

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

February/March 2022

ISSUE 128

FREE

WATSON BIRD TRAILS LAUNCHED

Two new Glenkens walking routes are now signposted in celebration of local bird artist Donald Watson, who lived and worked in Dalry.

Both trails have their starting point at Dalry Town Hall garden, where there is a sign explaining the Watson Birds project and maps of the Walking Trail and the Art Trail.

The Walking Trail around Dalry takes around two hours and follows one of the Glenkens Core Paths along the river bank. After crossing the main road by Boat Knowe, the path climbs the Mulloch Hill before meandering back into the village.

The Art Trail can be done by bicycle or car - users should allow around half a day for this route, although it's shorter in winter as the section through the Raider's Road is closed.

An app will soon be available to

accompany the trails, narrated by local bird expert Chris Rollic. This commentary aims to provide an insight into Donald's art and observational skills, as well as highlighting what you might expect to see at different times of the year. Watch this space for more on the app launch!

It is hoped that people using the trails will engage creatively in whatever way they choose - through poem, prose, music, drawing, painting or photographs - and that these will form part of an exhibition in the summer.

Brochures for the trails can be downloaded at www.watsonbirds.org or are available at local shops. There is an exhibition about the trails in the Watson



The new Watson Bird Trails brochure, available to download online or from local retail outlets.

Room at The Smiddy in Balmaclean.

The Watson Birds project is a Glenkens Community & Arts Trust initiative, supported by the Galloway Glens scheme and Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.



The popularity of wild swimming is booming, and in the Glenkens we are privileged to enjoy accessible, clear waters.

Loch Ken boasts some of the cleanest loch waters in Scotland, probably due to the hydro system releasing a fresh flow regularly.

Having been a wild swimmer in my childhood in France I was keen to reconnect with those pleasures when I moved to Dalry eight years ago, but it took me a while to discover local swimming spots.

Friends who grew up here told me of their exploits jumping off rocks at the High Bridge of Ken. My days of such youthful daring have long gone, though I am glad to see some local youngsters still taking the plunge!

Continued on page 16...

End of an Era for

Brian Jones and Chris Jowsey's tenure at GCAT's Connecting in Communities (CiC) project has come to an end, after a combined 12 years of community service - Brian eight and Chris four.

The project continues though in Fiona Limbrey's capable hands, with help from the other GCAT staff. However, the boys leave behind a fantastic legacy for the Glenkens from both the original Connecting in Retirement project and ongoing CiC projects.

Nothing ever runs smoothly without a huge amount of hard work, dedication, determination and support from all sides. So, we'd like to say a massive "thank you" to everyone involved over the years, especially the volunteers, who have made everything we do so successful.

We must also thank our core funders without whom there would have been no CiC: The Big Lottery (Play makes it possible), the Scottish Government LEADER programme, the Postcode Lottery and the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP), plus many other silent contributors.

We have also developed a lot of partnerships along the way, not just locally but with national organisations like Age Scotland, Visibility Scotland, Dementia Friends, Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway, Sleeping Giants, Better Lives Partnership, Ability Scotland, Generations Working Together and one of our stalwarts, the IT Centre in CD, to name but a few.

Just to be clear, CiC hasn't ended, it's just that some of the team are moving on - the project continues to go on and will, we are sure, reach even greater heights! If you want to see what has been achieved to date, take a trip to Balmaclellan and look at

the Smiddy and Men's Shed - two establishments that are the envy of the country and neither would be there without CiC and the GCAT team! Come inside and look at the giant screen and fabulous IT kit, then look at the 7-seat electric vehicle in the carpark - many thanks again to LEADER and GGLP. Wander round the back of CatStrand and gaze upon the huge 'Hope London'-inspired mural or check out the 'Youth Booth' blue phone box at New Galloway - both intergenerational projects between CiC and CatStrand Youth Arts.

Brian and Chris were instrumental to the community during the pandemic, and determined to ensure that the CiC project provided digital online activities and events that would help the community to stay in touch.

Just to be clear, CiC hasn't ended, it's just that some of the team are moving on - the project continues to go on and will, we are sure, reach even greater heights!

The CiC legacy isn't just physical - we leave behind also many established groups and abiding memories. Glenkens Men's Shed (the first in Dumfries & Galloway), the CatStrand Uke Band with its sell-out concerts raising monies for local and national charities, photography and writing groups, Tai-Chi, yoga, IT support, Knit & Blether - the list goes on. One we are really proud of is JPFitness, supported from an ad-hoc session in the park to a thriving five times a week fitness business.

Other highlights include the LEADER awards featuring Brian and Chris in



Chris and Brian receiving VOSCARS.

their "What have the Romans done for us?" video; both getting VOSCARS; Rocktober (featuring FM, the loudest band ever to play CatStrand and giving local youngsters Pure Silver, their first real gig), plus hosting gigs for Kiki Dee and rock legend Eric Bell.

Brian said: "The last eight years working in the Glenkens has been a tremendous part of my life. I've met some fantastic and gifted people, made many new lifelong friends and enjoyed working with some talented GCAT staff members. It was a hard decision to make to move on but I will not be riding over the hill into the sunset and will continue to take part in CiC activities and become a GCAT volunteer."

Chris said: "I'd like say thank-you once again to everyone who helped make CiC such a phenomenal success, I've thoroughly enjoyed my time with GCAT".

*Stay safe,
The CiC Team*

For further information on CiC projects you can get in touch with Fiona on 01644 420 274 or fiona@catstrand.com

TED COWAN: 1944 - 2022

Ted Cowan died on Sunday 2 January at his home in Balmaclellan parish after a short illness. He was 77.

A Scottish historian with an international reputation, he was also a champion of the history of Galloway and an ardent promoter of the Glenkens and its story. He was emeritus professor of Scottish History and Literature at Glasgow University and had previously taught at Guelph University in Canada. He was latterly director of the Crichton University Campus in Dumfries.

A long-standing supporter of Scottish

independence, he was a leading authority on the Declaration of Arbroath but his interests were wide-ranging, from the Vikings to the story of Scottish emigration. His work was underpinned by a conviction that history was nothing without an understanding of the role of ordinary people. His regular contributions to the *Gazette* reflected the depth, breadth and eclectic curiosity of his commitment to local history.

A larger than life character in every way, he was a redoubtable raconteur, passionate in argument, an enthusiastic contrarian and a droll and warm-hearted friend. Born in Edinburgh,



he was brought up in Dumfries and always identified as a Doonhamer. His first wife, Alison, died in 1994. He is survived by their three children, Karen, Morna and David. In 2004 he married Lizanne Henderson, a fellow historian.

A full appreciation of Ted and his contribution to the life of Galloway and the Glenkens will be published in the next edition of the *Gazette*. He will be sorely missed.

GALLOWAY TOPS NATIONAL PARK POLL

Galloway has emerged as the clear winner in a vote to choose Scotland's next national park.

The on-line poll organised by the *Scots Magazine* featured seven potential locations for a proposed third park. Galloway scooped more than half the votes,

outstripping support for the other six candidates combined.

Galloway received 1250 votes, 51% of the total and well ahead of nearest rivals, Borders with 19% and Argyll on 12%. The remaining areas - Ben Nevis/Glencoe, Glen Affric, Wester Ross and Harris each returned single figure percentages.

Rob Lucas, chairman of the Galloway National Parks Association, has welcomed

the result as a clear indication of enthusiasm for Galloway's claim. The news comes ahead of a scheduled meeting with Lorna Slater, MSP, the minister responsible for recommending which area should be granted national park status.

Mr Lucas said: "We look forward to meeting the minister and making our case in the spring. There is clearly a real ground swell of support."

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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Join the Community Action Plan Steering Group

You may already have heard of the Glenkens and District Community Action Plan – a set of actions that the Glenkens communities set as their priorities in 2020.

The Action Plan was commissioned by the Glenkens and District Trust (GDT) to start setting out which projects or plans local people want to see happening in our area. The overall goal of the Action Plan is that this will be a connected, resilient and carbon neutral place, where people will want to live, to work, to bring up their families and to grow old.

The next stage is to evolve the Community Action Plan Steering Group, originally set up by GDT, to sit within the community and be the custodian of the Action Plan. It will be nine people, of all life experiences and interests from across our communities, who will review progress against the Plan, suggest interventions if some actions aren't getting done, and ensure that the Action Plan remains up-to-date and relevant as our communities change.

The recent new role of GCAT Executive Manager, held by Helen Keron, includes a remit to support this group by ensuring that the actions they request are carried out, which means the group will be able to make a real difference in the area.

There are five places currently available as this group gets going, so if you have an interest in seeing stuff get done and can spare a

few hours every couple of months for pre-reading and meeting attendance, then this could be of real interest to you.

It's open to everyone from across the Glenkens and wider district, which goes down both sides of Loch Ken as far as Bridge of Dee, Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham, and it's important that the nine members represent the geographical breadth of the area as well as a variety of life experiences and interests.

If you'd like to know more, visit www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/get-involved for the 'Terms of Reference' of the Steering Group, or contact Fiona Smith (Chair of GDT) for an informal chat about the role on Fiona.smith1@btinternet.com. The deadline for applications to join is 28 February 2022.

You can view the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan at www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/community-action-plan

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

Write to:

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Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

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Glenkens & District

Community Action Plan

Do you want our communities to be the best that they can be?

Are you a new resident, or have you been here for years?

Old hand at committees, or new to community development?

You should consider joining the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan Steering Group!

The Steering Group is the custodian of the Community Action Plan and will ensure that the actions get carried out and that the plan remains relevant to us all.

All are welcome on this exciting new group.

There are 5 spaces currently available, open to people from across the Glenkens and district of all ages and with all life experiences and interests.

For more info, see www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/community-action-plan Or contact Fiona Smith (Chair of Glenkens and District Trust) for an informal chat about the role on Fiona.smith1@btinternet.com

Application deadline 28th February 2022.

GLENKENS HOUSING SURVEY

Glenkens District Trust (GDT) and South of Scotland Community Housing (SOSCH) are working together to assess housing needs and demands across the area.

The online survey has been open since December, and we are keen

to hear from people who have experienced issues identifying suitable accommodation that is affordable to them in the Glenkens and wider district. Whether renting or buying, relocating or returning to the area, we ask that you take a few moments to fill out the survey and have your voice heard.

This information will help us to understand the bigger housing picture, and develop plans for the future that meet the needs of those who would wish to live here.

You can access the survey by scanning the QR link below or online

at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GlenkensHousingSurvey

If you would like a paper copy, or have any questions, please contact Stacy on 07902 714 340 or stacy.sosch@outlook.com

Stacy Bradley-Davidson, SOSCH

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Community Housing





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The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

National Planning Framework Consultation

Have Your Say...

The government is currently consulting on National Planning Framework 4, a long-term plan that sets out where development and infrastructure is needed in an area.

In practical terms, the document will have an influence on things like transport networks, tourism, de-carbonisation, renewable energy and electricity infrastructure development, forestry, natural capital and land use change.

It will guide national planning

policies, designate national developments and highlight regional spatial priorities. The Framework will be part of the development plan, and so influence planning decisions across Scotland.

Each area of Scotland has a different spatial strategy - ours comes under the South of Scotland, broadly including Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders. In this area the plans set out ambitions to:

- create a low carbon network of towns
- support sustainable development
- innovate to sustain and enhance natural capital
- strengthen resilience and decarbonise connectivity

The draft plan was published on 10 November 2021 and is now being

followed by a public consultation which closes on 31 March 2022. Following parliamentary process and analysis of the public responses, the government hopes to adopt the plan by late summer 2022.

So now is your chance to get involved and have your say! This is really important, and the government is encouraging everyone to get involved. You can respond to the consultation by going online at www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/get-involved

The website has lots of useful background information and resources to help you formulate a response, or you can always contact your local community councillors to discuss.

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SOME WARTIME DETECTIVES

There are a number of authors who have set, or started, their books during WWII.

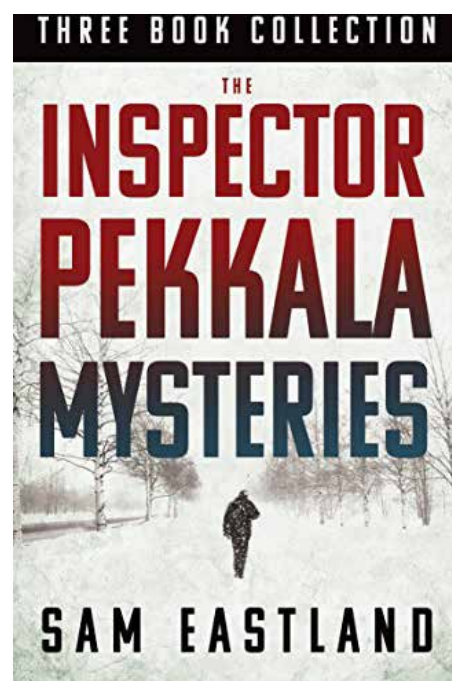
Following the success of early books most have continued the chronology after 1945 and into the post-war period. The works of **Sam Eastland**, **Philip Kerr**, **John Lawton**, **Luke McCallin** and **Ben Pastor** are generally well-written and reasonably engrossing, demonstrate decent historical research and are

widely available still. The authors manage to give most of the leading characters some depth and a few human failings.

Sam Eastland has written seven books in the *Inspector Pekkala* series. The first, *The Eye of the Red Tsar*, is set in 1930s Stalinist Russia and provides much of the framework for the subsequent books. My personal favourite is the second, *The Red Coffin*, set amongst the development of the famous T-34 battle tank.

Philip Kerr introduces us to a private detective, Bernie Gunther, as he tries to navigate his way through the dangerous world of Berlin in the 1930s. The first, *March Violets*, is followed by 13 others that take us through the war and beyond. I have enjoyed them all but found it best to leave a decent interval between them.

John Lawton, in *Blackout*, introduces us to Frederick Troy investigating crimes in wartime London. The subsequent books develop his career,



although not always strictly chronologically. *Second Violin* is set earliest in his career.

Ben Pastor's *Martin Bora* is a German soldier who investigates crimes during WWII across Europe. He is less than committed to the Nazi cause and the books are enjoyable. I have not read them all but the first two, *Lumen* and *Liar Moon*, were excellent, as was *The Tin Sky*. The books are not set chronologically.

Luke McCallin brings us the German soldier, Gregor Reinhardt, who is tasked with undertaking criminal investigations for the German army in WWII. There are

only a few books and one of them picks up his early life in WWI. *From A Dark Horizon* and *The Man from Berlin* are probably the best two to start with.

There are, of course, many more authors and their wartime detectives. However, the above are ones that I myself have read and enjoyed.

Bruce Smith



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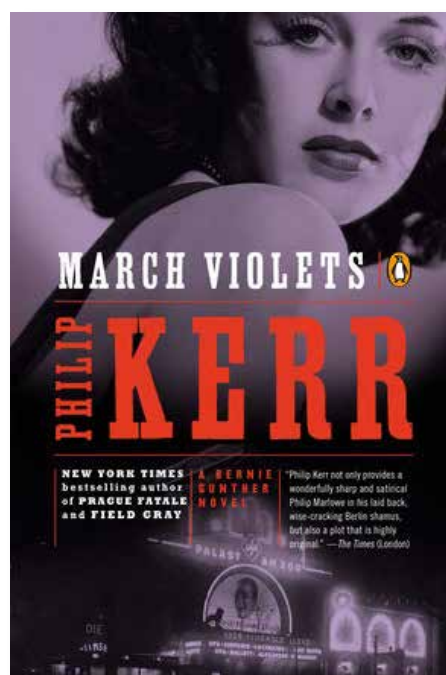
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CatStrand Highlights

It is starting to get busy at CatStrand, with plenty of music, great theatre and dance on its way.

The impact of Omicron has unfortunately meant that we have had to postpone **Rapture Theatre's** The Guys & **Mairi Campbell's** Auld Lang Syne. We hope to reschedule both for 2023.

GIGS

We have three big gigs coming up with **The Paul McKenna Band** on Saturday 12 February, **Moishe's Bagel** on Monday 3 March and **Roddy Woomble** on Friday 25 March.

The *New York Times* described **The Paul McKenna Band** as "the best folk band to have come out of Scotland in the last twenty years". Paul and his band draw on both Scottish and Irish roots in a dynamic, full-bodied array of original and traditional material, along with songs by like-minded authors.

Moishe's Bagel are well-known locally so it's easy to forget their international reputation. They were aptly described by *The Scotsman* as "putting the class into unclassifiable". Their music is an intoxicating, life-affirming mix of Eastern European dance music, Middle Eastern rhythms and virtuoso performance.

Roddy Woomble is widely

regarded as one of Scotland's finest songwriters, known for his enigmatic lyrics, warm baritone voice and consummate gift for a tune. As the frontman of Idlewild, Roddy has toured the world as a headline act as well as a support act to REM, Pearl Jam and U2, amongst others.

DANCE & THEATRE

Friday 4 March sees **Suzi Cunningham's** double bill, *Rules to Live By* and *Eidos*, presented at CatStrand. These are stunningly visual female solo Butoh dance and physical theatre pieces, exploring idolatry and identity. *Rules to Live By* is a raw and riotous movement-led tribute to Mark E Smith (lead singer of The Fall). A glittery and rebellious aspiration to a hero's punk anarchy; a requiem for heroism, hedonism, rebirth, with dark disturbing humour. *Eidos* is a tribute to Suzi's grandmother, a punk in her own right, and Suzi's personal Vivienne Westwood.

On Friday 11 March we host a new show made for youngsters aged 10-14 years (as well as adults). Delve into the mind of a super-sleuth in this new production of one of the most popular Sherlock Holmes stories. A four-strong cast present an exciting and thrilling mystery, featuring a feisty heroine overcoming a domineering presence

in her life. *Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band* by **Théâtre Sans Frontières** is a gothic world of suspense, edgy live music and melodrama.

KEN BRIDGE BI-CENTENARY EVENTS

2022 marks two hundred years since the completion of the Ken Bridge. Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 March sees the first of a programme of events taking place across the year.

On 26 March Ken Words will hold a special **Word Ceilidh** at the Ken Bridge Hotel. On 27 March, **The Glenkens Story** have arranged an afternoon of talks entitled *Crossing the Ken: Bridges, Fords and Ferries*, discussing the crossings of the Ken, the people who created and used them and the stories they told.

CatStrand has commissioned harpist and composer **Wendy Stewart** to write a Ken Bridge song-suite, using the river Ken, the crossing, and the life of engineer John Rennie as inspiration. On the evening of Sunday 27 March, this will be premiered at a special concert of **The Galloway Agreement** at Dalry Town Hall. Not to be missed!



The Galloway Agreement performing at Crichton Church.



GALLOWAY GLENS
Landscape Partnership

FOOTPATHS

Supported through the Galloway Glens Scheme

GLENKENS PILGRIMS WAY

Barely accessible beforehand, this historic route from Polmaddy to Carsphairn has been secured and improved.

CARSPHAIRN

The Galloway Glens Scheme runs until September 2023. We are supporting more than 35 projects up and down the Ken/Dee valley, including a series of footpath works. Have you tried out the routes improved by the scheme so far? Some are complete, some underway and others in planning – with a focus on local contractors and materials. For more information, see our website or get in touch...

KEN BRIDGE APPROACH

Exploring the opportunity for a new off-road path from New Galloway to the Ken Bridge.

UNDER DEVELOPMENT

NEW GALLOWAY LINK PATH

A new off-road link from the New Galloway Golf Club woods into the Galloway Forest Park, including a bridge over the Knocknairling Burn.

GLENKENS PILGRIMS WAY, PHASE 2

Exploring the potential for an extension of the route from Polmaddy to the Southern Upland Way.

UNDER DEVELOPMENT

DALRY

NEW GALLOWAY

LOCH KEN

CROSSMICHAEL COMMUNITY WOODLAND

800m of path resurfaced, with a new bridge + picnic area.

BLACKPARK PATH, CASTLE DOUGLAS through Threave Estate to Bridge of Dee

Working with NTS, this popular route was resurfaced, with a spur onto Kelton Mains Farm and a new section to the Bridge of Dee. 'Threave Trim Trail' also installed.

CASTLE DOUGLAS

OTTER POOLS

A short circular route installed around the Otter Pools site, coinciding with construction of the new toilet block.

MOSSDALE TO GATEHOUSE RAILWAY LINE

Supported D&G Council colleagues to improve the surfacing, with a new bridge at Loch Skerrow, allowing pedestrian access as far as the Big Water of Fleet viaduct.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT

TORRS POINT, KIRKCUDBRIGHT BAY

Surfacing and drainage on this coastal route.

The Galloway Glens Scheme is an initiative of the Council's Environment Team.



PRIMARY FUNDER:



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PROJECT IN FOCUS

South of Scotland Tree Planting Grant Scheme

In the year of COP26 and with our ever-increasing focus on reducing our carbon footprint, the new South of Scotland Tree Planting Grant scheme was introduced across Dumfries & Galloway.

Since the launch of the scheme, a large proportion of applications for the small-scale planting of native trees has come from right here in the Glenkens.

Originally developed by the Woodland Trust, Scottish Borders Council and Tweed Forum, the scheme has been running since 2014 in the Scottish Borders Council area. With help from Dumfries & Galloway Council, a generous private donation and Lottery funding, the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership was able to step up to extend the delivery of the scheme across the whole of the Dumfries & Galloway region.

Although we are well endowed with woodland and forestry, most of this is commercial timber. Much of the older, mature native woodland is in decline as trees succumb to age and disease and are often not replaced. The South of

Scotland Tree Planting Grant scheme (with the snappy acronym of 'SoSTPG') is designed to encourage the creation of small areas of new native woodland and tree planting by funding the cost of trees, protective tubes/stakes and minor fencing works costing up to £1,000. Many successful grant applicants have added their own funds and resources to the grant to create even bigger planting schemes to create new woodland, replace field boundary trees or new tree planting in existing mature woodland.

Aside from the carbon capture

local communities.

Since the beginning of 2021 the scheme has awarded 51 grants to a wide range of individuals, farms, businesses, schools and community groups, which has resulted in over 8,000 new trees being planted across the region.

Interest has been particularly high in the Glenkens and surrounding area with over 15 grants being awarded to successful recipients so far. We are particularly excited to see applications have been received from Dalry School and other community groups.

This season's tree planting will be completed by the end of March, but we are now working hard to secure funds to repeat this offer next year.

This scheme will add to the landscape of the Glenkens in coming years and will hopefully contribute to the next generation of mature, native trees to be enjoyed by future generations.

As the saying goes, "the best time to plant a tree was 80 years ago – the second best time is now..."

Jonathan Barrett



One of the scheme's Glenkens applicants, Balmacellan's Lynn Stewart, showing Jonathan Barrett round her newly planted trees.

For further details of this scheme contact 07469 571806 or jonathan.barrett@dumgal.gov.uk

This project is part funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Dumfries & Galloway Council and private donations. The scheme is delivered locally by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership.



Sponsored page, working in partnership



Youth Arts Programme Gets Going Again at CatStrand

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) welcomes Catherine Campbell as its new CatStrand Youth Arts Co-ordinator, after Lucy Smith moved on at the end of last year.

Catherine (Cat) brings a wealth of experience in running youth and community arts programmes to the role and, having started in January, her appointment represents a new start for the New Year for Youth Arts in the Glenkens.

Peter Renwick - arts, culture and heritage manager for GCAT - said: "It's brilliant to have Catherine

on board. She brings a fresh new approach to the programme and 2022 promises to be an excellent year for our Youth Arts programme. Be sure to keep an eye out on the CatStrand Youth Arts Facebook page and our website for new and exciting events, workshops and activities for people aged from four to 25. Many of the events will be free or very low cost. As ever, thanks are due to the Holywood Trust for their ongoing support of this role – it's very much appreciated."

Catherine Campbell said: "I'm absolutely delighted to join the team at GCAT. I moved to the Glenkens six months ago and have been really keen to get involved in the work of the CatStrand because of its excellent reputation for delivery of arts.

"As an artist and a parent, I have always been passionate and committed to inspiring and developing the skills and ambitions of young people in arts, culture and creativity.

"I have a degree in Fine Art and Theatre, and a Masters degree in Arts Management, and have spent the last 12 years leading projects involving children and young people in the arts across Yorkshire.

"I am so excited to lead and deliver a youth-led arts programme which really champions and inspires children and



GCAT welcomes new Youth Arts Co-ordinator, Catherine Campbell.

young people in the area. I welcome children, young people and families to contact me with their thoughts and ideas about what they would like to see on the programme.

"I am also keen to expand our pool of creative practitioners so if you are an artist, musician, dancer, writer or have any other creative skill and would be interested in working with children and young people, I'd love to hear from you."

You can contact Catherine on catherine@catstrand.com or 01644 420 374 or check out the CatStrand brochure, Facebook or www.gcat.scot for details of upcoming events.



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Last Day Of Term at Dalry Secondary School

Wednesday 22 December was the last day of term in 2021.

The secondary pupils celebrated the end of term with various activities.

The main event was the church service but, with COVID restrictions in place, there were no family members or primary pupils present.

There were several musical performances from pupils, carol singing and a short message from Reverend Bartholomew, reminding us of the meaning of Christmas.

After the service the pupils returned to the school and spent the rest of

the day enjoying a range of activities including board games and crafts.

It was a challenging term with rising COVID infection levels and restrictions continuing but we pulled through it together.

Now into 2022, pupils and staff are looking forward to a new year where hopefully things will improve. The senior pupils are already preparing for prelims and looking towards their final exams.

Perhaps this will be the year where things return to normal?

Colin McEwan

Pictured: secondary pupils' visit to Dalry Church.



LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

P3,4,5 have been busy investigating and exploring through their play and enquiry based learning this term.

The pupils decided they wanted to know more about Robert Burns, so we put together a mini 'When Burns was a Bairn' topic.

We researched life in the 1700s, created models in Minecraft of the style of cottages, learned to blether in Scots, rewrote the story of *The*

Gruffalo in Scots, had a wee jig to some Scottish music and topped off our learning with a fantastic Burns' Supper and Scots poetry competition.

All the pupils were brilliant and made their teachers very proud. Celebrating Robert Burns been really great opportunity to investigate Scottish history... I just wonder where the inquisitive minds of P3,4,5 with take us next time?

Jenna Devlin



Easter Arts & Crafts Fair

Once again Dalry Town Hall hosted a successful Art and Crafts Fair at the end of November 2021.

The weather was not on our side but with true Dumfries and Galloway spirit many of our exhibitors turned up. The hardy souls that braved the cold and wet were treated to some beautiful, handcrafted items and pieces of artwork which could be purchased as unique gifts for family and friends.

We had the outside Pop-Up Café under cover, serving hot drinks and

delicious homemade cakes.

Following on from this successful event we will host an Easter Art & Crafts Fair on Sunday 17 April from 11am until 3pm.

Some of the designers and crafters that came have already booked their stalls which helped us make the decision to have another fair. Again, we will be having the Pop-Up Café and there may be an Easter egg hunt for the younger ones and an Easter bonnet competition for everyone, judged by one of our artist/crafters. More details will follow so look out for the posters in the coming weeks.

Finally, I wish to extend a very big

"thank you" to everyone who helped out with the Christmas fair, and to all the exhibitors and customers who supported our efforts. All the money raised goes towards the Dalry Town Hall refurbishment fund and, on behalf of the hall management committee, I thank all the residents and visitors.

Keep an eye out for further details at www.dalrytownhall.co.uk and on the Dalry Arts & Craft Fair Facebook page.

Lesley Blissett, chair, Dalry Town Hall management committee

Pictured are some of the art and craft items for sale at the Christmas fair.



Glenkens Local Food Network

We just want to say a massive "thank you" to everyone who signed up and used the Festive Food Hub.

The trial was a great success, both for local producers and consumers. It wasn't without hiccups but, thankfully, they were few and far between.

Propagate is now looking for funding to support the set-up and running costs of the first year of a permanent Food Hub for the area. This is likely to evolve over time, starting small and

growing with demand.

We are looking for more local producers to get involved – if you grow veg locally and often end up with a surplus, or would like to grow some for the Hub, please get

in touch. We always need more veg, and our current producers can't provide enough for everyone! We don't want to have to buy veg in and would much rather work cooperatively and collaboratively with local growers of all sizes.

We're also planning a series of events through the year to connect gardeners and growers and to share skills, knowledge, produce and wisdom. The first of these is penciled in for Saturday 19 March in New Galloway Town Hall – a Seed Swap and Gardeners Get Together. Save the date - I look forward to seeing you there!

*Abi Mordin,
Propagate*



Festive Food Hub boxes being delivered by Beth from Propagate.

Zero Footprint 12 Years On

Zero Footprint 12 Years On is an exhibition by local photographers Ted Leeming and Morag Paterson which will be on display at the CatStrand from 1 February until 1 March.

Ted and Morag visually explore their home patch of 11 acres of natural regeneration and native woodland planting. The photos explore the human and non-human habitats both 'inside' the boundary lines and looking to 'outside', where the landscape is likely to change rapidly over the next decade due to new agricultural subsidies, forest expansion and the rush to buy

carbon credits and secure natural capital.

The project combines traditional photography with some experimental and abstract photographic processes, rather than addressing the subject from a purely documentary point of view.

There will also be old and new maps on display, soil chromatography and paper made from naturally re-generated willow trees, and a chance to contribute your own thoughts and ideas to the conversation, which will then go on to inform future works.

There will be an informal 'talks and conversations' event on the evening of Thursday 24 February. Spaces are limited so please contact CatStrand on 01644 420 374 to book.



Take a Dip on the Wild Side

Continued from front page...

I was nervous at first of the sheer expanse of Loch Ken (and the thought of the huge pike which inhabit it), having become used to the security of urban swimming pools. However, I soon conquered those fears and am happy to say that I am smitten but never bitten, and I haven't heard of anyone suffering any ill consequences from the loch's aquatic residents. In fact, in summer you can indulge in the equivalent of a spa treatment by lounging by the loch and having the minnows nibble your toes. This is quite a pleasant experience for which some people pay a fortune, but here in the Glenkens it's free!

Of course, like any outdoor pursuit, the sense of freedom has to be accompanied by a sense of responsibility. You have to watch for sudden surges caused by the hydro system. And never ever go swimming by yourself.

A couple of hundred yards downstream from Dalry is the pool by a rock known as Cat Craig. On sunny summer days, the place can be alive with folks of all ages enjoying the beach and the calm waters. And not everyone gives up when the weather turns fresher. The shock of plunging into cold water can become an addictive pleasure!

In Crossmichael, a group meet regularly under the friendly, careful supervision of Jim, who takes his boat onto the loch in order to keep a watchful eye on the condition of the water and the progress and safety of swimmers. These supervised swims take place on Sundays at 10am throughout the year and also, from Easter to October, on Wednesdays at 5pm. It is best to wear a high-vis item such as a fluorescent head cap or a tow-float so that you are immediately visible and can be spotted if you get into trouble. A small donation of a pound or so for the

running costs of the safety boat is the only expense.

As you swim from the pier at Crossmichael you get a stunning view of the lower loch and the gentle grassy slopes of the parish of Balmaghie. You also share the loch with wildlife so it is important to respect this and, during nesting season, to avoid approaching too close to potential waterfowl nesting sites.

Swimming smoothly into an unbroken mirror of reflections, or catching the rising or setting sun's liquid light, can be truly magical.

Anyone who can swim confidently is welcome to come along - the mixed-ability gathering includes children following in their inspirational grandmother's wake, triathlon athletes and leisurely-paced swimmers like myself. You can build up your confidence near the shallow shores or swim across to Balmaghie and back - it's up to you.

Freshwater swimming has many benefits. It stimulates the release of 'happy' hormones (dopamine), leaving you energised and smiling in a post-swim 'high'. In the long run, it boosts your immune system as well as your sense of wellbeing. It improves sleep and helps lower stress levels. And, of course, there are the benefits of sharing an activity with others. I also find that being at one with nature, and

feeling a sense of blending in with your surroundings, brings a wholesome spiritual dimension to the experience. Swimming smoothly into an unbroken mirror

of reflections, or catching the rising or setting sun's liquid light, can be truly magical.

In cold water, you need to move, though; your own efforts gradually warm you from inside and the water starts to feel comfortable - you can tame the cold. And when it rains you can enjoy a frog's view of the bouncing droplets!

Wetsuit or no wetsuit? While there are amazing individuals locally who have built up the ability to swim all year without a wetsuit, I am sadly not one of them...yet. I use a suit that is designed for this type of swimming. I have just paid £150 for a new one, the 'old' one having lasted me over two years of weekly swims. I also use swimming gloves and socks in the cooler months. If you feel ready to peel off the wetsuit and re-enter the water after some energetic strokes, the tingling sensation of the water directly on your own skin is curiously delicious!

Most importantly, keep safe. Advice is available both online, through Facebook groups such as Dumfries and Galloway Wild Swimmers, and through the local community of wild swimmers. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Anne Chaurand



Crossing Loch Ken on a winter morning.

DAISY'S BIG QUESTION

This piece of flash fiction by local author Paul Goodwin was first published in *Southlight* in Spring 2019 and has also been published on www.storiesforlipreading.org.uk

"Mummy?"

"Yes Daisy?"

"Why don't people speak to me?"

The question came as a shock, although it shouldn't have.

"You speak to me... and daddy... and Poppy... and Nana... and the lady who came to see us last week, but other people don't. They just nod or smile."

Raising a child on a farm presents lots of challenges, keeping Daisy safe from animals and machinery was a full-time job once she learnt to walk and she is such an adventurous child. She is keen to learn her letters and numbers before she starts nursery next year and she can already write her name so we are working on writing her address now.

"Why mummy?"

She has had all her injections and we bought the best child's car seat. We even changed our old Land-Rover for something with a better safety rating. Anything to protect her.

"Why?"

"Daisy, you know that there are different countries?" Daisy nods in reply.

"Well, people in different countries often speak different languages and they don't know how to speak to each other. People don't speak to you because they don't speak your language."

"Oh." (a long pause) "Could we go to the country where people speak my language?"

"I'm sorry Daisy, we can't do that".

I wish more people would learn British Sign Language!

Neil's Comic Capers



Neil Paterson can be commissioned to do cartoons for special events and occasions such as retirements, birthdays, weddings, etc. To get in touch email pater5365@yahoo.co.uk

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

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2 x queen size mattresses. 1 sofa (preferably a sofa bed). Contact: Sarah on 07453 858 505 or saraheathomas@gmail.com

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We've been here for almost two years renting, are active in the local community and want to put down roots.

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Contact: Abi and Bruce on 07340 531506 or abi@mordin.net

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

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Eco Feature

GLENKENS ENERGY CAFES

sponsored by



Glenkens Community & Arts Trust have been successful in an application to the Rural Communities Ideas Into Action Fund for a grant to pilot Energy Cafés in three locations in the Glenkens.

These will be held in Balmacellan, Carsphairn and Crossmichael:

- The Smiddy, Balmacellan, on Saturday 26 February from 11am to 4pm
 - The Memorial Hall, Crossmichael, on Saturday 12 March from 11am to 4pm
 - Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, on Sunday 26 March from 11am to 4pm
- I am hoping to have as many partners as possible in attendance,

giving advice on energy saving, how to decipher energy bills and make sure you're on the right tariff, examples of energy efficiency technology, advice on fuel poverty and how to get out of it, etc.

We are purchasing some plug-in energy monitors that will be available for people to borrow to ascertain where they are using the most energy.

These events will be set out like a café, with a number of tables with cakes and tea and coffee and, at each table, one of our partners offering information and advice. People can move round the tables - a bit like energy info speed dating! I am very keen to hear your thoughts and suggestions on this, and if you can think of any other potential partners that could be helpful to have there that would be wonderful.

As you can imagine, time is of the essence so a speedy response would be great please - you can get hold of me at fiona@catstrand.com or 01644 420 374.



*Thank you and best wishes,
Fiona Limbrey, GCAT Volunteer,
Capacity Building & Community
Resilience Officer*



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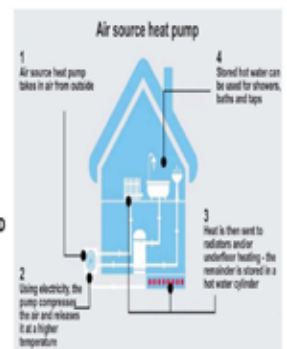
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The Optimistic Environmentalist

Water, water, everywhere..?

The majority of the earth is covered by water, but only one percent is not salty from the sea or frozen.

Of this, only a small amount is in reservoirs or wells for us to drink. What many of us use has to be cleaned for drinking water and the waste is re-cleaned to recycle again. This is expensive, time-consuming and energy intensive - Scottish Water is one of the highest-energy consumers in Scotland!

Saving water helps reduce our energy bill too. Around one fifth of the average household's heating bills goes in heating water.

Think before you throw water away - can it be used for something else?

Pets need fresh water at all times, so it's better to partly fill their bowls regularly than fill them up and throw a lot away.

Saving Water in the Kitchen

Save water and energy - only fill the kettle with the amount of water you need. Buy a kettle which lets you fill just the amount for the cupfuls you want to boil at any one time.

When you want to have fresh water in your kettle, don't just empty it down the sink - think of something you can do with it; defrost your birdbath or use it for pot plants once cool.

Re-use water from your vegetable steamer - flush the toilet or, once cooled and filtered, put in your water butt/s outside. If you boil your veg in water, use it to make gravy so you benefit from the extra vitamins too.

A dripping tap can waste over 5,500 litres of water a year - that's enough to fill a paddling pool every week for the whole summer, or over 15 litres a day. Make sure taps are turned off properly or replace the washer, or the tap if necessary.

Wash your dishes in a basin or bowl instead of under a running tap. Dishwashers can use less water than hand washing as they spray the water to clean the pots rather than dowsing

dishes in a lot of water. Wait for a full load though, and use the 'eco' setting, saving water and energy.

Did you know? A tap left running while washing dishes or fruit and vegetables for 10 minutes can use around 110 litres of water, which disappears straight down the drain!

Use a washing machine with full loads and on 'eco' settings where possible. For smaller washes, use the half load cycle; some machines measure how much water is needed for a particular load. When buying a washing machine or dishwasher, don't just look at its price, compare its water and energy usage and its 'eco' settings.

Saving Water in the Bathroom

Showers and baths use the most water in the home (30%), and make up around a fifth of the average household energy bill. Using a shower instead of a bath can save two thirds of the water. Knocking just one minute off your normal shower can save over

water every day, and between 5% and 8% of toilets leak, most commonly dual flush toilets.

If you have easy access to your cistern, put food dye or a dye tablet in the cistern and wait 20 minutes. If the water in the toilet bowl is coloured, you have a leak.

Saving Water in the Garden

Did you know? A hosepipe can use enough water in 30 minutes to fill five baths. Use a watering can instead of a hose; it's more accurate, placing the water where it is most needed. Watering plants early in the morning or late in the evening not only stops them from being burnt by the sun, but also reduces evaporation. Fit your hose pipe with a trigger nozzle so it only runs when you need it to.

Use a water butt. Fit it with a tap; either empty into a watering can or container or fit a hosepipe. You can fit a number of permanent pipes and butts together to carry more garden rainfall around the garden including into the greenhouse. Cover the butts in plants or decorate them.

Did you know? Rainwater contains nitrogen which helps your plants thrive.

A small Scottish roof collects over 45,000 litres of water each year, more than enough to keep your water butt topped up. Just fit a diverter on the downpipe from the roof to drain water into the butt.

Use a bucket and sponge to wash the car rather than a hose pipe. Even better, use the water out of your water butt! To water your pot plants, use water from the butt with the watering can even for your inside plants.

Leaking Pipes

It's important to get leaking pipes fixed as soon as possible. If the leaks are in your house or on your land, it will be your responsibility. Remember, not only are you wasting water but it can often end up in damaging your property, particularly when left for a while.

Make sure you and your family know where your stopcock is so when you have a water problem, you can shut it off straight-away - stopcocks are not always easily found, particularly if you are panicking.



2,600 litres of water and 27kg of CO₂ per person each year - try a shower timer. Although you need to watch out for power showers as they can use as much water as a bath!

Turning off the tap when brushing your teeth or shaving can save 5 litres a minute and over 3,700 litres a year per person. Putting the water into a mug instead means what is left can be used for other purposes, eg for cleaning the toilet.

When you buy a toilet, check how much water is used per flush. If you have an older toilet, reduce the amount of water used by putting a brick, large stone or a toilet 'hippo' (an inflated bag) into the cistern; these can be removed for a particularly large flush.

Did you know? A leaking toilet can waste between 215 and 400 litres of

Anniversary Fundraising for New Galloway Town Hall

A recent email from Canada triggered a look into the history of New Galloway Town Hall.

The enquirer was seeking a portrait of her great-great-grandfather. There was, unfortunately, no portrait, but we did discover something very interesting about him. Situated in the town hall is a plaque in memory of Dr Millman, the provost of the Royal Burgh of New Galloway from 1868 to 1881 and the enquirer's great-great-grandfather. Among his work as provost, Dr Millman was instrumental in raising funds in 1872 to replace the town hall clock. There is a wonderfully comprehensive minute of the meeting of the town council at which the

provost made the case for a new clock: "He had called the council together for the purpose of consulting them as

to the advisability of making an attempt to remove the stigma that had for many years adhered to the Burgh in consequence of the utterly worthless condition of the town clock as a timekeeper... The time had arrived when exertions should be made to replace it by a new clock which should not only be of use to the inhabitants, but also an ornament to the Burgh."

The new clock was first set in motion by Mrs Maxwell of Glenlee, one minute before noon on Friday 20 September 1872. This was not quite the end of the story, however, because "in consequence of a violent storm of wind and a defect in fixing by the Mason, the West dial fell out and was destroyed on the 3 January 1873. It was replaced without delay."

Dr Millman's fundraising had been very successful. He gathered £190 with, it would appear, very strong support from the Burgh as there is a list of 290 subscribers. The first name on the list is Dr Millman himself, who donated two guineas. A guinea was one pound and one shilling. The donations ranged from five guineas to one shilling.

Now, exactly 150 years later, there is fundraising afoot once again for the Town Hall. Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING), the charity which has been managing the hall for the last five years, has been awarded a grant of £175,000 to refurbish the hall but needs to match that by raising another £175,000 and, as you can imagine, further grants are being sought. If the total of £350,000 can be reached then LING is confident that "exertions can be made... to

...the stigma that had for many years adhered to the Burgh in consequence of the utterly worthless condition of the town clock as a timekeeper...

remove the stigma that has for many years adhered to the Burgh in consequence of the utterly worthless condition"... well, that's a bit over the top, but the look of the hall is certainly in need of improvement and a lift will open the upper hall to everyone.

A crowd-funding initiative was set up on 29 January this year



The plaque in the Town Hall dedicated to Dr Millman.

and all readers are enthusiastically encouraged to please donate and share the page - every pound donated is worth two because of the matched funding, so every contribution is doubly significant.

Now it may be that following Dr Millman with two guineas is ambitious (two guineas of 1872 is equivalent to £250 today!) but one old shilling (say £6), or more if you can possibly afford it, would be wonderfully welcome.

We know some people are already fundraising for us and will be donating larger sums. The link to the crowdfunding page is www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/sos---save-our-space-new-galloway

Our reply to our Canadian enquirer included some photographs and further Millman details and concluded with information on the current fundraising. The LING treasurer added that it would be remiss of him not to invite them to donate, to which they have replied positively.

Please do join in this anniversary fundraising - it would be lovely if we can equal or exceed the 290 subscribers of 1872!

*Bob Glaister,
Treasurer, LING*



GLENKENS PLACE NAMES: PART XIV

About 500m or so from Carsphairn and on the west side of the Water of Deugh is the site of the deserted farm of Halfmark.

This is near the confluence of the Halfmark and Garryhorn Burns. This farm is shown as Halfmark on Ainslie's map of 1797 and on the OS 1st edition 6-inch map of 1853. Published at roughly the same time, in 1858, AE Thomson's *Plan of Woodhead* including portions of adjacent farms calls the place Half-Mark farm of Castlemaddy. This implies that it was once part of Castlemaddy Farm. At any rate in 1859 it comprised some 482 acres of which only six was arable or meadow, probably the area shown as 'Croft' that occupied a bend in the Water of Deugh. Most of the former farm was described as moss and hill pasture. The site has unfortunately been obliterated by forestry operations, with the first Sitka rotation already felled and a second about halfway to maturity. The farm was evidently still occupied in 1853. Thomson's map shows that Halfmark was connected to Castlemaddy to the south by what he calls a 'drove road'. The farm was unnamed on the second edition OS map in the 1880s but still appears to have been roofed. Upstream from the site of Halfmark farm with its garden is another area of better ground, occupying a loop in the Halfmark Burn where there is a small island indicated. This flat area was called Black Holm on Thomson's map, 'holm' being a Scots term for a flat, usually fertile area beside a river (eg Holm of Dalry). This holm has escaped afforestation in the 1970s perhaps due to its waterlogged nature after drainage stopped when Halfmark was abandoned. Thomson also shows a few small areas of trees surviving amongst the rocky sides of the Halfmark Burn, these being almost the only trees evident in an otherwise completely bare landscape. The Cleugh of Alraith (Cleugh of Auld Raith on Thomson, 1859) refuge

for native trees still exists.

Halfmark is a Scots term indicating a farm worth in rental terms half a merk, ie 80 pence. Cleugh is a Scots word meaning a ravine and is common in the Scottish Borders and Dumfries-shire, less so in Galloway. Alraith/Auld Raith may be derived from Scots Gaelic *Ail Raithe* 'bracken cliff/rock' maybe referring to the steep sides of the cleugh. Alternatively the generic could be Scots Gaelic *allt*, 'burn' so 'bracken burn' (the Thomson form rather suggests *allt*). Then again the specific might refer to Scots Gaelic *rath*, 'fort'. For further discussion on these terms see Place-Names of the Galloway Glens website.

Whatever the meaning of the specific term here it seems that the generic element *raith/rath* was fossilised as

speakers in the area?

Just across the Halfmark Burn from the Black Holm is the green oasis that holds the site of the former farm called Mossspark. This was a ruin on the OS 1st edition map and on Thomson's map it is termed "Ruins of Moss-park Farm steading". Thomson lists this as a large farm of some 1,684 acres of which only some 42 were classed as arable/meadow. Mossspark farm occupied the area between the Halfmark Burn and the Garryhorn Burn and extended all the way to the top of the ridge of the Rhinns of Kells, incorporating Craighit, from *Creag a' Chait*, 'wild-cat rock', Cairnsgarroch derived from *An Càrnas Gearrach*, 'the furrowed cairn-shaped hill' and Meaul from *Am Meall*, 'the lump'.

Between Craighit and Blackcraig is a

very peculiar name on the former farm of Mossspark. This is Pitiffers. There is another of these odd 'pitt' names in Carsphairn, that is Petillery in the very far north of the parish. Pitiffers looks rather like Scots Gaelic *Peit*, 'piece of land'+ *aifreann/aifrinn*, 'a religious mass' with English plural. However Pitiffers is quite near the lead mines at Woodhead so are we looking at some strange use of the standard English word 'pit'? There is a disused mine shaft near there shown on the OS 1:25k map.

Another possibility

is that the name derives from the surname Pettifer, common in England, with many spelling variants and which seems to be mainly found in the South East Midlands. This personal name is from Norman-French *pie de fer* 'iron-foot', as a nickname either for someone with a prosthesis or a mighty strong walker!

A further comparator might be Gleniffer Braes in Robertson Country Park near Paisley. This could be a lost stream-name in either place, -iffer would be from early Gaelic *ibar/iubhar*. So Pittifers might be *peit-iubhair*, 'yew-place', either referring directly to yews or via a stream-name. If so, it is very odd that we have two place-names possibly containing Scots Gaelic *peit* in Carsphairn parish.

Michael Ansell, Cars Fèarna



Na Gearrachan

a place-name when the local Gaelic pronunciation still sounded the terminal 'th'. The change of pronunciation of Gaelic th to 'h' was general in ordinary speech by about the fourteenth century, was later in the eastern Grampians than elsewhere and did not take place until the 16th century or even later in high-register poetic diction. It's possible that

Between Craighit and Blackcraig is a very peculiar name on the former farm of Mossspark. This is Pitiffers.

there would have been a time lag in the representation of the weakened sound in Scots spellings, since the weakening of articulation would have been progressive rather than sudden. Nonetheless it is a bit surprising to find the 'th' sound preserved here. Possibly familiarity with the name before the sound change, by Scots

Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Company

This issue's winner is Stephen Jackson with this unique shot of a Galloway 'deebra', spotted at the Red Deer Range situated on the A712 Queensway (heading out of New Galloway towards Newton Stewart).

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

Company owner and competition judge, Hannah Gould, said: "A rare sight, the deebra has always been elusive and shy. This beautiful animal can only be found in the deer parks of Galloway and there are hardly any photographs of these creatures. We feel privileged to see such a great close-up - it would be good to see some more of these lovely animals..."



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

Campaign to Have Witches Pardoned

Those who read the article on the witch Elspeth McEwan in the October/November edition of the Gazette may be interested to hear that there is a campaign afoot to have Scots witches who were convicted of witchcraft pardoned.

The 'Witches of Scotland' campaign hopes that an official apology could be issued on 8 March - International Women's Day.

Do you have the power to change the world?



The purpose and passion of local company Natural Power's founders has drawn similar people to Natural Power for over 25 years.

Despite our growth, our philosophy hasn't changed and our team continues to work together to create a world powered by renewable energy.

If you think you can help us make that happen, please have a look at some of the roles we are currently looking to fill - visit www.naturalpower.com/uk/careers

The Natural Power Team




New Galloway Golf Club

Founded 1902
www.nggc.co.uk
 - 01644 420737 -

Buggies now available for hire

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Gordon McAdam Plumbing & Heating

22 Kirkland Street
St John's Town of Dalry

01644 430 393
07834 321 789

HOUSE REPAIRS JOINERY



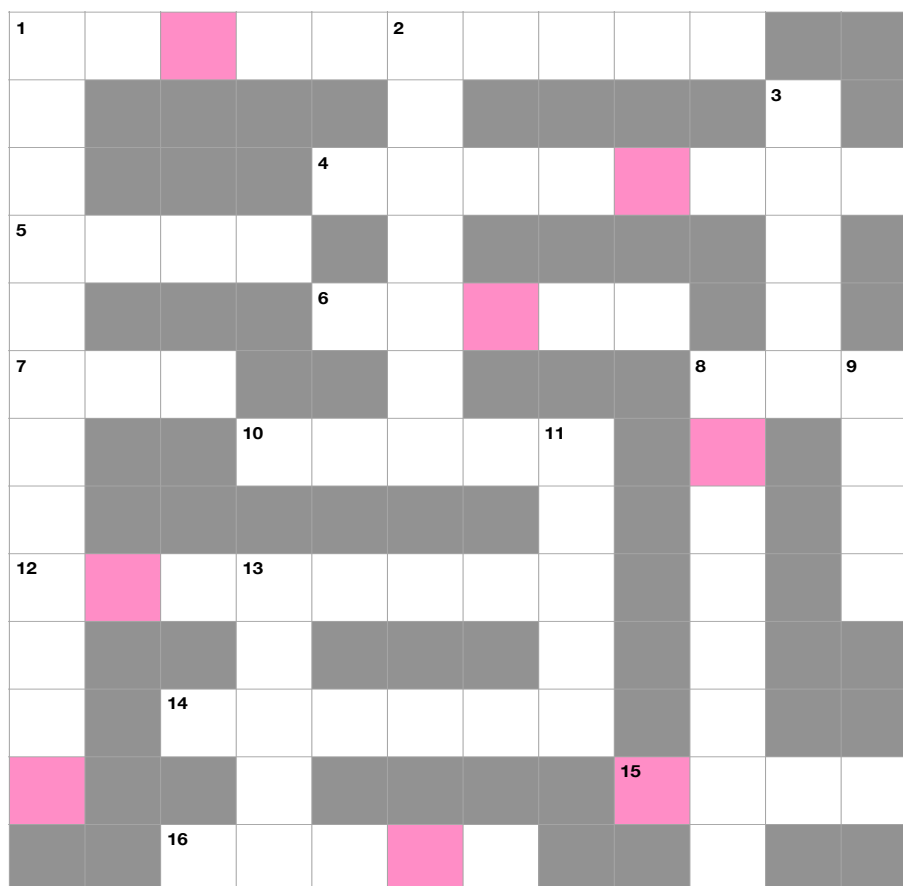
Semi-retired Furniture Maker & Builder in GLENKENS AREA

...special rates for inclusion of tea, cake and friendly banter...

Call Pete on 07970 462 088

GAZETTE CROSSWORD

This crossword is sponsored by Lancaster Wealth & Investment Management (see ad on p6), with a prize of a £25 voucher for the Clachan Inn. Congratulations to Danny & Heather Chipchase who won last issue's prize!



ACROSS

- 1 1840 invention that helped 400,000 Valentine's Day cards reach loved ones in its first year (5,5)
- 4 Frances McDormand won the Best Actress Oscar for her role in "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, _____" (8)
- 5 Film that was accidentally announced as the winner of Best Picture Oscar in 2017 "_____ Land" (2,2)
- 6 Word which when follows both Moon and Green, completes the titles of two Best Picture Oscar winners (5)
- 7 Benedict Cumberbatch stars in this 2021 Golden Globe winning film "The Power of the _____" (3)
- 8 An abundant colour at Chinese New Year, symbolising luck, joy and happiness (3)
- 10 In the Chinese Zodiac, the animal representing 2022 (5)
- 12 Best Picture Oscar winning South Korean black comedy (8)
- 14 Pancake Day is the informal name of "_____ Tuesday" (6)
- 15 Alfie Hewitt and Gordon _____ who won a ninth consecutive Wheelchair Grand Slam Doubles title at the Australian Open 2022 (4)
- 16 2021 Australian Open Women's Singles Champion, Naomi _____ (5)

DOWN

- 1 Tom Hanks won the Best Actor Oscar for this film (12)
- 2 The Winter Olympic Games start in February 2022 in this city (7)
- 3 French pancake made of a thin batter (5)
- 8 Australian Open match court, named after a successful Australian tennis star, "_____ Arena" (3, 5)
- 9 Cricketing term for a batsman being dismissed with a score of zero (4)
- 11 Winner of the Best Actress Oscar for her role in "Walk the Line" as June Carter - _____ Witherspoon (5)
- 13 Test cricket series played between England and Australia "The _____" (5)

Chance to win £25 in vouchers for The Clachan Inn, Dalry

Complete the crossword above and solve the anagram of the letters in the pink boxes.

Send the winning word to philip.lancaster@sjpp.co.uk
and a winner will be chosen at random. Good luck!

Glenkens Community Police

Happy New Year from all of us at Stewartry Community Policing Team.

Throughout 2021, we have continued to work together with our partner agencies and local communities to prevent and detect crime and keep people safe whilst at home, travelling, socialising and shopping across the region.

We continue to maintain a visible police presence throughout our communities, working towards raising awareness of both local and national campaigns.

The pandemic continues to generate uncertainty and has an impact on us all, but it is evident our communities have pulled together during the festive period and New Year celebrations.

We would like to thank you for your support and ongoing adherence of the guidance and restrictions put in place by the Scottish Government in effort to make our festive period safer and in effort to reduce the impact of the pandemic as we enter 2022.

As we move forward into the New Year, let's hope for a more prosperous year ahead. I hope 2022 brings a return to some kind of normality for local events to go ahead and I will hopefully see many of you while I'm out and about in the coming months.

PC Amy Baird



WINDY STANDARD WIND FARM COMMUNITY UPDATE

We would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy new year.

As we reflect on the past twelve months, despite its challenges, we have really valued the time that the community has spent talking to us and discussing our proposals for Windy Standard Wind Farm. The feedback that we have gathered has been fantastic and we hope to continue these conversations in 2022.

Looking forward, we plan to submit our application to the Scottish Government for the Windy Standard Repowering in late March. Ahead of then we will continue to speak to stakeholders and the local community and keep everyone up-to-date with our progress.



In the meantime, we are continuing to explore how we can reuse the blades we will be removing from the wind farm site. We are also looking into arranging an open day on site for when restrictions ease and the weather improves. We hope to see you there!

For further information you can visit the website www.windystandardwindfarm.co.uk

We want to hear your views - please contact us on communities@fredolsen.co.uk or 07435 763 900

New Flower Fairies Needed for New Galloway



New Galloway's flower fairies, Marion Briggs and Linda Garrety, have tended the community gardens of New Galloway for many years, bringing delight and pleasure to all who pass by.

Now it is time for them to hang up their wings and retire into their own gardens - so we need new flower fairies!

Are you green-fingered and would like to have a patch of garden to tend and, in doing so, bring joy to the folks of New Galloway? There



are two plots available; the garden at the entrance to the village on the Ken Bridge side and the larger garden beneath the Royal Burgh village sign. Whoever the willing heroes are who take this on will have free rein to create gardens of their own choosing and imagination.

If you think this is the project for you, Marion and Linda would be happy to talk to you about their experience to get you started. Marion can be contacted on 01644 420 475 or found in her garden at Kyles, Kirk Road, New Galloway.

GALLOWAY GREENS

My name is Catrin Johnes and, from this spring, my husband John and I will be taking care of the Galloway Greens her boxes in New Galloway.

The seven boxes which are dotted around the village were made possible through generous donations from local companies and individuals. If you look carefully, there is a small plaque on each box naming the sponsor.

Each box will be planted with a wonderful selection of edible fresh herbs. The herbs are for you to help yourself to - just pick what you want and get cooking!

Herbs are incredibly healthy, containing all kinds of vitamins and antioxidants and, most importantly,

they help to make our food taste great.

Herbs can be expensive to buy in the shops and often end up languishing in the back of the fridge in a slimy mess. By using the Galloway Greens herb boxes, we can all enjoy eating fresh herbs without the expense or the waste.

If you are new to cooking with herbs, try gently crushing a leaf or two between your fingers to experience the aroma, or have a nibble to discover the

flavour of these lovely fresh herbs.

Look for the snippets of information in or near the boxes and remember, you can never go wrong with a bit of parsley sprinkled over your tatties!

Catrin Johnes



GLENKENS GLASS RECYCLING POINTS

- Balmaclellan Stores, Balmaclellan
- Memorial Hall, St Michael's Road, Crossmichael
- Kirkland Street, St John's Town of Dalry
- New Galloway, Carson's Knowe Car Park
- St David Street, Kirkpatrick Durham

For details of other recycling points visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/wasterecycling - follow the 'Recycling Points in the Community' link. There is also a 'Find My Nearest' tool that enables you to find a range of local services, including recycling points.

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

(price per issue incl VAT)

SMALL:

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

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FULL PAGE:

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

Call 07727 127 997

VAT Reg. No. 882 8361 87

Sports in Dalry

Outdoor Bowls (from April)
- for details contact Jim Hutchinson on 01644 430 639

Table Tennis (available 24/7) - for details contact Gary Blissett on 01644 430 521

Snooker (available 24/7)
- for details contact Gary

Blissett on 01644 430 521

Indoor Bowls (from October to March) - for details contact Gary Blissett on 01644 430 521

Badminton (available 24/7)
- for details contact Gary Blissett on 01644 430 521

CROSSMICHAEL COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY CENTRE

Acupuncture & Chinese Herbal Medicine

The Old School, Crossmichael, DG7 3AP

Offering time-tested, personalised acupuncture and traditional Chinese herbal medicine to the Dumfries & Galloway region.

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

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

THE STEWARTRY VETERINARY CENTRE

CASTLE DOUGLAS SURGERY HOURS
Mon-Fri 8.30am-6pm

DALBEATTIE SURGERY HOURS
Mon, Wed, Fri 3-3.30 pm
Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

FOR APPOINTMENTS AT BOTH SURGERIES
OR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

01556 502263

VETERINARY SURGERY
OAKWELL ROAD
CASTLE DOUGLAS

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical &
Dispensing Services

*The Surgery
High Street
New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

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
- Hidden Veg - www.openfoodnetwork.org.uk/hidden-veg/shop
- 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 1pm on Mondays 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 ngce5000@gmail.com or pop into New Galloway Community Shop

Balmaclellan Community Trust: Contact Julia Higgins at julia.higgins55@outlook.com

CatStrand: Contact Fiona Limbrey at fiona@catstrand.com or 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 - 6 Feb & 6 Mar
Carsphairn: 11am - 13 Feb & 13 Mar
Kells: 11am - 20 Feb & 20 Mar
Dalry: 11am - 27 Feb & 27 Mar

Special Services

Communion - 20 Feb, 11am, Kells Church
Communion - 13 Mar, 11am, Carsphairn Church or Lagwyne Hall
World Day of Prayer Service - 4 Mar, 2.30pm, 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:

St Margaret's Church, Kenbridge Road,
New Galloway, DG7 3RP

Sundays: 10.30am Sung Eucharist, 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 420 259.



**GALLOWAY
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**
www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org
 email gct@catstrand.com
 phone 01644 420374 mobile 07841 512449

February – March 2022

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

Fortnightly from 25th January 2022

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

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.

GCT Ebikes

GCT in partnership with Sustrans



CYCLE TRAINING

Cycling can improve health and fitness

Would you like to try an EBike? Join a group cycle ride? Brush up on cycling skills?

Perhaps you haven't ridden for a while and would like a 1:1 **confidence building** session.

Thursdays from 10am
CatStrand, New Galloway

For more info or to book a FREE session please
contact: Annick.laroque@sustrans.org.uk

or call / text 07824863032

Sustrans is a registered charity in Scotland (SC039263) and in England and Wales (326550)



DRIVERS NEEDED

Galloway Community Transport needs your help to provide a wide range of community transport services across the Stewartry and beyond.

MINIBUS DRIVING

Minibus drivers with D1 (101 or by test) are needed to do volunteer and paid driving for our wide range of member community groups.

PATIENT TRANSPORT

We also urgently need drivers with their own cars for our patient transport service. Our volunteer patient transport drivers receive a generous mileage reimbursement and the satisfaction of providing a vital service to vulnerable people in our communities.

Interested?

Email gct@catstrand.com or phone 07841 512449

What's On Feb/Mar

FEBRUARY

Fri 4, Catstrand Burns Supper, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 9, Cubs 'come and try' session, at the Cub Hall, New Galloway (by the old phone box, now the Youth Booth), 6.45-8pm. For further information call Heather on 01644 420 375

Wed 9, Sacred Wells in Our Landscape; What Have We Learned? 7.30pm, Galloway Glens online event, book through www.eventbrite.co.uk

Thu 10, Ken Words: Writers' Café, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 12, The Paul McKenna Band, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 13, The Clachan Folk Session, 5-7pm, The Clachan Inn, Dalry

Wed 16, Film - James Bond: No Time to Die, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 20, Fullarton Theatre Bus - The Royal Ballet:

Romeo & Juliet, 6pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Tue 22, Amorous Couples, Place Names and Steampunk: Conversations About Old Estate Maps and How to Make Them Dance! 7.30pm, Galloway Glens online event, book through www.eventbrite.co.uk

Thu 24, Artists Talk - Leeming Paterson: Zero Footprint, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

MARCH

Fri 4, Suzi Cunningham presents Rules to Live by/ Eidos, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 7, Moishe's Bagel, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 9, David Currie of Newlaw: Merchant, Smuggler & Slave Trader, 7.30pm, Galloway Glens online event, book through www.eventbrite.co.uk

Fri 11, Film - Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 19, Better Lives Partnership Bridge to Creative Project - Art in the Community,

12.30-3.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Tue 22, The Scottish Commonty, the Midsteeple and the Queen of Sardinia: Pondering the Past and Georeferencing Old Maps, 7.30pm, The Smiddy, Balmaclellan or book to attend online at www.eventbrite.co.uk

Fri 25, Roddy Woomble, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 27, The Galloway Agreement - Ken Bridge Song, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 27, The Glenkens Story Presents: Crossing the Ken - Bridges, Fords and Ferries, 2pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 30, Haunting Tales with Mostly Ghostly, 7.30pm, Galloway Glens online event, book through www.eventbrite.co.uk

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Jane Maitland

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

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Pauline Drysdale

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

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Dougie Campbell

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

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway

REGULAR EVENTS

Balmaclellan Village Hall:

Tuesday Afternoon Teas, first Tues every month, to book email julia.higgins55@outlook.com

Glenkens Crafters, Wed 10am-2.30pm, for info contact Julia Higgins on 01644420297

Books in Balmaclellan Community Library, Mon 6-7pm, Wed 10am-12.30pm & Sat 10.30am-12.30pm

Glenkens Art Group, Thur afternoons, contact Tom Leach on t_leach1@sky.com

Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn:

Bairn Banter; family stay & play session, 0-7 years, Sat 10-11.45am, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

CatStrand, New Galloway:

Youth Volunteers, every other Monday 5.30-7.30pm, ages 12-18

'Scriptless' Drama Club, Tuesdays 5.15-6.15pm, 11-15 years

Newton Stewart Bus Service to Tesco, Wednesday evenings, see p29

Art Explorers, fortnightly Saturdays, 10-11am for ages 5-8, 11.15am-12.30pm for ages 8+

CatStrand Youth Players, meet weekly to work on festival plays and an annual pantomime, contact briangm@catstrand.com

New Galloway Town Hall:

Crafty Corner with tea and biscuits, Mon, 2-4pm, contact Kristina on 07789 680468

Sports Evenings with indoor bowling and table tennis, Tues 7-9pm, £3, drop in or contact Ray Bridgeman on 01644 420 438

Drop-in to chat about local plans and activities with Hayley Edgar, Community Engagement Worker, Wed 10-11am

Tai Chi, Wed 10.30-11.30am, contact Ros on 07749 249 781

Zumba, Wed 6.30-7.20pm & 7.25-8.15pm, contact samantha.rushton@hotmail.co.uk (booking essential)

Martial Arts for Children, Thur 7-9pm, contact brianhilton237@gmail.com

Gentle Yoga, Fri 5.30-6.30pm, contact kathyr64@hotmail.co.uk

Informal Family Badminton, (net and racquets but no line markings), New Galloway Town Hall, contact Ros on 07749 249 781

Sports in Dalry

Outdoor Bowls (from April), contact Jim Hutchinson on 01644 430 639

Snooker (available 24/7), contact Gary Blissett on 01644 430 521

Indoor Bowls (available October till March), contact Gary Blissett on 01644 430 521

Badminton (available 24/7), contact Gary Blissett on 01644 430 521

Table Tennis (available 24/7), contact Gary Blissett on 01644 430 521

Dalry Library & Customer Service Centre

Main Street, Dalry, Tel: 01644 430 234 or 01556 502 643

Tuesday: For books and other walk-in services: 2-5pm

Friday: For NEC Bus Pass and Blue Badge appointments and PCs: 11.30am – 12.30pm; for books and other walk-in services: 1-4.30pm.

Appointments can be booked in the library or on 01387 260 196.

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

KNOCKENGORROCH FESTIVAL IS BACK!

Scotland's leading world ceilidh, situated among the Carsphairn hills, is back!

Knockengoroch Festival is set to return "music to the hills and people to the land" once more this May after a two-year gap due to the COVID pandemic.

Knockengoroch is Scotland's longest running greenfield festival and a true celebration of music, people, and the land they came from. The natural amphitheatre of the Southern Uplands of Scotland, is the perfect stage for world music.

Katch Holmes, co-producer of the event, said: "Times have been tough for those involved in live music and events so we are extremely excited to be working towards this full scale festival. Our smaller event the Big Gig in September was a sell out event and a dry run for what will be our first festival since 2019. We're sure musicians and visitors alike are excited as we are to be



holding our party in the hills again!"

The festival has unveiled the first acts to perform at its comeback event with highly anticipated and critically acclaimed European and African based collective **Afro Celt Sound System** leading the line-up. Rescheduling their appearance from 2020, the collective will fill the hills of Galloway with their driving afro house, bold West African brass and exuberant electronic rhythms.

They share top billing with a rare UK date for elders of traditional sound system and vinyl culture, the

enigmatic French Sir James and King Johnny, aka **L'Entourloop**, a unique hip-hop 'Yardie Style' show featuring DJs, MCs, live brass and unique visual creations drawing on classic French cinema. Sunday's closing performance on the main Bo-Airigh stage will come from Ross Ainslie and Ali Hutton's **Symbiosis**, two of Scotland's absolutely finest award-winning pipers, appearing with full five-piece band to offer a masterful blend of the old and the new; modern Scottish folk music at its mightiest!

The festival will feature a series of environment and heritage **workshops** and activities, **comedy, theatre, and arts & crafts**; as well as a range of activities for younger festival-goers to get involved.

Knockengoroch 2022 will take place from Thursday 19 to Sunday 22 May 2022. Weekend tickets are available now via knockengoroch.org.uk/tickets

Pictured: top - Knockengoroch's Bo-Airigh Stage by ReCompose. Left - the festival site by Jethro Collins.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

APR/MAY COPY DEADLINE: 5 MAR



Editing & Design:
sarah.ade@gmail.com