

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

August/September 2021

ISSUE 125

FREE

A CONCERT ON THE LOCH

Have you ever enjoyed a musical performance while afloat?

Most probably neither had the majority of the audience at a unique event held in the Glenkens this June.

Through a collaboration of local groups, a water-based concert was held on Loch Ken, with the novel experience of a boat-bound audience.

The Galloway Agreement's string quintet performed from the shores of Loch Ken to a sold-out crowd based at the Galloway Activity Centre.

The On the Water event

was a first for the region, with the audience taking to the water in a selection of craft to appreciate the bankside performance.

Aidan Nicol of Glenkens Community & Arts Trust said: "From the vantage point of the stage we could watch the multi-coloured boats paddling in

for the start of the performance from across the loch - one of our sound technicians commented that this was the most remarkable event they'd ever seen come together - and in that moment I'd have to agree; it felt very special to be a part of."

The performance was thoroughly

enjoyed by the waterbound audience. One of the visitors to the event, Connie McQuaker, said: "The event was amazing. It was such a fantastically unique way to be reintroduced to live music after such a long lockdown. I've never heard of any event similar to it - a really innovative, excellent idea!"



The audience at the On the Water event were able to enjoy a tranquil evening of traditional music from the comfort of their own boat (photograph courtesy of the Galloway Glens Scheme).

Connecting Glenkens Communities

How do you get your local information?

Is it in the local shop? Or perhaps you have a great source of information in a switched-on

neighbour or friend whom you chat to regularly. Do you read the *Galloway News*? Scroll through Facebook? Do you often only hear about a local event after it's happened? Have you spotted a great communication tool elsewhere that

could work here in the Glenkens?

We would love to hear about how you get your local information on what's going on in the area, and how you feel communication could be improved. **Continued on p2...**



Read our special Gazette report, A Roof Over Your Head, on pages 15 to 18...

Support Our Glenkens Communications Survey

Continued from front page...

The Glenkens & District Trust (GDT) Community Action Plan (CAP), created through feedback from our Glenkens communities, highlighted some key areas within our communities where improvement could be made. One of these areas was improved communication across the communities of the Glenkens and wider district.

GDT recently awarded funds to the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) to do some research into how people in our communities feel communication channels could be improved, seeking to invest in an effective communication tool for the whole community.

As part of this process a short survey is being circulated, both in paper format and online. You can find a copy of this survey in this edition of the *Glenkens Gazette*, or online on the *Gazette* Facebook page or online on our FaceBook page or at bit.ly/glenkens.

Paper copies can be returned to a local drop-off point (most likely where you got your copy of the *Gazette* from), or you can photograph/scan the completed survey and attach it to an email to gill@catstrand.com

Have your say - be involved in influencing the future direction of community communication in the Glenkens - your feedback is vital.

We'd love to hear from as wide a range of people across the community as possible so please also encourage your friends and family in and around the Glenkens to take a few minutes to complete the survey. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Gazette Team



Your chance to have a say on community communications...



This photograph of Mrs Zoe Harvey from Corsock, reading the latest issue of the *Gazette*, was submitted by Rosalie Edington.

Rosalie said: "Mrs Harvey loves it when I take her the new edition of the *Gazette*! Is she the oldest reader at 97?" We're not sure, but we think she could be - let us know if you know of an older reader!

Carsphairn Air Crash Remembered

On 7 July 1951 at 11.10am a plane fell out of the sky and crashed near Brockloch Tower, two miles north of Carsphairn.

The aircraft was a US Air Force tanker version of the B-29 Superfortress

bomber and all eleven crew were lost.

Seventy years later and, at the exact time of the accident, a member of the Scottish Military Research Group left a symbol of remembrance at the plaque which marks the site of the crash.

The plaque remembers: John B Simpson, Joseph Aloysius O'leary, George Jacques Hayden, Reginald Y Russell, John R Finnegan, Jack Wilfred Kern, George Merril Foote, Tennant Appleton Metz, Henry H Hill, Wallace L

Scott and Noel Marion Poppoff.

Pictured below is the memorial plaque which is set into the dyke alongside the A713 road just north of Carsphairn.



David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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Crossmichael Heritage Project

Crossmichael Heritage Project, located at the Old Hearse Hoose, has opened its doors to visitors.

The renovation of the building was recently completed and features a fascinating wall-mounted timeline showing what happened in the parish from 10,000 BC to the present, and also what was happening in the wider world at a similar time. There is the added interest of a historic map showing the many ancient features in the parish with background detail.

In the historic old churchyard we have created a graveyard tour showing a diverse range of gravestones such as JM Barrie's Captain Hook, a 17th century covenanter martyr, two brothers drowned in the River Dee and even a Crossmichael soldier who died at Balaclava in the famous 'charge of the Light Brigade' - into the valley of death rode the 600!

There are many other gravestones with curious and interesting stories attached. Do come and visit; you will be amazed



The Crossmichael Heritage Project, situated next to the church yard at the Old Hearse Hoose on the A713 road which runs through Crossmichael, opens to visitors.

at the amount of history in our little parish.

The main part of the Heritage Centre display, housed in the church hall, is still

closed because of COVID regulations, but we hope to be able to open it soon.

John Nelson, Crossmichael Heritage & Living History Project

Scottish Alternative Games 2022

Little did we realise when the Games were cancelled in 2020 that the situation in 2021 would mean that they unfortunately couldn't be held yet again!

The ongoing requirements have made it impossible to hold the event in anything like its usual form and therefore the decision was made to cancel this year's Games. Instead, we will look forward to finally celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Games in New Galloway on 7 August 2022.

Next year will also mark the 45th anniversary of the first ever Alternative Games in Parton, where they began.

The pandemic has been a very difficult time for everyone and we were hoping that restrictions would be lifted in time to allow the Alternative Games to take place and give us all something to look forward to and enjoy. However, even now in Tier Zero, the continuing restrictions and requirements would mean that many of the events on the day couldn't take place or would need to be adapted to meet sanitising and distancing rules.

The success and popularity of the Games has been built on the friendly atmosphere of a good old fashioned family day out and the unique events that everyone can participate in. We didn't want this to be lost by imposing restrictions to limit numbers, changing rules, etc.

But we will make up for it in 2022 - fingers crossed - and celebrate the return of the Scottish Alternative Games in style. So please put Sunday 7 August 2022 in your diary now!

Brian Edgar



The Men's final of the Gird 'n' Cleek race a decade ago, in August 2011



Lockdown has been a terrible time for everyone but, as we begin to ease restrictions, things are starting to look much brighter.

Here at the Smiddy in Balmaclellan, Tai-Chi has resumed, fitness classes have blossomed on Zoom, Chris J was recognised in BT's Unbreakable Awards for the weekly Lockdown Quiz, and we're trialling 'hybrid yoga' (half on Zoom and half face-to-face in the Smiddy), socially distanced of course!

The occasional bouts of good weather have allowed the photography group to get out-and-about, Sheddies have been utilising the Men's Shed's facilities for solo projects (the Shed remains closed for group sessions just now), adult dance has returned to CatStrand, our Winter Wellbeing challenge was a huge success and the Family Friendly Bike Ride went down a storm - included is an account by one of our youngest attendees (also see article on back page).

Chris Jowsey



One of the young cyclists on the family bike ride, Molly Pugh, at the end of the journey.

We joined Chris, and another family, on the community family bike ride on Saturday 29 May.

We met up at the CatStrand and headed off to Balmaclellan, then down the back road to Dalry where we had a quick break. It was nice to see everything on a bike instead of in a car. We then took a right down a track that went all the way downhill which was really fun to ride on because you could go really fast. We ended up behind the old Milton Park Hotel and from there we crossed the bridge and went left and cycled down the back road to New Galloway.

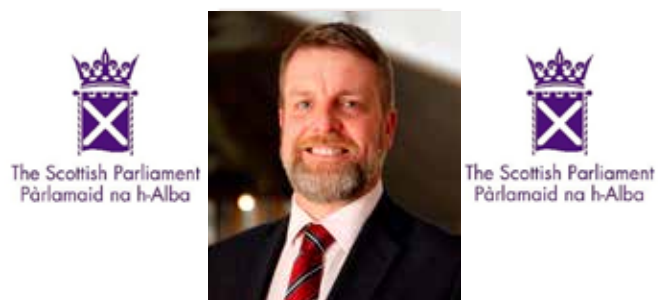
We stopped for a quick photo and managed to spot Balmaclellan in the distance. Apparently this stretch of road is where a buzzard used to always appear and tried to attack people when they were riding their bikes.

Then we finally arrived back at the CatStrand and had a nice lunch with the other adult cyclists who did the longer 13-mile ride on e-bikes. It turns out we did 10 miles, not six miles as Chris had said!

Thanks, Chris, for a nice morning out, Molly

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

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Phone: 01556 504991

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

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Dalry Craft Fair

On Sunday 29 August, Dalry Town Hall will be hosting an Arts, Antiques & Artisan Craft Fair from 11am until 3pm.

There will be a group of independent dealers, contemporary designers, artists and crafters - all under one roof. They will be showcasing a diverse range of work which will give you a chance to purchase unique "not on the High Street" items from some of the most talented and creative individuals in Dumfries & Galloway and the south of Scotland.

A list of potential exhibitors will be posted at www.dalrytownhall.co.uk and on Facebook @DalryDG7Town Hall

The fair will also be offering delicious home-baked cakes, teas and coffees from the Pop-up Café either as a takeaway service or with outside seating and tables under the cover of the gazebos. If the weather is kind we will also have picnic tables for extra seating.

The monthly Pop-up Cafés are staffed by volunteers and the fair is also organised by volunteers. We hope you will feel able to come along and enjoy the whole event and be tempted by the beautiful items on offer. Entrance to the craft fair will be £1 per adult (over 16).

DAYS OUT FROM THE GLENKENS

Visitors to the Glenkens sometimes find themselves looking for something interesting to do, especially if the weather is not quite as planned.

Whether you have children or grandparents to entertain, hopefully there is something here for you. I have assumed two things; firstly, that you have a car and enjoy (or don't mind) driving and, secondly, that you can look up online or ask for more details on any of these suggestions, so it is just a list.

Here are a few of my favourite day (or half-day) trips out within reach of the Glenkens.

1) Galloway Forest Park: Murray's monument, deer and feral goat parks, Clatteringshaws loch and visitor centre

2) Off the Beaten Track: Raiders road, Stroan Viaduct, Otter Pool and Clatteringshaws

3) Scenic Drive: New Galloway to Lauriston, then turn right and follow the single-track road to Gatehouse of Fleet (with a visit to the Mill on the Fleet for lunch perhaps)

4) The Machars: From New Galloway take the Queens Way past Newton Stewart to Wigtown (also the region's Book Town), Bladnoch Distillery, Garlieston, Whithorn, Isle of Whithorn (there's a lovely walk around headland), St Ninian's cave, Port William. This may need to be two trips if you want to do it all!

5) Portpatrick: Choose (or avoid) lifeboat day, local walks, Mull of Galloway experience

6) Gardens: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Glenwhan Gardens, Logan Botanic Gardens

7) Hill Walks: For fit and experienced walkers only (make sure to bring a map and compass); Forrest Estate to Corserine, Meikle Millyea and Carlins Cairn, Cairnsmore of Fleet

8) Easy Hill Walk: From Dalry Town Hall, follow the Southern Upland Way signs to the river, then cross beside Earlstoun hydro power station (a listed building) and up Waterside Hill (see article on p10)

9) Wanlockhead: Lead mining



Spike the deer at the Red Deer Range (listing 1 - Galloway Forest Park)

museum, preserved miners' cottages, gold panning, narrow gauge railway, fossicking on spoil heaps, wild camping in Mennock Pass

10) Safe Sandy Beach: Sandyhills (beware of fast-moving tides if you walk along the coast), drag a magnet through sand and 'catch' magnetite, see old salt pans – there is cheap beachside parking

11) Largs: Nardini ice cream in art deco building, a variety of restaurants

and a short ferry to Cumbrae

12) Coast Drive: From Ayr to Stranraer, Ayr town and beach, Burns Cottage in Alloway, Dunure harbour, Culzean Castle, Lendalfoot (you might see seals near the Varyag memorial)

13) Loch Doon: The castle that moved, osprey nest, picnic sites beside the loch

14) Dark Sky Park: On a clear night, see the milky way from almost anywhere out of town (best on a moonless night in spring or autumn) - a favourite spot is Clatteringshaws

15) Local Museums: Dalbeattie, Stewartry Museum in Kirkcudbright, Newton Stewart, Stranraer, Dumfries, the Devils Porridge Museum near Annan.

16) Rocks and Geology: Apart from Wanlockhead there is the Gem Museum in Creetown and the Gem Shop in Castle Douglas

17) Kirkcudbright: Art galleries, art centre, Broughton House, walk around St Mary's Isle

18) Entertaining Children: Mabie Farm Park, Cream o' Galloway, Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Galloway Activity Centre (also a recommendation for adults)

19) Historic Sites: Sweetheart Abbey, Waterloo Monument, Lincluden Collegiate Church

20) Staying Local: Red kite feeding station near Lauriston, 16th century ruined village of Polmaddy just north of Dalry, Holy Linn waterfall (signposted from the Dalry to Moniaive road)

To find more things to do in the area just search 'Dumfries and Galloway days out' on an internet search engine - it's surprising how much there is to see and do!

Paul

CatStrand Youth Players Return

Having been inactive since the first lockdown was imposed in March last year, the long-awaited return of the CatStrand Youth Players is almost upon us.

Provided everything continues to go well with the easing of restrictions, we plan to start meeting again on Sunday 5 September at 2pm in CatStrand.

All former members are welcome, together with anyone who would like to join as a new member - you can join if you are aged 10 to 18. The first production we will be working on will be the Christmas panto.

Please look out for updates on the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust website www.gcat.scot and CatStrand Facebook page.



Honey (Ruby Harfield) and Trudy (Hope Rowley) with Camilla the Camel in 2020.

Help Shape the Future of the Glenkens & District Trust

Glenkens & District Trust (GDT) is taking the next step in its development and looking for three additional people to join its active group of trustees.

As you may already know, GDT is a charitable body which resources and enables community development in the Glenkens and surrounding areas by distributing wind farm community benefit funds. Currently we make awards from the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund and we have also been actively involved stimulating the development of a Glenkens & District Community Action Plan. So far this year GDT has made 18 awards worth a total of £151,000 to a wide range of different organisations.

New trustees don't need any specialist skills or experience - training and ongoing support will be provided to any new trustee upon joining - but a love of the area and a commitment to the value of local community-led activity in all its

shapes and sizes is absolutely crucial. Young people are particularly encouraged to apply and the GDT chair, Fiona Smith, is very happy to have an informal chat with people who are interested.

It's a great time to get involved in shaping the future of the trust - not only do we currently make decisions on the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund but we are helping drive a coordinated approach to community benefit across the Glenkens and district area, which we hope will result in the most impact and the best outcomes for our communities - an approach which is vital as we look ahead to the significant number of potential developments in our area.

Trustees play an absolutely crucial role in ensuring that local people

shape and direct the work of the trust and also in ensuring that the fund strategy, which underpins how money is awarded, reflects the needs of the wider community.

The GDT Board is made up of trustees appointed by local community councils and up to five independent trustees. Our recent governance review led to the creation of these independent Trustee roles which, along with the establishment of our new associate membership arrangements, are all part of positive developments to strengthen our accountability to the communities we serve. So it's a great time to get involved!

Trustees meet on a bi-monthly basis - full details of the commitment, including a full role description and additional information for applicants, is available by contacting the trust on info@glenkenstrust.org.uk and can also be found on our Facebook page @glenkenstrust.

Application is by letter and the closing date for applicants is 31 August 2021. To contact GDT chair Fiona for an informal discussion email fiona.smith1@btinternet.com or call 07789 903 127.

Fiona Smith, chair, GDT



GDT Trustees meeting over Zoom

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Dalry Town Hall, 10am-1pm

- 7th August & 11th September -

** note the August market is on the 1st Saturday*

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 or just visit us on the day

- for further details call 07776 034 260 -

entry by donation on the door

(15 miles from Castle Douglas on A713)

Hopes for a Local Food Network

Last summer, the Glenkens and District Community Action Plan showed an appetite in the community for "a plan for collaborative production and distribution of local produce".

Local company Propagate has begun work on this by launching two surveys - one for consumers and one for producers - to find out what people are looking for. The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of producing our food locally, highlighting that our current global supply system is vulnerable to all kind of shocks.

When we asked people where they currently buy their local food, several respondents did not know of anywhere they could access locally produced food. Some pointed to the Dalry Producer's Market and Food Hub as a great step forward.

Issues of distance, cost and availability were all identified as barriers to access. One person said: "I'd like to be able to buy local food without having a 20-mile round trip to reach Dalry. I'd like to walk or cycle to my local village of Carsphairn."

Locally produced food is often much more expensive than food sourced globally. One respondent stated: "I do buy [some local food] - I would buy more if I had a higher income".

We'd love to talk more about this in the conversations we are going to hold in August - could we build a fairer place to live, where everyone can access nutritious, locally grown produce?

Often it's hard to know whether produce we're buying is local or not. Several respondents said they'd like to see labelling on produce, as well as notices in shop windows stating they sell local produce. One person asked for "better marketing to know that we are getting genuinely local food".

Some people stated that they find it hard to source produce that is both local and organic - or that they

simply don't know what is out there. The few people who already have access to lots of local produce were usually those who already have the land and/or knowledge to produce it themselves. Even in this instance however there's a desire for specialist goods that could be produced locally - local oats and barley, hemp for food and fibre, and mushrooms were suggested, or more locally produced store-cupboard foods.

Whilst many people wanted to see more availability of locally produced meat, game and fish, a high number of those surveyed identified a lack of freshly grown local vegetables, asking for "more focus on veg and fruit production, less on meat".

What Can be done?

When we asked what changes the public would like to see to improve the situation, we got many insightful replies about what a better system could look like. Some thoughts were: "Could there be better links between producers and local shops that could allow you to order online with the producer and collect at the shop? Could producers work more closely to do meal boxes to make cooking/shopping easier?" Several respondents identified access to land for small producers, and establishing community ownership, as crucial

"...better links between producers and local shops that could allow you to order online with the producer and collect at the shop? Could producers work more closely to do meal boxes to make cooking/shopping easier?"

areas to work on.

On the Producer Side...

Local producers and aspiring producers have also been responding to a call for input and participation into the survey. Challenges and opportunities are starting to emerge as more people get involved and tell us what they think. There is a clear call for more cooperation amongst producers through joined up supply chains, shared resources and education around buying local.

Several ideas have been put forward to increase the supply of locally produced fruit and vegetables - for example, establishing a Community



Supported Agriculture scheme, new market gardens and potentially a big indoor growing space for producing more exotic crops.

Conversations About Food

Later in August we will hold informal gatherings in local venues where you can come along and have a chat with us about local food, building on what you've told us in the survey. We're going to keep these small and we'll make some tasty food to share. We're planning to hold these conversations in mid-August, on Tuesday 10, Thursday 19 and Saturday 21 at venues throughout the Glenkens. If you would like to come along please keep an eye out for the event listed online, or get in touch with us to find out venues. Or if you've filled in our survey and said you'd like to be involved, we'll be in touch!

Glenkens Food Month - the Results of Our Scoping Project

Our findings from this project will be presented in September during

the Glenkens Food Month. The ideas we've seen in the responses to the surveys will be explored further through focus groups and discussions. Combining the voices of producers, aspiring producers and local communities, we will start to generate concrete ideas that can be taken forward that support and encourage increased access to local food for everyone.

If you want to get involved or would like more information, please contact Beth on beth@propagate.org.uk or 0797 237 9684.

Beth Coleman

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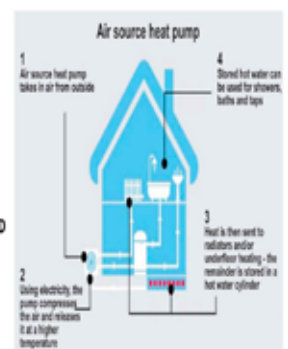
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Green Well of Scotland Exhibition

The Green Well of Scotland, situated outside Carsphairn, is showcasing an exhibition of local portraits illustrating a rural hill community emerging from the pandemic.

The exhibition will run until September, and has images located both at the well and at the Carsphairn Heritage Centre.

Green Well is a historic beauty spot steeped in folklore just over the border from East Ayrshire into Dumfries & Galloway. The photographs are designed to capture the local community as they emerge from the unprecedented experience of a national lockdown.

The project has been produced by Knockengoroch Community Interest Company and supported by Dumfries & Galloway Regional Arts Fund and EventScotland through Scotland's Events Recovery Fund.

Ben Ade, an engineer from Carsphairn, is one of those pictured. He said: "It feels like quite a pivotal point in the



Members of Carsphairn community at the Green Well Exhibition launch event

history of Carsphairn, emerging from such a large scale pandemic and also with the area already suffering heavily from depopulation of younger generations.

"It will be interesting for future folk to look back on heritage pictures like these and see what sort of characters lived around Carsphairn in 2021.

"The local environment has been extremely important to us during lockdown, I wouldn't want to be locked down anywhere else."

The Green Well of Scotland sits just off the A713, by a popular walker's route, next to the River Deugh at the foot of Cairnmore of Carsphairn. It is a 30-foot diameter pool with a wealth

of cultural and historical significance. Dr Peter Hewitt, of Dumfries & Galloway Museums, said: "There are few wells that can boast a richer folklore than the Green Well of Scotland. Tucked away in a northern 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 region's cultural memory is stored like a battery."

For more information, visit www.knockengoroch.org.uk/green-well-of-scotland-exhibition

Below is a response to the letter included in the last edition of the *Gazette* regarding the article titled *Archaeology Meets Poetry on the Raiders Road* in the April/May issue.

Hi Sandy,

It's Claire from Can You Dig It here, hope you're doing well. Yes, you're right, the article does read like they were evicted - which I didn't pick up on, sorry! You are very correct that there is no evidence for that and it's not what I think happened, they likely moved on for their own reasons.

In the full data structure report, I talked more about the wider landscape of improvements playing a part in its abandonment (in its use as a house rather than its abandonment by a specific family) and the move towards smaller farms being amalgamated into larger sheep farms as mentioned in the Statistical Accounts. This could have played a part in Upper Gairloch later being amalgamated with the neighbouring lands by the time of the later advertisements.

I like the point you make on the lack of arable land putting people off buying the land after it had been made into a larger sheep farm - the selling of the ground to farmers based elsewhere then meaning that no one had to move into the farmsteads as homes anymore. I missed a trick there so thank you!

I feel the longer discussion didn't come across correctly in the shortened article which was included in the *Gazette* - while I didn't write it, I did read over it before it went out so I should have spotted how it would come across to fresh eyes. I'm very grateful that you wrote in when you got in touch and pointed this out.

Best wishes, Claire

OUR HERITAGE SMALL GRANTS SCHEME OPEN

The latest round of Galloway Glens funding through the Our Heritage Small Grants Scheme is now underway.

The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership have so far awarded approximately £75,000 of the £100,000 budget for this scheme, leaving £25,000 still to be awarded.

The deadline for applications is 15 September - for full details on what type of projects can be applied for, a list of awards to date, or to kick-off an application, please visit the Small Grants page at www.gallowayglens.org



Youth Spaces Summer Fun

Since starting as Youth Arts Coordinator at CatStrand in late May it has been a pleasure to get to know members of the community and learn more about the many wonderful things that happen in the area.

We've been working on the Youth Spaces project which came about as a result of the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan identifying a need for a space within the Glenkens for young people to call their own.

Our youth volunteers helped plan the first of our Youth Spaces settings at New Galloway Town Hall and we have been delivering these sessions with much success. So far we have bowled with melons, done indoor and outdoor sports, had a quiz night, a movie night, and will be enjoying laser tag and a disco over the next couple of weeks. The sessions are on Mondays (last one Monday 2 August) from 5.30pm to 8pm at New Galloway

Town Hall, and sessions are for age 11+.

The Youth Arts Summer Programme is now also underway. On 20 July we did a Dirt Edits trip to Glentress to spend the day mountain biking on the trails. The young people worked with professional mountain biking and film making instructors on the day, then worked with Faye McKellar and Aidan Nicol to edit their footage and make their own films at CatStrand the following day.

We have a wide range of activities on offer this year – from making your own art materials to dance to Minecraft to puppet performance. There will also be a family kite making workshop at Dalry Town Hall with a picnic and kite flying session up the Mulloch on 4 August, and a Ceilidh Club for under 25s at the Smiddy in Balmaclellan on Sunday 25 July and Sunday 1 August.

I'm keen to find out what you'd like to see and do in the coming months



Bowling with melons at Youth Spaces in New Galloway Town Hall

– perhaps you have a favourite group that you would love to go to again, or an idea for something new? Get in touch if so!

Thank you all for your warm welcome and I look forward to meeting more of you and your young people.

For more info visit www.gcat.scot or check out Facebook and Instagram @catstrandyoutharts, or email lucy@catstrand.com

*Lucy Smith,
Youth Arts Coordinator, CatStrand*

WALKING UP WATERSIDE HILL

Our walk starts in Saint John's Town of Dalry at the Clachan Inn.

For much of our route we will follow the well signed Southern Upland Way (SUW) so we set off down the unpromising track beside the Town Hall. The mound on the right is Dalry Motte, the site of a 12th century castle, and after barely a hundred yards a rural vista opens up. Shortly we cross the River Ken over a suspension bridge known locally as Boat Weir after an old ferry crossing or simply as the 'wobbly bridge' by the youngsters in the village who sometimes skim stones below. We keep an eye out for otters in the river – they are seen here from time to time, but not today.

Turning right we follow the river upstream, watching a field of sheep and their lambs on our left, eventually reaching a minor road which we cross. We follow the SUW signs to a footpath, past a moss-covered dry-stone wall (known locally as a dyke) on the left and the fish ladder of Earlstoun hydro-electric power station on the right; we soon reach a gate to the hill proper.

Now the climb begins - this is Waterside Hill. We have wisely chosen to take this walk in late spring before the bracken is full grown and we weave our way steadily uphill, no longer following the signed route but choosing firm ground, sheep tracks and rocky outcrops. We can just make out the course of a medieval drove road to the right and Stonechats seem to call their approval while a pair of Red Kites wheel overhead.

I pick up a small pebble and will add this to the cairn at the summit. We pause just before the top to look at some unusual low growing plants – sundews; they make

their living by catching and digesting insects.

At the top we drink from our water-bottles as we soak up the amazing views all around. We are only a little over five hundred feet high but we can see Earlstoun Loch and distant Cairnsmore of Carsphairn to the North, mighty Corserine to the North-West, Loch Ken and Screel Hill away to the South. The only sound is that of the skylarks high overhead. Looking back the way we came, Dalry now seems like a model village with smoke rising from the odd chimney and tiny cars and trucks moving silently along its roads.

We could make this a circular route but we enjoyed the sights so much that we choose to return the way we came to see it all again from a different angle.

On the descent we pass a gnarled hawthorn bush that we didn't notice in our eagerness to get to the top. It is one of very few shrubs on the hill and it is covered in blossom like a bridal gown.

Refreshments await at the village pub. Walk duration - can be done in an hour but you will probably want to take two.

Paul Goodwin



View of Dalry from Waterside Hill

GLENKENS MUSINGS

When I submitted my last article on the subject of mental health, I was a little concerned about how well it was going to be received and welcomed.

The reason behind that was I know people sometimes don't appreciate information like that or they find it too uncomfortable a topic. However, I shouldn't have worried at all because so many people from all walks of life came to me and revealed how much they enjoyed reading it and how they were glad that I was brave enough to actually write it. It honestly meant so much to me that people thought I had written something that could help, so I'm incredibly thankful to everyone who liked it.

So, I was inspired again to touch more on the topic so I could maybe open more people's eyes to how vital it is to talk about it.

When people think of poor mental health, the first thing that comes to mind is depression. But it's far more

complicated than that. Depression can be an aspect of it, but only when life gets too much for people to cope with. I can guarantee that every single person on this planet will suffer through something at some point that to them could feel like the end of the world. That could be losing a loved one or getting too stressed about work, school or absolutely anything. There is so much science and history behind it too. If you're like me and can often dwell on the past, present and future it can make it harder for yourself to move on from dark times. But honestly - and I'm not going to lie - I don't think we ever truly move on. We can try all we like to forget about things but at the end of the day, we will all keep circling back because whatever it is had such a strong effect on us. And if you feel like you keep referring back to these dark moments quite frequently, then maybe it's time to look for some support and advice. Like I've said before, there is nothing worse living through miserable times by yourself.

I wish mental health was talked about more openly in the world and I wish people could just face the fact that having issues with mental health does not make you a failure.



But I can understand that maybe the older generation don't care to discuss it and don't really want to learn about it, because probably when they were younger it was never talked about and it was a sin if you did. But I'm hoping now, due to advances in technology and education, that it could one day be a thing that is talked about with ease and was part of the school curriculum. Because if we don't do anything, more and more people are going to fall into a pit of despair that possibly they can never get out of. So please, talk to friends and family, seek advice if you need it, don't do it alone.

Life was never going to be easy, but I never thought it was going to be this hard...

James Wallace



Do you fancy a new hobby that is low cost, varied, fun, low commitment (we appreciate your school/college/work pressures) and gives you a safe space to relax and be yourself?

1st Stewartry Rangers (Girl Guides aged 14-18), have just been re-launched and need more recruits.

We are offering amazing opportunities across the Stewartry, welcoming girls aged 14 to 18 who have not been in Guiding before as well as previous members of Guiding (ex-Rainbows, Brownies and Guides).

Rangers is very different from the younger Girl Guiding groups, but as with all Girl Guiding we offer a safe space to have fun and meet new friends.

Rangers do amazing things - you can learn new skills, take action for things you believe in, be creative, travel, complete the Duke of Edinburgh award programme and much more. We respond to our members and take a youth-led approach, listening to what you want and helping you make it work.

We have plans to take a trip to IKEA - to have

fun, enjoy a Swedish lunch and learn about making self-assembly flat pack furniture (promoting future independent living). We are looking into organising a holiday to Lorne House in Northern Ireland where we can go kayaking, wild swimming, take a trip to the Titanic museum, go canyoning/gorge walking, take a trip to the theatre, etc. We plan to fundraise to keep costs down for this.

We are currently holding local taster sessions, so please spread the word and encourage girls aged 14-18 (or are approaching 14) to get in touch and take advantage of the excellent opportunities offered by the 1st Stewartry Rangers.

To find out more, contact Jan Crooks on 07708 797 423 or Judy Lane on 07966 706 106, or visit www.girlguiding.org.uk

Jan Crooks & Judy Lane



Revisiting Detective Classics: *Simenon*

Inspector Maigret books can often appear rather slow-paced for people today.

However, when time hangs rather heavily in an afternoon or evening, they may well be just the thing.

Simenon, a Belgian author, was a truly prolific writer of detective fiction, mostly with a flavour of a France that has largely disappeared. He is one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century and, despite the slow pace, many of his crime

novels are strangely compelling.

There cannot be many people that have read all of the books written between 1931 and 1972. In his early career he was reputed by his publisher to produce a novel per month. My favourites, of those I have read, are *Maigret's Revolver*, *Lock 14*, *Maigret in Montmartre* and *Maigret's First Case*. Maigret is a police inspector in Paris but is often called away to other regions.

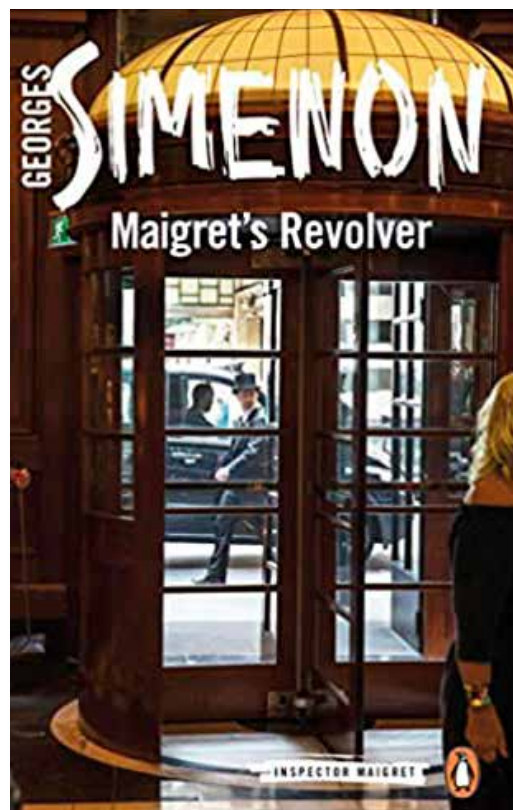
Many of the novels have been adapted repeatedly for radio and television - Rupert Davies,

Michael Gambon and Rowan Atkinson have each portrayed him brilliantly.

The Bruno Cremer series will allow people to listen in French, and there are also audio

books available of many of the titles, with a running time of around three to four hours.

Bruce Smith



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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

CatStrand Highlights

As we head into the middle of the summer we're looking forward to a variety of outdoor and indoor events and film screenings at CatStrand and around the Glenkens.

If you missed our live concerts from **Zoe Bestel and The Bookshop Band** in June and July, you can enjoy these concerts from home on our CatStrand at Home virtual events platform. Professionally recorded on the night of the live shows, it's almost as good as being there!

The **Village and the Road** is a performance featuring music and words from **Tom Pow and The Galloway Agreement** - presented live at CatStrand on Sunday 29 August. With support from Arts Live it explores 'the great thinning' - the pattern of people taking the road out of their villages - a subject close to home in the Glenkens. We'll be trialling out reintroduction of raked seating for this event, but will be maintaining distancing between group bookings.

A visual art installation from Annan-based artist Katie Anderson, **Sound Horn**, is popping up in Barwhillanty Estate's woodland during the last week in August. Wander around the sculptures as they emit sound and interact with one another and the landscape. Part funded by Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership, this installation is another of our Loch Ken Trust partner events, opening up areas around the loch for you to explore. The beautiful Barwhillanty Estate made the perfect setting for the sculptural installation which will be open from 11-3pm daily from 24 to 28 August - booking for this event is essential. The Saturday offers yoga and pizza in the gardens too as part of the estate's wellbeing day - see booking details online. The horns will play soundscapes including those captured and created

here in the Glenkens by artist **Katie J Anderson, Lucy Smith and Sarah Jane Scouten**.

Townsend Theatre's Talking Horse pop-up venue - created from a horsebox - is visiting the Glenkens, presenting the **Ragged Trousered Philanthropists** in Crossmichael on 3 September and in New Galloway on 4 September. Producer Louise and writer/ director Neil will be joining us for an artists' lunch at CatStrand on Saturday 4 September to chat about the process of making the show and developing work for rural touring and the West End stage.

We're back in New Galloway park with a



Sound Horns

day of music in September as part of the **Glenkens Food Month** - the afternoon line-up rounds up with a concert of Detroit, Chicago and electric style blues from local favourites the **Wave Blues Band**. Tickets are free but booking is still important so we can get you seated in

your booking bubbles - picnic blankets are provided but you may wish to bring a chair!

Films coming up include **Our Midnight**, a black and white ode to lost souls and chance encounters from South Korean director Lim Jung-eun. Selected by our youth film programming intern Thomas who has been looking for films that offer 'connection', this intriguing film premiered at the Glasgow Film Festival this year. If you love the early films of Jim Jarmusch or the endless possibilities of a night with Richard Linklater then **Our Midnight** is for you.

Dalry Film Club screen **Bellbird** on 25 August, a New Zealand drama set around a family-run dairy farm - told with great heart and warm humour, this film shines a light on the plight of a small rural community where the people are the heroes.

As part of the Glenkens Food Month we're offering a pedal powered climate conversations screening in the walled garden of the Garroch Estate. **Dirt!** is an environmental documentary narrated by **Jamie Lee Curtis**. It brings to life the environmental, economic, social and political impact that the soil has. This screening is powered by a bike-operated generator, volunteers and audience members can take turns to keep the film rolling. You'll need to keep the wheels spinning to get to the end of the evening!

Later on, at the end of September **Driftwood Cinema** present **A Night at the Cinema** in Dalry Town Hall - a special night of silent film accompanied by live musicians, **Ben and Beth Porter**, who are currently working on scoring the new **Aardman** film.

We hope to see you at some of the events coming up!

The CatStrand Team

DALRY ECO FLOWER GROUP

The Dalry Eco Flower Group are a small but enthusiastic group with plenty of fun and friendship thrown in.

This year we have been able to purchase new planters with support from Dumfries & Galloway Council supplying some plants and Dalry Community Council for micro grant funding. We'd also like to thank our community volunteers who water, feed and tend our beautiful planters - without you our plants would be very thirsty.

You may have noticed we have an array of different planters - we do like

to recycle - so if you have anything that you think we could use as a planter, please get in touch. We recently added two wheelbarrow planters, both of which were kindly donated. The Throughgate wheelbarrow has a variety of herbs - please help yourselves. If you do have spare herb plants in your garden, we would love to have them as this will help us make a few more herb planters throughout the village.

We have four dedicated members of our Eco Flower Group - Fiona Davidson, Jane Trueman, Linda Carter and Angie Bradford. Together we source funding, plan, purchase pots and plants, water and feed. If you have a wish to join us, even just now and again, to help

out, please get in touch. It's a calming, relaxing wee job to do! So, from our wee group to you - please walk round our village and enjoy the blooming view!

Angie



Farewell from CatStrand's Aidan

As I prepare to leave post at CatStrand and move away from Dumfries & Galloway to start a new job with Puppet Animation Scotland in Edinburgh I'm reflecting on four years of events, projects, community, fun and beautiful surroundings that I've found in the Glenkens and the region.

First of all, a big "thank you" to everyone who has been a part of my time here as youth arts coordinator and as arts, culture & heritage manager at CatStrand.

Highlights from my time at CatStrand have to be the stained glass phonebox-our youth booth project - which I helped young people create in my role as youth arts coordinator. It makes me smile every time I walk by, remembering painting it in our 'CSI' suits.

Memorable moments from my time as arts manager have to include watching *Within this Dust* in which Sara Lockwood's students joined in with the performance and brought a tear to my eye; the 20-strong *Fat Suit* jazz collective filling our small auditorium with glorious sound that could knock your socks off; Dalry Town Hall's *Samson Sounds* gig which had such a fantastic atmosphere, the hall was packed out and jumping. I really enjoyed touring the villages with our *Mid Winter Film Festival* - complete with Anne always arriving for her volunteer shift and tipping much more whisky into the soup kettle hot toddy concoction than I had! Having a Q&A with the filmmaker of *Piano to Zanskar*

felt like a special moment too.

The events last year in the park felt like a true triumph for our community. Watching willing helpers gather to build a marquee and shift very heavy staging and spray painting 30 carefully measured circles onto the grass so that we could put music and theatre on in the park when restrictions were beginning to be lifted was all worth it for the appreciation of those audiences and musicians who were so pleased to be performing and watching again. And of course bobbing about Loch Ken on a paddle board this year as our *On the Water* event came together on a June evening was magical too!

There is so much great stuff I could talk about - but at the root of it all I have loved the spirit of the people in the Glenkens, who want and are willing to create and do and work to make this area a wonderful place to live. It's been a great pleasure to be part of that and a privilege to call this place home.

Galloway was not somewhere I had visited before I took up my job as youth arts coordinator in 2017, but it will definitely be somewhere I'll be returning to often. It soon stole my heart and I've thoroughly enjoyed the relaxed pace of life, friendly, open and caring people, varied and creative cultural goings-on and weather that some years means you can grow tomatoes outside - something, as a Shetlander, that still shocks me.

I'm delighted to say our arts programme is in safe hands under the newly appointed Peter Renwick. Peter is familiar to some of you, having previously worked for CatStrand around 10 years ago. He has extensive experience of rural arts programme



Aidan Nicol, CatStrand arts, culture & heritage manager, will be sorely missed by the communities of the Glenkens

management through his time leading the Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival and he is committed to getting to know the Glenkens once again and supporting the creative activity in the area. Peter will take up post in August and will be a great addition to the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust's team at CatStrand - look out in the next issue of the Gazette for a proper intro from Peter.

*Aidan Nicol,
Arts, Culture & Heritage Manager,
CatStrand*

We are all sorry that Aidan is leaving us, she has done a fantastic job in her time with GCAT and she will be greatly missed around CatStrand and the Glenkens.

Everyone at CatStrand wishes Aidan well in her new role in Edinburgh and we look forward to welcoming Peter Renwick as our new Arts & Heritage Manager.

*Brian Edgar,
General Manager,
CatStrand*




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A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD

Taking a Look at Housing in the Glenkens



Housing in the Glenkens is something which seems to be coming to the forefront more and more.

We have a proportionally large number of empty houses in the area – I could name 20 off the top of my head, and that's outside of the villages. Then there are also many houses that would previously have been let on a long-term basis but are now being let as holiday-lets. And of course, we are having a post-lockdown property boom, which means

houses previously rented out are now going on the market and selling like hotcakes.

New people buying houses and moving into the community is wonderful, but local folk being out-priced when trying to buy and having a severe lack of long-term rental options is becoming a serious problem. Also, business seems to take priority over the human element in communities these days, and there are various examples of local houses being taken out of commission due to business interests.

There are so many constructive projects, along with increasing amounts of

grant and windfarm funding, boosting the Glenkens economy and infrastructure, and building it into a go-to destination to live in as well as to visit.

But how can this happen if there are not enough houses available for people to live in? Good housing, varying from affordable housing through to high-end options, needs to be available on the rental market and also for those wishing to buy or to build.

Over the next few pages we will look into this issue in a bit more depth, and hear from a number of people with different views on housing in our area.

*Sarah Ade, Editor,
Glenkens Gazette*

sosch.

South of Scotland Community Housing

South of Scotland Community Housing (SOSCH) is an organisation that was established as a

reaction to shortfall in rural housing supply in Dumfries & Galloway and now works to support

community-led solutions to localised affordable housing challenges.

We engage with community organisations across the region in order to understand – at a micro-localised level – issues of housing supply and then develop housing projects that address these.

Our organisation is well aware of the rural housing crisis, but in recent months our direct engagement with communities has highlighted an increasing concern that people on local wages are finding it increasingly difficult to access suitable housing – and, in particular, housing that is safe, warm, offers security of tenure and is affordable to run.

We are seeing levels of second home ownership increase across our rural communities, with this trend continuing to accelerate.

Continued on next page...

sosch.

South of Scotland Community Housing

Continued from front page...

SOSCH will work with communities in the longterm to identify and deliver solutions, particularly within the wider context of community empowerment and ownership of assets. In recent months we have assisted the delivery of Scotland's first community owned passive-certified homes in Closeburn, a project designed to sustain the local community with new families, helping

to support the school, whilst also addressing climate emergency and fuel poverty. We have also supported a number of groups to repurpose empty or derelict buildings as community-led housing, including Langholm Police Station, the former Bank of Scotland building in Wigtown

(which also includes affordable visitor accommodation managed by the community) and the former Grapes Hotel in Whithorn.

Our work can support homes for locally affordable ownership or rent that are allocated according to community needs. In recent months, we've undertaken research into post-COVID living,

considering societal shifts around the individual's relationship with home, immediate environment and community, considering changes that are likely to continue (for example, increased working from home) and some positives, such as increased levels of community support and heightened resilience around community ownership. This work has been adapted into an enhanced design guide that seeks to place community at the heart of decision making around housing.

SOSCH would be very happy to open a dialogue with Glenkens communities around local housing needs and to work to consider community-led solutions. More information on our work can be found on our website – www.sosch.org

Mike Staples

I have read about other local Councils - Devon and Cornwall way - that have 'capped' how many homes can be holiday homes, but unfortunately I doubt D&G Council would go for this.

I have always wondered why trailer parks haven't really become a thing over here, given that we seem to copy a number of other US trends. I fully understand there are stereotypes with these, but you can get bad neighbours anywhere and from any type of housing.

I know that some holiday parks do now have residential licences, but they are few and far between. I can't help but think that if a housing association, for example, were to go to one of the companies who make these

pre-fab buildings with a large order, they'd get a good price per unit - surely cheaper and ultimately less hassle than a full build.

When you start looking at some of these pre-fab units, they are really nice. These units are also ideal for people on their own and the elderly (who will likely struggle with stairs).

The smaller size means they are also far easier to maintain for the elderly and generally they are put on plots with a small garden, again reducing maintenance for the occupant. If you create a 'park' which primarily caters to the elderly/those without children (I don't think these units would be suitable for long-term usage by a family), it stands to reason that it will free up flats and houses that are currently "under-occupied". I know in the US somebody is usually employed to 'manage' a park and take care of all the smaller issues, so potentially creating employment too.

Balmaclellan Resident

SOME IDEAS FROM GAZETTE READERS

...source funding to create other holiday let options such as pods/shepherd's huts, to allow existing properties to be let long-term while the landowner still makes money from holiday lets.

...incentives for landlords to rent out their empty properties, with financial support to help bring properties up to rental standard.

...local housing regeneration; eco-housing created with support from wind farm monies and the regional council - there are examples of this type of partnership working in the Highlands.

Galloway famously has the lowest average salaries in mainland Scotland.

The only chance we had to keep young people here was

the quality of life and the fact that houses might be affordable. The recent COVID-induced price increases are really worrying.

We need to have some difficult conversations about whether we want our young

people to get onto the housing market. We need to talk about the supply of houses and whether we want Galloway to be solely a holiday destination or a working, functioning community.

Corsock Resident

Tough Call for Landlords as New Energy Rating Regulations Loom

From what I can see, the housing situation in the Glenkens will only get worse unless there is some substantive new build.

In more general terms, it is not quite as simple as the estates, if we use that generic term, trying to maximise profit. Yes, holiday rentals are more lucrative, but it is closer than you might at first think when all costs are factored in. The real issue that many landlords have identified is the legislation coming from Scottish Government (more onerous than the rest of the UK) with regard to energy performance requirements.

I am 100% behind recognising the effects of climate change and the need for adaptation. We certainly need to change our energy sources but, even more importantly, we need to cut energy consumption which is of course recognised by Scottish Government - but there is a trade-off.

In very simple terms, many 'Galloway Cottage' type properties (and other areas of Scotland with same housing stock will have the same problem) just cannot be brought up to the energy efficiency standards that are approaching.

The strategy to improve the housing stock vis-à-vis energy efficiency is laudable, but what if it is impossible and leads to a housing crisis in areas such as ours? When I say 'impossible', I don't mean 'not economically viable' - I really do mean 'impossible'. Some of our Glenkens houses are totally unsuited to things regularly recommended such as external wall insulation and internal wall insulation, have no appropriate locations for air or ground source heat pumps, no attic space to insulate to normal 'urban' standards, etc. Then there is the much-trumpeted drive to remove gas boilers...a lot of the Glenkens would love the chance to install mains gas boilers!

If current plans kick in as presently legislated, the situation is pretty stark. These changes are currently on hold due to the impact of COVID but the proposed changes, which landlords will be aware of and planning for, are that all rental properties will need to be at least an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of band D within the not too distant future.

If you were running an estate with say six properties, all band F, and little prospect of being able to bring them in line with the new legislation - what would you do? Options are a) spend a huge amount on them but

as said above this might not even be an option b) leave them empty, thus generating no income or c) move them into a booming holiday home market where rents are increasing? It seems pretty obvious that any professional advice would be to go for c).

I am not defending landlords taking homes out of the long-term rental market in favour of holiday lets, but feel that it's important to look at these types of facts to enable a full understanding of the situation.

Perhaps, as food for thought, landlords be given the ability to apply for an exemption from the new rules, giving reasons for their application to a panel of surveyors approved by the Government. If the surveyor agrees then an exemption certificate is issued. If the surveyor disagrees then there is the ability for the landlord to apply for grants to assist with bringing the property up to standard, perhaps with the intervention rate being means-tested.

The legislation and strategy behind it is well meaning but will only exacerbate the rural housing crisis. Legislation really requires more specific targeting at Rachman-type landlords renting sub-standard properties which could be improved and which are mainly, but by no means exclusively, urban.

A Glenkens Landlord



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
25 years of help with housing in the Glenkens

The Pamela Young Trust (PYT) has been providing affordable housing in the Glenkens for nearly 30 years.

Created by the late Pam Young, who wanted to give something to the community she loved, it started with retirement accommodation but for many years now the trustees welcome applications from anyone,

young or old, single or with a family, with a Glenkens connection.

The trust currently rents out 22 properties in the Glenkens to long-term tenants. But they also have a long list of applicants looking for housing that they are unable to help until a property becomes available.

Regarding increasing their housing stock, their policy has always been, and continues to be, not to consider buying a property unless it has been on the market for at least six months so that locals wanting to buy are not put at a disadvantage.

Steve Davie, Chairman of PYT, comments: "In addition to our lengthy waiting list, we are also concerned about the new Scottish government legislation regarding energy efficiency because some of our existing properties, although well maintained, may not fulfil the new criteria and, if an upgrade is even feasible, a considerable amount of costly work will need to be carried out. We would urge the government to consider exemptions for certain older rural properties which would be almost impossible to bring up to the new standards".

Forest Crofts in the Glenkens

The Glenkens has two assets in abundance; state and privately owned forest land and deserted farmsteads, often engulfed in Sitka spruce.

In a sense, the Glenkens pays a high price for being part of the Sitka capital of Scotland in terms of acid rain, damage to local roads by the timber industry and the continuing march of new commercial plantations, fuelled by extraordinarily generous grants to landowners and forestry companies. Few benefits accrue locally from the vast Sitka expanses. Economic added value is taken outside the region. Increasingly contractors are brought in from far afield to conduct harvesting and other forestry operations. The benefits accrue elsewhere: the problems remain here.

Need it be this way? It used to be the case that employment was much more local, the villages of the Glenkens all had forestry workers living and working within a ten mile radius and forestry offices were here. For example the Forestry Commission had offices at the Bennan and Clatteringshaws. Dedicated villages were constructed here for workers. Dùn Deugh no more, Glen Trool no more!

Perhaps it is time to look at new ways to use these otherwise often sterile plantations. One possibility would be to use a small fraction of the area for woodland crofts.

What is a woodland croft? A woodland croft is a croft with sufficient tree cover overall to be considered a woodland under forestry policy. Woodland crofts are an opportunity for

individuals and communities to build lives and livelihoods based on the woodland resource. It is also expected that the approach to management taken by woodland crofters will deliver social, economic and environmental benefits. Lifestyles and livelihoods based on woodlands are traditional in many parts of the world, but are currently rare in Scotland.

Although it is anticipated that woodland crofts will always involve an

What is a woodland croft? A woodland croft is a croft with sufficient tree cover overall to be considered a woodland under forestry policy.

element of woodland management, the exact nature and extent of this is not prescribed. Whilst there are constraints on how a woodland is managed at the whole woodland



scale, there is considerable flexibility for individual woodland croft tenants to manage their crofts to meet their own needs and aspirations.

The way to establish such crofts locally (at least on state land) would be through community getting together a bid under the National Forest Land Scheme (as was done successfully in respect of Mardrochit

[Muirdrochwood] Carsphairn). The proposal would incorporate plans to divide areas of Sitka forest into crofts, with the right to erect an eco-efficient house and outbuildings. There would be regulation as to forest management on the crofts (eg perhaps a progressive switch to a more mixed woodland resource) and common management of wider 'common' forest areas. As such, the local authority planning policy

would need to be supportive but this partly exists for Carsphairn parish already.

Imagine that (for example) the Polmaddy Glen was re-populated with forest crofts. This glen used to be a vibrant local farming community in its own right. Barlae, Drumness, Largerie, Craig Lingal, Castlemaddy, Sheil of Castlemaddy,

Darnaw (amongst others) were all small holdings up the valley. Could this be recreated?

One problem is that there is no electricity grid in these areas: that can be turned into a benefit as off-grid self reliant holdings could be created using solar energy and small scale wind turbines and, in some cases, micro-hydro. In time this could stimulate local enterprise supporting such developments.

Another problem in the past has been the reluctance of the forestry authorities to countenance people living inside working commercial forests. This is for a good reason, often when such places have been sold to incomers (or when the original buyers resell) in the past, the new folk then devote the rest of their lives to complaining to the forestry authorities about potholes in forest roads, timber trucks, etc.

Could the sterile Sitka factory forests give way to a diverse mosaic of crofts and woodland of a mixed nature, supporting local people and expertise?

Michael Ansell, Cars Feàrna

If you have any thoughts on any of the housing articles featured, or would like to get in touch with like minded people to work towards a new housing initiative in the Glenkens, get in touch with us here at the Gazette on glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

GROWING UP

It was playtime and the class ran out into the fresh air.

The boys mostly played football or swung from the low branch of the tree. The girls gathered in small giggling groups, or did handstands against the wall. Peter... Peter did what he always did, he ran to the far end of the playground, to the third fencepost from the left and back to his spot. He did this twice more and then stood, with his back to the wall, getting his breath back and watching... watching the cars passing and checking the numbers, sorting the friendly numbers from the dangerous numbers in his head.

Here was a dangerous number, on a white van, '02' it said. Two was a really dangerous number, two sides in a war, two people fighting, two eyes staring into his soul. Peter gave a shiver. '14' was the next one, he didn't like this one much either, he didn't like any even number really, because they all divided by two, into two armies, two teams, two sides to argue, and there was always a tension with two. '03', he liked three, like a triangle, no side could face the other, there could be no confrontation. He had played a triangle on stage once, at the Christmas concert, his mum had

told him to be brave, he had been, and nothing bad happened.

A motorbike came past, '13' it said, he liked that, thirteen was a friendly number, like the one and three had got together and squeezed the two out of existence. Then a '09', that was a great number, three times three, one of the best. He had once seen '117', that had been a special day, it was his favourite number of all because it was nine times thirteen. Then he heard it coming, that devil of a black car, with a noisy exhaust and the worst number of all '222'. He closed his eyes until it was past. Then the bell rang for end of playtime, it was too sudden and loud, he held his hands over his ears until it stopped, and it was time to go back in. Peter joined the queue and most of the others ignored him; that was fair because he ignored them. One or two of the other children smiled at him and he smiled back, like he had been told to – that was good manners.

It was a new day. Peter went into his classroom with the rest and there at the front was his teacher, Mrs Benson and another lady and a girl. Mrs Benson spoke... "children, this is Fiona, she is joining our class. Fiona doesn't speak to people but she understands if you speak to her. If she wants to say something, she will write

it down and show you. Please make her welcome." Fiona tugged her mother's sleeve, she bent down and Fiona seemed to whisper something in her ear. Fiona's mother spoke... "she is glad to be here and hope you will all be her friends."

That playtime, after he had done his three runs, Peter watched to make sure that Fiona was safe and to see if she needed his help. It was good to help people. She was with a group of girls, looking at a magazine. They were laughing, Fiona was laughing too, this meant she was safe.

One day Fiona came to stand beside him at playtime. She wrote something in her notebook and showed it to him. "What are you doing?" it said. He explained about sorting the friendly numbers and the dangerous numbers and about triangles. She smiled and stood beside him. Then she seemed to get an idea, she went away and came back with another girl and a piece of string tied in a loop. The girl said "Fiona wants me to show you cat's cradle, it's a game." The two girls made the cat's cradle and when it was in the other girl's hands, Fiona traced the shape of the triangles it made. She had remembered what Peter had told her about liking triangles. Peter liked cat's cradle, he was happy.

Fiona often stood beside Peter at playtime. Sometimes they watched the cars together and sometimes they played cat's cradle. It was the last day of the last term. After the summer they would all be going to big school; Mrs Benson had reminded them at the start of the day. Peter was upset, he didn't like change. At playtime he paced up and down after his usual runs. Fiona came over and tried to take his hand. He pulled away; he didn't like to be touched. Cat's cradle was OK but holding hands was - uncomfortable. She leaned towards him, he wanted to move away. "Be brave" he could hear his mum saying it, inside his head. He was brave. Fiona leaned in towards him and whispered in his ear "it will be alright". And he thought that it probably would be.



"Tea for Two"

Paul Goodwin



Cattle arrive at the Threave Landscape Restoration project



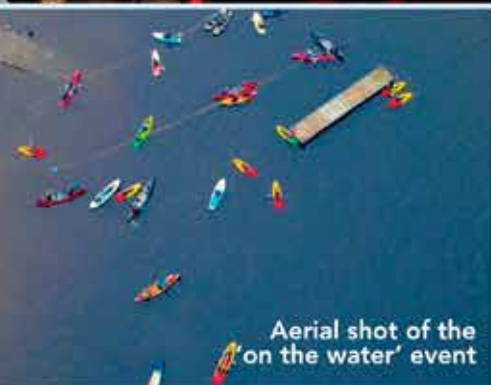
View of Loch Ken



Harpist taking part in the 'on the water' concert



Food and farming event medal winners



Aerial shot of the 'on the water' event



Mock Auction underway in the school Food and Farming event



Anna Harvey and McNabb Laurie with the Small grants Scheme big cheque

Galloway Glens Scheme Summer 2021

The Galloway Glens Scheme is a five-year National Lottery Heritage Fund supported programme of work running from 2018 to 2023, aiming to 'connect people to our heritage', boosting the local economy and supporting sustainable communities.

We are supporting projects up and down the Ken/Dee valley, from Kirkcudbright Bay to the hills above Carsphairn. We owe our existence to a range of partners, with particular thanks to Dumfries & Galloway Council's Environment Team and the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere.

We are now more than halfway through – but don't worry if you are only hearing about us now!

How to get involved:

Visit our website

Visit www.gallowayglens.org for a list of all projects and snapshots of progress

Sign up for our monthly newsletter

see the banner on our website

Email us at info@gallowayglens.org

Follow us on social media

We are on facebook, twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram – while our 'Galloway Glens: Future Ready' initiative is on Instagram, twitter + TikTok!

Attend an event on our summer programme.

See our website for details.

Submit your project idea to the 'Our Heritage' Small Grants Scheme.

See our website for info.

Contact a member of the team.

We have projects underway, but we always try to help if you have a new idea. Our Administrator, Anna, is a great first contact:

07500 107696.



Aerial photo of Otter Pool

The Optimistic Environmentalist

MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT RECYCLING - Part One

I have been so glad that at last Dumfries and Galloway Council is now recycling.

I like the leaflet the council sent out to tell us what they can recycle and what they can't. However, I then discovered Aldi's own brand yoghurt pots that say on them they cannot be recycled so I thought I'd look into things more.

This article is full of facts from the D&G Council themselves as well as from the council website, www.derbyshire.gov.uk and www.green.uw.edu

The food and oil on dirty food cardboard and paper can cause problems in the recycling machine which is why the council avoids these. Websites suggest that you can compost pizza boxes and napkins/serviettes for instance. This is a good idea, but make sure they are not very dirty or the food could attract rats to your bin and nearer to home.

Don't assume that compostable items can be recycled. They often clog up the council machines so as yet, the council ask that we don't put compostable items in with garden waste at the household waste recycling centres. Check your compostable item - some things can only be industrially composted, eg bio-plastics. If so, a household compost bin will not get hot enough for it to biodegrade, so you will need to put these in your normal black-lidded refuse bin. For domestic recycling, put it in your compost bin (make one if you haven't already got one - your plants will love it) or give it to a friend.

Compostable items will not breakdown in a landfill site once it is sealed. To biodegrade, items need oxygen and sealing a landfill site stops oxygen getting in. Therefore, always compost appropriately if possible.

Composite waste is the most problematic to recycle as the different parts need separating and often dealing with differently. For instance, takeaway coffee cups have a layer of plastic inside which is why they cannot be recycled easily and would have to go to a special recycling plant where they can peel the two layers apart.

Thin plastic/foil, like crisp packets, sweet wrappers and chocolate wrappers end up contaminating paper; to the recycling machine they are thin and flat like paper so are not filtered out.

Gone are the days of small paper



receipts. Many receipts are not recyclable. Fifty percent of the UK receipts are printed on shiny thermal paper that's not recyclable because of the harmful BPA and BPS chemicals. That is why you are now being asked if you want a receipt or not.

Loose plastic bags, string or rope can tangle round machines so don't put them in the recycling.

There are 40,000 different types of plastics in existence. To make it easier to categorise them for us, they have been condensed down into seven types (although one of these is 'miscellaneous'). Thus the numbers on a plastic item show which category the plastic falls into. Each plastic is treated with a different chemical process and they are bound together in different ways so require different recycling. Some types are easier to recycle than others. The easiest two are PET, eg in water bottles or salad dressing bottles, and HDPE, eg shampoo bottles and milk bottles. The other

types are more problematic and will often require you to find specialist recyclers.

There is a common misconception that the green arrow icon (a small, circular green icon with interlocking arrows, pictured) means an item can be recycled. This is not necessarily the case; it just means the company has contributed towards the recovery and recycling of packaging in Europe. To know for sure if you can recycle an item, look for the writing - packaging must explicitly state if it is recyclable.

The Mobius loop (a white or green triangle symbol with arrows pointing to each other, pictured) does not mean that it will be acceptable to a recycling facility - it just means it is capable of being recycled.

In general, glass, paper and metal can be recycled indefinitely. Once plastic is reused, it degrades in quality so is not normally used to make the same items the next time. Recycled plastic cannot be used for transparent items unless mixed with virgin plastic. Water bottles, for instance, can be used in things like fleeces and carpets.

In conclusion, the phrase "if in doubt, leave it out" has been used. It is true that a whole batch of recycling can be ruined by chucking one wrong item in. However, anything we can do is important. The Derbyshire Council's website dispels the myth that recycling uses more energy than it saves; it says that up to 95% less energy is needed to make products using recycled materials. It also states that, for instance, recycling one aluminium can can save enough energy to run a TV for four hours.

Look out for Part Two of Myths & Misconceptions About Recycling when there will be a Q&A with D&G Council.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

Glenkens Freecycle

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

FREE

Trailer, single axle Maypole 712. 4ft x 3ft. 12-years-old. Work required on electrics. Contact: 01644 420 267

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

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

Part-filled 19kg calor gas propane cylinder. Collect from Carsphairn. Contact: 07794 347 011

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

Foldaway ladder/stool. Contact: 07770 830 727



WANTED

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

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

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



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

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Eco Feature

sponsored by



HAS MIGRATING TO SEA BECOME TOO DIFFICULT FOR OUR SALMON

The River Dee Atlantic salmon smolts can begin their migration out to sea as high up in the Glenkens as Kendoon Loch (reservoir).

Atlantic salmon in the Kirkcudbrightshire River Dee have taken a sharp decline in recent years, with numbers far lower than expected for a catchment of this size. Their complex life-cycle exposes them to numerous habitats and pressures, with darkly-coloured juveniles (parr) remaining camouflaged in freshwaters for 2-3 years before deciding to migrate to sea. However, before they can migrate, they need to undergo major physiological changes so that they can cope with life at sea. These changes occur whilst juveniles are still in their freshwater habitats, then – once complete – the race is on for these 'smolts' to migrate downstream and out to sea, as their silver colouration now makes them highly visible to predators.

The smolts' journey to sea is fraught with difficulty. In addition to avoiding predators, smolts are even more sensitive to poor water quality than they were as parr, especially in relation to acidification and the release of toxic metals from degraded peatlands, a prominent issue in Dumfries and Galloway. To reach the sea, smolts must also navigate through a series of barriers, fragmented habitats and standing waters, which can all delay and/



or prevent smolts from reaching their destination. For example, a recent study has documented that more than half of a population of tagged smolts can become lost whilst migrating through standing water. Even delays in smolt migration may result in high mortalities due to mismatches between timing of sea entry and optimal environmental conditions (i.e. availability of prey and abundance of predators).

The Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) are conducting a study to determine what proportion of smolts are able to successfully migrate through the River Dee and out to sea. Using the latest advances in technology, acoustic telemetry was used to detect tagged salmon smolts as they migrated past receivers by transmitting a 'ping'. The individuals' unique ID and date are then recorded at that location. A total of 16 receivers were deployed at regular intervals along the River Dee, especially in large areas of standing water (ie Loch Ken). In April, GFT captured and tagged 50 smolts below Carsfad Loch, of which 38 smolts

had already been detected migrating through Earlstoun Loch by mid-May. Once migration has completed, GFT will remove the receivers for data analyses.

Results from this study will be used to identify areas along the River Dee that delayed smolt migration, or where survival was low. These areas can then be prioritised for management and, where possible, improved to ensure that future generations are able to successfully complete their migration out to sea, and thus improve the likelihood of more adults returning to spawn.

GFT would like to thank Galloway Glens, Drax and the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board for funding this project, as well as landowners for their continued support.

If you would like to know more about the project and other projects from GFT, then visit www.gallowayfisheriestrust.org and/or follow GFT on social media.

*Samantha Beck, Fisheries Biologist,
Galloway Fisheries Trust*

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It All Started With a Box

Hilda McAdam, doyen of the Dalry Heritage Group, phoned me to say that she had a box of papers and medals relating to Gordon Candlish, a postman from Dalry.

Would I be interested in having a look through them? I'm sure she guessed what the answer would be – and what a treasure trove! The box contained the family papers of Gordon and his father Anton.

Anthony Gordon Candlish (known as Anton) was born in 1897 and, in later years, lived at a house then known as 1 Underhill, Dalry – after a renaming and renumbering, that house is now 68 Main Street. Following his service

in the Army in the Great War, Anton was a postman for many years. In the box was a marriage certificate showing that he married Agnes Neil Brown from Edinburgh in 1924. The box contained other treasures too, such as birthday cards and a few photos, one with him beside a baby and a pram taken in Underhill; we presume that the baby was his son, also named Anthony Gordon Candlish but known as Gordon.

Anton's service records for the Great War were lost, like many others, in the Blitz in WW2, but we know that he enlisted into the 5th Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB) in October 1914 and was soon transferred to the 2nd Battalion and later to the 1st Battalion. He served on the Western Front and the Italian Front.

In separate incidents he was gassed, wounded and suffered from trench fever, which is transmitted by body lice. We also know that he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery but generally these citations have not survived and historians understand very few of the circumstances for which these medals were awarded. Fortunately, in this box was a copy of Anton's citation:

203487 PTE AG Candlish

For great gallantry, initiative and devotion to duty during the operation, East of Nieppe Forrest (sic), June 28th 1918.

This man was in charge of a Lewis Gun Section. He manoeuvred his Section with skill and dash, enabling the team to kill many of the enemy and greatly assisting the advance of the remainder of his Platoon, when held up by an enemy strong point.

Although suffering from fever and a slight wound, throughout the operation he refused to leave the line and his behaviour throughout was a fine example



to the men of his section, who all lost their lives but himself.

This man has on many occasions proved himself a gallant Soldier in Action.

Recommended by LIEUT COL CT FURBER, Commandg 2nd KOSB.

Awarded Military Medal by XI Corps Commander. Date of Award 21/7/18.

He was invalided out of the Army in 1919 and was awarded a Silver War Badge. Hilda recalls that he had difficulty with his speech and this may have been caused by a wound for which he was discharged.

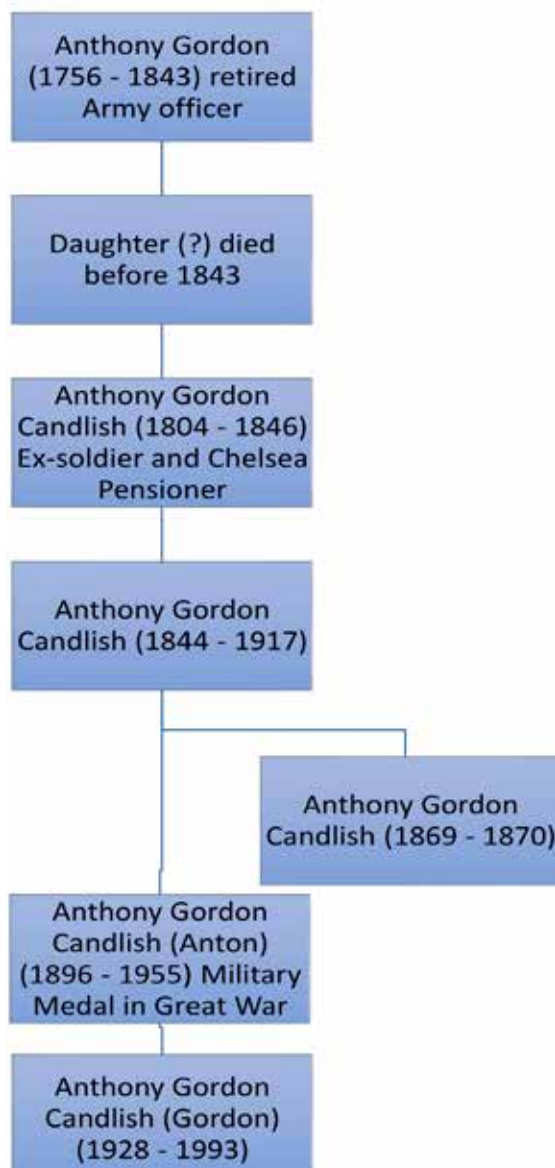
When the second World War broke

At this point in my research, I became a little confused between several people of the same name (Anthony Gordon Candlish)...

out, Anton applied to join the 7th KOSB on 8 November 1939 and was refused because they were not accepting any more (Great War) NCOs. He wrote to the 5th KOSB on 20 November 1939 and was refused owing to age. On 27 November 1939 he applied to the recruiting centre and this time enclosed his recommendation for the Military Medal – he was again refused due to age and occupation.

Obviously still eager to serve, we have a letter from the head postmaster at Castle Douglas dated 5 April 1940 to say that there were no restrictions on him joining HM Forces.

Continued on next page...



Continued from previous page...

A further letter from the recruiting centre in Dumfries dated 16 April 1940 advised him of various options open for him to serve but we suspect that he continued working as a postman and could speculate that he was a member of the Home Guard.

Although there were no service medals in the box, there were three RoSPA safe driving competition medals for seventeen consecutive years.

At this point in my research, I became a little confused between several people of the same name (Anthony Gordon Candlish) but it eventually sorted itself out after I started at the beginning and made a chart (included to the left of the page opposite).

Anthony Gordon was an Army Officer who retired to Dalry after serving for over 32 years in the late 1700s. He died in 1843 at the age of 87 as is recorded in the book *Gordons Under Arms*. He died without leaving a will and his daughter had pre-deceased him so his pension was inherited by his grandson, Anthony Gordon Candlish (born 1804). The grandson served in the Royal Artillery from 1825 to 1843 and briefly became a Chelsea Pensioner before he married in 1843. He died in 1846, just

two years after his son was born.

This brings us to the son, also Anthony Gordon Candlish (born 1844), who inherited two houses in Dalry from the original Anthony Gordon in 1867. This Anthony married and had a child (you guessed it, Anthony Gordon Candlish) in 1869, sadly dying the following year. The latest Anthony (born 1844) remarried in 1893 (presumably his first wife had died) and they had one child (another Anthony Gordon Candlish born 1896) and this child was the one who started this whole investigation. It was not uncommon at this time to give two children in a family the same name in order to preserve a family tradition. This Anthony (born 1844) died in 1917.

Anthony Gordon Candlish (Anton) was born in 1896 and served with distinction in the Great War. He married in 1924 and died on 26 October 1955 of a spinal cord tumour at the young age of 59 years.

Anton's son (Anthony Gordon Candlish) was born in 1928. He was known as Gordon and was too young to serve in WW2 but he served in the Territorial Army for a brief period in 1946 and we have his Skill at Arms record. He became a postman, like his father, but he had no children and died in 1993



Anthony Gordon Candlish, the one known as Anton, in later life.

so he was the last Anthony Gordon Candlish.

Anton's Great War service is remembered on the Roll of Honour in Dalry Town Hall and also on the Castle Douglas Post Office Roll of Honour where he is (incorrectly) noted as having died in the war.

As there are no descendants, the family are remembered only by this article and a small box of papers held by Dalry Heritage Group.

Paul Goodwin

BUSINESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

An exciting new venture for West Coast Sea Products (WCSP) brings fresh Scottish seafood to the doors of Glenkens residents in Dalry, Balmaclellan and New Galloway.

Alice King, WCSP local sales manager, founded her seafood delivery service during lockdown last year to make Scottish produce more accessible to locals. One year on, and she has brought the business home to offer top quality fish to people living in Dumfries and Galloway.

"I started by selling our scallops in and around Edinburgh during lockdown last year, and it really took off! It wasn't long before I invested in a fish van, ran a regular service and began selling at farmers markets in Kirkcudbright and Castle Douglas too.

"So much has changed over this first year of deliveries - we have a much larger selection of seafood available now, and have started a delivery service throughout Dumfries and Galloway. It's amazing how much demand we are seeing for our local produce, and it's been great to offer

more species through connecting with small independent fishermen and producers."

Alice, who grew up in the fishing town of Kirkcudbright, has enjoyed being back in Dumfries & Galloway delivering this service.

"It's been great to be back home, and really exciting to be at the helm of a new venture offering our amazing products directly to local folk. Customers can come along and buy directly from the van or pre-order using our online shop, and we also have a stand at the Glenkens Producers Market in Dalry. So if you see our van in the Glenkens area, come and say hi!"

YOU WILL FIND THE WCSP VAN EVERY WEDNESDAY IN:

- Balmaclellan from 11.15-11.45am (next to Balmaclellan Village Hall)
- New Galloway from 12.15-12.45pm (on the High Steet, near the Post Office)
- Dalry from 13.15-13.45pm (by the old Bank of Scotland building)

You can find full West Coast Sea Products delivery routes across D&G, and order online, at www.wcspltd.co.uk

Pictured - Top: Alice with the WCSP market stall. Centre: the fish van. Bottom: freshly caught scallops.



GLENKENS PLACE NAMES: PART XI

In the last edition we explored the deserted farmsteads and their place-names in the Forrest Glen.

Now we venture a bit further north this time up the Polmaddy Glen, from the confluence of the Polmaddy, *Poll Madaidh* - 'dog burn', with the Water of Deugh - *Dubhach* 'dark one', according to *Place-Names of Kirkcudbrightshire*.

I think Dundough, *Dùn Dubhach* - 'fort of the Deuch', probably originally applied to the the old fortification near where the Polmaddy enters the Water of Deugh. However, *dùn* can mean a prominent 'fort-looking hill' rather than anything specifically man-made and, as the other subsidiary tops on this hill also are named as *dùnan*, I think that is also the case here. The correct name for Dundough Hill would have been Dunmore - *Dùn Mòr*, 'big hill', as Dunbeg - *Dùn Beag*, 'small hill' and Dunbannoch - *Dùn Beannach*, 'pointed hill' are the other tops. These three *dùn* names are recorded on the OS 1st edition map of 1853. The name Dundough Hill then simply refers to the hill grazing ground pertaining to Dundough farm. This type of confusion happens a lot in Galloway. For example, Kirrereoch Hill (just north of the Merrick) was originally *am Beinn Mheadhonach*, 'the middle mountain', but it is now known by the name that was coined for the hill grazing of Kirrereoch farm at its foot.

Anyway, back to lost farmsteads. The first one encountered on the way upstream on the south bank of the Polmaddy burn is Woodhead. This is across the river from the ruined Polmaddy village. The place-name is self explanatory but whatever presumably native woodland was being referred to was gone by 1853 and now, of course, the site has been obliterated by commercial forestry operations.

Polmaddy village is no doubt named from the burn flowing past it. Three named fords are marked on the OS 1st edition map, two derived from Gaelic, the other Scots. The easternmost is the Camling Ford from *Cam Linn*, 'crooked pool'. There is a crooked pool here but

the shape will have been altered over the years not least by the Forestry Commission dredging gravel out of the river to help create the new forestry road into Castlemaddy Forest.

The other named ford is the Ballensack Ford, just a bit upstream. This is probably from *Beul-àtha nan sac*, 'ford mouth of the sacks', perhaps referring to where the sacks of meal were exported from the mill, maybe some being taken to the supposed hunting lodge at Castlemaddy. There is another Ballensack in the Stewartry, this one being the old name for

mhic Chormaic (Gilmor McAulaye McOrnayk) in favour of his grandson *Aulan mac Aulain mhic Cormaic* (Aulan son of Aulan McOrnayk). It is interesting to note the Gaelic-Norse nature of some of this family's personal names. *Amhladh*, deriving ultimately from *Ólafr*. Could this hark back to the naming traditions brought by the *Gall Ghàidheal* (foreign ie Norse Gaels) - the folk who effectively Gaelicised Galloway from the 9th-10th centuries on? It is also noteworthy that the personal naming here is patronymic rather than involving a fixed surname.

Continuing upstream we next come to the deserted farmstead of Largerie. This is still visible, having been in a small unplanted area through the first Sitka rotation. It was occupied in 1853 but deserted by 1894. The place-name is somewhat problematic due to the fact that Herbert Maxwell, in his book *The Place-Names of Galloway*, suggests that the pronunciation stress is on the first syllable. Gilbert Márkus explains how this stress would lead perhaps to a derivation from *Learg Àirigh*, 'sloping sheiling'. However, as Gilbert says, this would be an

unusual combination and construction. I suspect that Maxwell made a mistake here though and that what we are dealing with is *Learg Iarach*, 'lower slope'.

Across the river from Largerie is the attractively sited former farmstead of Drumness. This is situated on a ridge above a quite dramatic set of rapids and waterfalls on the Polmaddy. The place-name reflects the situation well, being from *Druim an easa*, 'the ridge of the waterfall'. The farmhouse was probably abandoned when the land was bought by the Forestry Commission in the 1960s, and became a hostel for the Air Training Corps before they relinquished it. It has since decayed markedly and is suggested for demolition by Forestry and Land Scotland. This will be the second farmhouse demolished in the glen by the Forestry Commission, the other being Sheil of Castlemaddy which was knocked down in 2011.

We will continue upstream in the next *Gazette*.

Michael Ansell,
Cars Fèarna



Ruins of Largerie farmstead, *Learg Àirigh* or *Learg Iarach*

Roberton Bridge over the Pulwhirrin Burn in Borgue parish. This is also near a former mill, Kirkandrews in this case.

A bit further upstream is Stepend, in ruins in 1853. Stepend referring to stepping-stones. Stepend has also been destroyed by forestry operations. The Gaelic equivalent is *stair*, 'stepping stones over a river, path through a bog'. This is seen at Stair on the River Ayr and probably Starr close to the south end of Loch Doon.

Just north of Polmaddy and to the east of the pack road is the ruin of Barlae. This was still inhabited at least as late as 1894 and seems to be located beside the line of the so-called Deil's Dyke. This dyke (most easily seen where it crosses the Forrest Glen) is probably a boundary dyke for the royal hunting forest to the west. Barlae is most likely from *Bàrr Laoigh*, 'calf-hilltop'. Happily the ruins of Barlae cottage and outbuildings can still be seen in a small clearing amongst the Sitka. This farm was long held by the McCornock family who also had Strongassil, *Sròn gCaiseil*, 'castle promontory', from at least as far back as 1365 when the place was resigned by *Gille Mòr mac Amhlaidh*

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

THE ROGUE AT THE BOGUE: PART TWO



John Gordon Barbour of Bogue was one of the Glenkens' greatest eccentrics.

In the last issue of the *Glenkens Gazette* we noted that his radical politics rendered him suspect in the eyes of many. What then of his views on religion? Before looking at a few of his ideas on the subject, it should be stressed that Barbour was a sincere admirer of the seventeenth century Covenanters, a subject which always caused him a visitation of the "blue devils", in other words deep despondency. The political concerns of the "folk of the moss hags" rather chimed with his own of the nineteenth century, particularly on matters of authority and responsibility. Charles I and his son basically and hideously declared war on their own subjects, notably the largely defenceless faithful of Galloway.

A sample of Barbour's questions is diagnostic. "Would Shoemakers and Weavers make good Kings? Is Gout any Criterion of Christianity? Are the Lower Ranks of Mankind all really Swine?

Does a wooden ladle or a silver spoon

make a huge

difference

in a Man's

intellect?"

In 1824 he

published a

tract entitled

Is it a Crime

to Speak

the Truth;

or Queries

Connected

with

Christianity,

using his nom

de plume,

Cincinnatus

Caledonius. As a consequence, he found

it difficult to find publishers for his later

work. The following quote may indicate

some of Barbour's

difficulties when his

publisher told him

that his publications

were not selling

well:

"How in the

name of Heaven

can I have great

success with

the (publishing)

trade! I never

flatter gipsies,

or sinecurists, or

swindlers. I can

see no religion in

people breaking

their word, or

walzing, or boxing.

I can scent no

Christianity in kept

mistresses, in

Drury Lane saloons,

or in Blackwood's

Magazine. I can spy

none of the spirit of

Jesus Christ in Irish

or English bishops

living in France,

in British senators

staring at Sadler's

balloon when they

should be searching

for a murdered

missionary, or in

knocking down

three hundred

thousand pounds

for the knocking down of Windsor Castle, while the devil is knocking three hundred thousand souls in the benighted Highlands of Scotland." (James Sadler in 1784 became the first Englishman to fly a balloon. Royal or

Government

expenditure

was as much

resented

in the

eighteenth

century as it

is today).

Miss Isabel

Trotter noted

in her journal

she had been

told by Mr

Mackenzie,

an author

and poet

from Castle

Douglas, about Barbour's publisher's refusal to sell his book. "Some things in it are very censurable I understand".

It is very doubtful that she would have

enjoyed Barbour's essay comparing

the corruption in the Old Testament

with contemporary Britain. One of his

reflections was to compare "the good

done by the Empress Maria Louisa and

the inventress of Dunlop cheese"! He

was mercilessly lampooned for several

years in the *Castle Douglas Miscellany*

and its successor, the *Castle Douglas*

Advertiser, as had been James Hogg, the

Ettrick Shepherd, by the Walter Scott

circle, though there is a suggestion that,

like Hogg, Barbour came to enjoy playing

along with the gallery, transferring the

humour to his tormentors. When he was

accused of exaggeration of statement

and sentiment, mystifying his feelings

and playing such fantastic tricks as

would make old wives laugh, as well as

displaying boldness and irreverence, he

continued to write under the name of

'Lowran Glen'.

He wanted to write a book that "would

have told what all the world knows, that

the Scots of the days of yore were the

greatest heroes that ever trod the face of

the earth; that scarcely a burnside or a

hilltop in Scotland can be mentioned but

what was the scene of deeds of heroism

to which Waterloo and Salamanca were

bairn's play and local worthies could

have dragged a live bullock with his

horns stuck in their belts, up the face

of Cairnsmore". Barbour was unique,

remaining throughout his life the Rogue

from the Bogue!

Ted Cowan



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WINDY RIG WIND FARM PROGRESS UPDATE

In July, a major project milestone was reached, with the final turbine component delivered to site.

This was the first time a specialist blade transporter was used in the UK. If you didn't see it in action, you can view a video at www.statkraft.co.uk/windyrig

We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused during this time, and sincerely thank local residents for their patience during the delivery period.

On site, the Windy Rig Team are now working towards erecting the remaining turbines

and completing the testing and commissioning programme. It is expected, weather and other factors permitting, that all Windy Rig turbines will be exporting power to the grid this autumn.

Local Road Improvements

Offsite, the Team will be working on the C35 and the laydown area

in Carsphairn. Remedial works to restore the C35 to its pre-delivery condition are being planned and agreed with Dumfries & Galloway Council. There is a legal agreement and bond in place to cover this work, and the Council will need to approve the works once they are completed. Details will be shared with residents

along the route before the works commence. At Carsphairn, work has started to clear the blade laydown area in preparation for planting to provide screening.

Once again, we would like to thank local residents for their patience during the delivery of the turbine components.

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



Blades waiting to be lifted into position

Advertisement

WINDY STANDARD WIND FARM COMMUNITY UPDATE

Windy Standard Wind Farm has been in operation for over 25 years.

We are currently exploring how we can continue to operate the wind farm with fewer turbines, increase electricity production and continue to invest in the local community.

We have created an online exhibition where you can learn more about our plans to remove 36 of the existing turbines, replacing them with nine turbines with a height of up to 200m to tip. The exhibition can be accessed at www.windystandardwindfarm.co.uk.

We would really welcome your feedback and opinions on what we are proposing. You can make comments online, by email to communities@fredolsen.co.uk or by phone on 07435 763 900.

If you have any problems accessing the exhibition please get in touch and let me know. I can easily provide the information on memory

stick or hard copy and talk you through the proposals.

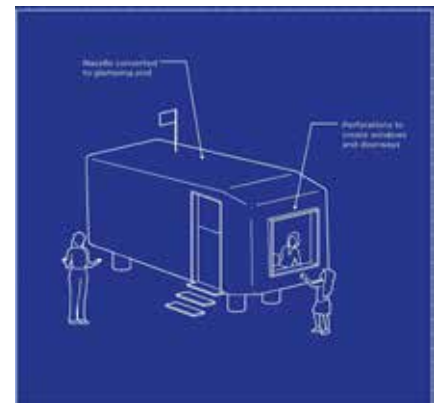
We are very excited about the opportunities that our plans present. This includes re-using the turbine components that will be removed from the site. We want to work with the community and stakeholders to identify how a unique concept for the local area can be brought forward, focussing on sustainability and creativity.

The online exhibition details a range of potential uses for the turbines including cattle troughs for use by local farmers, playparks for local children, climbing walls for outdoor centres, benches and even glamping pods.

I really hope that you will take the time to have a look and provide some feedback. And please do get in touch should you have any questions.

*Miles McConville, Project Manager,
Windy Standard Wind Farm*

Pictured are two ideas for reusing turbine components; as glamping pods and skate ramps for a skate park.



Advertisement

August - September 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.

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.

GCT will 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



COVID restrictions permitting, the annual excursion to the Creative Crafts Show in Glasgow on Saturday October 16th will go ahead this year. Booking is now available via the GCT website or by phoning CatStrand (01644 420374).

Photo of the Issue

*Sponsored by the
Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Co*

This issue's winner is Susan Currie with her photograph of the Holy Linn, a well-known beauty spot outside Balmaclellan which was also a location for secret sermons during the covenanting times.

Susan wins two portions of mac & cheese of her choice from our new competition sponsors, the Balmaclellan-based Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Co.

Company owner and competition judge, Hannah Gould, said: "The photograph of the Holy Linn

is the winner this issue - this is one of my favourite spots in the Glenkens and I love swimming there!"



To enter you can send in any photograph taken in the Glenkens to glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

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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: Helen Keron - 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 Liz Lewis on 07530 804 217 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 Helen Keron 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 - 1 Aug & 5 Sept.
Carsphairn: 11am - 8 Aug, 12 Sept & 29 Sept.

Kells: 11am - 15 Aug & 19 Sept.

Dalry: 11am - 22 Aug & 26 Sept.

Communion: Kells Church, 15 Aug.
Harvest Thanksgiving: Dalry Church, 26 Sept.

Local Church of Scotland congregations continue to prepare weekly prayers and reflections that can be accessed on youtube under 'Balmacellan, Kells and Dalry linked with Carsphairn'.

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

GLENKENS E-BIKES IN ACTION

The day dawned clear, bright and sunny over the Glenkens - perfect weather for the Connecting in Communities (CiC) family-friendly bike ride.

The event was held to complement the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust's (GCAT) Active Travel Scheme launch and Galloway Community Transport's (GCT) e-bike demonstration day.

Two rides were planned, both setting off from the CatStrand; a more challenging route for adults and a child-friendly route for families, initially scoped at six miles but stretching to 10 miles on the day!

After some milling about, last-minute checks and ooh-ing and ahh-ing over the fabulous new e-bikes, the adult group set off, lead by Jude Jowsey. They pedalled off up the long drag towards Clatteringshaws before heading into the

Galloway Forest and the long descent to Glenlee (avoiding the swimming-pool sized potholes) and back to CatStrand via Kirk Road.

Meanwhile the families were setting off towards Balmaclellan, little legs doing equally as well as adult ones on the first big hill. Onto the turn along by the cemetery where breath was recovered ahead of the climb from Bogue along the A702 to Moss Roddock Loch, then a nice freewheel before heading north along the High Carsphairn road. After a brief wait at the top of Milton Park Bank while some latecomers joined the fun, the group sped off downhill before cautiously crossing the A713 and heading towards Glenlee. A welcome break was had at the top of the climb to Kirk Road before the final run.

Upon returning to the CatStrand, both groups thoroughly enjoyed tucking into some tasty soup and sandwiches



Some of the family bike ride crew enjoying a welcome break en-route.

before settling in to watch the thought-provoking film *Motherload* – cargo bike anyone?

All in all, a brilliant day was had - let's do it again soon! If you are interested in getting involved with bike rides, family or otherwise, please get in touch.

Chris Jowsey,
chris@catstrand.com,
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OCT/NOV COPY DEADLINE: 5 SEPT



Design & co-ordination:
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