

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

October/November 2021

ISSUE 126

FREE

New Galloway Link Path Opens

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to launch the completion of the exciting New Galloway Link Path.

The route offers pedestrians a safe way to walk off-road from New Galloway to the network of Galloway Forest Park paths.

About a mile in length, the route starts at the New Galloway Golf Club woods to link up with the Cairn Edward forest road at Strachan. Before the route was opened, walkers had to negotiate the A762 along a stretch with limited visibility and fast traffic.

The need for the project was identified by the local community, particularly New Galloway resident Gerry Cinderby and other Local Initiative in New Galloway (LING) volunteers. Over recent years the idea has been worked up into a detailed proposal by the Galloway Glens Scheme, with the backing of D&G Council's environment team. Now, with the generous support of



Gerry Cinderby cuts the ribbon to open the New Galloway Link Path to the public.

the Gordon family as landowners along the route, and the assistance of the Dumfries & Galloway Outdoor Access Trust, the new route is open for access.

The work undertaken includes creation of brand new stretches of path, upgrades to existing paths and a new footbridge over Knocknairling Burn. The bridge has been named Kirsten's Bridge,

in memory of Jamie Gordon's late mother who loved to walk by the burn.

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

To see the region's full network of Core Paths use D&G Council's 'map viewer' function on their website.

Turn to p2 for a map of the New Galloway Link Path.

GLENKENS COMMUNITY SHOP

Over the last nine years the Glenkens Community Shop - usually known as the charity shop - has put about £60,000 back into the Glenkens community.

This was through a grant process with applications taken twice a year. Sadly, the last time we were able to do this was December 2019. But after being closed for so long, we're now open two days a week and are finally in a position to offer these grants again.

So we are calling local groups, or individuals, with a project who would benefit from funding to come forward. The maximum grant is £500, and

projects must be based in and benefit the Glenkens area.

If you'd like to apply you can collect an application form from the shop on Wednesdays or Saturdays between 10am and 4pm. There's a different form for groups and individuals. We will give out the grants in early December, and the closing date for applications is Saturday 20 November 2021 - we look forward to hearing from you!

We'd also love to see you in the shop, where we have all sorts of stuff to browse through. We welcome donations after 2.30pm on the days we're open, and also on Mondays between 10am and 12noon.

If you'd like to join our smashing team of volunteers, you can pick up an application form for that too - we look forward to seeing you soon.

The Glenkens Community Shop Team



Responses to last issue's housing feature can be found on page 5...



Macmillan Coffee Afternoon in Dalry

Jayne and her team from Hair by Jayne look forward to seeing you all at the Macmillan Coffee Morning 'Cakes & Chat' at Dalry Town Hall on Thursday 7 October from 1-3pm.

Due to COVID the decision has been made to provide a yummy selection of home-made cakes in a box to take home, rather than have a traditional sit-down coffee morning.

There will also be a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses, a veg and jam/chutney stall, a guessing game, and more.

Dalry community have generously donated the use of the hall for free for the event and organisers would be grateful if people could please follow current COVID guidelines.

Jayne, who is organising the fundraiser, said: "We have held many baking stalls over the last year and they have been a great success. The last one was a two-day event which raised £650 for Dumfries & Galloway Blood Bikes. We have also raised £525 for Spalding Bowling Club and £500 for Dalry Town Hall.

"Our bake stalls are a real success and wouldn't go ahead without the support of the community - well done everyone who has helped make this possible, and let's make this next fundraiser another great one!"



Laden tables from a past Macmillan fundraiser at Hair by Jayne

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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GCAT WELCOMES HELEN KERON



As the *Gazette* goes to print, Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) is delighted to announce the appointment of Helen Keron into the new executive manager role.

She will take up the post in late October. Helen may be well-known to some of you, as she lives in New Galloway and is currently the education and community engagement officer for the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme. Helen said; "I'm looking forward to working with the excellent GCAT team of staff and volunteers to define this exciting new role – in particular working on the

development of GCAT as an anchor organisation for the region, and working with community organisations right across the Glenkens to support delivery on the aspirations of the people who live here as set out in the Glenkens and District Community Action Plan."

Alan Smith, chairman of GCAT, said: "We are delighted with this appointment, after a robust recruitment process, and are looking forward to Helen joining us in this exciting new role. We are very appreciative of the financial support from South of Scotland Enterprise and Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund which has made this appointment possible."

We'll look forward to hearing more from Helen about her plans for the role, GCAT and the Community Action Plan in the next edition!

Helen is pictured on the banks of Loch Ken.

The Galloway Hoard Returns

The Galloway Hoard is the richest collection of rare and unique Viking-age objects ever found in Britain or Ireland - and they were unearthed right here on the edge of the Glenkens.

Buried around 900AD, in Balmaghie kirkyard, the Galloway Hoard has taken the world by storm. It brings together a stunning variety of materials and treasures from Ireland, the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and as far away as Asia. The Hoard transports us back to a critical moment in history: the formation of the political entities we now know as Scotland, England and Ireland, in a time of Viking raids. The Hoard includes gold and silver valuables, what might be the first item of silk from that era found in Scotland, fantastic evocative crosses and a magnificent vessel which was wrapped in textiles. It was remarkably well preserved, and has advanced our understanding of life in Galloway all that time ago.

After its discovery, a strong case was put forward for the Hoard to remain in Galloway. This was unsuccessful, with

the items being installed at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. However, part of the agreement was that it should come to Galloway on display and, for six months from October 2021, it is coming home to be displayed in the Kirkcudbright Galleries.

The Galloway Glens Scheme, working with the Council's Museums service, have been running a touring exhibit through September to whet people's appetite for the return of the Hoard itself.

If you do visit the Hoard in Kirkcudbright you will be able to admire the items yourself. When doing so, your mind may run to what Galloway was like in 900AD...Who had gathered the items here? Why had they buried them – did they intend to return? And always - what else is underneath our feet in Galloway, as yet undiscovered..?

Pictured is Andy Nicholson unearthing some of the Viking Hoard along with pieces of the Hoard in the ground.



FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

Write to:

107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

Phone: 01556 504991

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

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

SWS RnR Charity Renovates Jock

South West Scotland RnR works
towards getting veterans back into
full time work.

"So far to date they have got 60 former combatants
qualified and working as HGV drivers here in Dumfries &
Galloway," says charity manager Robin Hood.

Robin goes on to say: "The main publicity, and fundraising,

attraction of our
charity has always
been our mascot,
Jock. I have pulled
Jock around on
his trolley for a
total of around
2,500 miles over
the last five years,
through rain and
shine. As you
can imagine,
the weather had
taken its toll so
we decided it was
time for Jock to
undergo a bit of
a spruce up."

*Pictured are Jock
and Robin, before
and after the
renovation.*



BLACKCRAIG WIND FARM COMMUNITY FUND



NEW FUND DATES

- Applications open Friday 1st October 2021
- Deadline Monday 10th January 2022
- Decisions by mid March 2022
- Around £105,000 is available for distribution in this round, with grants of £500 to £25,000 available.



FUND CELEBRATION EVENT

Dalry Town Hall, Sat Nov 6th 10am - 1pm

Meet some funded projects and hear about their achievements, find out more about how to apply, chat with a Trustee and have a cuppa! Keep an eye on @glenkenstrust on Facebook for event details

MORE INFORMATION

Contact suzy@foundationscotland.org.uk for pre application info & support

Keep up to date at www.glenkenstrust.org.uk or Facebook @glenkenstrust



RESPONSES TO LAST ISSUE'S GLENKENS HOUSING FOCUS

Having read the article 'Tough Call for Landlords....' I would like to add some opinion.

Although your article is mostly about the demands of the Energy Certificate being unreasonable, I have found that many other landlords are packing it in because the laws have increasingly become more biased towards 'protecting' tenants and castigating landlords, so much so that tenants can do no wrong and landlords are always to blame.

I have a small flat in Kirkcudbright that I have let out over the last 20-odd years, and the kind of situations with a variety of tenants would include:

- Tenant has a dog that ripped up the sitting room carpet. Cost: New carpet needed.
- Tenant and boyfriend

returned from the pub to realise they had left the front door keys in the flat. They kicked the door in and made a botched attempt to screw the bits back together. Cost: New front door.

- Young tenants partying made so much noise in the flat the neighbours called the police.

- Tenants leave without paying the last month's rent, stating that I can keep the deposit instead. This is okay only if there is no damage deductions, which is rare.

And so on...

The rent has only ever covered the mortgage and insurance, without covering repairs.

I keep reluctantly saying to myself that the current tenancy will be the last, and I have contemplated converting the flat into AirBnB or holiday lets so I can have a little more control over my property, which I may have to move into in the future.

Gazette Reader

Dear Editorial Team,

I very much enjoyed the article by Michael Ansell on forest crofts.

I probably qualify as an incomer but am not one to complain about potholed roads. I'd be very interested in supporting anyone exploring new initiatives around woodland crofting and re-establishing community based agriculture or arboriculture.

I'd be glad to be connected with like minded individuals to see if I can be of service or a willing cheerleader for those who can.

Warm regards, AL

It's the same here in Ayrshire - the estate agent I spoke to said it is folk from south of the border who regard our home areas as incredibly cheap.

As they have loads of money compared to us locals, they are offering up to 40% over the asking price. It is horrifying as locals will be outpriced like Cornwall and the Lake District.

He went on to say that some folk are so wealthy they are buying third and fourth holiday homes. Horrendous for buyers who want to stay in their home towns...

Selina

I was shocked to read the recent articles on home shortages in the Glenkens.

Community is a word that's thrown about and often misunderstood. My experience on arriving in the area five years ago was one of openness and acceptance. A community who looked out for one another and would help those in need. A heritage rich in local culture. What I fear now is the desecration of those values. Values slowly eroded thanks to the greed of those who see property as money making machines at the expense of community cohesion.

The facts are stark. Thanks to the pandemic it's generated a sellers' market, and that's not a good thing. It means local people cannot compete with corporate greed, those who seek a remote working site, or those who see a house as an additional income generator for holiday makers.

There comes a time where the community have a duty to stand up

to this invasion of liberty and choice. Those who view a quaint Galloway cottage as a business opportunity rather than a home. Those who can afford to pay tens of thousands above market value, pricing local families out. Most of these homes are destined for holiday lets preventing the opportunity for local families to purchase.

I appreciate the freedom to choose how people invest money, but at what cost? Community can't operate when people are forced to leave family in order to live. There needs to be an onus on estate agents and those who advertise property on social media to prioritise local need first. To exhaust local routes before reaching the wider market beyond Scotland.

I recently learned of a family who were given notice on a family home so it can be turned into an office for a seasonal business. This is deplorable when other suitable accommodation could be utilised, or created, on site.

So, what can a community do when nothing illegal is taking place? We all

have freedom of choice. Freedom to decide which businesses to support, which holiday rentals to advertise or provide a service to. Holiday lets need cleaning and maintaining, what would happen if that stopped? Choose to support local initiatives over others. Explore ways of utilising vacant properties for local people to live in. Use social media to highlight the issues of homelessness this is creating. Yes, homelessness. It may not seem much but make enough noise and see who will listen. If it creates opportunity for dialogue at government level, then it's a start. It takes one voice to start a conversation.

A heritage rich in culture is under threat of destruction. I'm one of the lucky ones. I have a home, but that doesn't mean I don't, or shouldn't, care about those who are struggling to remain in an area they've grown up in and are connected to. This problem isn't local, it's spreading to all areas of Dumfries and Galloway.

The Glenkens community deserve a place to call home, not a ghost town.

Ian

GLENKENS PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Hello and welcome to a new school year.

This year we have seen a number of new children coming into both schools having moved into the area. They have augmented our new p1 and nursery starters, meaning each class has new faces. Welcome to everyone.

We have been lucky with the weather so far with only a couple of rainy days, meaning we have been able to use the outside areas for learning activities.

We were very excited to have had a school trip for the older children. (which feels like freedom and normality). We took a fleet of minibuses to comply with COVID regulations and went to a field in Crossmichael, where we met some Vikings who had set up an encampment there. The children were able to find out about daily life in Viking times; from money and bartering to food textiles, religion, fishing and transport.

On the theme of normality we have started having whole school assemblies again, albeit outside. We are focusing on our core values of Kindness, Being Safe and Being Respectful. Each week we think about one of these aspects and celebrate good role models in the school.

We are learning to live with the ever-changing picture of COVID and what it means to our school life. We rejoice in the bits of returning normality and look forward to a time where we can be fully open again. Until such times however, we will continue to look for solutions to the everyday challenges.

*Paul Scrimshaw, Head Teacher,
Glenkens Primary Schools
Partnership*

The VIKINGS

The children from Dalry P6/7 had an excellent visit to the Viking encampment at Crossmichael Marina, learning about the lives of the Vikings who lived in the Glenkens around 800 AD.

They were accompanied at the camp by a Viking called Sven, which was great fun as he went around playing little jokes on the people in the various tents.

At the weaver's tent, the children were taught about how wool was processed and dyed to make clothing and textiles. They also learned about the spinning and weaving process. The boat builder showed the children how to row a Viking long boat and how woodworking was done in Viking times.

In the kitchen area, the children learned about flour and had a go at grinding the wheat grains into flour. The trader talked about how to check whether you had a good trade with metals and how to check if you had actual precious metals.

The monk took the children on a pilgrimage, through storytelling, explaining about Cuthbert and how Kirkcudbright got its name.

The children also went to the village hall and looked at an exhibition about the Galloway Hoard. Helen Keron guided the children through the history of this amazing local historical discovery.

We had a great visit, and the children really enjoyed the experience. We all hope to go and see the Galloway Hoard when it arrives in Kirkcudbright later this year.

*Sabine Haynes, Dalry Primary
Children from Kells*



Top: Dalry Primary pupils try their hand at rowing a Viking long ship. Above: Kells Primary pupils learn about growing wheat and making flour in Viking times.

Primary visited the site at Crossmichael to learn about the Galloway Hoard and find out about life in the times of the Vikings.

They learned about flax and making linen, using a quern stone and rowing. Hector said the best part was meeting Sven with his sword and Millie said she liked grinding flour with the quern stone.

Margaret Heuchan, Kells Primary



Fun Learning at Kells

It has been really good term with lots of learning taking place.

We have had lots of opportunities for outdoor learning thanks to the good weather! The p1s have settled into the class very well. Our topic has been 'Under the Sea' where we have been doing lots of artwork and science experiments relating to the ocean.

We have also focused on the impact of climate change on the sea and explored the impact of ocean pollution.

Eve Francis, Class Teacher, Kells Primary School

Pictured are the new Kells P1 class, enjoying their very first school term.

Dalry Secondary School News

It's been fantastic to have our young learners back in school after lockdown and, whilst we do still have all of our control measures in place to keep pupils and staff safe, we are trying to ensure that school feels as normal as it can and opportunities are restricted as little as possible.

Thankfully, the good summer weather has continued throughout the term which has afforded us the opportunity to get out and about in the local area as part of our Wednesday afternoon Wider Achievement Activities (WAA). During this time our main aims are to provide different experiences for our learners and also to help our learners recognise the skills they are developing that will be important in the world of work when they leave school. This term's activities are Creative Writing, Music Technology and Green Engineering.

The Green Engineering group is working towards creating more nesting sites for our local bird population. The group has been supported by the Galloway Glens Scheme and, on 1 September, we were taken on a guided walk by Nick Chisholm and Ellen Bielinski to learn about the types of habitat and bird species present in and around Dalry. A big thank you to Nick and Ellen and also to Duncan Ireland who kindly photographed the event.

The Creative Writing group were joined by author Kathryn Koromilas and enjoyed a fascinating session on 'black out poetry'. Many thanks to Kathryn for providing this experience for our learners.



The Music Technology group were visited by guest speaker, Ross Nurney, from Circa 16 recording studio and also took a trip to the CatStrand to improve their understanding of recording and creating music. The group are using Mixcraft 9 recording software to create their own pieces and we look forward to sharing these in the near future. Many thanks to Lucy Smith and Andrew Black at the CatStrand and to Ross Nurney and Dave Miller at Circa

16 for their support in providing these experiences for our learners here at Dalry Secondary.

Lorraine Gillies, Depute Head, Dalry Secondary School

Pictured: Top - Alex, Joe and Keiran birdwatching with the Green Engineering group. Above - Eli tests out some of the recording equipment at the CatStrand in the Music Technology sessions.

New Science Stuff

This term the school was pleased to receive a donation of science equipment.

The equipment was used by the Open University as a STEM outreach and the school were given

some surplus equipment. We are very grateful and look forward to using it in future projects.

*Mr McEwan,
Science Teacher,
Dalry Secondary School*



CATSTRAND YOUTH GROUPS

We rounded off the 2021 Youth Arts Summer Programme with a pedal powered Movie in the Park – *Juno* - programmed by Film Intern Thomas McClure.

Since term has started weekly MMM dance classes with Sara Lockwood have been running, and we have hosted several one-off activities including a Food Themed Youth Volunteers session to celebrate Glenkens Food Month, a kite making workshop, and most recently an evening of storytelling around the campfire with Vikings.

At the beginning of September we had our second setting of the Youth Spaces pilot project in the form of a pop-up outdoor Youth Club at Dalry Library, hosted by the Breathe Youth Project from Aberfeldy. Their set-up included a marquee complete with inflatable sofas, fairy lights, coffee table with flowers in vases, a pizza oven and VR headsets. It was great to see everyone get stuck in with games, socialising and sports.

Thanks to Dalry Library for being so accommodating! This marked the end of the Youth Work Internships for Finlay McGaw and Arran Macdonald Kiernan who have now completed their placements – thank you for all your hard work!

If you'd be interested in completing an internship with us please get in touch – lucy@catstrand.com.

Coming Up

Youth Volunteers are back! Fortnightly Mondays 5.30-7.30pm at CatStrand from 27 September. Age 12+, free pizza! We'll be working on putting together another Dirt Edits style adventure, Photoshop skills for a live competition and anything else you'd like to happen in Glenkens!



Young people enjoying the Youth Spaces session at Dalry Library.

We'll also have fortnightly sessions of Art Explorers (from 9 October) at CatStrand, Random Writers at Dalry Library, and monthly Gaming Nights and Film Screenings.

In the October half term we will have some seasonal events, including a Halloween Party, Halloween crafts and a spooktacular film night, as well as a highly creative and very fun workshop with artist Rosie Priest working to create art maps of the Glenkens – not to be missed!

This autumn Kath Peters will be leading an exciting project devising short theatrical pieces that we will perform flash mob style in Dumfries and Glasgow during the COP26 summit in November. This will be open to ages 14+ and free to take part in.

More information is available on the main GCAT website (www.gcat.scot) and on our social media (@catstrandyoutharts on fb and insta), with leaflets and posters coming soon. If you'd like to join our mailing list contact lucy@catstrand.com.

I'm keen to hear what you'd like to see coming up in Glenkens – please get in touch if you have an idea or suggestion!

Lucy Smith,
Youth Arts Coordinator, CatStrand



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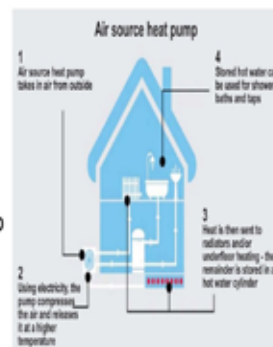
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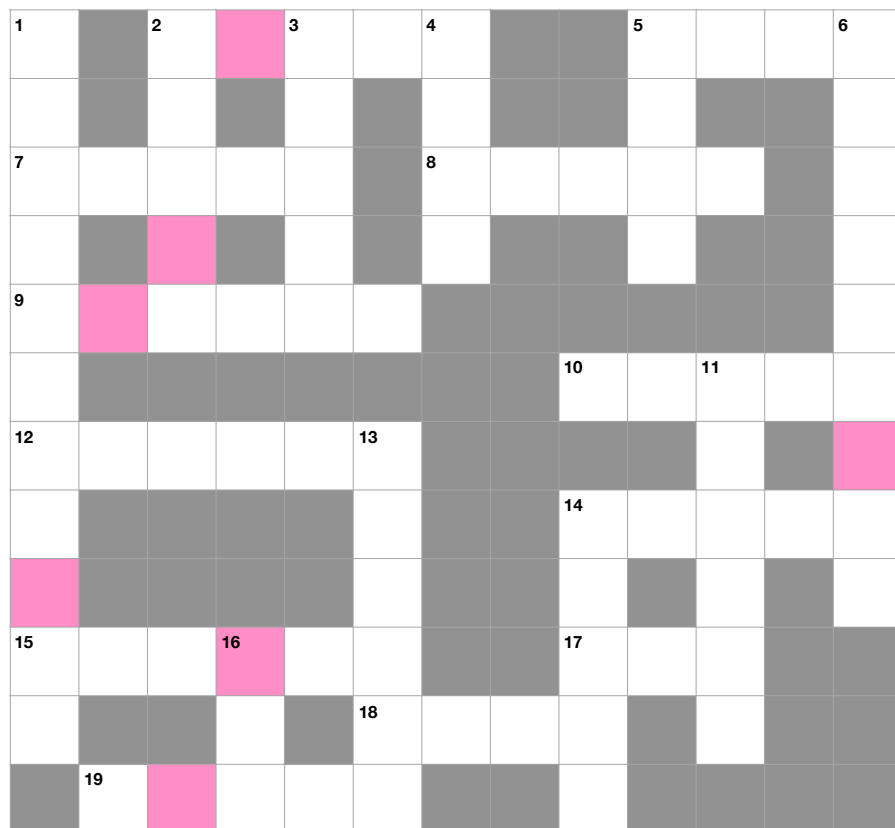
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GAZETTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 2 Investment type intent on reducing risk (5)
 5 Computing term for memory size (4)
 7 Spin round (5)
 8 Dame _____ Storey (5), 17 time Paralympic Champion
 9 Consumption, inhalation (6)
 10 Bicycle part (5)
 12 Inter-country tax imposed on goods and services (6)
 14 Before tax deductions (5)
 15 Digital or virtual currency (6)
 17 Fish eggs (3)
 18 Moderate in intensity (4)
 19 Dishonest, unprincipled (5)

DOWN

- 1 Leave a pursuer far behind (11)
 2 Lift up from above (5)
 3 Fictional extraterrestrial race of mutants (5)
 4 Compass point (4)
 5 Financial market condition (4)
 6 Adorn (9)
 11 Stacey _____ (6), TV presenter and journalist
 13 Four time Tour de France winner, Chris _____ (6)
 14 Irish Police Force (5)
 16 English for "Le cochon" (French) (3)

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 and a winner will be chosen at random. Good luck!

This crossword is sponsored by Lancaster Wealth & Investment Management (see ad on p10).

Building Stone Database

Anyone wishing to repair their old house sensitively might be interested to have a look at the Scottish Stone Database at webservices.bgs.ac.uk/buildingstone

This is a joint initiative by Historic Environment Scotland and the British Geological Survey to raise awareness of the wonderful and varied old stone buildings that we have here in Scotland and to encourage people to repair them correctly. You can find out which quarry your stones came from and where you can obtain similar ones for repair.

Sue Wiseman

** Information obtained from The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings*



BUSINESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Monybuie Design & Harris Upholstery

Monybuie Design and Harris Upholstery, run by Fiona and Tony Harris, are based just outside of Corsock, offering a full re-upholstery service and made-to-measure upholstered furniture.

Monybuie Design, with Fiona Harris at the helm, recently won a Scottish Enterprise Award for Best Bespoke Upholstery Furniture Designer.

With Monybuie Design, the AnySizeSofa brand has expanded out from made-to-measure sofas and chairs, encompassing almost anything to do with fabric and leather upholstery.

Fiona has been designing furniture for over 30 years, having 'married into' a family upholstery business with four generations of experience. Monybuie Design grew from this as she took her design skills and their upholstery expertise to create bespoke furniture, specialising in creating one-off commissions, from bespoke sofas and



chairs, to headboards, footstools and make curtains and blinds.

Fiona works on designs considering unusual access requirements, making furniture for specific spaces, or simply turning a customer's design ideas into reality. The largest project they have undertaken was to design all the bedroom upholstery and public areas for two boutique hotels in Berlin.

Working alongside husband Tony, who looks after Harris Upholstery, the couple take on all types of upholstery jobs, from traditional (bringing antique sofas, chairs, and footstools back to

their former glory) to more modern re-upholstery. They also work on commissions for local restaurants, pubs and hotels, having recently worked on the refurbishment of places such as The Masonic Arms in Gatehouse of Fleet and The Maxwell Arms in Dalbeattie.

For further information you can call Fiona on 01644 440 529 or email harrisupholstery@btinternet.com or alternatively visit either www.AnySizeSofa.co.uk or www.Harris-Upholstery.co.uk

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DROP IN DATES (1PM-4PM):

Friday 8th October
Friday 22nd October
Saturday 6th November
Friday 19th November

VENUE: Catstrand New Galloway



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- 9th October & 13th November -

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- for further details call 07776 034 260 -

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Revisiting Detective Classics 4: *John Dickson Carr*

A lesser known, but rather prolific, crime and mystery novelist of Scottish descent, most of his novels were written between the 1930s and 1950s.

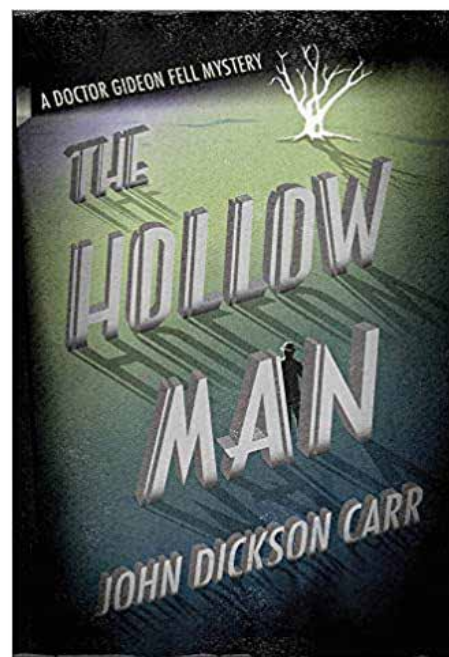
He also produced many radio plays for the BBC, including during the

Second World War.

Carr spent some of his early years in France and his first detective novel, *Castle Skull*, is set in the Rhineland. Another, *The Case of the Constant Suicides*, is set in a Scottish castle. Carr also uses World War Two as the theme for some of his mysteries, notably *Murder in the Submarine Zone* and *The Reader is Warned*. His first detective was the Frenchman, Henri Bencolin, followed by Dr Gideon Fell and then Sir Henry Merrivale.

Carr makes fair use of the 'locked room' mystery in a number of his books. *The Mad Hatter Mystery*, *The Hollow Man* and *She Died a Lady* are amongst my favourites.

I still have a few more to find and to read. They do not



seem to be quite as easy to find as some of the other classic detective fiction. However, his radio plays are easy enough to find, varying between 35 and 90 minutes long. Donald Sinden made an excellent Dr Fell in one series based on Carr's books.

Bruce Smith

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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

MUSIC AND GIGS

Glenkens Folk Weekend 9-10 October: Plenty to keep music fans entertained over the weekend. On the Saturday, Scottish folk favourites **Breabach** return to the CatStrand with their music deeply rooted in Highland and Island tradition and the innovative musical ferment of their Glasgow base.

Prior to this you can catch the first in a new monthly series **High Tea Tunes** - join Moniaive harpist **Wendy Stewart** for a concert, tea and scones at the Balmaclellan Smiddy.

On the Sunday afternoon, **Leveret** perform in Dalry Town Hall. Leveret is the combined forces of three of England's finest folk musicians: Andy Cutting (button accordion), Sam Sweeney (fiddle) and Rob Harbron (concertina). Their performances combine consummate musicianship, compelling delivery and captivating spontaneity.

Join us after the concert and bring your instruments at the Clachan Inn for a **folk session** lead by Oli Rigg, Michael Muir (Muckle Spree) and Lucy Smith.

Saturday 13 November is the date for the second of the **High Tea Tunes** series,

featuring Alex McQuiston and young cellist Will Archibald.

DANCE AND THEATRE

17 October in Dalry Town Hall: **Scottish Dance Theatre's** artistic director Joan Clevillé presents an intimate solo work. What do you do when the state becomes the oppressor? Would you put your body on the line? *Antigone, Interrupted* re-imagines a classic story for a contemporary world through the body and the voice of a single performer.

22 October at the CatStrand: **Waves** by Mary Alice Cooper is the tale of Elizabeth Moncello and how, growing up in the 1930s, she came to be the unofficial

inventor of the butterfly stroke. Waves is about having the courage, desire, and determination to swim against the tide of expectation. An extraordinary tale of a life fully lived.

2 November at the CatStrand: Classic lunchtime theatre is back, with the return of the very popular *Rapture Bite's* series. **Rapture Theatre** present the *Dock Brief* - a delightful comedy about the law, life and love. What happens when an unsuccessful murderer meets an even more unsuccessful barrister?

24 November the CatStrand: **Mull Theatre** present *Ever Brilliant Thing*. Duncan Macmillan's heart-wrenching

and hilarious play about depression and the lengths we'll go to for someone we love. Based on true and untrue stories. "You're seven years old. Mum's in hospital. Dad says she's 'done something stupid'. She finds it hard to be happy. You make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world."

Also look out for the rescheduled date of Andre Anderson's **Playing Together**, an outdoor dance show about the power of play, its effect on us, and why recreation activity is important for our recovery.

Peter Renwick, CatStrand



Breabach return to CatStrand

GCAT Welcomes Back Peter Renwick

Thank you for such a warm welcome back to the Glenkens.

I look forward to getting to know you all as I take up the hugely exciting role of arts, culture & heritage manager for the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT).

It's a real privilege to be able to stage the GCAT programme - there are only a few places in Scotland where you can see such a high quality programme in such an intimate environment. I'm looking forward to working with partner venues, and I hope to be able to stage some special events in the surrounding landscape.

I moved from Edinburgh to New Galloway around 2010 to take up a marketing support role at the CatStrand. At this time Cathy Agnew was chair, Karen Donald the programmer, and Brian Edgar was on the board.

I've been programming performing arts across D&G ever since then. Working with Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival, Dumfries Theatre Royal,

The Stove, DG Council, and Moat Brae. Most recently, I was the producer of *The Village* and *The Road* by Tom Pow and *The Galloway Agreement* (performed at the CatStrand at the beginning of September), and the programmer for the launch weekend of Creetown's new venue, The Quarrymen's Arts Centre. I'm addicted to the thrill of staging events and seeing an expectant audience walking into a room.

Coming back into the Glenkens you see a new and renewed sense of confidence and pride. This is reflected in the work of the Galloway Glens Scheme, The Loch Ken Trust, New Galloway Community Enterprises and many others. I've come in at a really good time as Helen Keron is taking on the post of executive manager and I have no doubt that GCAT has a big job to do.

I'd like to pay tribute to the work that Aidan Nicol has done. In my first two weeks here it has been often said that she leaves 'big boots to fill'. All I can say



Peter Renwick, GCAT's new arts, culture & heritage manager.

is that I'll do my best.

Alan Smith, Chairman of GCAT, commented: "All at GCAT are delighted that Peter took up the post. He brings a wealth of experience in programming and running events. He's well known amongst Dumfries & Galloway's artists and venues and has an excellent knowledge of the Scottish and UK touring sector. He has a clear dedication to creating an arts programme that has the broadest reach and that reflects the artists and communities of this region."

Peter Renwick

CENTENARY OF THE POPPY

Artificial poppies were first used as a symbol of remembrance in 1921; this year is the centenary of their use and therefore is an apt time to remember the Glenkens connection.

In Carsphairn churchyard, on the right as you approach the church, is a gravestone to the splendidly named Marmaduke Macrae. He was born in Old Cumnock in 1776 and was farming at the Holm of Dalquhairn, Carsphairn when his son David was born in 1800. David grew up and was farming at Dukieston in Kells parish when his son, Thomas, was born in 1820. Dukieston is now a ruin in Forrest Estate, lying in the plantation up behind Dukieston Cottage. Thomas attended the Kells school, New Galloway (now the CatStrand).

Thomas married and farmed in Laurieston where he had a son called David born in 1845 and this movement from one place to another was typical of those employed in agriculture at the

time. A few years later, Thomas and his family emigrated to Canada and settled in Guelph, Ontario where Thomas became one of the foremost breeders of Galloway cattle in North America. In due course, David grew up, became an Army Officer and had a family of his own, one of whom (John born on 30 November 1872) is the key part of this history.

John McCrae also joined the Army and served in the Boer War and later the First World War where he became a medical officer and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He was in charge of a field hospital during the Second Battle of Ypres in Belgium and it was there that he wrote the poem *In Flanders Fields* following the death of his friend Alexis Helmer, the poem being written on 3 May 1915 and published soon after in Punch magazine. John McCrae himself died later in the war.

In Flanders Fields was the inspiration for the poppy to be adopted as a symbol of remembrance and the poem itself is used at almost every remembrance service in the UK, Canada, Australia and many other countries.

Marmaduke's gravestone can still be seen in Carsphairn churchyard and memorials to John McCrae can be



Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

seen the world over including the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres, his old family home in Guelph which is now a museum and at Eilean Donan Castle where there is a McCrae clan memorial featuring his poem. Below is John's poem, *In Flanders' Fields*.

Paul Goodwin



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In Flanders' Fields

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' fields.

Major John McCrae, 1915



Dalry War Memorial Centenary

On Saturday 11 September, nearly seventy people gathered at Dalry war memorial to attend a ceremony commemorating the centenary of the unveiling of their war memorial.

In fine September weather, people had travelled from far and wide; one travelled all the way from Aberdeen and another up from Luton to attend the event. The turnout was creditable for such a small community.

Hilda McAdam of the Dalry Heritage Group did a splendid job of co-ordinating the various efforts especially the publicity and invitations. Rev Dr David Bartholomew acted not only as Minister but as the Master of Ceremonies for the occasion and Paul Goodwin spoke about the history of the memorial and of its continuing importance as a focus for remembrance. Various unsung people appeared, moved chairs, tidied and made sure that it all went smoothly; a great sign of local community spirit.

A late refusal of permission by the council meant that the parade could not process down the road from the Town Hall as planned or even down the pavement. They instead met at the memorial and those who wished were invited to move to the session house where piper Mackenzie Lawrie led them back to the memorial. Many of those who walked behind the piper were descendants of those who had been on that original parade. Many had probably never followed a piper before and may not have the chance to do so again, no doubt they were thinking of that original parade on 11 September 1921.

Last Post and Reveille were played by the bugler for the day, Paul Scrimshaw, head teacher of Glenkens Primary

Schools. Lord Sinclair laid the wreath, not in his capacity as Lord Lieutenant but as the grandson of the Hon Mrs Sinclair who had unveiled the memorial a century earlier. The wreath itself was not one of poppies as we have come to expect but was a faithful reproduction of an original wreath used one hundred years earlier.

Jim Hutchison used his smartphone to video the ceremony for the benefit of those who were unable to attend and his video is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WSCutyoLxE

Paul Goodwin



Photographs by Heidi Bartholomew




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As the nights grow longer and the shroud of darkness envelops us

As the nights start drawing in, the Galloway Glens Team have been working with a range of partners to provide a fascinating series of events to carry us through the darker months.

November sees the critical COP26 Climate Change conference in Glasgow. We'll be exploring the impact of climate change from a Galloway perspective, how will we be impacted and what part can we play in creating a flourishing future for all.

PEATLAND CONNECTIONS 06 OCTOBER, 7.30PM

Galloway Peatlands are a vital part of Scotland's Peat arsenal. Crichton Carbon Centre will give us a tour of what we know and what we don't know. Join us to explore what work is underway locally to adapt to the impacts of climate change and what creative practices have to do with it. Event hosted in Kirkcudbright's Dark Space Planetarium, book to attend either in person or online.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS: HOME & AWAY – THE TALES OF A WAYWARD GOOSE. 20 OCTOBER, 7.30PM. TICKETS £8.

The Wild Goose Festival and Galloway Glens presents a unique evening of science and story. With performances from the story weavers of Moat Brae and lectures from eminent scientists on the adventures of geese. Event hosted in Moat Brae, book to attend in person or online.

GALLOWAY TROUT TRAVELLERS 03 NOVEMBER, 7.30PM

Meet the common trout, a fish that has travelled around the world. Transported to far-flung places, but does a Trout ever change its spots? An evening with prominent local artists and world-class scientists. Event hosted in New Galloway's Catstrand, book to attend either in person or online.

THE WILD WOODS OF WESTERN EUROPE 17 NOVEMBER, 7.30PM

Scruffy and dishevelled woodland: the engine for biodiversity and the lungs of the earth. From ancient woodlands to forests-long-gone, what have we learned? Event hosted in Dalry Town Hall, book to attend either in person or online.

LET'S GROUSE 01 DECEMBER, 7.30PM

Burns was described as "*nothing more than a singing blackcock*". The Black Grouse used to strut around the Uplands, along with our national bard. But there is trouble ahead for this iconic species, what can we do? Event hosted in Balmaclellan Smiddy, book to attend either in person or online.

INSPIRATIONAL THREAVE 15 DECEMBER, 7.30PM

Something exciting is happening at Kelton Mains. The world is watching, but where did this project come from? Where is it going and what does it mean? Event hosted in Threave House, book to attend either in person or online.

ROBINS: A FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS CHARACTER? 22 DECEMBER, 7.30PM

For too long, the Robin has adorned our Christmas scenes, as a saint amongst birds. But let's unpick this, from Viking Folklore to Victorian tradition, how did the bird get away with it? Event hosted in CatStrand, book to attend either in person or online.

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The Optimistic Environmentalist

MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT RECYCLING - Part Two

How is recycling handled by Dumfries & Galloway Council? Below are some questions answered by D&G Council.

How do the items from our bins get sorted - is it by hand or machine?

Items collected in the recycling bins may be sent across a picking line and there is likely to be an element of both hand and mechanical sorting.

Is different coloured glass treated in the same way or does the council have to separate it out?

The company we send our glass to (Viridor, in Newhouse near Glasgow) use an optical separator to separate different colours of glass. This is more cost-effective than collecting and processing separate colours.

What happens to items that are mixed e.g. the widget in a drink's can is plastic, not metal?

If it is made of a recyclable material and can be separated during processing it may be recycled but there will always be a percentage of materials that are 'rejected' through the recycling process.

Which plastics do DGC recycle?

In line with most other Scottish local authorities, we use a simple message for plastics. We collect all plastic bottles, pots tubs and trays in order to encourage as many people to recycle as possible. The companies we send the materials to will sort these into separate waste streams and process. Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET; Type '1'), High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE; Type '2') and Polypropylene (PP; Type '5') are the most straightforward to recycle.

PET and HDPE are the most commonly used materials for plastic bottles, pots tubs and trays, although compressed polystyrene (Type 6) is also used in some yoghurt pots. We would expect our off-takers to recycle this material. Other types of plastics are unlikely to be recycled (this includes hard plastics used in producing for example CD and DVD cases, plant pots and plastic

toys). For further information, see the A-Z list on our website at: <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/21405/New-Waste-and-Recycling-Service>

Is it true that there is a minimum size for recycling? If so, is this why you do not recycle caps off bottles? Can you recycle them if they are screwed back on to the bottles or are they made from different plastic?

There is no minimum size and plastic or metal caps placed in your red-lidded bin will be sent for recycling although certain types of hard plastic are very difficult to process and may not be recycled.

People say "everything just gets dumped in landfill anyway". What actually happens? What does the council do with each item in the recycling?

Recycling is generally cheaper than processing mixed waste, so it would not make sense to invest millions in a separated collection system to then send it all to mixed waste processing. Landfill is the least environmentally acceptable solution and the most costly. There is an article on what happens to each waste stream on our website at: <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/22036/What-Happens-to-my-Waste-and-Recycling>

Non-recyclable waste is collected from the kerbside where it is sent to the Ecodeco Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facility on the outskirts of Dumfries. Here waste is shredded and dried by heat produced naturally as a result of biological activity. This drying process recovers around 30% of the weight of the waste as moisture which is passed through a biofilter to atmosphere and returned to the natural water cycle.

The principal output of the facility is a fuel used in specialist Energy from Waste (EfW) plants. Other outputs include glass and stone which are turned into an aggregate replacement product, and metal which is recovered, cleaned and recycled.

People often say "it all gets sent abroad" and when it's abroad there is no guarantee that it will be recycled. Where does DGC send their recycling and do they

know what it is used for?

Where we can, we use Scottish or UK-based companies to process waste. Unfortunately the amount of waste produced in Scotland and the rest of the UK exceeds recycling capacity, therefore materials are often sent to Europe where the recycling industry is more established. Scotland is catching up though and we hope that in time, materials can be processed at home (or even better, we all reduce the amount of waste we produce).

Dumfries and Galloway Council has a duty of care to ensure the waste we collect on your behalf is processed responsibly. Any company we use will have been carefully vetted and we know that glass, most metals and fibres (paper and card) are processed within the UK. However, it is common for materials to be passed on from company to company and each time this happens it becomes harder to track. We are not aware of any of our waste being sent outside of Europe.

Does DGC have any other plans for recycling in the future e.g. for clothes, household items?

For now, our focus is on encouraging as many people as possible to use the new recycling service, and to minimise contamination, enabling us to make a significant improvement in our recycling rates. The new system is flexible to change, so if new technology comes in that allows us to recycle a wider range of items such as plastic bags or crisp packets at an affordable price, we can make changes.

The Scottish government has set a target for local authorities of recycling 70% of municipal waste collected by 2025. This is ambitious and to meet it will require further steps, such as a garden waste collection service and reducing the amount of general non-recyclable waste we collect.

We will also be supporting initiatives to reduce waste or find alternative uses for unwanted items, to cut down on the amount collected. This includes supporting the establishment of a new re-use shop at the Dumfries Zero Waste Park once constructed.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

Glenkens Freecycle

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Saddle holder, wall mounted, black coated steel, good condition. Contact: 01644 430218

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Camp bed, folds in half for storage (90cm when folded). Contact: 01644 430218

Welsh onion plants, potted up. **Alchemilla mollis (Lady's Mantle)** may need help to dig these out. Also **Aspidistras**. Contact: Sue on 07563 718 011

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

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Wooden stool set, new - £4. **Bike training stand**, new (stand your bike in this and use as an exercise bike) - £10. **2 bed rail safety sides** - £10 each. **Large wardrobe** - £50ono. Contact: 07876 353 557.

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Perennial candytuft (evergreen), **iberis sempervirens**. Contact: Sue on 07563 718 011

Large rabbit hutch or similar wanted. Contact: 07889 229 340

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Eco Feature

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The Glenkens: The Beating Heart of Scotland's First UNESCO Biosphere

The Glenkens sits at the heart of Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere, a global designation which recognises the region's unique natural and cultural heritage and potential for innovation in sustainable development.

In its present form the Biosphere covers 5,268 km² of south-west Scotland across the three local authority areas, its geographical boundary based on catchments of the rivers that flow out of the Galloway Hills (see map). More than half of the Biosphere's staff live within the Glenkens (the team held their most recent Development Day at The Smiddy at Balmaclellan). From mushrooms to mistlethrushes and from Crossmichael to Carsphairn, Glenkens life features prominently in the Biosphere's social media feeds.

Residents are doubtless familiar with local 'Biosphere in action' projects such as those run by Galloway Glens, while many of the businesses and community groups which have signed up to the Biosphere's Proud Supporter scheme are local household names. The Smithy and the CatStrand in New Galloway, the Clachan Inn at Dalry, and Galloway Activity Centre on Loch Ken are prominent Proud Supporters, all committed to sustainable practice and the Biosphere ethos of supporting the local community and economy in everyday life.

While working to protect and celebrate life in the Glenkens and beyond, the Biosphere is also a key player in achieving Dumfries & Galloway Council's ambitious climate change goals which are aiming for

net zero carbon emissions by 2025. The impacts of global warming that are already being felt in the Glenkens are being recorded across the entire Biosphere region, from the increasing frequency of 'exceptional' summer temperatures to flooding, soil erosion, habitat loss, and an upheaval in biodiversity that has seen several native species go into drastic decline.

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire became Scotland's first UNESCO Biosphere when the designation was awarded in 2012, and with its 10th anniversary approaching next year the organisation is expanding public engagement and potentially its geographical reach.

The Biosphere's current boundary is under review, with a proposal to bring in the Rhins of Galloway having progressed to public consultation. Including the Rhins would bring in Luce Bay and the Mull of Galloway, Scotland's southernmost point, while Stranraer - with its population of approximately 13,000 - would become the largest Biosphere town. Becoming part of the Biosphere could bring useful attention to the challenges described above: those specific to the Rhins as well as those shared with the Glenkens and rural Scotland as a whole.

The UNESCO designation has the potential to attract investment and research, also to generate partnership projects that support education, skills training and business enterprise. The Biosphere is proudly community-led and any expansion will be steered by the collective community voice.



Pictured are the new Biosphere lead officers (left to right) - Tamara, Andrew and Jenna, all recruited this year, photographed near the Holy Linn at Balmaclellan.

Anyone wishing to participate in the consultation on bringing in the Rhins is invited to take the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BiosphereBoundaryReview> (being conducted in association with Solway Firth Partnership).

More information about Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere is available at www.gsabiosphere.org.uk or by email request to info@gsabiosphere.org.uk

Tamara Fulcher, Biosphere Communications & Marketing Officer



Maximising local opportunities for a fossil free future

Vattenfall's Ray Wind Farm, Northumberland

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk Wind Farms: proposals updated

As we build South Kyle Wind Farm north of Carsphairn, Vattenfall is working hard to create opportunities for local people, communities and businesses.

We want to build on this with two further renewable energy investments in Dumfries and Galloway - Quantans Hill Wind Farm and Whiteneuk Wind Farm, projects which could create a pipeline of further opportunities for local jobs, skills development, businesses and enterprise, community benefits and natural habitats across South West Scotland.

This winter, our proposals for Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk will be finalised and submitted to Planning.

Ahead of that, each scheme has been updated as part of our comprehensive design review, a process shaped by local feedback and environmental data.

Both proposed developments have been reduced in scale, with fewer and lower turbines; layouts sensitive to local landscape, heritage, wildlife and habitats, whilst offering substantial community benefits for the local areas.

Please find out more about the proposals and their opportunities by visiting our online exhibitions at

www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill

www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneuk

Alternatively, contact us at:
quantanshill.windfarm@vattenfall.com
whiteneuk.windfarm@vattenfall.com
 Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd.
 St Andrew's House, Haugh Lane,
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Proposed location of Quantans Hill Wind Farm



Proposed location of Whiteneuk Wind Farm

Photo of the Issue *Sponsored by the Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Co*

This issue's winner is Eilidh MacPherson from Marbrack Farm, Carsphairn, with her photograph titled 'Galloways Back on Marbrack After 22 Years'.

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

Company owner and competition judge, Hannah Gould, said: *"I love cows! Especially Galloways and belties. You can't beat a hillside scattered with these gentle, furry teddy bear beasts. I guess working with cheese all the time, with the mac 'n' cheese company, you develop a love of milk and a newfound respect for the animals which produce it!"*



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

ELSPETH MCEWAN OF BOGHA

Elsbeth McEwan was the most famous convicted witch in Galloway and the last to be burnt at the stake in Southern Scotland.

By all accounts she was an elderly educated woman who lived alone in a cottage called Bogha on the farm known as the Cubbox in the parish of Balmaclellan. She was sometimes known as "the old wife of Bogha".

She was accused of tormenting her neighbours by witchcraft including interfering with their hens either by making them lay vast numbers of eggs or none at all, and by stealing milk by use of a moveable pin which she kept hidden in the rafters and which could draw milk from any cow.

In 1696, the church session was called to act; Beadle McLambroch was sent to fetch her and given

the minister's horse to bring her back. With both of them on the same horse, they reached the hill up to the manse at Balmaclellan when the mare became tormented and, in its fear, started to sweat blood. Since then, the hill has been known locally as Bluidy Brae and some say it is haunted.

Elsbeth was imprisoned for two years in Kirkcudbright Tolbooth where she was tortured and begged for the release of death. In March 1698 she was tried for the "horrid cryme of witchcraft" and confessed to "a contract and regular commerce with the Devil, and of practising charms and other evil magical acts to the harm of the people". On 24 August 1698 she was taken to Silver Craigs in Kirkcudbright where she was first strangled and then burnt at the stake.

Her executioner was William Kirk and he was rewarded with a monetary fee, a suit of clothes, food and a pint of ale "when she was burning".



Unmarked stone in Balmaclellan churchyard, thought to mark the grave of Elspeth McEwan.

Local tradition has it that an unmarked stone in Balmaclellan churchyard marks Elspeth McEwan's burial place.

GLENKENS PLACE NAMES: PART XII

Continuing up the Polmaddy Glen the next former habitation we reach is Holmhead of Castlemaddy situated on the north side of the burn, not far off the old track that ran from Drumness to Castlemaddy.

As the Scots part of the place-name 'holm' suggests the house was situated on a piece of level ground beside the river. This was probably quite a fertile area in the past although maybe prone to waterlogging. The Forestry Commission planted the holm with the ubiquitous Sitka spruce which were subject to windblow and were clearfelled in the last few years. This treatment has obliterated all trace of the former cottage which had evidently been abandoned well before afforestation. In 1853 according to the *OS Name Book* states: "The ruins of an old (herd's) house on the farm of Castlemaddy, and situated on a portion of arable land on the Northern margin of 'Pulmaddy Burn'."

The former arable land referred to seems to have been largely left unplanted by Forestry and Land Scotland and is now reverting to a naturally regenerating mixture of willow, alder and self-sown Sitka spruce.

The land on which Holmhead of Castlemaddy stood was clearly part of the large farm of Castlemaddy which was bounded by the farms of Largerie and Darnaw on the east, Braidenoch and Kiltersan to the north and probably stretching to the ridge line of the Rhinns of Kells, including Carlin's Cairn. As well as the main farmhouse of Castlemaddy, this farm had three other subsidiary holdings of which Holmhead was one.

Northside of Castlemaddy was situated about a mile north of Holmhead beside the old track that led from Castlemaddy to Carsphairn via Braidenoch and Kiltersan. It is shown on the OS 1st edition map as being at the centre of a complex of fields and dykes. It was also ruined by 1853. Until the first Sitka rotation was harvested about 18 years ago the footings of Northside could still be seen but the subsequent harvesting and replanting operations have obliterated all trace of the foundations, tracks, dykes, etc.

Castlemaddy itself is about a mile

further up the glen. Its name derives from Scots Gaelic *Caisteal nam Madadh*, 'castle of the dogs', (or possibly wolves). The most likely explanation behind this place-name is that Castlemaddy was a hunting lodge originally, part of the huge Forest of Buchan, later converted into an extensive farm and that the *madaidhean* referred to were hunting dogs. There is no trace of a fortification in the area now: the present surviving farmhouse is 19th Century in origin. However it may be worth noting that there appear to be earthworks visible in a bend of the Polmaddy, across the river from Holmhead of Castlemaddy which



This photo was taken in 1923 and shows Rab, Sam and Jessie Wilson making hay at the Shiel o' Castlemaddy, courtesy of the Carsphairn Heritage Initiative Archive at www.carsphairn.org/CarsphairnArchive

may just possibly have been a more substantial lodge justifying the term *caisteal*. It is possible these were created by the Forestry Commission during certain operations but they appear to be visible in pre-afforestation aerial photography. However some years ago a posse of local metal detectorists failed to find anything that might have suggested such a use for the site.

Castlemaddy farmhouse itself has seen service as a Scout Hut and now is leased on a long lease to the MoD who use it to practice storming buildings and so on. It is maintained in wind and watertight condition at least.

The Sheil of Castlemaddy was the last inhabited house in the Polmaddy Glen. It was described in 1853 in the *OS Name Books* as a small one storey thatched house in good repair. It had probably only recently been built. Andrew McCormick wrote a chapter in his book *Galloway: The Spell of its Hills and Glens* entitled 'The Sheil Folk'. In it he describes visiting The Sheil on a walking holiday and staying with the family who lived there, presumably in the 1920s. The house had evidently been expanded in size by then as it was occupied by Rob and Samuel Wilson and their two sisters. McCormick paints probably a rather rosy, romanticised picture of life at The Sheil and the reality was probably a pretty

tough and simple life. He describes the brothers harvesting potatoes there and a nice photograph in the Carsphairn Heritage Archives shows the brothers and one of their sisters making hay stooks in the former hay field behind the cottage. After afforestation the house was abandoned before becoming part of the Mountain Bothies Association network of shelters. I remember in the 1970s when the barn beside the house was still standing and in pretty good condition. Unfortunately due to the Forestry Commission road providing easy access to motorised transport the property became something of

a magnet for anti-social behaviour and therefore more trouble than it was worth to the Forestry Commission and was demolished in 2011.

It might be worth mentioning a few other place-names on the former farm of Castlemaddy. On the hill to the north of the cottage is Clashbrock Bog and the Peat Hass. This is an extensive area of peat land which should never have been planted in the first rotation and unfortunately has been replanted following felling. Clashbrock is from Scots Gaelic *Clais Bruic*, 'badger hollow', although 'broc' could also refer to the fox, perhaps more likely at this location. The Scots

terms *hass*, *haas*, *hause*, *hals*, etc have several meanings but the sense here is likely to be 'peaty defile'.

Just west of Clashbrock Bog is a rock on the north slope of the hill called Craigenwallie. This rock used to be clearly visible from the forestry track before the second rotation grew too tall. It may be derived from Scots Gaelic *Creag a' Bhealaich*, 'rock of the pass', perhaps referring to the gap between it and Acquaintance Hill to the west, through which the present-day forestry road runs.

Acquaintance Hill is interesting in that Dwelly lists an obsolete term *cointean*, 'contentious man, wrangler, controversy' and *cointinn*, 'a dispute', occurs in Irish. *An Cointean*, 'the dispute', might lie behind Acquaintance Hill and Quantans Hill near Carsphairn. Of course there are numerous *threiplands*, 'disputed lands', and similar, formed in Scots. It may be of relevance that on Blaeu we find the burn-name Achinbreith B near Castlemaddy. This looks like *ach' na breith*, 'field of the judgement'. It seems an odd name for a field but it does look like it is in the same approximate place as Acquaintance Hill. Does this potentially flag up an area of previous contention, perhaps between landowners?

*Michael Ansell,
Cars Fèarna*

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

Mary Louisa Cannan



Mary Louisa Cannan (1819-1911) was born in New Spynie, Elgin, where her father was the minister and married to one of the four Miss Kennedys of Knocknalling.

Mary was their first born. This lady's parentage had been celebrated in the Glenkens for hundreds of years. When she was eight the family returned home when Rev Thomas Cannan became minister of Carsphairn, courtesy of Lord Selkirk. The journey from Spynie to Edinburgh by coach took a week and involved spending another week in the city since coaches were fully booked, but a bonus was a glimpse of Walter Scott on Princes Street.

She apparently did not fear the cold, enjoying curling and sledding in just her short sleeves. She rejoiced in "a free wild life" running about the Carsphairn hills. Her dad kept sheep, cattle and a horse; the children were given a large ram for a pet which once up-ended the visiting minister of Kirkcudbright. Rev Cannan taught boarders who found him a severe master, the tawse occupying a fair chunk of the curriculum. He also took it upon himself to urge his congregation to whitewash their cottages, a craze that continues to the present day. On Sundays the shepherds came from miles around "wearing their plaids through all the seasons - in summer to keep out the heat and winter to keep it in". Their dogs lay at their feet during the service, looking forward to the weekly fight when it was over. After a Sabbath walk, the children were permitted to read an illustrated *Pilgrim's Progress*.

Meal, milk and meat were abundant. Mrs Cannan was a dab hand at making large quantities of preserves from fruit in the manse garden but vegetables were dangerously scarce in winter and scurvy was common. Coal by the cartload from Dalmellington was cheap and peat was plentiful. Poor light was provided by home-made candles, made from sheep tallow and rushes. The family obviously felt superior to the inhabitants of Dalry where "the cottages were all thatched and were just a collection of hovels, there being only one slated roof among them". In one cothouse the chimney was in the middle of the floor, smoke

escaping through a hole in the roof. The shepherds used stilts on occasion, as did the school master. Carsphairn obviously had a water problem then as now. Visits from the packman were long anticipated and enjoyed. They brought luxury items designed to appeal to women and hence their intentions were often supposedly suspected by their jealous husbands. There are many great stories about these peripatetic merchants who brought news to the outback and often music and song as well. Some were in the market for hair which well rewarded both donor and purchaser.

Mary often visited relatives in the Glenkens. Her uncle rented The Shiel from Millar of Glenlee as it had been by Cannans since the reign of James VII. Her mother's oldest sister had married Mr Barbour in Muirdrockwood. Aunt Bess and her husband were notorious skinflints but "though miserly in all her ways she was exceedingly kind to beggars". At age nine, suffering from typhus fever, Mary was sent to stay with another aunt, in the manse at Balmaclellan, to be shut up for many weeks in a small room by herself. The local herd boy lent her books "scarcely fitted for her tender years". It is a pity we are not told what the books were, shared by a herder and a nine year old lass! When visiting, her father, "to

She rejoiced in "a free wild life" running about the Carsphairn hills.

her joy", broke the sole window in the airless room with his fist. While staying with her mother's uncle Macmillan at The Holm she read thirteen of Scott's novels in a week while hiding under a four-poster bed. Surely she deserved some kind of medal! She often resided with her Kennedy grandparents at Knocknalling. Much of her knowledge of older times must have come from Granny Kennedy who told her of gentlemen so plastered after dinner as to be unfit to join the ladies who were expected to tolerate their drunkenness. By 1828 the Kennedys and several other local families, including the Cannans, had grown rich in the dark satanic cotton mills of Manchester and district. When Cotton was King, the Kings of Cotton were from the Glenkens, a truly remarkable story which we have touched on before.

Mary concluded her school days at Kirkcudbright Academy, thereafter becoming a pupil-teacher in Edinburgh. As a governess she was pleased to meet Professor John Wilson, *nom de plume*,

'Christopher North' and many others

in literary and academic circles. Like her father Mary was a Liberal in politics. While still in her early teens in 1832 she devised a banner "representing a tree with nests supported by bishops. The nests were rotten burghs and Lord John Russell and his party were trying to cut down the tree". As her memorialist noted "she always insisted on her rights as a citizeness".

Her pupils included the two Brunel boys, grandsons of the engineer. While teaching in the Lake District she fell in love with the place, and found friends who organised a trip to Berlin for her. She learned German and made the acquaintance of the Brothers Grimm. After four years she moved to Rome surviving by writing articles for Chambers Encyclopedia. She travelled extensively in Italy, once being invited to a reception in honour of Frederick of Prussia the future Emperor of Germany. As she returned home the Crimean War broke out.

Since her mother suffered the pains of age, they moved in together. Mary Cannan was inspired by her friend Mary Fletcher, widow of Archibald Fletcher, "a pure and firm patriot" and reformer, to move to Wordsworth country. Eventually, in 1879, she bought land at Easdale, Grasmere, and built a house named The Shieling. Another

distinguished resident had been Sir John Richardson, from Dumfries, son-in-law of Mrs Fletcher whom he adored. He is known as a courageous Arctic explorer, distinguished physician and accomplished natural historian, inspirer and writer of *Flora Boreali Americana*. Wordsworth died in 1850, Mrs Fletcher in 1858, Richardson in 1865 and Mary Cannan in 1911.

Mary claimed the best time in her life began when she became 60. Asked why she never married she answered that she believed unmarried people attained "a better level of happiness than married ones, although not climbing to the same heights, nor sinking to the same depths". She did not believe in ghosts because they always seem to appear dressed and "I cannot believe in the immortality of clothes".

In writing this article I have ruthlessly plundered an obituary by RC, presumably a relative, in *The Gallovidian*, summer 1912, 84-91.

Ted Cowan

WINDY RIG WIND FARM PROGRESS UPDATE

In October the final milestone on the Windy Rig Wind Farm will be reached with power being exported to the grid for the first time.

We would like to sincerely thank local residents for their patience and understanding throughout the project.

Local Road Improvements

Work began on the remedial works required along the B729 in late September. It is planned that we will commence the repair works on the C35 from Monday 4 October. The works will take 5 days to complete from the site entrance to the junction with the B729 and during this time the road will be closed from 0900 – 1700 with

limited local access. There will be priority access for any emergency vehicles. The works required have been agreed in advance with Dumfries & Galloway Council and they will approve the final works upon completion.

Laydown Area

At Carsphairn the remediation work on the laydown area will start in early October. The scope of the works was agreed during the planning of the laydown area and will see the area fenced off and new planting put in place to provide screening from the main road.

Once again, we would like to thank local residents again for their patience during the delivery of the Windy Rig Wind Farm.

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



Completed turbines at the Windy Rig Wind Farm

Advertisement

WINDY STANDARD WIND FARM COMMUNITY UPDATE

We are progressing with our plans to re-power Windy Standard Wind Farm.

The 36 existing turbines on site will be removed and replaced with nine turbines, with a height of up to 200m to tip.

As an update, we recently submitted an Environmental

Impact Assessment Scoping Report to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU). This submission formally requests the initial views of key consultees on our proposals and this feedback will help to shape our final proposals.

We have also undertaken the majority of surveys on site and hope that we can have an in-person event in early November where we can display our plans and discuss them in further detail with the local

community.

We are very keen to continue our conversations ahead of then. All of the information can be viewed at www.windystandardwindfarm.co.uk. Please do get in touch by contacting communities@fredolsen.co.uk or by phoning 07435 763900. We really welcome your feedback, insight and opinions.

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



Advertisement



**GALLOWAY
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October - November 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



GCT has 16, 15, and 8 seater minibuses and a fully wheelchair accessible electric car available for hire by community organisations.

For information about membership and terms and conditions of hire see the GCT website or phone 07841 512449.

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GCT in partnership with Sustrans



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GCT Excursions NOW BOOKING

Saturday 9 October *Gardens of Excellence*
The Autumn Garden, Dawyck Botanic Garden
Stobo, Peebles

Pickups: 0900 Dalry (Underhill); 0910 New Galloway (CatStrand); 0940 Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill); 1000 Kirkcudbright (Harbour Square Bus Stop) **Fare £10**

Saturday 16 October
Creative Crafts Show Crafts for Christmas
SECC, Glasgow

Pickups: 0800 Kirkcudbright (Harbour Square Bus Stop); 0825 Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill); 0900 New Galloway (CatStrand); 0910 Dalry (Underhill); 0925 Carsphairn (Shop) **Fare £10**

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

- Balmaclellan: Martin Warnock - 07939 261 391
- Carsphairn: Liz Holmes - 07718 358 160
- Corsock: Julie Garton - 07769 647 702
- Kirkpatrick Durham: Heather - 07551 639 629
- Crossmichael: Richard Middleton -

01556 670 691

- Dalry: Graham West - 01644 430 503
- Mossdale: Shop - 01644 450 281
- New Galloway: 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 shop on Main Street, Dalry

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

Dalry Communities Properties Trust (DCPT): Contact Gary Blissett at garyblissett51@gmail.com or 01644 430 521

Dalry Town Hall: Contact Jim Reid on 07776 034 260 or jamescreid@hotmail.co.uk

Glenkens Community Centre: Contact Carylann Williamson at 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

Balmaclellan Community Trust: Contact Julia Higgins at 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

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

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

CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: Sunday Services

Balmaclellan: 11am - 3 Oct & 7 Nov.
Carsphairn: 11am - 10 Oct.
Kells: 11am - 17 Oct, 31 Oct & 21 Nov.
Dalry: 11am - 24 Oct & 28 Nov.
Communion: 24 Oct, 11am, Dalry Church. Remembrance Services: 14 Nov - 10.30am, Carsphairn Church; 10.55am, New Galloway War Memorial – act of remembrance, followed probably by service is St Margaret's Church; 10.55am, Balmaclellan War Memorial – short act of remembrance; 12 noon, Dalry Church.
Local Church of Scotland congregations can be accessed on youtube under 'Balmaclellan, Kells and Dalry linked with Carsphairn'.

These can also be emailed - contact DBartholomew@churchofscotland.org.uk and paper copies can be provided to those who do not have internet access. Contact David on 01644 430 380 for these resources, or simply for a chat.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

Communal worship at St Margaret's Church, New Galloway, takes place every Sunday with a Sung Eucharist at 10.30am (following current COVID guidelines) and this is followed by coffees/teas. Visitors are always welcome. For further information, including directions, please see our website www.stmargaretsnewgalloway.org or call our Vestry Secretary, Christine Rankin, on 01644 420259.

Dalry Library & Customer Service Centre

Tuesdays 10.30am-2pm

Fridays 11am-4.30pm

For further information contact Castle Douglas library on 01556 502 643

USEFUL NUMBERS:

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

Dear Editor,

I picked up a copy of the *Gazette* yesterday (I do not seem to always come across one).

I feel compelled to commend you on the level at which the publication continues. As someone with an interest in housing, your centre spread was of particular note at highlighting the numerous issues that exist.

I picked up my copy in Carsphairn tearoom while buying a coffee before joining Jonathan's walk to Polmaddy – I can commend that to anyone interested in local history. A real 'eye-opener'!

*Best wishes,
Iain*

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY LOVES LOCAL GIFT CARD



Wouldn't it be great if more money was spent locally in Dumfries and Galloway? The Dumfries & Galloway Scotland

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We don't want any businesses in Dumfries and Galloway to miss out, so whether you are a shop, a cafe, a hairdresser or visitor attraction we would urge you to sign up. It works like any other Mastercard gift card and there is no cost for the business - visit www.lovelocal.scot/giftcard to sign up - it only takes 5 minutes.

Dumfries and Galloway were the first local authority to sign up for the gift card, so let's make sure you can spend your gift card everywhere in the region from Langholm to Portpatrick!

If you have any questions then drop an email to john.king@dumgal.gov.uk

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Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair

August saw Dalry Town Hall hosting a brand new Arts & Crafts Fair.

This was seen as an opportunity to showcase several creative makers, artists and designers in Dumfries & Galloway and the South of Scotland.

Luckily the weather was on our side and it proved to be very successful with visitors taking the their first tentative post-COVID steps across the threshold to enjoy and experience lots of new and innovative exhibits.

It was an opportunity for artists and designers to network and make new contacts for future sales and commissions. The working life of creative individuals can be a solitary one, producing masterpieces from the confines of their home studios, even selling online is no substitute for interacting with customers face-to-face whilst guiding them towards making an informed choice.

There were two marquees, one housing the overspill of stalls for exhibitors whilst the second became the refreshment tent, serving delicious home-baked cakes, teas and coffees. All the baking was provided by an enthusiastic band of volunteer bakers and the cafe was also manned by dedicated volunteers. I wish to extend my personal thanks to every individual who helps out at these events - they just would not happen without you.

There was a diverse range of products on offer including ceramics, silver jewellery, quirky metal sculptures, textiles, woodcarvers' and artists' exhibits, glass and housewares and more - the list of exhibitors is too numerous to mention everyone here,

but for those of you who are able, you can visit the Arts & Crafts Fair Facebook page @AandCDalryTown Hall to watch videos of the crafters setting up and displaying their beautiful wares. The Dalry town hall website has also got information about exhibitors - www.dalrytownhall.co.uk

We had an amazing amount of positive feedback after the event, so it has been decided to host another fair on Sunday 28 November from 11am until 3pm.

This is an opportunity for those of you that didn't make it last time - or those that did and would like another chance to browse our wonderful local arts and crafts people's creations - to enjoy some Christmas shopping in a unique environment. What better way to shop local and support our wealth of amazingly talented artists and makers? There will also be festive refreshments available from our outdoor heated marquee.

Come along and get into the Christmas spirit!

Lesley Blissett



Pictured are some of the creations on offer at the August fair.

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DEC/JAN COPY DEADLINE: 5 NOV



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