and openly encourage - young people to get involved. New members under the age of 40 would inject a youthful vitality and bring to the fore issues of concern for younger citizens and future generations.

If you would like to know more about your local community council, visit <https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/CommunityCouncils>

Dee and Glenkens is Ward 3 - click to open the list of community councils; then click on your town or village to reveal contact emails addresses. If you're interested in getting involved, or just want to know more, please get in touch. The more voices we hear, the more representative community councils will be.

Kerry Morrison, deputy chair, Dalry Community Council

FOND FAREWELL TO GLENKENS COMMUNITY SHOP FOUNDER

About eight years ago Shirley McNaught had a lightbulb moment - why not use the empty shop space in Dalry's Main Street for a charity shop.

Not just another branch for a national organisation, but one which would serve our local community. So the Glenkens Community Shop was born...

Since then, Shirley has worked tirelessly managing the shop, which is no little task. It has become a hub for the community, somewhere to pop into for a chat and somewhere you can always pick up a bargain. It has supported local groups and individual projects to the tune of about £50,000 since its inception, many of which may have struggled without this support.

Now Shirley has decided to retire and no-one can really replace her. However, the shop will continue to run with us, the volunteers, trying to cover all that she did! We will miss her dearly, but look forward to her popping in from time to time to say "Hi!".

We hope Shirley will enjoy looking back at this incredible achievement and feel truly proud of what she has done - she has left an enduring legacy to the Glenkens she loves so much. Thank you Shirley!

Lis Lewis and the Shop Volunteers



Shirley McNaught (right) with shop volunteer Avril Brown in 2012.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Local capacity-building company Sleeping Giants ran an online workshop titled How to Win Friends and Influence (The Right!) People.

Attended by a few Glenkens residents, the event explored community involvement in decision making and some of the structures in place which allow local people to contribute to the decisions which affect them. Sleeping Giants' Grace Cardozo introduced us to Arnstein's Ladder of Participation (1969) and the Community Empowerment Act (2015).

I felt it would be a good time to share the fundamental principles of both with our local communities, particularly given the level of rural change we can expect to see over the next decade and the amount of (often impenetrable) jargon used to describe it.

As we enter the 'Just Transition' to the 'Green Recovery', address 'Land Reform' and develop 'Regional Land Use Partnerships' using 'Nature Based Solutions' to meet 'Net Zero' targets, not to mention 'auditing Natural Capital' and 'public money for public goods'. We need to find a way to wade through the jargon and enable our communities.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 legislation, introduced by the Scottish Government, will help people have more say in the decisions that affect them and more power to take care of things themselves. They also help by giving community groups money to make them stronger, and asking public bodies to make sure they listen to what communities want. The eleven key points are:

1 – National Outcomes National Outcomes describe what we want Scotland to be like. The Act says that national outcomes should be published.

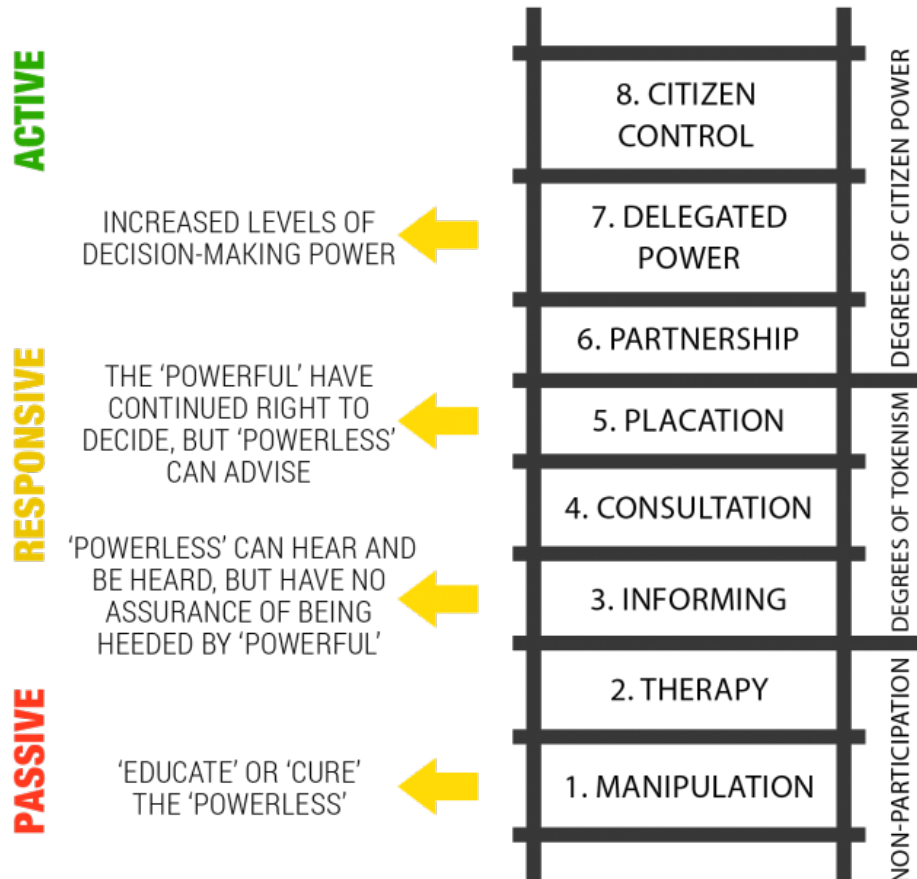
2 – Community Planning Community Planning is how public bodies work together and with the community in each council area to make life better for people.

3 – Participation Requests If a community group has an idea to make services better, they can make a participation request to the public body that runs the service. The public body will have to listen to the community group's idea and talk to them about how it might work.

4 – Community Rights to Buy Land The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gave rural communities and crofting communities special rights to buy land.

5 – Asset Transfer A community group can make an asset transfer request for any land or buildings which a relevant authority owns or rents from someone else.

6 – Delegation of Forestry Commissioners' Functions The Act will allow Scottish Forestry to delegate its responsibilities in connection to land that



Arnstein's Ladder of Participation, created by Sherry Arnstein in her book *The Citizen's Handbook*, first printed in 1969.

is leased to community groups.

7 – Football Clubs The Act allows the Scottish Ministers to make new laws to make sure fans have a say in how their club is run.

8 – Common Good 'Common good' is property that local councils have been given to help local people.

9 – Allotments Local councils will have to keep a list of people who want an allotment - people will have a right to have a 250 square metre allotment and rents must be fair.

10 – Participation in Public Decision-making People should be able to have their say in decisions that affect them.

11 – Non-domestic Rates This allows local councils to reduce business rates for different types of business.

Legislation is all well and good but, to put it into practice on the ground, we need consultations that are more than a tick box exercise included grudgingly to get a project over the line.

Arnstein's Ladder of Participation (see illustration above) is a valuable tool to see how much meaningful engagement and participation is really going on. Is it non-participation, tokenism and informing? Or genuine empowerment, which incorporates partnership, citizen control and delegated power.

"The ladder is a guide to seeing who has power when important decisions are being made. It has survived for

so long because people continue to confront processes that refuse to consider anything beyond the bottom rungs." (*The Citizen's Handbook*)

There are many helpful resources about the Community Empowerment Act and the Ladder of Participation available online.

We would love to hear your experiences of local instances of good engagement, occasions when it could have been done better and what your hopes and aspirations are for land-use change and social justice in the Glenkens over the coming decades. Please send your thoughts to the Gazette email, which can be found on the back page.

Morag Leeming

MARBRACK GARDEN SERVICES

- mowing -
- strimming -
- hedge cutting -
- pruning -

All debris removed

Contact Rob & Rita
07554843219

Threave Gardening Show 2021

The National Trust for Scotland's Threave Gardening Show is back, and this year it's full of surprises.

The three-day event takes place from 4 to 6 June with an open-air plant sale as well as other socially-distanced garden activities for all the family over the weekend.

Sam Gallacher, operations manager at Threave, said: "Our first Threave Gardening Show in 2019 was a great success and that's why we took it online last year with the support of our local strategic partners, the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme. We're very much looking forward this year to welcoming visitors back to the garden and, having learned from our virtual experiences about how we can communicate our horticultural knowledge in video form, we will be integrating this into the physical space of the garden."

The team will be showcasing a number of specialist nurseries with plants for sale, as well as presenting a flower extravaganza from a group of skilled and dedicated volunteer flower arrangers in Threave House. Attendees will also have the opportunity to gain advice and ideas from expert gardeners and students from the famous National Trust Scotland's



Threave walled garden © Sarina G Photography

School of Heritage Gardening who have innovated, transformed and developed our outstanding garden for over sixty years.

Michelle Robertson, visitor services manager at Threave, says: "Throughout the weekend we'll have cream teas in the Terrace Café, artisan pulled meat brioche buns and ice-cream specials at the Stables Café and retail offers all weekend. We are even hoping to have craft activities for the under-12s so keep a look-out for updates on our Facebook page."

Upon arrival, visitors will receive a special map of the garden identifying the location of the plant market, the flower extravaganza, and each of the QR-codes which link to the video demonstrations.

To ensure that all visitors can enjoy a safe and socially distanced visit numbers and the duration of each visit will be limited. Tickets can be booked for the following time slots: 10am-12noon; 12.30-2.30pm and 3-5pm.

Booking online is essential - to book visit <https://nts.cloudvenue.co.uk/threavegardeningshow>

Balmaclellan House Open Garden

The gardens at Balmaclellan House were open on Sunday 2 May under Scotland's Garden Scheme and, despite it being a cold day, there were 114 visitors plus children.

There was a really nice atmosphere with a mix of tourists, garden scheme regulars and locals dropping in to meet and catch up on the news.

The formal garden at Balmaclellan House is based on the shape of the Balmaclellan mirror, an historic artefact found in Balmaclellan Parish in 1861. The mirror is very early Iron Age, dating to between 110 and 240 AD. Mirrors such as this have been found in southern Britain, but it is unique in Scotland.

The mirror is of national

significance and is housed in the National Museum of Scotland.

The mirror has been on a tour of the UK as part of a collaboration between the National Museum of Scotland and the British Museum but has never been

exhibited in the Glenkens. Due to its value, it would be a major problem to get the original for exhibition in this area. However, through funding from the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership, there are plans for a bronze replica to

be on permanent display in Balmaclellan Smiddy. The actual casting will be a public event held at the Men's Shed in Balmaclellan - this project has been delayed due to COVID but will hopefully progress later in 2021.

The Balmaclellan House garden was designed in 2012 by Emma Gibson from Balmaclellan, who was inspired by the mirror, and the planting scheme has since been further developed and maintained by Billy Orr. Prior to the redesign, this area of the garden had been a tennis court.

A total of £620 was raised during the open garden, 50% of which is distributed by Scotland's Garden Scheme to national charities and 50% going to a local recipient, which in this instance is the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust.



Balmaclellan House garden, based on the design of the iron age local artefact, the Balmaclellan mirror.

Arndarroch Open Days

Arndarroch, situated on the B7000 five miles north of Dalry, commands fine views of Kendoon Loch and Cairnsmore of Carsphairn.

In 1990 the present garden was a bare hillside with thin, rocky soils. This challenge was compounded by rabbits, nettles, docks, thistles and strong winds. The birds were few. Undaunted, owner Annikki Lindsay used the natural features to create a very special garden full of surprises that blend in with the natural surroundings.

Today the garden and the predators exist harmoniously. The hostas are no longer at the mercy of slugs as these are controlled naturally by frogs, toads, birds and hedgehogs. Rabbit-proof cultivars

have been chosen and the rabbits, still numerous, do not cause the devastation they once did. Many birds choose to make the garden their home or visit it seasonally including barn owls, house martins and swallows. There are natural nesting sites and food as well as nesting boxes.

Development of the garden has taken 30 years and has evolved beyond the original plans for it. The owner has learnt that the best outcome can be achieved by working with nature and not against it, resulting in a unique garden to wander around and sit in to contemplate the magnificent views and to focus on individual aspects of the garden.

Arndarroch Garden will be open on one day each month over the coming months, giving you a chance to view it as the seasons change. The first Open Days will be on Saturday 19 June and Saturday 17 July, from 10am to 4pm. The garden will be open under the umbrella of the Glenkens Church of Scotland. Entry



View of Kendoon Loch from Arndarroch garden

and teas will be by donation, and will support the local Church of Scotland congregations.

PORTRAIT OF A COMMUNITY

An outdoor photography exhibition is to be held at the Green Well of Scotland, outside Carsphairn.

The exhibition, which tells the story of the area's local community and heritage, will be launched on Sunday 27 June and will be open to the public until the end of September.

Documenting images taken at the

Green Well of Scotland of locals from Carsphairn parish in May 2021, this exhibition captures the local community as they emerge from the unprecedented experience of a national lockdown.

The exhibition, which will be mounted outside the Carsphairn Heritage Centre and the Green Well of Scotland, has been captured by professional photographer Alicia Bruce, whose work is part of the National Galleries of Scotland collections.

More than 180 members of the local community were invited to step forward and be photographed at the well.

The Green Well of Scotland is a well-

known historic site sitting next to the river Deugh (Dee) at the foot of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn. Said to be bottomless, the 30-foot diameter pool is the focus of many local legends.

Historical sources suggest it was visited regularly in times gone by as it was believed its water had healing properties and locals believe it is one of the Fons Scotiae mentioned in Saint Columba's biography.

The Green Well of Scotland is situated down-river from Knockengarroch, where the world-renowned greenfield festival takes place each year. Katch Holmes, Knockengarroch's festival co-producer, is the creative force behind the exhibition. Having grown up in the community of Carsphairn, Katch has first-hand knowledge of the parish and its residents and was delighted to be able to reach out to as many locals as possible to invite them to be a part of the project.

Dr Peter Hewitt of Dumfries and Galloway Museums said: "There are few wells that can boast a richer folklore than the Green Well of Scotland. Tucked away in a remote part of Galloway, the well is seemingly ageless and bottomless. Here you will find healing lore, devil lore, stories of witches and avian guardians, lairds, covenanters and a fugitive 'alchemist'. Above all, the Green Well is a place of beauty, a place where the regions' cultural memory is stored like a battery."



The Green Well of Scotland photographed at dawn on Beltane (1 May) 2021 by Matt Hickman

Dear Editor,

The article about the archaeological survey of Upper Gairloch (April/May 2021) suggests that a family was evicted from their home to make way for a larger farm. There is no evidence for this.

In 1880 the grazing farms of Upper and Lower Gareloch, containing 2,025 acres were advertised to let from Whitsunday 1881. 170 acres

were deemed to be meadow. These farms were again advertised to let from Whitsunday 1890. The outgoing tenants were James Gray, Ewanston, Balmaclellan and Major JM Kennedy, Knocknalling. Both were non-resident. William Little, the shepherd, lived in Lower Gareloch.

There were probably similar advertisements in previous years, but,

where no aspiring tenants were willing to embark on investing in land with no arable fields for growing oats, the staple food source prior to the introduction of potatoes, the farms were let to farmers on lower ground. Shepherds were hired to manage these upland farms which were known as 'led' farms. No suggestion of 'clearance'.

AB Hall, Moniaive

Having Fun at Dalry ELC

At Dalry Early Learning & Childcare Centre (formerly the school nursery) the children have settled back in after being away due to COVID restrictions.

With rules at present encouraging time outside we have been doing most of our play outdoors, which isn't an issue with us as we love learning in an outdoor environment. This has enabled us to look at our learning environment and introduce planting beds for the children to learn about gardening. Gardening is an interactive playground that stimulates all of their senses - growing plants and nutritional food, tasting the food, noticing and enjoying the different smells: and learning how to take care of living

things and the science that is involved through growing.

The children will become responsible, looking after the plants, helping them grow and learning about the lifecycle of the plants, starting with a seed. We asked the children what they would like to grow in the nursery and ordered the seeds, which the children have planted ready to go into the beds.

The children also helped build up the beds, filling them with soil, filling the wheelbarrows up, and transporting them to the beds. Lots of teamwork, sharing, and turn-taking involved in this procedure, all the time through their play and involvement they were learning.

We can never have enough plants at Dalry ELC as the children use the herbs in their mud kitchen play, stimulating their senses. If you have any spare plants that we could use we would be very grateful. Just pass them



Children at Dalry ELC engaged in planting and watering their seeds.

over the wall into the nursery garden when you are passing. Please label them, just in case we can't recognise the plant.

Julie Moore

Glenkens Schools Cluster Update

Hello from Dalry and Kells Primary Schools.

Things are slowly returning to normal at school and with each passing week there seems to be a further relaxation of COVID rules. Long may this continue! All being well we will soon be able to do certain PE games indoors if the weather continues to be so harsh.

In Dalry we have been working hard on several fronts but wanted to share news about the library. Our school library has always had a designated space but has never quite achieved the quiet, peaceful atmosphere adults associate with a library. However, thanks to the hard work of several members of staff, led by Mrs Devlin,

we have achieved a transformation. A specific space in another room has been designated for our non-fiction collection of books, allowing more space in the library. This extra room has enabled us to create a comfortable seating space which has been designed as a quiet sensory space for children, complete with a fish tank and three friendly goldfish.

I would like to take the opportunity to also thank Dalry Community Council for funding new books related to health and wellbeing, and Sharon Currie who organised a fundraiser to add further to these purchases.

Meanwhile, at Kells the children have been working on the environment with litter picks and learning how to

be more eco-friendly. Children in the younger class have also been busy creating puppet shows.

Across the schools this week we have been taking part in activities for Mental Health Week. Coming out of the pandemic it is important for us all to realise the impact the restrictions of the last few months have had on us. Our children are no different - in class the children have talked a lot about feelings, kindness, relationships and experienced ways in which we can support our mental health such as being outdoors, yoga and mindfulness.

*Paul Scrimshaw, Headteacher,
Glenkens Primary Schools Partnership
(Carsphairn, Dalry & Kells Primary
Schools)*



*Above left: Some of the P3/4/5 children with books funded through Dalry Community Council.
Above right: Kells children enjoy a puppet show by fellow pupils.*

GLENKENS MUSINGS

"Life is like a wheel, sometimes you're at the top, sometimes you're at the bottom, but remember you always have a chance to turn things around"

When I stumbled upon this quote one day while scrolling endlessly on Facebook, I realised how appropriate it was for our current day and age. It also gave me the reassurance that I could change things for the better if I wanted to. Even if that does sound sort of clichéd and corny, it still made me smile and feel a bit more grateful for the life I'd been given.

However, speaking out about our own mental health is something us Brits are not accustomed to. Mental health seems to be a very taboo subject. Why is that? Do we see it as a sign of weakness? As a sign of failure? Many people have tried to answer these questions but unfortunately have been

unsuccessful. Everyone's mental health fluctuates - we all go through difficult times and we all go to dark places some point in our lives. It's a part of life and no one knows why.

Seeking help or advice about your own wellbeing is far from being a sign of weakness - it is actually a triumph. It shows that you are strong and have the right mindset to make yourself well again. Always trying to conquer difficult things by yourself can often backfire, just leading to you digging a bigger hole for yourself to escape from - trust me, I know. Reaching out for help at these times takes courage.

Everybody deals with their problems differently. The main thing to do is find an activity that you find enjoyable, calming and stress free as it will certainly make things easier. These can be simple things like going for a walk, getting stuck into a good book or pottering about in the garden. Something simple to distract you from your thoughts and worries just for a little while can help immensely.

Now I know I am not an expert in this field but, at the risk of



sounding pretentious and cocky, I do know bottling your emotions up and putting labels on them will do as much good as skydiving without a parachute. This is why it is so important to make time to do things that give you pleasure and to try open up to people once in a while. Talking to people gives you the opportunity to vent your stresses and thoughts in a healthy way, and will certainly make you feel more at ease.

So if you come across an inspirational quote online one day, do take it into consideration - it might just be what turns things around.

James Wallace

CatStrand Youth Arts Programme

Lucy Smith from Moniaive will be taking on the role of youth arts coordinator with the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust.

With a background in environmental art and traditional music, as well as time spent working with a circus, Lucy will be able to draw on her wide range of skills and experience to support her role which is based at CatStrand, New Galloway.

Lucy has been involved in organising and running projects for the Youth Music Initiative and Feis Rois, and the CatStrand team are excited to have her on board. She'll be getting started on planning the summer programme of activities for 5-18 year olds, as well as coordinating the Youth Spaces project that will be running youth-led pop-up youth clubs and hang-out spaces around the Glenkens this summer.

Aidan Nicol, CatStrand

Could you help support our youth spaces project to get off the ground this summer?

We are looking for volunteers 18+ willing to commit to as little as 1 x 2hr support session for pop-up trial youth clubs in New Galloway Town Hall, New Galloway Park and visiting mobile youth spaces in Crossmicheal, Balmacellan, Dalry and Carsphairn over the summer months.

Please get in touch if you'd like to know more - the project runs from June to August with weekly sessions, so even helping support one of these in your village would be a big help. To find out more email aidan@catstrand.com or call 01644 420 374 or 07401973019.

Young Nature Blogger

Young people who love nature and the outdoors are invited to take part in a summer writing challenge.

Entrants are asked to write up to 500 words about nature in our Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere.

One of the competition judges, Andrew Bielinski, RSPB area manager,

said: "We hope Young Nature Blogger 2021 inspires young people to engage with nature, be amazed at the diversity, and learn why it's so important that we all nurture and care for it so that it remains wonderful for generations to come."

The challenge is being run by Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere. Entrants must be under 21 and entries should be sent to



info@gsabiosphere.org.uk

Winners will receive wildlife goodie bags and their blogs will feature in DG Life magazine and Ayrshire Magazine as well as Biosphere websites in the autumn.

Can Carsphairn Save its School?

Carsphairn Primary School is once again under threat of closure.

No stranger to this situation, Carsphairn community has on numerous occasions over the years had to fight to save their school. Carsphairn Primary is set in an unusually remote upland location and, if the school closed, a round-trip to and from Dalry Primary (the nearest primary school) would mean a journey of up to 40 miles a day for pupils from the furthest reaches of the parish. On top of the distance, in winter the weather often is more extreme up in the Carsphairn hills - so it's not surprising that the community has always been successful in fighting its corner.

This latest instalment of the school saga sees Carsphairn Primary being 'mothballed' owing to an absence of primary aged children in the catchment area. Various reasons have caused the low numbers over the past few years including necessary relocation owing to the Carsphairn floods of 2015 and parents changing their employment. As with all remote rural areas, there are fluctuations in population - a family or two moving into or out of the catchment has a huge impact on the school.

The mothballing of the school was agreed to by the local community in February 2019 on the basis that there would be an annual review for a minimum of three years - potentially longer due to the 'very remote rural' designation of Carsphairn school. But now D&G Council's education department wish to start a consultation for closure. One of the key reasons seems to be that there have been no placing requests received for the school over the past two years. However, the community have recently discovered that it is currently not possible to submit

a placing request or enrol a child at Carsphairn Primary.

At the moment there are at least three preschool children in Carsphairn parish who are entitled to education at ELC (Nursery) level. There is also a child living in the community whose parents relocated to Carsphairn mainly because of the presence of the school, just a minute or so walk from their home; the family is currently home-schooling.

Over the years we have seen our rural population decline and with it falling school rolls but, leading up to and since the COVID pandemic, there has been a shift in rural demographics in the Glenkens. Over the past few months houses have been selling within days of going on the market and rental properties are snapped up before they even hit the letting agents. Dalry Primary has

received an unprecedented number of registrations of interest - some classes are at capacity already and children are having to be signposted to Kells school as an alternative. These changes do not reflect the falling school roll with which we have become familiar over the years.

In two years Carsphairn Primary School will have served the community for 300 years. Considering Carsphairn community's history of resilience and determination, as well fluctuating rural



Top: The front cover of the current Carsphairn Primary School brochure. Above: Carsphairn Primary School pupils around 1920. Will we see the school grow again in the coming decade?

demographics and the extraordinary times we are currently living in, it seems imperative that a way is found to enable Carsphairn Primary to remain at the heart of the community.

Supporting Our Gaelic Heritage

Gaelic is a living language and part of a rich cultural tradition which belongs to the whole of Scotland.

Spoken in Galloway until around the 17th century, there were still a few Galloway Gaelic speakers as recently as the 20th century.

The Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan aims to increase the number of people learning, speaking and using Gaelic to ensure that it has a secure future in Scotland as an official language of Scotland, commanding

equal respect to the English language.

A few Gaelic schools exist in Scotland, producing fluent bi-lingual children starting from nursery age and sometimes even younger. Despite what may be commonly believed, children are born with the ability to become bilingual and multilingual - there is more than enough room in the brain for two or more languages. A growing body of research confirms that Gaelic education is a success, with pupils involved performing better than their English-medium peers in English reading and at least as well in science, maths and English writing.

This is a critical time for the future of Gaelic. The position of the language

is extremely fragile and the declining numbers of those speaking Gaelic fluently threatens the survival of Gaelic as a living language in Scotland. It is essential that steps are taken to create a sustainable future for Gaelic in Scotland.

Carsphairn Community Council would like to promote the Gaelic language in support of the heritage of southwest Scotland as there seems to be a dearth of a Gaelic tradition in this area. We are looking into the potential for creating a Gaelic hub in Carsphairn.

If you have an interest in Gaelic and would like to be involved in this exciting venture, please email Liz Holmes at lizholmes21@gmail.com



Hello - my name is Fiona and I'm Glenkens Community & Arts Trust's new... [takes a deep breath] ... Volunteer, Capacity Building & Community Resilience Officer... Phew, that's a mouthful!

I work out of the Smiddy in Balmaclellan, along with Brian and Chris, and we are the Connecting in Communities (CiC) Team.

I'm very excited to be getting to know folk in and around the area and discovering what a wealth of talent lies within the communities of the Glenkens.

CiC have been very active over the last year in finding novel ways to continue to facilitate some of the groups online, but we are now feeling very optimistic about meeting up in the flesh, so to speak. The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust recognises the huge contribution its volunteers make to the everyday running of the organisation and, as activities and

our buildings start to open up again, the call-out to volunteers echoes through the glens.

Our longstanding volunteers are welcomed back with (socially distanced) open arms, but we also welcome new volunteers. Anyone who would like the opportunity to learn new skills or maybe help teach others new skills, or just get out of the house for a few hours and make new friends would be welcome. Many people might have volunteered for the first time out and about in the community as part of the COVID community resilience response and now that - touch wood - the call is less urgent, would like to continue volunteering in some form or other. Please have a look at the Volunteering section of our new website www.gcat.scot for more information about volunteering with us or drop me a line at fiona@catstrand.com.

Although many of our groups will be restarting soon, we are always looking



for new ideas for meeting. If you have a particular interest or passion that you would like to develop or share but are not quite sure how to get involved or set up a group we would like to hear from you. We can offer guidance, be it governance of the group or marketing your activity.

Connecting in Communities aims to facilitate activities throughout the Glenkens and as our name suggests, we are all about getting people together in order to combat social and rural isolation and build confidence in seeing one another again. If you live in one of the Glenkens smaller communities and would like to get involved please get in contact with Brian, Chris or myself for more information.

Fiona Limbrey, Volunteer, GCAT Capacity Building & Community Resilience Officer
fiona@catstrand.com

Stay Up To Date with the Glenkens & District Trust

As ever there has been lots going with the Glenkens & District Trust (GDT).

We have been busy with the recent Glenkens Summit event (see the interviews with some of the participants on p4-5), the ongoing work relating to the Community Action Plan and our preparations for the next round of decision making.

The latest round of the Blackcraig Windfarm Fund closed on 6 April, with another great response from the community, and the Trust will be considering 17 applications in early June. Applicants should hear back on the Trustees' decision by mid-June at the latest.

The intervening weeks in between Fund close and decision making are used for assessing - every application goes through eligibility checks, due diligence and an assessment process delivered by our partners, Foundation Scotland.

Decision making sits with GDT, based on the robust assessing process Foundation Scotland uses, which is one of

the reasons we like working with them. Trustees bring their local knowledge and expertise to the decision making table, but all awards are made on merit, in accordance with the Fund Strategy, and Trustees are not part of the decision on any applications where there is a conflict of interest. For more information do contact Suzy at Foundation Scotland suzy@foundationscotland.org.uk

As well as these activities, the Trustees have recently been working on setting up GDT's Associate Membership arrangements, which will essentially work along the lines of a 'Friends of GDT' group.

Associate members are different to GDT's members - every organisation is different, but in GDT's case its membership is drawn from the community councils (as entities) in its area of operation. Associate Membership is a way of GDT being accountable to the wider community and a way for interested people and groups to be kept up-to-date with what Glenkens & District Trust is doing, but without having responsibility for governing the Trust. Associate members don't have voting rights but will receive email updates on the work of GDT, invitations

to GDT general meetings (associate members are welcome to come along, ask questions and hear more about what is going on), and hear first about opportunities to engage in events like the recent Glenkens & District Summit. Associate members can be individuals, institutions, organisations and bodies who support and want to engage with the work of GDT - you don't have to be resident in the area.

This structure preserves the fundamental role of community councils in the governance of GDT, while making sure GDT is accessible to the wider community without individuals or groups having to be community councillors, trustees or grantees - this reflects GDT's aim to be open and accountable and to support a sense of community ownership of the valuable resource that 'community benefit' monies represents.

If you would like to become an associate member please contact GDT on our new email address - info@glenkenstrust.org.uk - and a form will be sent out to you by Suzy or one of the team at Foundation Scotland, which is providing GDT with administrative support for associate membership.

Fiona Smith, Chairman, GDT

CatStrand Highlights

We're excited to be presenting a diverse and playful programme at CatStrand and around the Glenkens as we return to live events this summer.

Our **On the Water** event on 10 June is a collaboration with the Loch Ken Trust, supported by Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership, that will bring music to the shores of Loch Ken in a special concert that you can enjoy from the water. Tickets include hire of a kayak, paddleboard, boat or canoe - it's floating room only! The Galloway Agreement, a collaboration featuring four of D&G's best known traditional musicians, will play from the shore at the Galloway Activity Centre, who are hosting the event. An event not to be missed.

As the summer holidays arrive in Galloway we're hosting a giant swing set - **All or Nothing** theatre company's five metre high giant swings feature two performing aerialists and a sound installation where you can play, watch, and listen. This will all be set up for

an interactive performance in New Galloway Park on 21 and 22 July, and in Crossmichael, hosted in partnership



The Swings presented by All or Nothing theatre company, coming to CatStrand on 21 and 22 July (photograph by Suzanne Heffron).

with Crossmichael Arts, on 23 July. And it's not just for children; come and have a go...your swinging will activate a soundscape full of memories as you feel the rush of air past your face and are inspired by the aerialists who show us what you can really do with a swing!

Venue partners Dalry Town Hall host **Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre** on

Wednesday 28 July with a day of outdoor performances and indoor workshops with their **Stories Just in Case** shows.

Performed out of a suitcase on wheels, this pop-up theatre will share classic fables - there will be a performance in the morning and another in the afternoon with workshop sessions in between.

Live music and film returns to CatStrand with socially distanced café style seating in place for all shows. We're pleased to showcase some of the region's finest musical talent with performances from **Zoe Bestel** and **The Bookshop Band** over the summer.

Films include **Exhibition on Screen's Sunflowers** - a unique opportunity to see, as never before, this series of spectacular paintings - and a postponed screening of

Icelandic documentary **Lobster Soup** in June that includes a bowl of locally-made lobster bisque from Kircudbright Cookery School to enjoy alongside the screening.

For more information on all of the above events visit www.gcat.scot to explore our new Glenkens Community & Arts Trust website and book tickets.

The CatStrand Team

Thank You Sam!

Sam Rushton moved on from her role as Community Engagement Worker (CEW) for New Galloway Community Enterprises (NGCE) in May to take up a full-time role in education, and will be very much missed by the whole community.

Sam joined NGCE in January 2018, shortly after the purchase of New Galloway community shop. Her role was funded by the Big Lottery 'Growing Community Assets' fund as part of the award for buying and renovating the shop and flats above, and has been pivotal in bringing the New Galloway and Kells community closer together.

The role was part-time, although you would hardly know it from Sam's boundless enthusiasm and endless creativity. It was also a role in two halves, as so many things are at the moment. In 2018 and 2019 Sam focused on community events that brought

people together, from pot-luck suppers to Ladies Give It a Go water-sports to Walking Football in the park. In September 2019, she organised the first Glenkens Food Month, bringing together organisations and businesses from across the Glenkens to remind us all just what a wealth of local food we have access to here.

Then, in 2020, everything changed and Sam shifted immediately to making us feel like we were together even though we had to be apart. From distanced VE Day celebrations to Easter Bunny house-visits, from High Street galleries to the amazing virtual Glenkens Hogmanay, she never flagged. She even snuck in a second Glenkens Food Month in between lockdowns!

A lesser-known area of her role is the incredible amount of work Sam does behind the scenes in supporting individuals and in supporting other community organisations. In particular, I know that Local Initiatives in New



Sam (right) receiving flowers from NGCE chair Helen Keron.

Galloway is very grateful for all of Sam's help, ideas and sheer energy for getting things over the finish line. From organising the amazing Resilience Team volunteers to accessing funding to support the community, Sam's work has benefited all of us in one way or another.

Sam will be sadly missed but I, along with all the NGCE board and staff, wish her all the very best for her exciting new role, and we are very glad we will still see her around New Galloway!

Funding for the role continues until December 2022 and we look forward to welcoming Sam's successor as soon as possible in June. Watch this space!

Helen Keron, Chair, NGCE

Considering the Control of Bovine Tuberculosis in Badgers

Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) is a disease which affects both animals and humans. Let us look specifically at badgers and the domestic cow, as this transmission is a focal point due to the potential of TB transmission from infected cattle to humans.

It is known that infected badgers can transmit from badger to badger or from badger to cow by contact or, more often, by infecting the food and water the cows may eat and drink. Controlling the population of badgers is considered necessary to reduce the possibility of cross-contamination from badgers to cows.

Can bTB be controlled, and if so how should this be done?

Controlling Bovine TB by culling badgers reduces the numbers, which in turn reduces the possible contacts with cows; this approach seems to work according to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Scotland has been officially TB free since 2009 but unfortunately many still believe that badgers are infecting their cows, leading to potentially unnecessary, and illegal, culling of badgers.

Regular testing of cattle is carried out

and, if the tests are positive, the animals are sent for slaughter. The government awards financial compensation for their slaughtered animals, costing



approximately £100 million a year but this does not cover everything - farmers care deeply for their stock and mourn their loss. Another solution is not to kill the badgers but to vaccinate them against the disease, thus halting the spread within the badger population and stopping the contamination of the domestic cow. Vaccinations for cattle are not considered a viable option as it interferes with the current test for bTB.

Badgers are a dominant predator in our countryside and the UK hosts 25%

of the European badger population. The Welsh assembly released a report which suggested an ecosystem could result in serious damage by removing a major predator such as the badger.

Under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992), badgers and their sets across the UK are protected - only licensed individuals are allowed to cull badgers.

Badgers are an important part of the ecosystem in the UK. They create habitats for other species in redundant setts and control the population of many predators, which in turn preserves the more vulnerable lower down the food chain.

With the dominance of humans, nature can become unbalanced. We live in the UK with an ecosystem not controlled but vastly influenced by us. Consequently, we may have to control some species to maintain a balance.

Badger culling appears to work with regard to the spread of TB to cattle, but is it necessary when a vaccine is available? Bovine TB can destroy a herd of cows and destroy a farmer's livelihood. But to cull badgers when there are other ways to manage bTB seems to me a less than sensible thing to do.

*Andrew Metcalf,
Hawkrigg, Dalry*

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)

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Contact Matthew on 07786 079 845

We are pleased to welcome chartered psychologist Amber Dunlop-Pajo to the Crossmichael Complementary Therapy Centre. **Amber has spent over 20 years working as a psychologist, with a special focus on health psychology. Amber specialises in womens' health as well as depression, stress and anxiety.**

Contact Amber on 07389 713 106



A reader sent in this photograph of two old teapots someone has placed on the gateposts down by the river near Dalry. Photo captions anyone?

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Boswell Book Festival Goes Online

Boswell Book Festival is the world's only festival of biography and memoir.

Normally held at Dumfries House, near New Cumnock, the festival has become one of the most prestigious cultural events in Scotland and has attracted a host of writers and personalities such as Judi Dench, John Byrne, Ben Macintyre, Maggie O'Farrell, Susan Calman and many more.

Along with the main festival there is a hugely popular Children's Festival featuring some of the best and most popular children's authors, illustrators and performers, bringing biography and memoir alive.

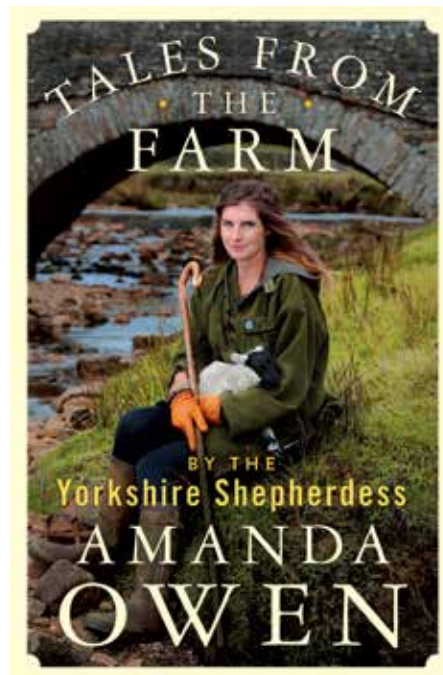
Inspired by the great Ayrshire writer James Boswell of Auchinleck, the unique theme is taken from the genre at which he excelled, namely the telling of people's life stories. Establishing himself as the father of modern biography with the publication of *The Life of Samuel Johnson*, 1791, his journals, first published in the 1950s, became best-sellers worldwide. The 2020 *Sky Arts* series

followed his travels in Scotland with Dr Johnson, as recorded in *The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*.

This year, the Boswell Book Festival is online for the first time so no need to travel - the event runs from 10-16 June and you can join in wherever you are - and all events are free.

At the Children's Festival, children can journey back in time with popular Dundonian writer Chae Strathie as he zips through ancient Egypt, laugh with Adam Murphy as he makes his *Corpse Talk Comics* come to life, and settle down with some colouring with Eilidh Muldoon on a Hebridean adventure.

With the kids happily entertained, why not take time out to enjoy talks from Troon-born Andrew Cotter whose Labradors, Olive and Mabel, have become social media superstars. Or join Janey Godley who kept us laughing through lockdown with her hilarious Nicola Sturgeon voice-overs. Alex Renton digs deep into his Ayrshire family's history as slave and plantation owners while Yorkshire Shepherdess, Amanda Owen, as seen on Channel 5's *Our Yorkshire Farm* spills more beans on farming life with nine children.



To find out more about any of the talks, including events for schools, visit www.boswellbookfestival.co.uk and follow the instructions to register. The talks will continue to be online until the end of June.

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BUSINESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



The Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Company started life last May in Stockbridge, Edinburgh.

Dreamed up one rainy morning by Hannah Gould, the company aims to create one of our comfort food staples - homemade macaroni cheese - delivered to your door.

"I can't believe it's our first anniversary already!" says Hannah.

"Initially I gave out some samples to friends to see what they thought, and they all loved them. Next I got a menu together and created a logo and we've been busy from week one.

"What I love about the business is having a massive fridge full of cheese! Also people get really excited about their orders, so that's really nice. I've had loyal customers since the first week, which means we must be doing something right!"

Hannah grew up in the Glenkens and moved back in February. "It's lovely being back home in the Glenkens - having so much space and being closer to friends and family," says Hannah.

Hannah's plan for the future is to make their mouthwatering mac 'n' cheese available country-wide, and to get it stocked in shops - so watch this space.

All options are available vegan and gluten-free - to see a menu or make an order

visit their Facebook page @ [thestockbridgemaacandcheese](https://www.facebook.com/thestockbridgemaacandcheese)

From the August/September edition of the Gazette, The Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Co will be sponsoring our Photo of the Issue competition, offering two portions to the lucky winner - so get snapping!



Pictured is 'The Spicy One' - classic mac 'n' cheese with jalapenos and chilli cheese.

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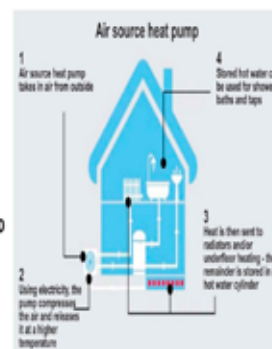
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Tracking Salmon

in the Kirkcudbrightshire Dee

The Atlantic salmon has a complex life cycle, involving migration from freshwater to the sea as ~2 year old 'smolts', and then back again as adults for spawning. As the smolts migrate out to sea, they often encounter numerous human-induced challenges. To better understand these, an innovative project on the River Dee in Kirkcudbrightshire is tracking their progress.

How does it work?

The latest acoustic telemetry equipment enables tagged smolts to be tracked as they migrate past receivers, which transmits a signal detailing the time, location and also the individual.

Galloway Fisheries Trust will deploy 16 regularly spaced receivers from the bottom of Polharrow burn, all the way downstream to Kirkcudbright estuary.

When is this taking place?

Galloway Fisheries Trust aims to capture and tag a total of 50 smolts during their 4-6 week migration window in April-May 2021. Smolts should have completed their migration by the end of July, when the fieldwork will end and the data will start to be analysed.

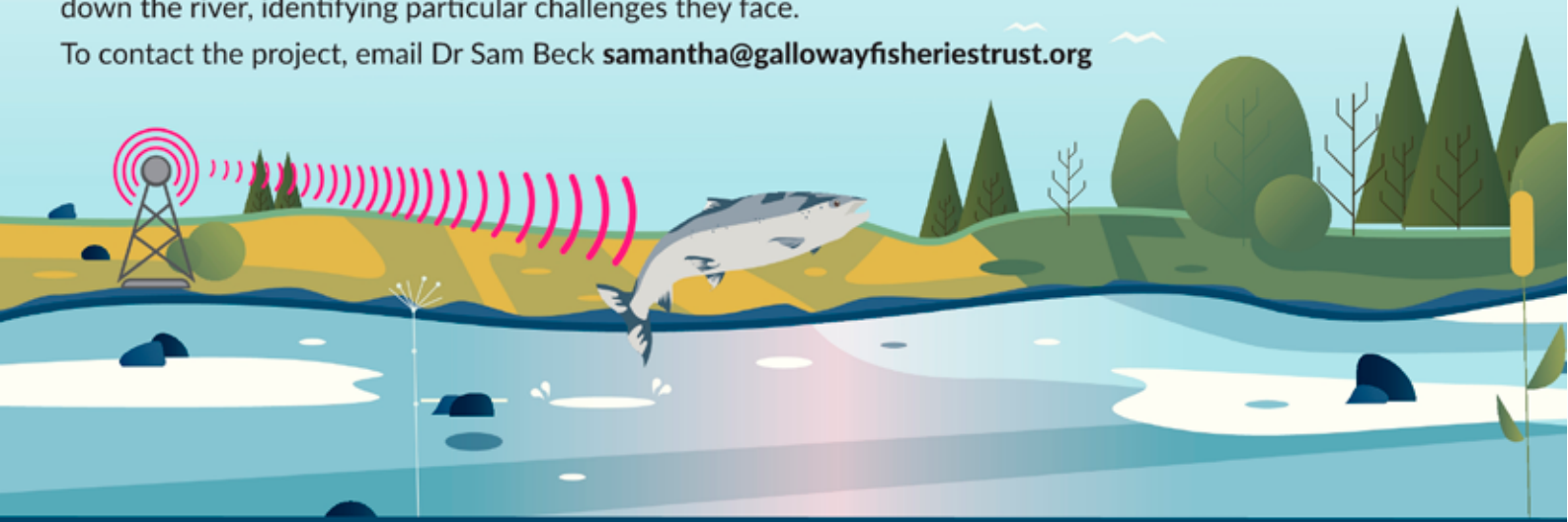
What do we hope to learn?

Findings from this project will enable us to better understand how smolts travel down the river, identifying particular challenges they face.

To contact the project, email Dr Sam Beck samantha@gallowayfisheriestrust.org



Installing the receivers on the river bank



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GALLOWAY AND
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The Optimistic Environmentalist

GREEN ROOFS

What is a Green Roof?

The term 'green roof' may be used to indicate roofs that use some form of green technology but, for this article, it refers to a roof that is partially or completely covered with vegetation in a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane.

Green roofs can also be called living roofs, eco-roofs, oikosteges, vegetated roofs and VCPH (Horizontal Vegetated Complex Partitions if you want to impress the neighbours!). Rooftop ponds are a form of green roof which can be used to treat grey water.

Green roofs can be put on any size of structure ranging from bin stores, bike racks, sheds, garages right up to larger buildings including houses and industrial sites.

Why Would You Want a Green Roof?

The most obvious reason for a green roof is to liven up a space and make it a more beautiful or relaxing environment.

Green roofs increase the habitat for insects, birds and other wildlife including plants. They can create a corridor for birds or butterflies, for instance, to travel through an area.

Green roofs use the natural functions

of plants to filter water and treat air in urban and suburban landscapes.

Rainwater is trapped by the garden substrate, taken up by the plants' roots and through transpiration and evaporation is released into the air in a more controlled manner. A green roof can absorb up to 75" of rainwater, helping reduce stormwater run-off.

Green roofs serve as a green wall, filtering pollutants and carbon dioxide out of the air, helping to lower rates of diseases such as asthma. This carbon sequestering helps the plants to grow whilst reducing our carbon footprint. Plants can also filter pollutants and heavy metals out of rainwater. Some of these chemicals for example, nitrogen and phosphorous - can actually help the plants grow.

Green roofs help to keep buildings cooler in the summer by reflecting and absorbing solar radiation, stopping it reaching the roof. In winter, plants and the growing system reduces heat loss

so increases the natural warmth of the building.

Green roofs also help to insulate a building for sound; the soil helps to block lower frequencies and the plants block higher frequencies.

In some cases,



green roofing can extend the lifespan of a roof; by covering the waterproofing membrane with growing medium and vegetation, it shields the roof from UV radiation and physical damage.

Things to Think About When Making a Green Roof

- What do you want the green roof for?
- How much of a green roof do you want; a bin or bike store roof, or your whole house roof?
- What time and budget do you have to build and maintain it?
- What access will you have to the roof, eg for maintenance?
- Does the roof of the structure need reinforcing?

Some green roofs can be very heavy depending on the type, its components and how much rainfall and wind it will experience. If you are planning to green roof your house or a large shed/garage, check local planning regulations and find an architect who has experience in this area to help design it.

If you're not sure and feel daunted, you could start small and see how it goes - how about a green roofed hen house or playhouse for the kids? Good luck and enjoy the effort, the learning and the outcome!

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan



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On the A713 just north of Dalry, in the layby near Carsfad, is a new information board about the Glenkens Pilgrims Way.

It makes for interesting reading and marks a nearby ancient crossing point of the river Ken - well worth finding time to stop and have a gander!

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

2 gillets, small, not worn;
Freeview HD box, unused;
Marantz CD player, minor defect; Standard spot lamp. Contact: 01644 420 852

Ceramic electric cooker hob and oven. Both are Creda models; the hob is creda model 42295 (width 770mm x 470mm depth). The oven is Creda Europa Solar Plus (height 890mm, width 600mm depth 570mm). Donation to LING - contact raglaister@aol.com

Pair of heavy duty aluminium ladders, 4m 23cm (just short of 16 foot each). Contact: 07840 506 516

Glass mirror, 33" x 67";
Wine making kit includes fermentation buckets and demijohns, etc. Contact: 01644 430 062

Wooden hen house, with 3 perches. 132cm wide x 120cm deep x 124cm high. Contact:

01644 430 218.

Coal, large pile in garage, free to collect - suitable for open fires. Bring bags or a trailer - just off the Lorg Road. Contact: 07946 183538

Metal double bed frame, over 50 yrs old with wooden bed ends (no mattress); **2 chests of drawers** perfect for up-cycling - very well made; 2 bathroom cabinets with mirrored doors (mirrors slightly marked); **single bed with mattress**, very good condition. Contact: 01644 430 373

Dry, clean tree stumps suitable for being made into garden furniture/creations for someone handy with a chainsaw. **Timber, ready to be taken away** - needs someone with a chainsaw and trailer, etc. Contact: Jim on 07749 087 699

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. 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

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.

Fridge-freezer. Contact: 07952 280 902

2-seater leather sofa. Contact: Jennifer on 01644 430 373

Heavy duty strimmer, the kind with handles. Can pay for a decent secondhand one. Contact: Jim on 07749 087 699

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




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Eco Feature

Council Recycling Scheme Q&A

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A Gazette reader has suggested that there are elements of the new council recycling scheme which are a little unclear and asked if we could run a piece giving information on some of the things not included in the leaflet.

Below are some points taken from the D&G Council website - to find out more visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/21420/FAQ-s-New-Waste-and-Recycling-Service

- Communal (shared) bins may be considered where limited space to store bins might be a problem - to discuss this option, contact kbsiderecycling@dumgal.gov.uk or 030 33 33 3000
- If you are producing more recycling than will fit into the bins, additional recycling bins can be provided free of charge - get in touch on <https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/faultreporting>
- If you need to downsize or upsize your bins, apply online on the website link above
- For those who are partially sighted or blind, the new bins have notches on them to help users distinguish between the different bins. The bin for paper, card and cardboard has one notch on the lip of the lid, and the bin for plastics, metals and cartons has two notches on the lid.
- Garden waste will not be collected as part of the new recycling service but there are a number of ways to deal with your garden waste. Home composting is a great solution - it avoids transport and processing costs, reduces CO2 emissions, and gives you free organic matter for your garden. For advice on home composting and offers on home composting bins visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/20762/home-composting
- Garden waste can be taken to your local Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) where you can dispose of it free of charge and it is used to produce compost. If you are unable to home compost or take your garden waste to a HWRC, you can arrange a bulky uplift. For details see www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15259/Bulky-waste-collection
- With regard to glass, in 2022 the Scottish Government is introducing a

new Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) on certain drinks containers, including glass. Through this scheme shoppers will pay a deposit of 20p for drinks containers at point of purchase. The deposit is refunded when you return the container to a retailer/collection point - for further information visit www.depositreturn.scot

Until this time, please use the glass recycling points in New Galloway (bottom car park, next to the Red Kite info point and industrial units) and Balmaclellan (next to the village shop), or at Tesco in Castle Douglas or other local points

- Food waste can either be composted
- items such as peelings and cores from



fruit and vegetables, egg shells, tea bags and coffee grounds - or alternatively put into your general waste bin. For further information visit www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/reduce-food-waste

- *I own a holiday home and run it as a business, how will this affect my domestic waste uplifts?*

If you run a holiday home which you let out for profit, then you should have a trade waste agreement in place to have your waste and recycling materials uplifted and disposed of through a registered waste carrier. A list of fees and charges can be found at www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15593/Commercial-waste-collection

What Are The Benefits of Recycling?

- *Do I have to recycle?*

Whilst the council cannot force you to recycle, it is hoped that everyone will play their part. Section 46(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires householders to use the bins or containers provided by the Council for waste and recycling collections and for the householder to place the correct waste material in the correct bins.

- *Are there alternatives to recycling?*

European, UK and Scottish laws all support the principle of a waste hierarchy where waste prevention and re-use are the most preferred options, followed by

recycling (including composting), then recovery (including energy recovery), while waste disposal through landfill should be the very last resort.

In most cases, recycling is better for the environment than burning waste to produce energy and certainly better than sending materials to landfill. Zero Waste Scotland's website has lots of useful ideas and advice about reducing and re-using waste <https://wasteless.zerowastescotland.org.uk/>

Where Does My Recycling Go?

Paper, card and cardboard collected from your blue-lidded bin or sack will be baled and sent to reprocessors for recycling into newspapers and packaging.

Plastics, metals and cartons from your red-lidded bin or sack will be sorted, baled and sent to reprocessors for recycling into new products.

Glass collected at Recycling Points and Household Waste Recycling Centres will be sorted, crushed and sent to reprocessors for recycling into new glass bottles and jars.

jars.

- *Does my waste end up in landfill?*

The Ecodeco Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facility on the outskirts of Dumfries will continue to receive Dumfries and Galloway's non-recyclable waste. The waste is shredded and dried by heat produced naturally by biological activity. This drying process recovers around 30% of the weight of the waste as moisture which is passed through a biofilter to atmosphere and the natural water cycle.

The dried waste is then refined into several 'fractions' via secondary shredding and other mechanical processes. The principal output of the facility is a fuel used in specialist 'energy from waste' plants. The other fractions are all subject to further treatment at third party facilities. The 8-20mm fraction (glass and stone) is separated with the inert portion becoming an aggregate replacement product. The fines (less than 8mm) fraction is composted and used as a restoration material on landfills and old mines, etc. Ferrous metals are recovered, cleaned by a third party, and recycled.

If you need storage containers for your recycling, the black council recycling boxes which are no longer in use are being offered to households free of charge at the council's Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Thank you

for your feedback on our proposals for
Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk Wind Farms



Vattenfall's Ray Wind Farm in Northumberland

After gathering extensive environmental data and local feedback, we're refreshing our proposals for **Quantans Hill Wind Farm** and **Whiteneuk Wind Farm** in Dumfries and Galloway.

Local feedback has helped us identify ways we can better strike a balance between the need to generate more renewable electricity and the aspirations of local communities, whilst protecting wildlife, habitats, heritage and the environment.

Details of our refined proposals will be published soon, with updated online exhibitions and webinars plus - we hope - opportunities to meet safely.

At both Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk, the proposed wind farms will be reduced in scale, with layouts sensitive to landscape, habitats and heritage.

The refreshed proposals will also reflect Vattenfall's determination to maximise opportunities for local communities, jobs, businesses and skills. This will build on our work at South Kyle Wind Farm north of Carsphairn, where a wide range of local and regional businesses are supplying the construction project - a glimpse of the potential post-pandemic recovery opportunities for Dumfries and Galloway should Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk Wind Farms proceed.

Keep up to date with the latest details and register for updates at:

www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm
www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm

There, you can also find out more about the substantial community benefits which would be generated by the wind farms.

Alternatively please write to:
Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill Wind Farm Team, Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd.,
St Andrew's House, Haugh Lane,
Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3QQ
T 01563 595044

ROADS FROM THE DALRY FERRY

This is the third and final instalment of the series of articles by David Bartholomew looking at the history of the river crossing at Dalry.

In the court case brought by John Newall against the Earl of Galloway in 1781 over the building of an embankment on the River Ken there was some disagreement among witnesses as to the suitability for carts of the road up by the north corner of Dalry churchyard from haven E (a small bay area some 20 metres south of the end of the suspension bridge on the east side of the river). Some witnesses declared that it was too steep and narrow; whereas another witness, John Gordon, a Dalry joiner, said that he had taken a cart loaded with stones by this route, and had had no problem doing so. The cart had been pulled by a small Galloway pony, the ordinary size of local working horses. He had taken up the challenge of attempting this after hearing another witness, William Good, declare that he had taken loaded carts up and down by this route.

Various comments were made about local roads. One witness, William Logie, stated that he knew the high road from St John's Clauhan to Edinburgh went through the village of Minniaive, and that the road to Dumfries branched off that road. He considered the road via Minniaive to be the most direct route for carriages to Dumfries. He said that before the Grennan Bank road was constructed the most direct road to Dumfries went over the Mulloch Hill by Balmaclellan Church and the Water of Urr; but that the road from Balmaclellan Church to the Water of Urr was only a bridle and drove road.

John Grierson, aged 30, agreed with William Logie. He declared that he had seen loaded carts driven up and down Mulloch Hill, and some parts of that road

were steeper and rougher than any part of the road leading by the north corner of the churchyard. Another witness, Samuel McMillan, aged 29, said that he had once driven a cart over the Mulloch Hill, but on that occasion he didn't follow the track of the old road as dykes had been constructed across it. But he said he remembered the old road before the construction of the dykes. This would imply that the dykes on Mulloch Hill could not have been built before the 1750s.

Robert Ferguson of Millmark stated that an alternative longer route for carriages to Dumfries was by the Grennan Bank road, which had recently been much improved, and then on to Crossmichael. He affirmed that the bridle road from Balmaclellan Church to the Water of Urr was very bad.

One curious piece of information was shared by Robert Dalzell of Raeford (now Kenside). In 1745 the young men of the parish of Dalry used to gather for military training and exercises at Kirkstyle, the Broom Isle and the Holm of Dalry below the embankment – though at that time there was no embankment. He himself was a member of that association.

What was the final result of the court case? The 1781 Commission, under John Bushby, sheriff clerk of Dumfries, gathered evidence to be brought before the Lords of Council and Session. It came in time before the infamous Lord



Early river ferry boat, probably similar in design to the one that would have operated at Dalry.

Braxfield, who gave a final judgment in April 1785. He gave the Earl of Galloway and his heirs and successors authority to complete the embankment as originally planned; also to repair any future damage to it. And forbade John Newall and his heirs, successors or tenants from interrupting any future work.

He also declared that if any damage occurred to the land of John Newall or his tenants on the west side of the river in the next ten years that could be shown to be the result of the new embankment, the Earl of Galloway and his heirs and successors would be responsible for funding the repairs. He also required the Earl 'to make a good and sufficient road of communication of the breadth of 24 feet both for horses and wheel carriages from the landing place or haven of the ferry boat' round by the north corner of the churchyard to join up with the existing high road. However John Newall was clearly still unhappy with some comments the Earl had included in his evidence and penned some critical observations which were attached to the judgment.

David Bartholomew

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GLENKENS PLACE NAMES: PART X

Back to our investigation of deserted settlements and their names, continuing up the Forrest Glen.

The next settlement as we proceed west along the old track between Knocknalling and Knockreoch is Markland. This was a ruin on the OS map of 1853 and is a Scots place-name, 'merk' being a measure of land value. So presumably this farm was valued at one merk. The term merk was borrowed into the version of Gaelic spoken in Galloway and produced place-names locally such as *Marg na drochaide* 'merkland of the bridge' (Muirdrochwood), *Cùl Mairg* 'back of the merkland' (Culmark), *Marg Scallach* probably 'bald merkland' (Marscalloch) and *Am Marg Breac* 'the speckled merkland' (Marbrack).

A little further west the old track crosses the Polcairdie Burn. This stream is derived from *Poll Cèardaiche*, 'Smithy Burn'. This burn contains the same specific element as Knockcairdie at the top of Dalry. Compare *Allt na Cearta* 'burn of the forge' Culfeightrin, Antrim.

A little uphill from the smith's burn and on the slopes of Knockclune,

Cnoc Cluaine, 'meadow-hill' are the ruins of Aitkin's Wa's, another Scots place-name, the 'waas' or walls of someone called Aitkin. Again this farm was already ruined by 1853.

Continuing west, passing the still occupied Knockreoch farmhouse, nestled with its back to *Cnoc Cluaine* with the wooded hillock called Drumrearie to its front. This is an interesting hill-name, Gilbert Márkus suggests: "'Hangman's ridge' (druim riaghaire) is a possibility. Likewise 'servitor's ridge' (druim riarach), which might refer to some servant of the royal hunting grounds of Forrest."

In respect of the 'hangman's ridge' possibility, is it a coincidence that nearby is the Court Hill of Knocknalling?

Upper Knockreoch, *Cnoc Riabhach*, 'the brindled hill' is another former farm site, in ruins already by 1853 and situated across the Polharrow from the Green House, HQ of Natural Power Consultants Ltd. North of the present Forrest Lodge was the holding of Upper Forrest, once more abandoned by 1853. Compare Grey Point, *Rinn Riabhach*, Bangor County Down. 'Brindled' is the primary meaning of *riabhach* in Scots gaelic and Irish but a secondary meaning is grey or yellow-grey.

Still on what is now Forrest Estate but really over the watershed and in the glen of Polmaddy lies the ruined farmstead of Darnaw. When I was a boy, this place was still roofed and in relatively good condition though already buried in Sitka plantation. Now it is a roofless shell. The place-name will be derived from *Doire an Àtha*, 'wood of the ford or kiln'. It is perhaps referring to some crossing over the Polmaddy, giving access to Castlemaddy farmstead, *Caisteal nam Madadh*, 'fortress of the (hunting) dogs'.

The farm of Fore Bush, formerly Buss, Scots for 'bush, thicket, clump of trees' seems to have had its farmstead moved a few hundred metres north west compared to its position in 1853 when it was a single story thatched cottage occupied by one John McTurk.

Continuing up the Burnhead Burn in the direction of Loch Dungeon, probably Loch Daingean 'loch of the bulwark, fortification, stronghold', referring to the colossal cliffs towering above the loch which form the western side of Milldown and Millfire. These hills are derived from *am Meall Donn* 'the brown hill' and *Meall Fèoir*, 'grassy hill' respectively. We next come to the ruins of the farm of Altiebeastie, situated in the middle of a Sitka clearfell area and beside the

of Low Pennyturn's field systems while High Pennyturn is situated across the road from that office. The place-name is puzzling but may represent *peighinn nan dorn*, 'pennyland of the fist or fist sized stones'. Compare Dundurn, Loch Earn which WJ Watson (CPNS 488) gives as *Dùn Dùirn*. The Pennyturn place-names are situated on the edge of Drumgowan Wood which name is from *Druim a' Ghobhainn*, 'the ridge of the blacksmith'. However, in respect of Pennyturn, Alan James has pointed out to me that Sir Herbert Maxwell has, in his book *Studies in the Topography of Galloway* and repeated in his *Place-Names of Galloway*, a 'Pennytown' in Kells, without stating anything more than the name, and this may be the same place.

Alan thinks that possibly Brittonic 'pen' is the generic term here. This means 'a head' but in place-names it may be 'top, summit' or 'end', perhaps especially the higher end of a long hill or ridge, or the elevated end of a hill-spur which might be seen in the contours of High Pennyturn. He suggests that Brittonic *penn-i-durn 'ridge-end of the fist or cobble' or *penn-i-dron, tron' ridge-end of the throne', used in some Welsh place-names and possibly at Cardrona by Peebles, for stone circles might

be in the background to this place-name. The lack of early forms here does however make it difficult to say

What is striking about this journey up and down the Forrest Glen is the sheer number of former farmsteads...

Altiebeastie Burn. This place was a ruin in 1853. I would suggest that this is a burn-name in *Allt na Bèiste*, 'burn of the beast, beast of prey, monster, wretch'. *Bèist dhubh* or *bèist dhonn* are names for the otter so the place-name might commemorate this animal. There are still traces of the old medieval field system at Altiebeastie visible on the aerial photography, despite forestry planting and harvesting operations, but a relatively new forest road cuts through the southern end of the old field dykes.

Returning back down the glen, this time on the south bank of the Polharrow, Dukierton or Duckierton is now reached, the original farm (deserted by 1853) being in a different place from the house bearing the name today. This will be a Scots formation, probably a nickname plus Scots toun, 'a farm'.

Close by are High and Low Pennyturn, described as small hills rather than farms in the OS Name Books. However, there are signs of what looks like farmstead building ruins visible on aerial photography with extensive associated surrounding field systems so it could be that these were earlier farms long forgotten by the time of the first OS mapping. Natural Power's Green House office complex sits on top

anything definitive about his intriguing place-name. For more on Brittonic place-name elements in the 'Old North' see Alan James's comprehensive online resource hosted by the Scottish Place-Names Society at <https://spns.org.uk/resources/bliton>.

Continuing downstream we reach the ruins of Largvey, *Learg Bheithe*, 'hillside of birches'. From the aerial photography there are very clear remains of at least one farmstead and outbuildings as well as rig and furrow plough marks surviving. By the time of the first OS survey in 1853 Largvey was in ruins and the farm ground incorporated in Stranfasket, possibly *Sron Fasgaidh*, 'promontory of shelter'.

Woodhall is shown as still inhabited on the 1853 and 1888 OS maps just north of Stranfasket farm house.

What is striking about this journey up and down the Forrest Glen is the sheer number of former farmsteads that line both sides of the valley. There must have been a substantial medieval subsistence farming community living there. No doubt their farms abandonment was part of the rather unsung (compared to he Highlands) Lowland Clearances.

Michael Ansell, Cars Fèarna

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

The Rogue at the Bogue



We have probably all driven the A702 from Dalry to Moniaive without giving a thought to Bogue just at the junction to the Balmaclellan road.

At one time it was occupied by a writer named John Gordon Barbour (1775-1843) whose nom de plume was Cincinnatus Caledonius, which translates as curly-haired Scot. The original Cincinnatus was to become a kind of patron saint of farmers. Historically he was so highly regarded that he was elected to the position of Consul in the early Roman Republic. He was, it must be said, a legendary figure, who seems to have opposed the demands of the plebs, the common people who sought codification of the laws. He was already an old man when he was called to deal with the problem. He left his plough and his farm (traditionally poor but since he was an aristocrat presumably it was rich) winning over his opponents and then returning to home to become remembered as a great leader, and a proponent of the greater good praised for his civic virtue, modesty and humility, like all farmers everywhere! Ever since, Cincinnatus has been whoever folk wanted him to be but in reality, he was probably a wealthy estate owner who realised late in life that the common people actually had rights of a kind. Cincinnati in the US is, of course, named for him.

John Gordon Barbour, Oor Ain Cincinnatus, allegedly had Roman connections as well, because the Barbours claimed to be descended from a soldier who served in Agricola's invasive army of Scotland in the first century AD. John, however, boasted a surname that was much more famous in Galloway, because Archdeacon John Barbour was the first biographer of Scotland's famous King Robert Bruce. There are many stories about Bruce's adventures in Galloway which John Gordon Barbour was proud to write about. Gilbert Barbour of Barskeoch and Drumbuie in Kells seems to have lost his property during the wars of the covenant but it seems the family survived as crofters since they resurface in Barlay and Dalshangan. Barlay was

known for the promotion of literacy and the establishment of libraries. Alexander Trotter attested that sorners (spongers) and tramps from Ayrshire, like a flock of locusts every summer, were sure to receive shelter and food from the benevolent Barlay, though banned from every other residence. John G Bruce was born at Gordonstone, Dalry, in 1775, at that time 'the site of a considerable village of crofters and cottars'. He married a daughter of William Wilson in Auchenleck of Minnigaff who was a lineal descendant of the family to which belonged Margaret Wilson, one of the Wigtown Martyrs. John Barbour's father-in-law did so much business in the Glenkens that he was made an honorary burgess of New Galloway in 1803.

John started to publish in the 1820s.

Toryism'.

It was important to Barbour that history should portray the rational conduct of our ancestors, connected with the real scenery where they suffered, fought and fell. He then made his plea: 'In an age in which servility and sycophancy have too much prevailed, let us lift the mirror of manliness from the dust of our forefathers'. This was too much for the great and the good. He enjoyed an impeccable Galloway pedigree in his Barbour/Bruce connections and in his respect for the Covenanters, but he betrayed his class as a landowner with his radical ideas and his punishment was to be unfairly ridiculed. Despite his interesting ideas on History and



Bogue Farm in 1868 from a sketch by James Trotter', East Galloway Sketches 1901

His first book was *Lights and Shadows of Scottish Character and Scenery* in which he introduced himself as having explored almost every corner of Scotland and most places in the south of the country. 'A Scotsman by birth--a Scotsman by nature--a Scotsman by education--he delights in every thing Caledonian'. His inspiration was the Covenanting experience; he had a warm feeling for those who both suffered and bled in defence of civil and religious liberty. Living in the very heart of a country where hundreds and thousands suffered at the hands of Lagg, Turner and Claverhouse. He conversed often with the descendants of the sufferers, becoming intimately acquainted with both the local habitations and their names. He also claimed to collect oral traditions about the 'Killing Times'. However, not all were admiring of his worthy efforts. He had to withhold some of the materials he collected because 'They were not steeped to the lips in

Landscape - some folk wondered if some places nurtured an 'historical atmosphere', he was written off as an eccentric and, as sometimes happens, he accommodated his actions to his imposed reputation. He used Threave as an example of his light and shadows theme. The castle had been a bastion of feudalism, and over powerful subjects, who annually demanded the lardners, annual marts of 27 fat cows. When the old guard left, farmers could kill their own cattle and tend their own moors; heritable jurisdictions were outlawed and agricultural improvement took place. Light drove out the shadows. 'Long flow the Dee, unpolluted with blood. Long

grow the forests unskaited by burning. A Lagg and a Claverhouse have here been withstood. And may tyranny of all sorts be here firmly stemmed. And while the towers of Threave yet mark what hath been, may the virtues of our ancestors give nerve to our souls'. Part Two of this item will appear in the next *Glenkens Gazette*, when we will see how some folk were also outraged by his remarks about the Kirk. He was also a poet. Meanwhile, let Barbour supply his own benediction:

*From the source of the Ken to the mouth of the Dee,
May corruption be stemm'd by the sons of the free.*

That is why this article is entitled The Rogue at the Bogue! Ted Cowan

Part 2 of this feature to follow in the August/September issue...

WINDY RIG WIND FARM PROGRESS UPDATE

We are now halfway through our blade delivery programme.

This is the first time a specialist blade transporter is being used in the UK. This allows the blade to be lifted up to a 60 degree angle vertically and rotate 320 degrees to help negotiate the journey from the laydown area along the twisty sections of the B729 to the Windy Rig Site.

Statkraft attended the recent Carsphairn Road Network Ward Meeting arranged by Councillor Pauline Drysdale. Statkraft were able to update the local community on progress with component deliveries, the C35 road repairs and timescales for the completion of the project. We appreciate that the delivery phase of the project has been difficult for residents on the B729

and C35, and Statkraft and all the contractors would like to thank them for their patience during this time. As a direct result of the meeting, we are improving how we communicate potential traffic disruption, including how we use the text messaging service to provide delivery updates.

In late June, we expect component deliveries to be completed and residents will see a reduction in

traffic volumes generally.

Remedial works to restore the C35 to its pre-delivery condition will commence in July. These works are covered by a legal agreement and a bond has been lodged with Dumfries & Galloway Council. The works require approval by the Council after completion. A detailed works plan will be shared with residents along the C35 before commencement.

On site, work will continue until late summer, with turbine installation expected to be completed in August.

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.



An elevated blade travelling along the B729 towards to site

Advertisement

WINDY STANDARD WIND FARM COMMUNITY UPDATE

Hello - I am Miles McConville and I would like to introduce myself as the project manager for Windy Standard Wind Farm, located North East of Carsphairn.

Fred. Olsen Renewables (FORL) has been involved in Windy Standard Wind Farm since the 1990s. It currently consists of 66 turbines and provides a substantial community benefit fund.

Windy Standard 1, the first phase of the wind farm, is approaching the end of its operational life and we are exploring opportunities to repower the development. These plans would reduce the number of turbines on site and increase the amount of power generated.

We are speaking to local residents about our plans and will be holding a virtual consultation in June which will be accessible at www.windystandardwindfarm.co.uk

I would like to encourage everyone to get in touch should you have any questions - my email is communities@fredolsen.co.uk or you can phone me on 07435 763 900. Alternatively, visit www.fredolsenrenewables.com for further information.



Advertisement



A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

email gct@catstrand.com

phone 01644 420374 mobile 07841 512449

June - July 2021

Regular Services

GK2 Glenkens-Castle Douglas

(Tesco)

Wednesday Evenings

(Registered Route)

Out		Return
19:00	Dalry (Underhill)	21:15
19:05	New Galloway	21:10
19:15	Mossdale	21:00
19:25	Laurieston	20:50
19:30	Townhead of Greenlaw	20:47
19:37	Castle Douglas (Market St)	20:37
19:40	Castle Douglas (Tesco)	20:35

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.

We aim to reinstate other GCT regular services as soon as the easing of COVID restrictions permits.

The COVID situation can change quickly so please keep an eye on the GCT website for the latest information about weekly services to Castle Douglas Golden Day Club and alternate monthly services to Ayr and Carlisle.

Member Hire

We are pleased to be able to announce that with the easing of lockdown we are again able to hire our minibuses and electric car to GCT members. Please get in touch with queries about hires or about GCT membership.

GCT Ebikes



Electric bikes are a great way to get more active in your local travel. They not only get you where you want to go but they help you get and/or keep fit – with a little help from a discrete wee electric motor.

Starting on 1 June GCTs 6 ebikes will be available to hire by the half day or day at very accessible prices.

GCT will also be organising ebike instruction sessions and supported rides of various kinds to encourage people to get involved in health-promoting, environmentally sensitive local travel. See

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org/ebikes for details.

GCT Excursions

We aim to run an excursion to the Creative Crafts Show in Glasgow in October and, lockdown permitting, possibly to organise one or two GCT excursions before that.

Please keep an eye on the GCT website or phone CatStrand (01644 420374) for updates.

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

This issue's winner is Kath Martin with her photograph of Highland pony, Cormack, gazing out over the River Ken.

Kath wins an evening meal for two up to the value of £30 at the Ken Bridge Hotel. Competition judges Dave and Sue said: *"This time the lovely photo of the Highland pony edges into the winning place as we feel he shows an admirable appreciation of the lovely Glenkens landscape."*

The Gazette would like to thank Dave and Sue for their support in sponsoring the Photo of the Issue competition over the years as this is the last issue they will be judging. The competition has been a great success, with many happy readers enjoying meals as a result of their generosity.

From the August/September edition, The Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Co, based in Balmacellan, will be judging the competition and offering two portions of their delicious home-made macaroni cheese to the lucky winner - see the Business in the Spotlight section on p18.

For anyone who has a winning voucher for a meal at the Ken Bridge from a previous issue, you are able to redeem vouchers up until May 2022.



CURRENT FORESTRY PROPOSALS: DALRY

Dalry Community Council would like to hear from people who have opinions or ideas about two forestry proposals that are being consulted on in the next few months.

The first is at Duchrae, which is close to Lochinvar. This is a new version of a scheme that was turned down several years ago.

The second is Mackilston, five

miles north of Dalry and adjacent to the path along the Blackwater to Butterhole Bridge.

Both proposals predominantly Sitka spruce schemes with a small percentage of native broadleaves and open land.

If you have any thoughts at all, whether they are to do with access, biodiversity, species diversity, soils, habitats, water quality or land use change and cumulative impacts, please drop us a line at sjtdalrycc@gmail.com or you can use the Dalry CC or Waterside Ways Facebook pages. Feel free to include positive thoughts and suggestions as well as objections as we'd like to gather as much information as possible.

We have just moved to the area and have found the Gazette really useful in getting to know what is going on - thank you!

Lyndsay

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DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Dougie Campbell

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

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway

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Councillor Pauline Drysdale

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Jane Maitland

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

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway

The Community Kindness Cupboard outside Dalry Library has home baking in every Thursday.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR LOCAL JOB LISTINGS

Dumfries & Galloway! What's Going on @DGWGO on Facebook; What's Going On Glenkens @WGOGlenkens on Facebook; Glenkens Gazette @GlenkensNews on Facebook – once on the page for any of these, use the search function to look for jobs. The Glenkens' largest employer, Natural Power Consultants Ltd, also have a jobs page - www.naturalpower.com/uk/careers

KEY GLENKENS CONTACTS

LOCAL DOCTORS' SURGERY

Glenkens Medical Practice - 01644 420 234

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- Balmacellan: 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 ngce5000@gmail.com or pop into New Galloway Community Shop

Balmacellan 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

Balmacellan: 11am - 6 Jun & 4 Jul.

Carsphairn: 11am - 13 Jun & 11 Jul.

Kells: 11am - 20 Jun & 18 Jul.

Dalry: 11am - 27 Jun ^ 25 Jul.

Communion will be celebrated in Carsphairn Church on 11 July.

The local Church of Scotland congregations are however continuing to prepare weekly prayers and reflections that can be accessed on youtube under 'Balmacellan, 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 also be provided to those who do not have internet access. Contact him at 01644 430 380 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 Church New Galloway has now resumed with the Eucharist on Sundays at 10.30am, followed by coffees/teas (with current guidelines in place).

Visitors are always welcome - for further information including directions, please see our website www.stmargaretsnewgalloway.org or call 01644 420 259.

Dalry Library & Customer Service Centre

Tuesdays 10.30am-2pm

Fridays 11am-4.30pm

For further information contact Castle Douglas library on 01556 502 643

USEFUL NUMBERS:

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

Growing the Local Food Economy

The Glenkens Community Action Plan identified growing the local food economy as a key action.

Local company Propagate has been tasked with taking forward a scoping study, looking at local food needs in the Glenkens. We have two surveys open for local people to respond to that will help us build up a picture of:

- What locally produced food do people already buy, and how do they buy it?
- What locally produced food would people like to be able to buy, and how would they like to buy it?
- What stops people from buying locally produced food?
- Who is currently producing food locally, and who would like to be a local producer?

For the purposes of this survey, by 'locally produced food' we mean food that has been grown, raised or made within 25 miles.

The results from this work will be used

to identify what is missing locally and what the biggest needs are, along with the potential, aspirations, barriers. We will work with local producers, landowners, community organisations and the council to find solutions to these needs.



Veg growing locally at Hidden Veg on the Hidden Road, Balmacellan.

We would like to invite all local people across the Glenkens to complete this online survey which can be found at www.propagate.org.uk/food-systems

Hard copies will also be available along with drop-off boxes at key points in our communities, and you will also find our team out and about at local events and locations over the coming months. If you

would like to speak to someone about this directly, contact details are included below.

All types of food producers and aspiring food producers - farmers, market gardeners, bakers and makers - are invited to complete this survey which can be found at www.propagate.org.uk/food-systems. You are welcome to complete this whether you informally sell jam at the gate or make a living selling sheep at the market! Please get in touch with us to speak to a member of the team directly if you would like a hard copy of the survey.

We will also be contacting local shops, cafes and people involved with food supply chains to understand the aspirations and barriers around using local produce in menus, or stocking it on the shelves.

This work will take place between June and August 2021. We will present the results back to the community during an event as part of this year's Glenkens Food Month.

If you would like to get in touch, please email hello@propagate.org.uk or phone 07340 531 506.

Abi Mordin

2021 Opening Times

Threave Garden, Café & Visitor Centre

Threave Garden
Open 7 days 10am - 5pm

Threave Gardening Show 4 - 6 June
For more information and booking go to www.nts.org.uk or call 01556 502 575

#garden #outdoorcafe #shop #plantcentre #toilets #parking #childrensplayarea #safespacesoutdoors #CastleDouglas

Broughton House & Garden

Open from 1 May to 31 October

Broughton Garden
Open 7 days 10am - 5pm (entrance via side gate)

Broughton House
Open weekends only pre-booking at www.nts.org.uk

#garden #art #relax #culture #history #Kirkcudbright

Thomas Carlyle's Birthplace

Open from 29 May 2021 weekends and bank holidays only

Pre-booking required at www.nts.org.uk

Closing for the season on 31 August 2021

More details online nts.org.uk or visit our Facebook pages

#ThreaveGardenEstate @CastleDouglas

#BroughtonHouseAndGarden @Kirkcudbright

#ThomasCarlylesBirthplaceNTS @Ecolefechan

NATIONAL TRUST for SCOTLAND

New Galloway & Kells Open Weekend

Reconnecting our Community

18th - 20th June 2021

Walking Football in the Park

Live Streaming of Scotland v England at the Catstrand (ticketed)

Exhibition in New Galloway Town Hall

New Galloway Treasure Trail

Guided woodland walks for all ages

Discover the beautiful Walled Garden at Garroch (transport available)

Wildlife activities for children

Community Cream Teas in the Park

The full programme of events will soon be available

All Activities are FREE and Everyone is welcome!





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