

# GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

April/May 2022

ISSUE 129

FREE

## BIG PLANS FOR CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY WOODLAND

In an exciting new step for the community of Carsphairn, local organisation Carsphairn Community Woodland (CCW) has taken ownership of its very own forest.

The project has been progressing since 2016 when Carsphairn Community Trust responded to Forest Enterprise's notice of sale of Muirdrochwood Forest. It's fantastic that all the hard work that has gone in over the past five years has finally paid off, and for the public to be able to start enjoying the benefits.

Funding for the acquisition came principally from the Scottish Land Fund, with a significant discount from Forestry and Land Scotland for the public benefits the project will deliver, and also from Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd.



*Carsphairn Community Woodland open day was held last October to celebrate the purchase of the land for the community.*

Hurdles that had to be overcome along the way included the discovery of larch disease and, of course, the pandemic over the past two years.

Community ownership of the woodland, which was largely a conifer plantation, will provide greater access

to the countryside and allow a more diverse woodland environment for wildlife to be created, for people to enjoy walking and picnicking in, and also to create a community hub for outdoor volunteering, activities and skills development.

**Continued on p2...**

## #Tosser Litter Campaign

Having collected over 30 Red Bull cans along just a few hundred metres of roadside,



local photographer Ted Leeming decided that enough was enough.

"These 'tossers' need to learn," says Ted, who is installing signage to help draw attention to the matter. "If we all carry a bin bag and take but a few minutes to clear away a few bits of rubbish each we can all do a little bit to keep our beautiful Glenkens clean," he says.

Ted is asking everyone to photograph and post offences on social media with appropriate hashtags such as #serialtosser, #casualtosser, #furtivetosser, #blatanttosser, #uttertosser, etc.

"You get the idea," says Ted, "but please keep it clean! Send photos to the Gazette of your own examples (those you come across not that you create) together with any signage,

clean-ups or others measures you may think of to 'Stop the Tossers'."

Littering is becoming a real problem in the area and other local bodies such as the Loch Ken Trust are also working to raise awareness - for more on this visit their Facebook page @lochkentrust

**In our next edition there will be a special *Land Use Focus*.**

**If you would like to include something related to land use in the Glenkens please get in touch!**

# Carsphairn Community Forest

**Continued from front page...**

David McMillan, Chair of Carsphairn Community Woodland, said: "Carsphairn is a rural community working towards regeneration of an area with low employment opportunities and few outdoor community facilities. Taking ownership of this area of woodland gives us the opportunity to manage it sustainably for recreation and the wellbeing of the local residents and visitors, whilst enhancing the natural environment and creating new employment opportunities.

"New footpaths, benches, picnic tables etc, will enhance local recreational opportunities and a local woodfuel supply will be created and commercial timber production will provide a long-term income stream for the community.

"The celebratory event originally envisaged at the woodland, to mark the acquisition, was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions, but finally took place in early October 2021. It was well-attended, with folks enjoying a walk around the land, learning about the plans for the community woodland and sharing soup and cakes around the fire."

CCW secured development funding

from South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) in September 2021. The diseased larch was felled over the winter, along with some Sitka spruce for the community woodland centre of activity. We were fortunate to have been provided with stone through the Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) power line work and this was used for groundworks and track enhancement.

We are very excited to have our first staff member on board - Andy, our Community Forest Worker, joined us in February and will be a great asset to both woodland maintenance and volunteer activities. We look forward to welcoming our Community Forest Manager, Graeme, soon too.

During March the infrastructure began to come together, with the construction of a forestry shed and a borehole for the water supply. The provision of equipment and machinery, also funded by SoSE, will enable CCW to develop the woodland to benefit the community. Once everything is in place CCW will be ready to welcome the community and visitors to enjoy the space, carry out woodland volunteering tasks such as tree planting and path maintenance,

and develop interest groups in other areas too.

The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP) have funded a wildlife hide which will enable people to enjoy the birds and red squirrels that frequent the woodland. GGLP also funded signage and seating through their small grants scheme.

A 24 hour 'Bioblitz' is planned for later in the year where school children and the public will be invited to come along and help record all the wildlife and plants present in the woodland.

CCW is a limited company with a number of directors and members, all coming from the Carsphairn area. We also have a number of supporters - anyone outwith the Carsphairn area and with an interest in Carsphairn Community Woodland is welcome to become a supporter.

Forestry and rural training skills are some of our focus areas and training courses are currently being developed. If you are interested in becoming involved in any aspect of CCW, please contact carsphairncw@gmail.com

*The CCW Team*

## Walking Group Founder Retires

Isobel McBeth, founder and walk leader of the Glenkens Walking Group, has decided to retire after almost 15 years.

During that time she has introduced new walkers to the many scenic and often challenging local paths which cannot be found on maps. This knowledge is invaluable and will serve

many of us well into the future. A much appreciated feature of the walks was the coffee/tea and cakes organised by Isobel at the end of each walk. The £100 balance of the 'tea fund' will be donated to Macmillan Nurses.

Isobel is not hanging up her boots, but will continue to walk with a few friends.

Due to COVID restrictions members have fragmented into smaller informal groups who meet up casually for walks, so there is an opportunity for someone to canvas demand and potentially form a new group with a regular programme of walks.

*Gerry Cinderby*



*Glenkens Walking Group enjoying a walk around Loch Trool; Isobel is in the back row, second from the left.*

## Dalry Library Book Group

Would you like to belong to a book group that meets in Dalry Library?

We are seeking interest in this, so in the first instance please leave your contact details with librarian Angela Miller.

The library is open on Tuesdays 2pm until 5pm and Fridays 1pm until 4.30pm. The library service can provide up to 10 copies of titles to registered Book Groups.

*Thanks, June Hay*

# GLENKENS EBIKE CLUB TAKES TO THE ROAD

After a slightly uncertain start last year, Galloway Community Transport's (GCT) ebikes are hitting the road in earnest this spring.

The GCT Ebike Club will be launched at an event at the CatStrand in New Galloway on Saturday 2 April. Drop in anytime between 1pm and 3pm to see the ebikes, meet the team and hear more about the club.

If you've been hankering to feel the wind in your hair but feel that cycling might be a bit too strenuous, this is the very thing for you. The discrete electric motor in our state-of-the-art ebikes gives that little bit of assistance when needed and can greatly relieve the strain.

GCT trialled an ebike hire scheme last summer but found that the logistics were impractically complicated. After considerable consultation with users and other ebike operators, we have formed an ebike club that will give Glenkens residents inexpensive and easy access to ebikes.

The club is open to all Glenkens residents over the age of 16 with basic cycling competence. Working in



*A cycle training session with GCT's ebikes.*

partnership with Sustrans, GCT has skilled and qualified people available to help get you comfortable and competent on an ebike so you can quickly start to enjoy the ride. Free support will be provided for club members every Thursday at 10am at the CatStrand.

If you're interested in joining the club, visit [www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org/ebikes](http://www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org/ebikes) for more information and a downloadable membership form, give us a ring on 07704 662 925 or email [jon@catstrand.com](mailto:jon@catstrand.com)

Membership costs £20 for 12 months and bike use is then £2 per day.

As well as offering access to ebikes, the club will run regular training sessions and also organise accompanied rides on some of the many beautiful routes in the Glenkens, allowing members to extend their ebiking experience and share it with like-minded people.

Galloway Community Transport, a Glenkens Community and Arts Trust project, gratefully acknowledges the funding and support provided by Cycling Scotland and Energy Saving Trust in the establishment of our ebike club and the training and support provided by Sustrans.

*Glen Murray, GCT Manager*

## Balliol Singers A Capella Choir

Dumfries-based a cappella choir The Balliol Singers is returning to New Galloway for the first time since 2008.

The group will present a concert in St Margaret's Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3 May, two years after its original scheduled date which was

delayed due to the pandemic.

One of the leading vocal ensembles working in the region, the 19-strong choir was founded in 1992 as The Balliol Consort and presents interesting and ambitious programmes of unaccompanied choral music from the mediaeval period up to modern times across a wide range of musical styles.

Having previously explored music from Northern Europe, the choir is travelling south this time to offer a selection of

pieces from Spain and Italy under the gastronomic title 'Paella and Pasta'. The two countries arguably provided the backbone of Renaissance music.

Music from more recent times includes works by the operatic giants Rossini and Verdi, the great cellist Pablo Casals, and one of Spain's greatest modern composers Manuel de Falla; of particular interest will be three movements from a setting by the Italian Ildebrando Pizzetti of the Requiem, widely considered

to be one of the greatest twentieth-century works for unaccompanied choir.

The concert is being given in aid of St Margaret's, and admission is £10 (children are free). The church will also be holding a raffle during the course of the evening. Castanets will not be allowed!

To reserve a seat email [geoff.creamer@outlook.com](mailto:geoff.creamer@outlook.com) or call 01848 330 821.

*Geoff Creamer*



# TED COWAN

## An Appreciation

Since Ted Cowan's sudden death at the beginning of January, scores of obituaries have appeared in Britain and abroad, in newspapers, in specialist journals and online.

His international reputation as a historian has been well-marked, and deservedly so, but despite his academic stature he was also deeply committed to the history and life of the Glenkens where he had made his home with his wife and fellow historian, Lizanne Henderson.

The Glenkens Gazette has compiled this appreciation of Ted, contributed by five of those who had shared his local interests and worked closely with him.

### The Glenkens Story - Mike Brown

In 2015, when I mooted the idea of a group for those interested in our local history, Ted was particularly enthusiastic on two counts. 'The Glenkens Story' was to be run as informally as possible and the subtitle read 'Sharing Our History'. Ted, ever the popular historian, had no truck with the "sit there and we'll tell you your history" model. He generously used his contacts to bring leading speakers to our events but also encouraged local enthusiasts to share their knowledge and bring their questions.

From the start he was involved heart and soul, whether trekking across the moors to view prehistoric remains, scrutinising wind-swept war memorials, delivering erudite lectures or mischievously flyting with visiting speakers. His suspicion of the 'establishment' was deep-rooted. He relished rattling unionist cages with his take on the Declaration of Arbroath.

'The Glenkens Story', he told me, was to be the title of his next-but-one book. No-one was better qualified to write it. What a loss - along with the passion, the knowledge and the memorable friendship.

### Covenanters and the Hoard - David Bartholomew

When I first met Ted I was somewhat in awe of having one of Scotland's foremost historians living within our parishes. I quickly discovered the humanity of the man - no professorial airs and graces, but

a man with a passion for Scottish history and for the common man, always ready to engage in friendly banter.

As Glenkens minister I quickly realised I needed to be aware of the impact of the Covenanting times. It was a subject close to Ted's heart. In 2006 he and Lizanne came to one of the first outdoor conventicles I arranged - at Auchencloy, deep in the forest off the Raider's Road. The midges were biting like fury - though a minor irritation compared to the poignant story of the four men who were martyred there. Several times Ted and I shared the stage for talks on the Covenanters. In 2016 on the 350th anniversary of the Glenkens Rising in Dalry, popularly known as the 'Pentland Rising', Ted argued strongly that it should be renamed the 'Glenkens Rising'. I supported him fully on this.

The Galloway Hoard also drew us together. I had been present when it was discovered. Ted was fascinated with its potential for opening a window into Galloway's forgotten past, but didn't believe the Vikings had ever settled in the area to any significant extent. I believe he has been vindicated. It is now recognised that it is much more complicated than being a simple Viking hoard and may more accurately be called an Anglo-Saxon hoard.

Ted was a great ambassador for the Glenkens and for Galloway and we realise now what a great loss to our community has come with his passing.



### Gaelic and Galloway Scots - Michael Ansell

Although not a Gaelic speaker himself, Ted was fascinated by the language and especially its contribution to the hidden cultural legacy of the South-West Gàidhealtachd, especially Galloway and Carrick. He was instrumental in bringing together one of the finest group of Gaelic academic experts in Scotland to a sell-out Glenkens Story conference in CatStrand in 2018. Up until the time of his death Ted was diligently working as co-editor of a publication of the proceedings of this conference entitled "Galloway: The Lost Province of Gaelic Scotland" due later this year. This volume will provide the most comprehensive coverage to date of Galloway's hidden Gaelic heritage.

Ted was also a strong supporter of the local Scots language or leid. He frequently lamented the diminution in the use of Galloway Scots and feared it was going the way of Galloway Gaelic which had disappeared a few hundred years earlier. Again, through the auspices of the Glenkens Story, Ted was the moving force behind a 2019 CatStrand conference on Galloway Scots. Reflecting Ted's interest in the ongoing use of local Scots, part of this conference was given over to conversations in the vernacular between John (Cubby) McCubbing of New Galloway and Robin Jardine from Balmacellan.

I still struggle with the thought we can't have any more pints and ribald banter with the great man. And all the discussions that might have been.

## Crossmichael Heritage - John Nelson

"There was no battle of Spearford!" declared Ted. "There's no documented proof."

I was taken aback. I had named my house after that well-known local 'punch-up'.

"There is a poem about it!" I said.

"A Victorian invention" he retorted.

I still don't know whether he was winding me up. I never will.

I enjoyed Ted's company hugely; he and I were the same vintage and shared the same healthy cynicism. His religion, I have been told, was staunch contrarian, a sub-sect of my belief that there are only two ways to do something, my way and the wrong way!

I came to know Ted well through our common interest in local history and enjoyed his talks at CatStrand and Wigtown. I looked forward to his regular articles in the Gazette.

Both Ted and Lizanne enthusiastically supported our local history project, and three years ago, agreed to open Crossmichael Heritage Centre together.

Ted opened the exhibition, Lizanne 'cut the ribbon' and launched the adjacent 'Hearse Hoose' time-line which displays events in the parish and the wider world.

Ted was great company and with his friendly manner and cheery outlook was absorbed seamlessly by, and became a valued part of, Glenkens life.

Ted was a valued friend and I will miss him.

## Glenkens Community & Arts Trust - Alan Smith

Ted was a member of the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust board for seven years where his views were regularly controversial and challenging but always appreciated. His ability to politely stifle pomposity in any form was a joy to behold. He wore his knowledge lightly and didn't need props. Asked if he would be using PowerPoint he replied: "the power is in

the point I'm going to make."

The term 'polymath' could have been invented to describe Ted. This was sometimes a problem. Many of us will have attended talks by Ted where his sheer breadth of knowledge took him in unscripted directions, the audience enthralled by his words albeit unrelated to the title of his talk! A CatStrand lecture on Robert Heron, the 18th century New Galloway polymath, saw Ted entertainingly digress into Heron's 'partiality for liquor' and descent to an early death in London, despite the protests of an audience member expecting to hear of Heron's scholarship in divinity and literature.

Ted had a great interest in Scottish fiction, particularly writers such as R L Stevenson and S R Crockett who was born at Little Duchrae near Laurieston.

In 2014 he played a leading role in commemorating the centenary of the author's death helping to stage a full-day conference followed by a period costume dinner in the Ken Bridge.

The next day he led a minibus tour of Crockett sites.

Always a committed Scot, with much of his work reflecting this, Ted accepted all political viewpoints and relished informed debate. One of the few times I saw him stuck for words was when I suggested that had the nationalists adopted the slogan 'Yes please' to counter the unionists' 'No thanks' they might have been successful. He secretly liked that!

A colleague of mine used to refer disparagingly to those he considered less interesting as 'not a man for a long train journey'. No one would ever level that charge at Ted, a man I got to know well and whose company was always welcome and indeed sought out. A pint at the Ken Bridge will be a lesser experience without his company.

• In the next Gazette, Jo Miller will reflect on Ted's contribution to preserving the Glenkens' heritage of music and song.



Ted (centre) on a Glenkens Story field trip to prehistoric sites on Berdenoch Hill.

## David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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# Action Plan Steering Group

The Glenkens and District Community Action Plan (CAP) has taken an important step towards delivery of the priorities of our communities with the appointment of the final members of the newly formed CAP Steering Group.

This group is the custodian of the Action Plan, with a remit to ensure delivery of the plan and to make sure that it remains relevant to the needs of the communities.

After a public recruitment effort in February the following members have joined the steering group:

- Joe Seed
- Sarah Ade
- John Paterson
- Bob Glaister
- Caroline Reeves

These new members add to the

current Glenkens & District Trust (GDT) trustees with a seat on the steering group:

- Tom Marshall
- Richard Middleton
- Andrew Mellor
- Fiona Smith (interim chair)

Plus independent member:

- Barney Fryer

Within this group there is a diverse spread of Glenkens and district geography, age, interests and experience.

GDT feel that this is an important transition to embedding delivery of the action plan within our communities. As per the Terms of Reference for the group, GDT trustees will never make up more than a third of this group, so Andrew Mellor will be stepping down shortly to keep this balance in place. GDT thank him and Julie Garton for their work on the steering group to this point.

This group will support and guide the work of Helen Keron, executive manager for the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust, in her efforts to see the CAP priorities

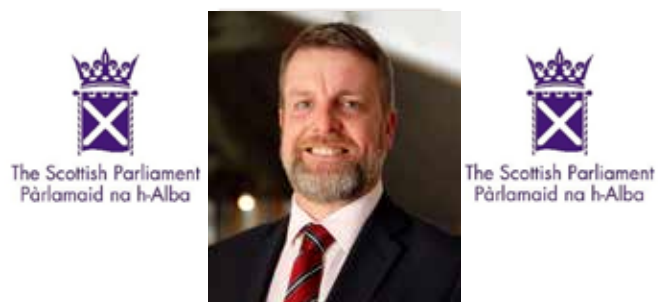


delivered by a network of local organisations, all working together where it adds value to achieve the most that we can for our communities.

In parallel news, a number of projects that will deliver Action Plan priorities were funded in the most recent round of GDT funding, and hopefully some of these will be reported on in the next edition of the Gazette.

## FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for  
Galloway and West Dumfries



If you would like an appointment,  
please get in touch

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Email: [Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot](mailto:Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot)

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# Dalry School Woodland

Dalry School is the first school in the Stewartry to benefit from the South of Scotland Tree Planting grant.

Over 300 mixed native deciduous trees sourced from Scottish nurseries, along with donations of local saplings, have been planted. This has been a great project with the whole school getting involved.

This project is predominantly funded by a South of Scotland Tree Planting grant secured by Dalry Community Council through the Galloway Glens scheme. The community council also applied for trees from the Queen's Green Canopy project on behalf of the school, as well as sourcing and buying some local trees themselves to add to the mix.

Lachlan (P4) said: "The tree planting will save the earth and provide oxygen for us to breathe." Archie (P5) said: "The trees will help protect nature and give the animals food and a safe habitat."

P3,4,5 class teacher Mrs Devlin said:

"This project was such a fantastic learning opportunity, with the children seeing that their actions can have a direct and positive impact on the environment and the importance of trees for our health and wellbeing. It really is a wonderful legacy and something that they can all nurture and watch grow whilst they are in school, and then revisit when they are adults."

You can view the school trees on the map at [www.queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub](http://www.queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub)

Right - S1&2 pupils planting a tree.

Below - the P3,4,5 class ready to plant.



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# Renovation of Carsphairn War Memorial

Carsphairn Community Council is working with Carsphairn Heritage Initiative to plan a renovation of the community's war memorial for the centenary of its original dedication.

An article in the *The Scotsman* from 10 April 1923 records: "The war memorial designed by Captain John W Dods, Dumfries, and erected in memory of the men from the parish of Carsphairn, Kirkcudbrightshire, who fell in the great war, was unveiled on Sunday by Colonel William H Clark Kennedy, VC (Canadians), a native of the parish, who came all the way from Montral [sic] to perform the ceremony. Captain Cathcart, of Brockloch, accepted custody of the memorial on behalf of the parish council. Mr Wm McCall MacMillan, of Lamloch, gave

an endowment of £100 for the upkeep of the memorial."

Following the abolition of Parish Councils as a consequence of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1929, all assets previously held in trust by the people of Carsphairn were transferred into the ownership of Dumfries & Galloway Council. Carsphairn, like many other parishes, maintained ownership of its war memorial for a grand total of six years.

Community councillor Matt Hickman, who is leading the project on behalf of both the groups involved, said: "Given the vast social and cultural significance of our war memorial, its increasingly dishevelled state is somewhat distressing, regardless of the council's best efforts at routine maintenance with a very limited budget. It was when I stopped to look at the war memorial



Original unveiling of Carsphairn War Memorial 1923  
© Carsphairn Heritage Archive.

in Dalmellington and saw the little plaque at the bottom proclaiming it had been 'renovated by the community' some years ago that the idea of a full restoration for the centenary occurred. I'm very keen that this is a project to foster inclusion of the whole community and invite anyone who feels they may have any time or ideas to offer get in touch either by email at hickmantrail@gmail.com or give me a ring on 07531 035824. I'll be very pleased to hear from you."



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## CATSTRAND SPRING HIGHLIGHTS



### April

**6TH** **Our Carnal Hearts**  
7:30pm – 9:00pm at CatStrand  
OUR CARNAL HEARTS, by Rachel Mars, Arch 468 and An Tobar & Mull Theatre.

**7TH** **Clare Hammond, pianist**  
7:30pm – 9:00pm at CatStrand  
Acclaimed as a "pianist of extraordinary gifts" (Gramophone) and "immense power" (The Times).

**9TH** **Nettles in the Garden Travelling Shadow Theatre + workshop.**  
2:30pm at Lagwyne Hall  
For family audiences 2+ with babes in arms. Show lasts 30 mins followed by 30 min workshop.

**15TH** **Odd Socks by Nikki Kalkman**  
3pm at CatStrand  
Ages 5+ and families. Show lasts 45 mins.

**16TH** **Seed Heart**  
2:30pm at CatStrand  
Show is suitable for all ages & lasts 30 Mins. Workshop is suitable for ages 5+ and lasts 60 mins.

**17TH** **The Rheingans Sisters**  
7:30pm – 9:30pm at CatStrand  
A unique and unmissable act on the folk and world music stage today, Rowan and Anna play a plethora of instruments in their live shows.

**May**  
**18TH** **Siobhan Miller**  
7:30pm – 9:00pm at CatStrand  
A richly celebrated Scottish folk singer and songwriter. 'One of the best Scottish traditional singers on the planet' / Roots.

**21ST** **Vanishing Point presents The Metamorphosis: Unplugged**  
7:30pm – 9:00pm at CatStrand  
A musical, cabaret-style night out from the team that brought you The Dark Carnival Unplugged.

For more information or to book:  
[www.gcat.scot](http://www.gcat.scot) or tel. 01644 420374



# CatStrand Highlights

As we head into spring I'm delighted to set out a few highlights of our packed programme of theatre, music and children's events.

I'm especially looking forward to **Metamorphosis** and **Our Carnal Hearts**, two brilliant contemporary theatre companies with a bit of an edge. They promise to be unforgettable experiences.

**Rapture Bites** returns after postponements due to COVID and the invasion of Ukraine with **A Number**, an award-winning and powerful play.

Some of the best children's theatre is on its way, thanks to the **Puppet Animation Festival** and **Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival**.

Our music lineup features well-kent faces and incredible quality of artists whether your interest is folk, classical, comedy or world music.

For further event details for April and May check out the ad on the page opposite and the *What's On* listings on p34.

*Hope to see you soon!*

*Peter Renwick, GCAT Arts Culture & Heritage Manager*



*Vanishing Point presents  
The Metamorphosis: Unplugged  
Saturday 21 May, 7.30pm, CatStrand.*

## NEW FACES AT GCAT

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) said farewell to chairman Alan Smith in January after over 11 years of service with the organisation.

Alan leaves the organisation in excellent shape. He has seen it grow to its present despite two floods, one pandemic and (on the brighter side) the creation of The Smiddy venue and the refurbishment of the Men's Shed. "His pragmatic approach, unfailing optimism (and ability to generate funds!) will be sorely missed," says GCAT executive manager, Helen Keron.

Taking over from Alan as GCAT chair is Peter Fryer. Peter has had a home in Dalry for over 20 years but for most of that time has worked abroad in Africa and the Middle East. Peter began his career as a geologist and then qualified as a chartered accountant. After starting in the oil industry, he was latterly the group accountant at the Birmingham Post & Mail Group. Peter moved to Zambia in 1996 where he met his wife Trish, who was the head of the Konkola Mine School. Peter and Trish returned to the Glenkens full time in 2016 and

Peter joined the Board of GCAT in 2021.

GCAT also welcomes a new member of the Board, Lindsey Smith. Lindsey will be well known to many, as she was the business support manager of GCAT for eight years, until she moved on to The Stove in November 2021.

Staff at GCAT have also seen a lot of changes over the last few months. Gill Warnock has recently been joined in her role as business support manager by Keith Halsall as business support assistant.

Peter Renwick continues as arts, culture and heritage manager, supported by youth arts co-ordinator Cat Caulfield.

Glen Murray, Glenkens Community Transport (GCT) manager, has been joined by Jon Betts, GCT assistant. Jon has particular responsibility for the eBike Club (see article on p3).

The only outstanding GCAT posts now are for the Connecting in

Communities project manager and activity coordinator, and it is hoped these roles will be filled in April. Until then, Fiona Limbrey is holding the fort.

Meanwhile, Helen Keron continues in her role of executive manager, which has a dual remit of heading up GCAT while also supporting delivery of the Community Action Plan across the Glenkens and district.

*Contact details for all GCAT staff can be found on the front inside page of the CatStrand brochure or on our website at [www.gcat.scot](http://www.gcat.scot)*



*GCAT's new chair, Peter Fryer.*

# BLACK WATER OF DEE

## RESTORATION VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

Join Galloway Fisheries Trust and help them to restore the Black Water of Dee with an exciting range of activities over the next few months.

Join us and learn how to improve fish habitat, plant a tree or help monitor river life.

10<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH

**DECIDUOUS TREE PLANTING AND  
RIVER CHANNEL MODIFICATION.**

24<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH

**INSTALLING LARGE WOODY DEBRIS  
FEATURES AND TREE PLANTING.**

7<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL

**CONIFER REGEN CLEARANCE, INSTALLING LARGE  
WOODY DEBRIS FEATURES AND TREE PLANTING.**

14<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL

**INVERTEBRATE SURVEY DAY**

21<sup>ST</sup>  
APRIL

**INSTALLING LARGE WOODY DEBRIS  
FEATURES AND TREE PLANTING.**

28<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL

**ELECTROFISHING DEMONSTRATION**

12<sup>TH</sup>  
MAY

**GRAVEL LOOSENING**

We will meet at the Clatteringshaws Dam entrance to the Raiders Road at 10:00. Please bring a packed lunch and wear warm waterproof outdoor clothing and wellies (waders if you have them for in-river work). We will finish by 15:30 on most days.

If you would like to attend a volunteer day, please book your place with Rowan McCleary at the GFT.

[rowan@gallowayfisheriestrust.org](mailto:rowan@gallowayfisheriestrust.org) or 01671 40 3011

# PROJECT IN FOCUS

## The CatStrand Singers

The Galloway Glens, through the 'Our Heritage' Small Grants Scheme, is supporting The CatStrand Singers – a singing group that is inspired by our landscape.

Nicola Black, choir director, gives an update from the project:

The CatStrand Singers are so delighted to be back together and singing again!

When COVID came along and nobody could meet up we started meeting online. That was a great thing but, living where we do with patchy internet, it wasn't the answer for everyone. When lockdown came, we were just starting to learn the songs for our new CD and book.

This project, one which is supported by The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership, involved the writing or arrangement of 17 songs which are about or have connections to the area. Some songs have been created from poems by members of the choir, others from the Ken Words Project workshops.

We met online for over a year until summer 2021 when we could meet outside in a member of the choir's beautiful garden. It was so lovely to sing together again.

Using Zoom online is great in many ways, but the big drawback is the choir cannot hear each other sing because of time delay with the connection, so the excitement of getting back together was huge.

People worried that they wouldn't know how to do it anymore, but there was no need to worry, we all

project we're involved in:

"Singing together is so uplifting! And singing about the beautiful Galloway Glens makes it even more special."

"Among all the wonderful songs Nicola has written for the Galloway Glens singers, my favourite is one called *Rhona*. The haunting melody reminds me of my friend who sadly died a couple of years ago and this beautiful song makes me think of the weekly journey we made by the side of Loch Ken putting the world

to rights, on our way to the song sessions."

"When COVID meant meeting outside, welcoming friends into my garden to sing together joyfully was amazing."

"Miles from Doon and miles to go. Worth every mile to be with everyone singing. ('Miles from Doon and miles to go' is a line from one of the songs.)"

"Singing during lockdown in Kathryn's lovely garden was such a pleasure! Back in the hall with more people we're

really coming together and making a good sound."

For more information about The CatStrand Singers or might be interested in joining, please do get in touch with the CatStrand on 01644 420 374.



*The CatStrand Singers enjoying a session in Kath's garden last summer.*

slotted right back in.

We have our first recording session really soon, and hope to have the book and CD out in the Autumn.

Here are some things members of the choir have been saying about getting back together and the



Sponsored page, working in partnership



# Blackcraig Fund Update

The Glenkens and District Trust, working in partnership with Foundation Scotland, is delighted to announce a further nine awards made from the Community Fund in its winter round, with a total sum awarded of £136,826.

The trustees were particularly pleased to see applications coming from right across the area of benefit, and spanning the Fund's strategic priorities. Some successful applications included £14,000 to Kirkpatrick Durham Community Hall for urgent rewiring work to keep this valued facility in safe use; £25,000 to active new group Dunscore Playpark Project towards putting in a new tarmac path round the playing fields in the village; and £12,540 to the Scottish Woodland Trust (SWT) reserve at Knowetop Lochs to contribute to the repair of the boardwalks.

Knowetop Lochs nature reserve, near Balmaclellan, has a lovely circular walk, great for families. Once installed, the new section of boardwalk will mean SWT can keep the reserve open to the public and will have a lifespan of 30 years.



*Knowetop Lochs, situated between Balmaclellan and Corsock © SWT*

More information about this hidden gem, where to find it and how to get involved in the local volunteer group can be found at [www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserve/knowetop-lochs](http://www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserve/knowetop-lochs)

In addition to these diverse awards, the trustees were delighted that some of the early priorities identified in the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan (CAP) published in 2020 are starting to come to fruition in the shape of developed projects which are being taken forward by a range of local

community organisations. Awards directly aligned with the Glenkens CAP included support for activities for young people, led by Local Initiatives in New Galloway with support from GCAT Youth Arts; the development of a local food hub from Propagate CIC; and a new Glenkens website, providing information and listings for events, activities and facilities right across the Glenkens area, co-ordinated by GCAT.

A full list of awards can be found at [www.tinyurl.com/blackcraigawards](http://www.tinyurl.com/blackcraigawards)

## SOPHIE'S POEM

Sophie Roberts, aged 12, will be writing a poem for each issue of the *Gazette*.

Sophie says: "I first started writing poetry in primary school and found I really enjoyed it. I have written a number of poems inspired by nature and my surroundings. I write mostly

about the beach as I find it very inspirational.

"I look forward to writing more and expanding my range of topics."



### Old Oak

The leaves on the old oak  
Moving on the breeze  
They are attached by such small  
thread  
and can fall with such great ease

The big sturdy trunk  
Growing by the year  
It grows up tall into the sky  
If it should fall, I fear

The branches, curled into each other  
Entwined again and again  
I look into them and feel lost  
Every now and then

The majestic oak in my garden  
Oh so deeply peaceful  
When I look at it everyday  
All sad feelings go away

# Waterside Hill Community Area

Local communities are exploring plans for how they would like to use an area set aside amongst the woodland creation scheme on Waterside Hill.

An inaugural meet on the hill in late February was attended by 12 people, a real intergenerational gathering spanning at least six decades. There was lots of chat around what people hoped would be protected – small burns, trees, the view back to Dalry – as well as what they might want to use the space for. Initial ideas included natural play features, a pond, a hut or cabin, a covered seating area and meandering, accessible paths. Funding investigations are underway and we hope to have more news on that soon.



More walks and gatherings are planned - it would be great to involve as many people as possible and hear a wide range of ideas. Please email [sjtdalrycc@gmail.com](mailto:sjtdalrycc@gmail.com) with your

thoughts, or visit the Waterside Ways Facebook page to stay updated on the progress of this project.

*Pictured is the group who attended the February walk up Waterside Hill.*

# THE GLENKENS STORY

The Glenkens Story local history group has resumed its programme with a presentation on the results of the Borgue field names project.

Field-names can contain a wealth of information on local history, farming, ecology, wildlife, customs, language and so on. This is all lost when the names cease to be used (or are replaced by numbers!).

The Borgue project has achieved much and The Glenkens Story was meeting in March to discover how this was achieved and whether there is support for a similar project in the Glenkens, an area with a different and changing land-use story. A report will appear in the next Gazette.

The Glenkens Story has

established a successful tradition of an annual full-day conference. The latest event, originally scheduled for 2020, has twice been postponed by the pandemic but it is hoped to go ahead on Saturday 3 September. The Early Peoples of Galloway conference will focus on the peoples who inhabited what is now Greater Galloway during the ten thousand years between the retreat of the glaciers and the year 1000 AD.

Experts from a variety of fields will explore the story of these immigrants, their identities, cultures and languages and their impacts and legacies over successive centuries. The talk will be held at CatStrand from 10am to 5pm, tickets are £30 including coffees and buffet lunch (£20 for students). Tickets purchased for the postponed conferences of 2020 and 2021 can be carried forward.

Numerous events are being staged to mark the bicentenary of the Ken Bridge and on Saturday 24

September The Glenkens Story will present Crossing the Ken: Bridges, Fords and Ferries

The River Ken is a defining feature of the Glenkens. It also a dividing feature. For centuries local people have looked for ways to make the crossing, culminating in Rennie's 5-arched bridge opened in 1822. As part of the celebrations the Glenkens Story will present an afternoon of talks on the history of the crossings including, among others, contributions from Bruce Keith, author of Bridgescapes of Scotland, David Bartholomew on the history of Ken crossings, Archie McConnel on the cartographic record and Michael Ansell in conversation with local people sharing stories and recollections of this iconic bridge.

*If you wish to be added to the Glenkens Story mailing list please contact me on [mbrown99@dircon.co.uk](mailto:mbrown99@dircon.co.uk)*

*Mike Brown, Convener, The Glenkens Story steering group*

# Kirkcudbright Half Marathon

After the cancellations of 2020 and 2021 the Kirkcudbright Academy Parent Council has announced that the school's half marathon will go ahead on **Saturday 28 May**.

The route remains the same as in 2019, starting at the Academy and taking in the scenic sights around Kirkcudbright and St Mary's Isle before heading out of town along the 'Beeches' road to Twynholm, proceeding south to Kirkcudbright Bay and back to the finishing line at school.

Entry is online only - there will be no walk-up entries on the day. All races depart from the Kirkcudbright Academy field. The walk departs at 9am and the half marathon/10km departs at 11am. For details and maps visit [www.kahm.org.uk](http://www.kahm.org.uk) and for online entries visit [www.entrycentral.com](http://www.entrycentral.com)



*The starting line at the 2019 Kirkcudbright Half Marathon.*

We are continuing to raise sponsorship monies but would like to acknowledge the financial contributions held over from 2020 from the Stewartry Sports Council, Carson & Trotter, GS Construction and *The Galloway News*.

*If you would like to contribute financially or assist on the day please contact race coordinator Richard Nash (who is based in New Galloway) on [richard.m.nash@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.m.nash@btinternet.com) or for general information email [kahminfo@gmail.com](mailto:kahminfo@gmail.com)*



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## Glenkens Producers' Market



### 2nd Saturday Monthly

**Dalry Town Hall, 10am-1pm**

**- 9th April & 14th May -**

Fresh vegetables, baked goods, preserves, bread, fresh meat, smoked products, real ale and artisan gin, chocolates, fresh pasta, handmade crafts and cards, plants and more...

**Want to know what's going on? Then visit**  
**[www.dalrytownhall.co.uk](http://www.dalrytownhall.co.uk)**

# Community Project to Assess Mental Health and Wellbeing

The global pandemic has changed the way we use services and how we interact with each other.

We also have to deal with world events and local issues which all take a toll on our mental health. We may have lost loved ones, felt isolated, lacked creative spaces or had to give up our favourite hobby. No matter what our circumstances or background, we have all had to adapt how we live and work.

Dalry Community Council has commissioned a Glenkens Community Wellbeing Survey, which will initially be rolled out to Dalry residents before being expanded to the rest of the Glenkens. This is to discover where people could benefit from support to self-manage and

maintain their own mental health, the purpose is to help enable individuals and the community to manage their wellbeing and strengthen their resilience. We are also passionate about prevention when it comes to wellbeing and would also like to hear from those who feel they do not have mental health issues. Everyone's views are welcome and can help the community as a whole.

## Here's where you can help...

You have an opportunity to tell us what your needs are and find ways to help you feel better in yourself. Is it a lack of resources that's holding you back, timings of groups that don't suit, lack of activities to spark your interest? Are you feeling isolated due to working from home and missing that office support? Are you alone for the first time due to a bereavement and need support? Would you like more intergenerational events mixing old and young together? Let us know

and have your say!

Once we have the information provided from this survey we will incorporate findings from the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan and address the areas that effect the community and individuals.

We propose to implement a range of wellbeing initiatives which are inclusive, accessible, inspiring and supportive, mapping what we already have and know through existing support groups, clubs, activities and resources that meet the needs of Dalry and its residents. We will then seek to focus on any gaps through a second round of funding and initiatives. If this is successful it will be rolled out to the wider Glenkens area.

*If you have any questions or would like to get involved please email Dalry Community Council at [sjtdalrycc@gmail.com](mailto:sjtdalrycc@gmail.com)*

## LOCAL PLACE PLANS

Local Place Plans are part of the Government's wider work on planning reform and implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.

They offer the **opportunity for a community-led, collaborative approach to creating great local places**. Local Place Plans can support community aspirations on the big challenges for a future Scotland, such as responding to the global climate emergency and tackling inequalities. It is **vital that local people have the opportunity to engage meaningfully and have a positive influence in the future planning of development in their areas**. The aim is to significantly enhance engagement in development planning, effectively **empowering communities to play a proactive role in defining the future of their places**.

Local Place Plans are community-led plans setting out proposals for the development and use of land. Introduced by the 2019 Act, these plans will set out a community's aspirations for its future

development. Once completed and then registered by the planning authority, **they are to be taken into account in the preparation of the relevant local development plan**.

Local Place Plans are a way for communities, working with local authorities and other public sector organisations, to bring forward proposals that reflect National and Local Outcomes. Also, by reflecting those wider policies and plans in Local Place Plans, communities should find it easier to make change happen. In addition, the Place Principle **promotes a shared understanding of place, and the need to take a more collaborative approach to a place's services and assets** to achieve better outcomes for people and communities. The principle requests that all those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, and with local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places."

*Excerpt from [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)*

Dalry Community Council hopes to start creating a Local Place Plan in the coming months and has set up a steering group to drive the project forward.

It will use data from previous consultations and reports such as the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan, the Citizens Panel pilot and the results of a current Mental Health & Wellbeing survey (see article above) as baseline data to consult with the community.

The steering group hopes to be able to share as much of the process as it can with other local communities to give them a head start on writing plans of their own.

*If anyone is keen to be involved with the steering group please send an email to Dalry Community Council at [sjtdalrycc@gmail.com](mailto:sjtdalrycc@gmail.com)*



# LING

## Local Initiatives in New Galloway

### People, Places and Outdoor Spaces

Our new strapline, 'People, Places and Outdoor Spaces', has helped in a successful funding bid for the Scottish Government's Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. We argued in our bid that everything LING offers can help communities to thrive and can strengthen our resilience when times are hard, and were delighted to be awarded a major grant from the fund to appoint an events, activities and inclusion manager for two years, part-time.

### New Galloway Town Hall Renovations - Full Steam Ahead!

The fundraising for the Town Hall renovations has been going from strength to strength and we're all set to embark on the major works throughout the summer months. As part of that funding, we have secured a grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund to recruit a part-time project officer to oversee the renovation work. Externally, our plans for the building include repairs to the roof and walls, and repainting. Internally there will be complete rewiring and the creation of a greener heating system and installation of a lift.

### Youth Work

After consultation with young people and discussion with other local organisations, we have been successful in securing a grant from the Blackcraig Windfarm Community Fund for the appointment of a part-time youth activity and development

worker. We are thrilled about this as engaging young people has been an ambition for a long time. This role will complement the CatStrand Youth Arts programme by focusing on opportunities for sports, the outdoors and youth-led social activities across the Glenkens, not

just in New Galloway and Kells, and work with young people to help shape the future of youth provision in the area.

### LING Lunches on the Go Once More

On Tuesday 1 March, we opened the doors again at last for LING Lunches, our weekly community meals and meet-up, that had to be paused and, for a time, become a monthly meals delivery service due to Covid restrictions.

### 1,000 Canadian Dollars

Previously we recounted the tale of Dr Millman's great-great-granddaughter who contacted us to find out a bit more about him. We discovered he had been provost 150 years ago and initiated the fund raising for the town hall clock, which still keeps time today. We sent them information and photographs and as a thank you, they were happy to offer us a donation to help with our Crowdfunder. Imagine our astonishment and gratitude when what arrived in the LING bank account was a donation of \$1,000!

This gave a real lift to our Crowdfunder campaign and we succeeded in hitting our target of £5000 by 28 February - a huge thank you to everyone who contributed. Other fundraising has gone on alongside, with some members of our community pulling out all the stops. A range of fun and entertaining events generated with great energy and enthusiasm by our Events Manager, Neil, have also helped with raising funds. In trying to match-fund the offer of £175,000 from the UK Government's

Community Ownership Fund, we have worked hard at seeking grants from other trusts and foundations and so far have gratefully received funds from eight local and national funding bodies.

### New Chair at the Helm

Since 2008, Ros Hill has been the cheerleader in chief for LING and New Galloway Town Hall. As chair, she has kept faith with the vision that this building can and should be saved for community use. Not only that, but she has enabled us to take on the restoration of the Garroch Estate Walled Garden and the clearing of miles and miles of footpaths and woodland walks. Now she has decided to step down, though staying on the Board as a trustee, and Mary Smith has been elected to chair. Mary hopes to support the Board and volunteers to build on Ros' vision at this next stage in LING's development. With two new trustees joining us - Susan Dunstan and Poppy Gilbert - we are in a strong position as we move into this next chapter.

### Thank You

As always, we want to express a huge thank you to all the volunteers who give time and effort to support the Town Hall renovation, events, walled garden and woodland path projects. We hope that, with the funding in place now for paid roles to further support our work and volunteers, and with a focus on working closely with other organisations in the Glenkens, we can move forward to help serve the whole Glenkens community in a time when building positive connections, reaching our most vulnerable and isolated and creating opportunities for people of all ages to get together is more important than ever.

We always welcome any interest in volunteering - for an informal chat please get in touch on [newgallowaytownhall@gmail.com](mailto:newgallowaytownhall@gmail.com)

For more details on our job opportunities please see our ad on the back page of this issue or visit [www.newgallowaytownhall.com](http://www.newgallowaytownhall.com)

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# MOVING HOME

When we moved to the Glenkens almost exactly a year ago we didn't really know what to expect.

We had both lived in cities for most of our adult lives, and my memories of countryside living were limited to my childhood on the Devon moors which, as someone in their forties, felt like a very long time ago now!

At first it felt quite overwhelming, almost like a sort of culture shock, but with trees and vast open space rather than high-rises and the thousands of people you get in cities. I remember finding the first few weeks disconcerting.

There was the quietness, punctuated by the wind and the gentle rumbling of the river in the distance, and the pure darkness of the nights.

There was the vastness of the wilderness we found ourselves in, and how it made you feel almost inconsequential. Looking out through the trees and over the moorland it was hard not to feel nature's indifference to our existence. During those quiet times I often felt like if I stopped looking for even a moment that the wilderness would just reach out and claim back our little cottage for itself, covering it in moss and greenness.

Over time though it started to become the new normal. The wildness of outside started to feel protective rather than threatening and nature's powerful and unrelenting force became a source of comfort.

We still faced trials, but they became just another part of rural living. During the summer, when our water source dried up we bought ourselves a water filter and used the river instead. We looked at it as a

sign from nature to get moving on drilling a borehole, and life went on.

When the house was invaded by various bugs and beasts (at the last count we've had bats in the loft conversion, frogs in the toilet, flying ants en masse down the chimney and, of course, the usual suspects - midges and cleggs) we rescued, released and 'dealt' with them accordingly.



We weathered the many storms, dodged fallen trees, and repaired blown down chicken runs. We cooked our teas on the woodburner when the power went out for the thousandth time, and escaped to the CatStrand cafe for cheese toasties and to charge our phones when it got too much.

A year down the line it feels like we're starting to make real progress in our new life. We built a greenhouse with way too many parts and steps (I confidently proclaimed it should only take a couple of days, but unsurprisingly those days turned into weeks) that is now filled with seed trays, ready for this season's vegetables and flowers.

We got the borehole dug, and hit water at 70 metres down. It was a messy, muddy and noisy business but having an actual water supply that doesn't dry up as soon as the sun comes out is a real joy.

We have enough wood prepared to see us through many winters

to come, and enough batteries to weather any storms, and the power cuts that come with them.

The other morning, as I was walking to the hen house to let them out for the day, I was struck by just how lucky we were to live here. There was a sharp frost on the ground and everything was sparkling in the early morning sun; multiple tiny rainbows, reflecting off

the blades of grass and brittle winter twigs of the downy birch and rowan trees. The air was especially clean and fresh, even for here, and it felt like if I stopped for more than five seconds I'd end up becoming transfixed and mesmerised by it all - frozen in time for a while, like the frost-coated wilderness.

The hens, sensing my approach, started clucking and squawking, telling me they wanted out and to stop my lagging but, for a moment,

one short beautiful moment, everything felt calm and everything felt right.

When I got to the henhouse I found two eggs - the first they had laid since we got them half a year ago. I like to think the hens were letting me know that everything takes time, that new isn't new forever and that, in this case, when new becomes normal, you know you've arrived.

*Freiya Benson*



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# CatStrand Youth Players

The panto performances seem a long time ago now, but it was great to be back on stage again with the ever-popular Christmas panto.

*Old Mother Hubbard* played to three full houses in December and was thoroughly enjoyed by the audiences and the cast.

Straight after Christmas, thoughts turned to the SCDA Drama Festival and two plays were selected to be entered into the 2022 competition. The Festival was stopped in its tracks in 2020 when the first lockdown hit shortly after the Stewartry District Round was completed and CatStrand Players' much acclaimed winning play, *Henna Night*, by Amy Rosenthal was unable to progress to the next round. With this in mind, it was decided to enter *Henna Night* again in the Open Festival and the Youth Festival entry was appropriately called *Lockdown*, written by Douglas Craven but not about the type of lockdown we have become used to over the past two years!

Both of the plays were very successful at the Stewartry Festival, picking

up six trophies between them and for the first time ever, both CatStrand plays would progress to the West of Scotland Finals in Dunoon on 19 March. *Lockdown*, directed by James Wallace won the Youth Festival and also the awards for Best Stage Presentation, Best Moment of Theatre and Audience Choice. *Henna Night*, directed by Brian Edgar, was second in the Open Festival and also won the Audience Choice award. Although there weren't as many clubs competing in the festival as there usually is, this was still a tremendous achievement and both teams are really looking forward to their visit to Dunoon to represent the Stewartry District



YP And they all lived happily ever after © Ian Biggar

where they will compete against the other winning teams from around the West of Scotland for a place at the Scottish Final.

The plays will also be performed again at CatStrand on Thursday 24 March together with some comedy sketches from the newly formed Scriptless Drama Group.

## BUSINESS in the SPOTLIGHT



THE  
GALLERY AT  
LAURIESTON

"It's been a tricky journey these last two years," muses gallery owner Phil, "and as we emerge, blinking, into the light of a relatively new world, it's also a great world with much to savour, enjoy and take pleasure in."

Phil's trademark enthusiasm remains undimmed as he continues to build upon and improve his gallery space which aims to celebrate this beautiful part of Scotland. He says: "The depth of creative talent here in Galloway is incredibly high but remains relatively untapped; visitors from outside the region are often

stunned at the range of talent exhibited in the gallery."

Phil offers a showcase to artists and makers who have long since become friends, with the key to his business ethos being the concept of a truly mutually beneficial and supportive working relationship.

The gallery is nestled in the heart of Laurieston village, equidistant between New Galloway, Gatehouse, Kirkcudbright and Castle Douglas; "at the crossroads of both history and the future", says Phil with a grin.

Comments in the visitors book and reviews on Google, TripAdvisor and other social media attest to the pleasure found by visitors and locals alike when they happen upon this hidden gem on their travels.

A fairly recent evolution to the gallery has been the introduction of a wonderfully bright and surprisingly spacious tearoom. You can sit down to a range of filter coffees, loose-leafed teas and

locally-produced cakes from Jackie Povall at Fabby Cakes in New Galloway.

Local artists and makers on display include Pamela Grace, Amanda Simmons, Clare Dawdry, Grahame Young and many more alongside the fine art photography of owner Phil himself, with a more recent addition of organic perfumes by Flaya, jewellery by Elizabeth Gault and astounding box creations by Jenoch Wood.

**Opening times are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 4pm and Sundays from 10am to 5pm. To get in touch, visit [GalleryatLaurieston](https://www.facebook.com/GalleryatLaurieston) on Facebook or call 01644 450 235.**



# My Dad and Admiral Horton

Men (and women) who have fought in wars rarely speak of their experiences.

And in my opinion when they do, it is usually to tell a funny tale. Such was the case with my father, Henry Arthur Goodwin.

Dad would have celebrated his 100th birthday on 10 February this year, but alas he got nowhere near; he died in 1980. But the recent centenary of his birth set me to thinking about one of the very occasional tales he told of his war.

Dad was enlisted into the Royal Navy on 8 September 1942 as a stoker; the job involved looking after the engines on board ship. In dad's case these were diesel engines on a diesel electric ship, an unlikely job for someone who had served his apprenticeship as a French-polisher.

He was posted to HMS Bayntun (K310) which was a Captain class frigate built in the USA under the lend/lease scheme. Based out of Londonderry, the ship was mainly involved in Atlantic and Mediterranean convoy escorts, and hunting for U-boats; she did see some action.

One weekend, Dad had a weekend

pass which was cancelled at short notice because a VIP (Admiral Sir Max Horton) wanted to inspect the ship and the whole ship's company was required to be present and dressed in their best 'square rig'. We can imagine that he was pretty annoyed, having his weekend spoiled.

I will pause my tale for the moment to give you a little background...each navy ship had a purser (known colloquially as the 'pusser') whose job included issuing personal clothing and equipment to all sailors. The kit as issued included trousers made of a heavy material and with vertical creases, ribbons that were a good length and a 'tally' ribbon worn around the hat which was 'just so'. In the way of things, all sailors promptly had various changes made to their uniform (to be cool as we would say nowadays); these included new lightweight trousers with horizontal ('seven seas') creases, shorter ribbons and the tally had a bow over one eye.

When the admiral came on board, everyone in the ship's company was wearing the customary 'cool' form of the uniform but Dad, by way of protest, was wearing full 'pusser's issue', which must have stood out like a sore thumb. As my dad explained to me, when Admiral



*My dad, Henry Arthur Goodwin*

Max Horton inspected the crew he stopped at Dad, peering through a gin soaked haze, looked him up and down and asked his name. Apparently the admiral didn't speak to anyone else on the ship and for a few days afterwards, everyone wanted to know what the admiral had said and what his reply had been..."Goodwin, sir"!

Sometimes to make a protest you don't have to break the rules; a work-to-rule can have the same effect. Thankfully I have inherited the same 'awkward' gene.

*Paul Goodwin*

## 20s Plenty for New Galloway



**20**  
Twenty's  
Plenty

**Sign now to  
make our  
streets safer!**



**20**  
Twenty's  
Plenty

**Your Community Council is recommending that New Galloway should have a 20mph speed limit**

- Before this can happen Dumfries & Galloway Council has to be convinced that the people of New Galloway want a 20mph limit.
- Completing this form confirms you want a safer New Galloway.
- Everyone in your household can sign. Please add your age if under 16.

**Yes! I want a 20mph speed limit in New Galloway.**

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ I Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Age if under 16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form to New Galloway Community Shop or New Galloway Post Office by **31st January 2022**

**Why 20mph?**  
See over

At the start of January, Kells Community Council (CC) arranged for a survey to be distributed to residents of New Galloway asking whether they felt the village would benefit from a 20mph speed limit.

The majority of the forms were returned with overwhelming support for the CC view that we should have the lower speed limit, and at the February community council

meeting the findings were given to regional councillor Jane Maitland.

The need for a survey regarding people's views on the speed limit came directly from the regional council. When Kells CC approached D&G Council with regard to local support for the Scottish Government's move towards imposing a safer speed limit in all built up areas, the council responded that claiming residents wish this change is not enough and that evidence needed to be provided.

The survey form was delivered to every household in the village, and 126 signatures were returned in favour of a 20mph limit.

*Lois Aitkenhead*

# Art, Farming, Forestry & Conservation

What a fantastic evening was had at the *Art, Farming, Forestry & Conservation* conversation, linked to CatStrand's exhibition by Leeming + Paterson.

Artists Ted Leeming and Morag Paterson explore biodiversity through the lens of photography. In an innovative move, they hosted an evening bringing together voices from the worlds of hill farming, forestry and conservation.

Art, especially ecological art, is a brilliant way to bring different areas of expertise together, flushing out interdisciplinary connections and allowing the audience and speakers to discuss solutions to problems or threats to local landscapes. The event was brilliantly chaired by Alan Smith of the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust.

The first to speak was Patrick Laurie who runs a small farm in Galloway and is also the author of the award winning book *Native: Life in a Vanishing Landscape*.

Patrick is a farmer with a drive for upland conservation and working with native cattle, grouse and wading birds. On listening to him talk, I was struck by his passion and the way he felt a deep connection

with the land and the nature. This is why he is such a brilliant writer but it means he feels the pain of the land and species loss deeply. Patrick spoke honestly about his concern that the average age of farmers is getting older and with land being sought after by large forestry companies there was a temptation for families who had farmed this land for generations to sell.

Fast on the heels of Patrick was speaker Anna Lawrence who helped us understand more about forestry, both the dangers to the environment around us but also the opportunities for community led rewilding. Anna is a professor at the University of the Highlands and Islands, and her mission is to bridge the gap between extreme forms of forestry, through what she calls non-binary forestry. She described some excellent examples of rewilding, biodiversity, and a balanced approach to planting and encouraging nature to reclaim the land.

The discussion was very enlightening and productive with Alan ensuring people were allowed to express their concerns provoked by the excellent speakers. How could the community halt the march



of commercial forestry or was it too late? Why were there not more grants for biodiversity, not just in patches of the landscape, but covering a larger area?

Morag and Ted aren't experts in the areas being discussed but, through their photographic observations, they were able to create a space for this ecologically intelligent and timely conversation to take place.

For me, relatively new to this impressive community, I was struck by the spirit and the pride of the people working and living on the land in Galloway; if they can't find a solution then no-one can! Their strength seems to lie in an ability to look out into the world for solutions and then look within their communities to try and test these innovative ways of living in balance, and protecting and enhancing the natural world around them.

Jan Hogarth

## Local Food Network Grows

Propagate is delighted to announce that we have been awarded around £8,000 from the Communities Wellbeing Fund for our Growing Connections project - more

food and growing events that bring the community together during 2022.

Following on from the Seed Swap in March in New Galloway, you can expect to find gardening activities popping up across the Glenkens.

We have also just heard that a funding application to Blackcraig Wind Farm Fund to support set-up and initial running costs for

the Glenkens Food Hub has been successful. This will mean that the very best of local and sustainably sourced products can be delivered to your door.

**We are looking to connect with more veg growers in the area who can supply the Food Hub, even if only with a very small amount. If you are a keen grower, or know someone who is - please get in touch on [abi@propagate.org.uk](mailto:abi@propagate.org.uk)**

Abi Mordin, Propagate

# Slow Down for Corsock

This article is not really about speed signs - it's more about slowing down in general.

This evidence that villagers felt traffic needed to slow down enabled funding to be secured from the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme and the Glenkens & District Trust to install two electronic speed signs in February 2022, which was great.

However, the most common question asked during the project was "why bother?" - the signs don't dispense fines, they can only politely remind drivers of their speed with a hope that this will gently encourage them to abide by the limits. My response is that, in a way, the signs are much more than that.

Recent years have not been kind to Corsock. We have lost vital community assets like the school and the pub.

Often these losses have been due to broader changes in society, yet on a village scale they have a huge impact and are mourned.

With the loss of these core elements of village life, a place like Corsock risks becoming a place that people just hurry through, a bend in the road around which a group of persistent

houses huddle for no seeming reason or purpose - we look in one direction towards the Glenkens and the other towards Dumfries.

But Corsock has an identity - it has its own history, its own sense of place and its own sense of purpose.

The new signs are a reminder of the speed limit, but they also reflect the work over the last 18 months to look after 'here'. We want drivers to know that we care about Corsock, and that we aren't just a blip along the route of getting from one place to another.

So the next time you see the Corsock signs flash up your speed, remind yourself to slow down - maybe even stop - and have a look around; we really are a very nice little village!

McNabb Laurie,  
Corsock Community Council

Pictured alongside Corsock's new speed sign are, left to right, Lindsay Stewart with children, Sharon Mitchell with children, Willie Dickson and councillor Iain Howie.



# 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](mailto:pater5365@yahoo.co.uk)

# Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by  
natural power

**If you would like to list something on this page, please get in touch on 07727 127 997 or [glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk)**

## FREE

**Brown leather reclining chair**, reasonable condition, contact Mark on 07515 052 238

**Electric lawn mower and grass box**. Contact: Ian on 07840 506 516

**Three-seater IKEA Karlanda sofa**, approx 7ft long, with spare set of covers. The sofa is light blue/grey, and the spare covers are mustard yellow. New Galloway. Contact: 07763170098

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

## FOR SALE

**Electric cement mixer:** Wickes Belle Minimix 130. Good condition, little used, £100. Needs to be collected. Contact: 01644 460 516

**Elite Care wheelchair**, suitable for large person, barely used. £100. Contact: 07521 902 567

## WANTED

**Chest freezer**. Contact: Tony on 07507 704 821

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

**King size mattress, 2-seater sofa, water butt, outdoor**

**bench, outdoor table & chairs**. Contact: Sarah on 07453 858 505 or [saraheathomas@gmail.com](mailto:saraheathomas@gmail.com)

## LOCAL JOBS

Dalry-based company **Natural Power Ltd** has two local jobs going - **Lead Driller** and **Business Support Assistant**. To find out more visit [www.naturalpower.com/uk/careers](http://www.naturalpower.com/uk/careers)

## HOME WANTED IN THE GLENKENS

**We are seeking to buy a home with 2-3 bedrooms and 3-5 acres of land, somewhere in the Glenkens.**

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

Anywhere and any condition considered - **please help us to stay in the Glenkens!**

Contact: Abi and Bruce on 07340 531506 or [abi@mordin.net](mailto:abi@mordin.net)



**PAMELA YOUNG TRUST**  
*help with housing in the Glenkens*

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

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



For more information or to download an application form, please go to [www.pamelayoungtrust.co.uk](http://www.pamelayoungtrust.co.uk), or telephone Peter Matthews of A B & A Matthews on 01671 404100.

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# FESTIVAL OF DIVAS AND ICONS

Knockengoroch Festival has revealed its 2022 theme, Divas and Icons, through a photo series with rap artist and singer Nova aka Nova Scotia The Truth, who will be performing at this year's festival.



Pictured beside the Deugh river, Carsphairn, Nova presents this year's theme in a homage to the endangered freshwater mussel of Scottish rivers in a scene inspired by Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*.

See back page for ad with festival details.

# Eco Feature

# WE ARE THE ARK

sponsored by



You are likely to see signs like these appearing outside Glenkens gardens in the coming months.

They are part of an international initiative entitled We Are The Ark which aims to promote the use of gardens as sanctuaries for our beleaguered and diminishing ecosystems and wildlife.

Many people have already given over parts of their gardens to safe habitats for other species; this initiative is about encouraging others to join in. It requires very little effort or cost as you just return part of your garden to native species, and put up a sign saying:

THIS IS AN ARK

[www.wearetheark.org](http://www.wearetheark.org)

The signs let your neighbours and passers-by know that the wildness of your garden is intentional (and not neglect!). Hopefully it will encourage them to join in. By working together

we can provide our villages and neighbourhoods with desperately-needed wildlife corridors full of birds, bees, butterflies, hedgehogs, and 1000s of struggling species of native plants, insects, mammals and birds.

We Are The Ark was started in Ireland by Mary Reynolds, who describes herself as "a reformed landscape gardener". She won a big award at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2002 but then realised in a eureka moment that imposed landscaping was the last thing wild systems needed, and she started this project for gardens.

You can take part whether you have a window box or a hundred acres. By handing back part of our gardens to nature and giving a minimal helping hand to restore ecosystems we become, in Mary Reynolds' phrase, "a guardian rather than a gardener". The rest of our gardens can still be used for growing vegetables, our favourite flowers or space for recreation.

We Are The Ark is now an international movement with thousands of

supporters, and we have an informal group operating in the Glenkens.

You can take part without contacting anyone, but if you would like to get involved you can email [margaret.elphinstone@dircon.co.uk](mailto:margaret.elphinstone@dircon.co.uk)

We'd like to hear what you are doing or planning to do with your gardens and your ideas for restoring space for natural ecosystems in the numerous gardens of the Glenkens.

To find out more visit [www.wearetheark.org](http://www.wearetheark.org) or there is also a podcast at <https://pca.st/vkgfd4vn>

Margaret Elphinstone



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[www.rjmcculloch.co.uk](http://www.rjmcculloch.co.uk)

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

## INSTALLING RENEWABLES THROUGHOUT SOUTH-WEST SCOTLAND

### INSTALLATION

- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Biomass
- Oil
- General Plumbing

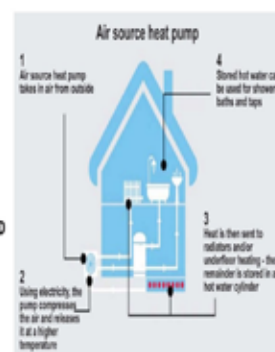
### SERVICE

- Ground Source Heat Pumps
- Solid Fuel
- LPG
- Bathrooms

### REPAIR

### WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER A HEAT PUMP

- £10k INTEREST FREE LOAN TOWARDS INSTALLATION
- RECEIVE UP TO £2000 PER ANNUM THROUGH GOVERNMENT PAY BACK SCHEME
- MASSIVE FUEL SAVINGS COMPARED TO FOSSIL FUELED APPLIANCES
- RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE HEATING SYSTEM WITH LOW MAINTENANCE



# The Optimistic Environmentalist

## Technology, Gadgets & Gizmos

We have become reliant on machines and technology to help us do day-to-day activities, to keep us safe and comfortable, relaxed, energised or entertained.

However, our demand for the metals and minerals necessary for our machines and for power are growing all the time, causing us problems that we must all take responsibility for and do everything we can to deal with the issues.

### Waste in Technology

Figures state that Britain produces 1.6 million tons of WEEE (waste electric and electronic equipment) which is approximately 23.9 kgs per person thrown away each year. Global figures are estimated at 53.6 million tons (12 October 2021).

In November 2020 research commissioned by community-run mobile network, giffgaff, indicated that Britons have 55 million unused mobiles lying around ([www.metro.co.uk](http://www.metro.co.uk)). Researchers polled 2,300 adults from 20 cities. Giffgaff are running the Check Your Drawers campaign urging the public to pass on or recycle old devices, or refurbish them for cash for yourself or the community. In 2017, Zero Waste Scotland ([zerowastescotland.org](http://zerowastescotland.org)) found that a third of the respondents had unused smart phones, a quarter were hoarding unused digital cameras, and 19 percent had unused computers or laptops. Not only are we creating new technology but we are keeping very important metals and minerals trapped in machines that could be recycled for other devices, thus reducing mining.

Research by the European Commission (EC) in 2020 showed that 11,000 tonnes of chargers alone are wasted every year. The European Commission brought in a proposal in 2021 to reduce the amount of waste in technology and electrical products. For instance, they proposed the use of a universal charging port for all phones, tablets, laptops, smart speakers, digital cameras, games consoles and headphones ie the USB-C port. The proposal also takes away the need to supply a charger with a device. This will enable people to use their chargers between machines and carry on with them when they buy new items. Some companies are already using this port in

their technology. Apple has complained that this will stifle innovation. I, though, am sick of buying the right cable for each piece of technology despite of having a drawer full and would be very grateful if Britain follows Europe with new legislation.

...What Can We Do?

Clear your drawers, cupboards and rooms by passing on all electric or electronic items or recycling them. Many charities and some charity shops accept mobile phones and other electrical items. Alternatively, give them away via sites like Freecycle or Gumtree.

### How Machines and Technology are Designed is Crucial

There is a growing call to encourage companies to create machines that can be mended or upgraded to reduce

Our TVs are among the most power-intensive domestic items in the home because of the amount of power a TV uses ... and how much time in a day we have them on.

how much needs throwing away. Unfortunately, computer and mobile phone manufacturers in the last few years have been gluing in batteries and other parts and sealing in components so that the whole item has to be replaced, and recycling them into components parts or metals is difficult.

For example, we have a very good tumble dryer built by a well-known German manufacturer, bought for its environmental and efficiency aspects a while ago. It developed an issue that needed the condenser to be cleaned of lint drawn through the machine. My husband is an ex-electronics engineer; it took him six hours to take it apart and reassemble it. This involved complete disassembly, disconnecting cable looms, removing the drum, etc. The actual cleaning took only ten minutes and the only tool required was a vacuum cleaner. If the manufacturer had put an access hatch at the side, you could get to the part straightaway, or if the machine had been designed differently so the condenser could be easily reached, it would be cheap and easy to repair.

Better design would stop machines being thrown away so quickly and give work to local people to mend



machines like they used to. The Right to Repair national and international movement ([www.repair.eu](http://www.repair.eu)) is asking for responsible design and stopping in-built obsolescence, ie items being made

that fail after a short time and cannot be mended. Individuals and groups are involved in various campaigns including the reintroduction of removable and replaceable batteries in devices.

Companies are realising that reducing power consumption

is also important, not just for customers' power bills, but also because of climate change. Our TVs are among the most power-intensive domestic items in the home because of the amount of power a TV and its related entertainment equipment uses, and how much time in a day we have them on. Sky has just brought out the Glass TV which they claim reduces the power consumption by a third, partly as they have put all the entertainment components into one box, and partly because the power drawn by this item is lower than comparable TVs.

When looking at TVs, it is amazing how they vary in energy consumption. Generally, the bigger and more expensive a set, the greater the power consumption; I wonder, though, if the largest sets costing over £10,000 even consider efficiency!

...What can we do?

When you buy a piece of equipment, look at the power consumption as well as the cost.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

**Part 2 of Technology, Gadgets & Gizmos will follow in the June/July issue of the Gazette.**

# HEDGEHOG RESCUE

Alison Bradley is based outside Carsphairn and runs a hedgehog rescue centre. Below is a little about what's involved in rescuing these wonderful prickly garden regulars, along with some tips for how to help your local hedgehogs.

Spring is here and people are starting to tidy up their gardens. Please be mindful of wildlife when working and check carefully, especially hedgehogs, as untidy areas are their homes and they may still be in their winter sleep. If strimming, check long grass and leaves under hedges as this is often where hedgehogs get caught and injured.

Slug pellets are another horror for hedgehogs; they eat the pellets as well as the poisoned slugs, killing the hogs in a slow and painful way. It would be great if more people tried other, wildlife-friendly ways to deter slugs - they do work. A family of hungry hogs in your garden is a much cheaper option than pesticides!

Hegehogs are starting to come out of hibernation now and some will have just managed to survive over the winter, but upon waking are struggling to find enough food

to build themselves up for the breeding season. These hogs can be quite weak and are already starting to be found and brought into the rescue centre - four have come in over the last two weeks.

Something to note is that hedgehogs are strictly nocturnal and should never be out in daylight. The hog can look perfectly normal scurrying around looking for food, but this can be the start of a downward spiral which can result in its death.

If you do find a hog out during the day please take it in, put in a high-sided box (they are excellent escape artists) with a hot water bottle (not too hot) wrapped in an old towel (if you don't have a hot water bottle you can use a lemonade bottle filled with hot water) and give me a ring - I am always happy to give advice. Hedgehogs will eat cat or dog food and small cat biscuits. Also remember to supply a low dish of water - please don't give milk as it causes enteritis. Peanuts, sultanas and sunflower seeds in small quantities are ok but do crush the peanuts as they can get them stuck across their palate, which can lead to starvation.

Most of my patients are released



*Seven five-day-old hoglets were brought in as the mother had built her nest in a silo and were washed out when the silo was cleaned.*

back into the wild. Some do have to stay as permanent residents as they are blind or have lost a leg due to injury. At present I have 22 hogs in my care, six of which are permanent residents. I am always looking for safe release sites as it may not be possible to release a hog back to where they were found. They come in their own release box which they have lived in for a few weeks to acclimatise to and all I ask is that you put food out for a while to give them a start in their new home.

**If you have a question about hedgehogs, have found an injured hog or would like to offer a safe space for a hedgehog release you can get in touch with Alison on 07722 516 514.**

## THE JOLLY STRIMMER

*(to be sung to the tune of The Jolly Miller)*

There was a jolly strimmer once  
Lived in the Glens of Ken  
He strimmed away from morn to night  
The noisiest of men

And this the burden of his song  
Forever it will be  
I care for nobody, her nor him  
It's strimming that makes me free  
To strim by night was his delight  
To strim by day his glee  
He thrashed with joy the flowers bright  
He scythed the infant tree

And this the burden...

He put the fledgling birds to flight  
He terrorised the bee  
The hedgehog's brood he trashed with might.  
The spiders all did flee.

And this the burden...

His neighbours' peace with zeal he breached  
He sowed discord around  
Their curses left him quite untouched  
He could not hear a sound

And this the burden...

Now Father Time his scythe has waved  
The strimmer's sand has run  
The neighbours have the peace they craved  
The strimmer's had his fun

So this the burden of **their** song  
Forever more will be  
Let nature flourish safe and strong  
From strimming at last set free

Anon

# GLENKENS PLACE NAMES: PART XV

In Glenkens Place-names XIV in the last issue of the *Glenkens Gazette*, I mentioned the odd looking place-names Petillery and Petiffers, both in Carsphairn parish.

An attentive reader has quite correctly asked whether the 'pet/pit' elements might be outliers of the very common 'pit' place-names which are found in their hundreds mainly in east and north-east Scotland. There are 82 examples in Fife alone, examples being the well-known Pittenweem in Fife and Pittodrie in Aberdeenshire.

These eastern 'pit' place-names are often described as Pictish. These place-names are nearly all coined in Gaelic - *pett* was originally a Pictish word borrowed into Old Gaelic as *pett*. Indeed this place-name element appears five times in the earliest surviving Scottish Gaelic text, ie the notes appended to the 12th century *Book of Deer*.

Often *pett* and *baile* place-names exhibit generic element variation in Gaelic forms of place-names. For example there is Pitlochry in Perthshire which nowadays is *Baile Chloichridh* in Gaelic (see *Ainmean-Aite na h-Alba*). *Baile* means a settlement, farm, village or even town with *baile mòr* signifying a city. The original Pictish meaning of *pett* seems to have been 'land-holding or farm'.

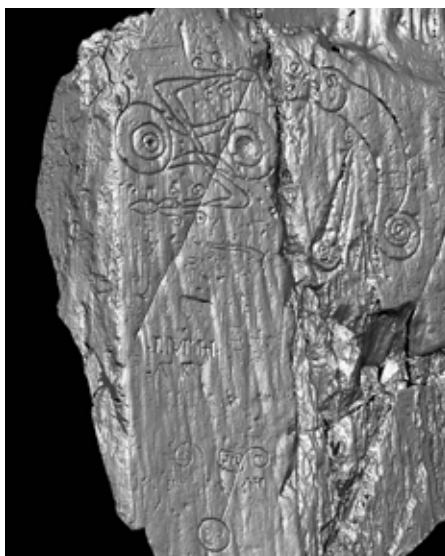
So back to the question from our alert reader. I would suggest that despite some historical references to the 'Picts of Galloway' it is unlikely that Picts as we would understand the use of the term in the east and north-east of Scotland were significantly present in Galloway. The attested Pictish kingdoms were essentially north of the Forth-Clyde valley and once covered all of the north including the outer Hebrides and the Orkney/Shetland Islands. Pictish was subsumed by Gaelic in the former and Norse in the latter. In pre-ninth century Galloway the Brittonic, Norse and Old English languages could be found, soon to be eclipsed by a thorough Gaelicisation. Professor William Watson in *The Celtic Place-Names of Scotland* wrote:

"The population of Galloway was never Pictish, if by Picts we mean the real Picts - the early tribes of the far north of Scotland. Nor yet was it ever Pictish in the sense that it at any time came under Pictish rule or hegemony; it never formed part of Pictavia."

Having said all that there are a couple of tantalising hints at Pictish connections with the south-west. The most transparently dramatic potential connection are the 'Pictish' symbols carved on the rock at the hillfort of Trusty's Hill near Gatehouse (see lidar

illustration below).

The Galloway Picts Project (see [www.gallowaypicts.com/gallowaypicts/results/summary-report/](http://www.gallowaypicts.com/gallowaypicts/results/summary-report/) for the summary report) considers that the Pictish carvings could be genuine given they established occupation of the hill fort in the period fifth to seventh centuries AD but suggests that they are perhaps part of an 'assemblage' of features found at other hill forts such as Edinburgh and Dunadd in Argyll. In these places, as with Trusty's Hill, there is an association of Pictish symbols with possible royal inauguration features such as rock-cut basins and entrance ways. Were the Pictish symbols seen as high-status art and therefore



Laser scanned image of the Pictish symbols carved on a rock on Trusty's Hill hill-fort near Gatehouse of Fleet. Image courtesy of The Galloway Picts Project <https://gallowaypicts.com/gallowaypicts>

transferred from Pictland proper to Galloway in the context of this royal dark age stronghold (if it was such rather than a ceremonial site)?

The name Trusty's Hill itself is interesting. It is reminiscent of the Pictish name *Drost*, which was the name of several Pictish kings. However before we get too excited by this correspondence it is as well to consider Alan James' wise council in his *Place-Names of the Fleet Valley* online resource. I reproduce an extract here (for the full text see [www.gatehouse-folk.org.uk/](http://www.gatehouse-folk.org.uk/)):

"Two stories about the place-name Trusty's Hill (recorded by Maxwell, perhaps significantly, as 'Trusty Knowe' without the possessive 's') were current in the 19th century. The Ordnance Survey Name Book relates one that has the typical qualities of a folk-etymology: 'Formerly there had been a house at the base of the hill which had been occupied by a man named Carson who had married

one of the minister's servants, which servant the minister had always styled her as his Trusty Servant, from whom it is said the hill took its name'. The other, obviously an antiquarian speculation based on the apparently Pictish carvings near the summit, associated Trusty with a Pictish King Drost. Drost (in fact a Gaelic form for Pictish Drost) was the name of several rulers in Pictland, the one associated with the hill would be the king mentioned in an Irish account as the father of a princess named Drustic, who was sent by his father to be educated at Whithorn by the then abbot, Mugint, and got up to some mischief that prompted Mugint to compose a hymn, 'Spare us, Lord...'. Both these are delightful examples of stories made up to explain a place-name, but names are not created to suit stories, it is the other way around, both these yarns must have served to make sense of a pre-existing name. In the absence of any documentation for the name prior to the Ordnance Survey, any suggestion as to the real origin of the name can only be very tentative. Nevertheless, it is worth comparing it with the better-documented Trostrie, above. Trusty's Hill might perhaps be another Brittonic formation with *\*traus-*, though the generic in this case may have been *-tī* (Welsh *tŷ*) 'a cottage, a small house'. *\*Traus- tī* would suggest some building on the way through the narrow gap where a watch was kept, maybe some toll levied, on those passing through. If this were the case, the idea in the folk-etymology that the hill was named after an inhabitant of a modest building at its foot would not have been too far from the truth. So it is possible (though of course far from certain) that 'Trusty' was, like Trostrie, a strategic crossing-point on the ancient east-west routeway, and the hill was named after it."

The other potential connection with Galloway Picts is a reference to a tribe of folk called the Greenies. This is in a book by Trotter, Robert de Bruce, 1877 - *Galloway Gossip*, or the *Southern Albanich 60 Years Ago* by Choppington, Northumberland. Ostensibly this seems to represent the Gaelic term *Cruithnigh* the plural of *Cruithneach* which is the Gaelic term for Pict. If we could trust Trotter then this just might represent a lingering folk memory of a people (by then speaking Gaelic) who migrated from Ulster and who were originally seen by the Irish as Picts. However I would take almost all that Trotter says with a pinch of salt.

Suffice to say that I don't think that Petillery or Pitiffers represent 'Pictish' place-names of the type found in the east of Scotland and I hope I can rest my case.

I have strayed a bit from Glenkens place-names in this issue for which I crave your indulgence but I blame the person who asked such a complicated question in the first place!

Michael Ansell, Cars Fèarna

# NEW OWNERS FOR DALRY SHOP

The Dalry shop and Post Office is due to change hands on 7 April, when the new owners Val and Bill Chalmers take over.

I want to say a huge "thank you" to everyone who has supported the shop over the last nine years. I have found my time very enjoyable and rewarding, but am now looking forward to taking things a bit easier!

Please come in and meet Val and Bill and give them your support.

*Best wishes, Lyndsay*



## Photo of the Issue

*Sponsored by the Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Company*

This issue's winner is Morag with a lovely view over the Rhinns of Kells.

Morag 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: "*The Rhinns are so dramatic, and this really captures an air of mysticism as sunlight filters down over the hills - a really lovely shot.*"



To enter you can send in any photograph taken in the Glenkens to [glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk)




**New Galloway  
Golf Club**

Founded 1902  
[www.nggc.co.uk](http://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**



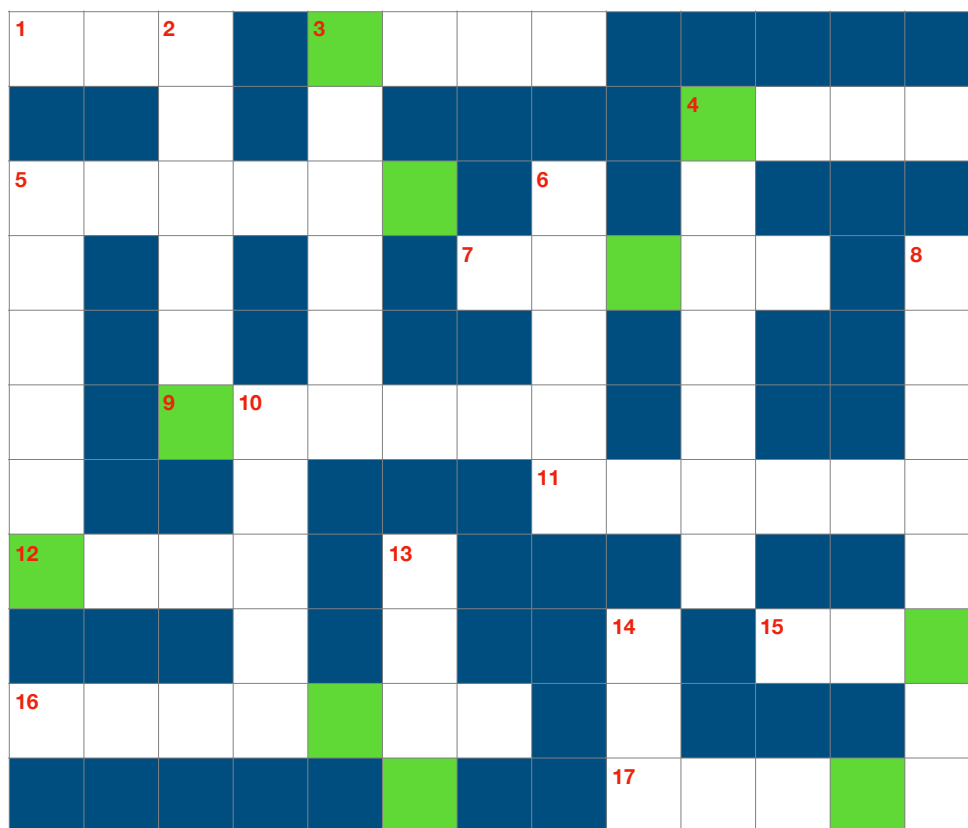
**Semi-retired Furniture Maker &  
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...special rates for inclusion of  
tea, cake and friendly banter...

**Call Pete on 07970 462 088**

# GAZETTE CROSSWORD

***This crossword is sponsored by Lancaster Wealth & Investment Management, with a prize of a £25 voucher for the Clachan Inn. Congratulations to Mary Blyth who won last issue's prize!***



## ACROSS

## DOWN

- |                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Short lyric poem that praises an individual, an idea, or an event (3)                               | 2 The Philosophers Stone is said to contain the _____ to cure all diseases (6)                                                          |
| 3 Widely held but false belief or idea (4)                                                            | 3 Toni Collette's hilarious title character in the 1994 Australian comedy-drama film (6)                                                |
| 4 Beetle larvae (4)                                                                                   | 4 Canadian actor, who starred in hit 2004 rom-com "The Notebook", Ryan _____ (7)                                                        |
| 6 Workman's cutting tool (6)                                                                          | 5 <i>University Challenge</i> host of 27 years, Jeremy _____ (6)                                                                        |
| 7 Classic card game (5)                                                                               | 6 Dry, scaly protective casing of the seeds of cereal grains (5)                                                                        |
| 9 Feeling of happiness that something unpleasant has not happened (6)                                 | 8 Naturally occurring fibre that was widely used in construction until the late 1990s (8)                                               |
| 11 Cheesy dish flavoured usually with white wine (6)                                                  | 10 What does this stereo button symbol mean  ? (5) |
| 12 City famous for super yachts and salad (4)                                                         | 13 Form of role-playing game where the participants physically portray their characters - Acronym (4)                                   |
| 15 Abbreviation of the names Christopher or Katherine (3)                                             | 14 Homer Simpson's catch-phrase - _____! (3)                                                                                            |
| 16 DC Comics superhero "Green _____" (7)                                                              |                                                                                                                                         |
| 17 Dvořák's <i>Largo</i> (New World Symphony) was used in this company's well-loved 1970's advert (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 green boxes.

Send the winning word to [philip.lancaster@sjpp.co.uk](mailto:philip.lancaster@sjpp.co.uk)

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

# Mull of Galloway to John o' Groats Fundraising Challenge

Iain Munro, originally from Perth, is now based at the Galloway Activity Centre by Loch Ken.

Iain will be walking from the Mull of Galloway to John O' Groats - the entire length of Scotland, which is around 460 miles - to raise funds and awareness for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance and for Jeffrey's Biker Journey.

"I grew up in Perth only a couple of miles from the Scone airport where one of the air ambulance helicopters is based," says Iain. "Right from when Scotland's charity air ambulance started in 2013 I would look up every time I heard a helicopter in the hope to see it.

"When I moved away from Perth I lived in mainly remote areas and with the air ambulance I have the peace of mind knowing that if needed help is not far away.

"I found out about Jeffrey's Biker Journey in July 2021 whilst I was self isolating. I was scrolling through Facebook and I came across a post about a UK-wide relay ride to raise awareness of Batten disease and to help Jeffrey, a five-year-old boy who had been diagnosed with Batten disease earlier in 2021. I thought it



*Iain in front of one of Scotland's charity air ambulance helicopters.*

sounded like a really worthwhile cause."

Iain began his journey on 9 March, and is walking the whole route carrying his own tent and supplies, aiming to complete the journey within 25 days

because it takes 25 minutes or the Air Ambulance to reach 90% of Scotland.

*If you would like to donate Iain's Fundraising Challenge go to JustGiving and search MoG2Jog.*

## WINDY STANDARD WIND FARM COMMUNITY UPDATE

Fred Olsen Renewables is proud to be developing and operating wind farms across Scotland for over 25 years.

Windy Standard Wind Farm was our first operational project in Scotland and has allowed us the opportunity to build up close relationships with suppliers in and around the region – allowing us to deliver economic benefits locally through job creation and investment.



We look forward to continuing these partnerships as we move forwards with our proposals for the repowering of Windy Standard Wind Farm and also the construction of Windy Standard III. However, we are also always keen to meet with new suppliers and learn about the services that they can provide as part of our supply chain.

*Please get in touch with [suppliers@fredolsen.co.uk](mailto:suppliers@fredolsen.co.uk) to find out more.*

# Plants and Cakes

St Margaret's Church, on Kenbridge Road in New Galloway, is hosting a plant and cake sale on Saturday 7 May to raise funds for Dumfries & Galloway Blood Bikes.

From 10am to 12 noon, a wide selection of herbaceous plants, flower and veg seedlings and house plants will be for sale in front of the church, all lovingly grown in local gardens. At the same time, delicious home-baking will be for sale inside the church, and teas and coffees will also be on offer.

The sale is being organised by St Margaret's Guild and all proceeds from the sale will be given to Dumfries & Galloway Blood Bikes, a charity set up by local volunteers to deliver essential blood

and urgent medical supplies between NHS hospitals and healthcare sites in Dumfries and Galloway. The charity is entirely dependent on donations and run by volunteers who receive no compensation for their time or costs. The service is provided free of charge to the NHS, ensuring limited resources can be used where most needed.

Christine Rankin, President of St Margaret's Guild, explains: "We have always been supporters of Dumfries & Galloway Blood Bikes and we are particularly conscious that the rise in fuel costs will hit them hard. We hope as many as possible will join us on 7 May to help raise much needed funds".

Hi,

I love reading your Gazette and wish I lived in the New Galloway area - I'll be coming back soon!

*Best wishes,  
Steve, Nottingham*

## Retirement of Rev David Bartholomew

This is a preliminary notice to inform members of the Glenkens communities that the Rev David Bartholomew is retiring as Minister of the parishes of Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Dalry, and Kells at the end of July.

His last service will be in Dalry Church on 31 July. The church elders are planning to have an event in Dalry Town Hall after the service and there will be a presentation at 12.30pm, followed by a light buffet lunch to which all will be welcome.

David has touched the lives of many people in the community over the 27 years of his ministry here, and there will be a collection for people to show their appreciation. Contributions can be given to session clerk Ian Knox (on 01644 430 529 or 07840 506 516) or to any church elder.



### THE GALLOWAY PLAYERS

**St. John's Town of Dalry  
Town Hall**  
Saturday April 23rd  
4 pm - 5 pm

Galloway's own Flute and Guitar Duo performing a beautiful mixture of Bach, Celtic music, and Italian Classical repertoire.  
Not to be missed!

Entry by donation (suggested £5)

[thegallowayplayers@gmail.com](mailto:thegallowayplayers@gmail.com)

## Won't Someone Read Me?

I sit here on a shelf, jammed shoulder to shoulder with others in the local interest section of Dalry Library.

We have stories to tell, but no-one has read me for five years.

My stories are not online, you won't find them with Google – you need to check me out!

Tuesday 8 March was International Women's Day and Scotland's First Minister apologised for the way that so-called witches were persecuted in the past; still, no-one came to read the real stories. Who am I? *Ghosts and Witchcraft in Dumfries & Galloway*...



### PARTON PHOTO COMPETITION

This year's photo competition has the theme of 'trees'. Please submit entries to [partonphoto2022@gmail.com](mailto:partonphoto2022@gmail.com) or on Facebook at @partonvillagescotland

Photos will be displayed in the village over the Jubilee weekend.

## 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](http://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)

### 1/4 PAGE:

9cm w x 13cm h, £81.90 (+ 25% off with series discount)

### 1/2 PAGE:

18cm w x 13cm h, £151.20 (+ 25% off with series discount)

### FULL PAGE:

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

**Call 07727 127 997**

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## Sports in Dalry

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

**Table Tennis** (available 24/7)

**Snooker** (available 24/7)

**Indoor Bowls** (October to March)

**Badminton** (available 24/7)

For details for table tennis, snooker, indoor bowls and badminton contact Gary Blissett on 01644 430 521.

## CROSSMICHAEL THERAPY CENTRE

**- Your Health is Important -**

### Acupuncture & Chinese Herbal Medicine

Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine is probably best known for its treatment of pain. However, they can be used to treat a broader variety of conditions, from achy joints to anxiety, skin troubles to insomnia, acupuncture could help change the way you manage some of life's health challenges.

Matthew Pajo has been studying and practising Chinese medicine for over 25 years and has attained a Bachelor Health Science and Master Applied Science in Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine.

As a highly skilled and trusted clinician, Matthew uses safe, effective, and natural treatments that can bring relief from acute and chronic conditions.

Matthew is a member of the British Acupuncture Federation and the Association of Acupuncture Clinicians.

**To make an appointment call 07786 079 845**

**or email [info@matthewpajo.co.uk](mailto:info@matthewpajo.co.uk)**

**For more information visit [www.matthewpajo.co.uk](http://www.matthewpajo.co.uk)**

### Psychological Therapy

Amber Dunlop-Pajo has spent over 20 years working as a psychologist and has attained a Bachelor Psychology (Hons) and Master Psychology (Health) and is a Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society.

Amber specialises in Women's Health as well as depression, stress, anxiety and has a focus on health psychology.

**Contact Amber on 07389 713 106 or [info@gallowaycounselling.co.uk](mailto:info@gallowaycounselling.co.uk)**

**For more information visit [www.gallowaycounselling.co.uk](http://www.gallowaycounselling.co.uk)**

**Crossmichael Therapy Centre,  
The Old School, Crossmichael, DG7 3AP**

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](http://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: Hayley Edgar - 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:ros.hill@rathanhouse.co.uk)

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

**Dalry Town Hall:** Contact Lesley Blissett at [lesleyblissett52@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyblissett52@gmail.com)

**Glenkens Community Centre:** Contact Carylann Williamson at [williamsoncarylann@gmail.com](mailto:williamsoncarylann@gmail.com)

**New Galloway Community Enterprises (NGCE):** Contact [ngce5000@gmail.com](mailto:ngce5000@gmail.com) or pop into New Galloway Community Shop

**Balmaclellan Community Trust:** Contact Julia Higgins at [julia.higgins55@outlook.com](mailto:julia.higgins55@outlook.com)

**CatStrand:** Contact Fiona Limbrey at [fiona@catstrand.com](mailto: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](mailto:carsphairnheritagegroup@gmail.com)

**Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP):** Contact McNabb Laurie at [mcnabb.laurie@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto: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 Apr & 1 May  
Carsphairn: 11am - 10 Apr, 8 May & 29 May  
Kells: 11am - 17 Apr & 15 May  
Dalry: 11am - 24 Apr & 22 May

#### Special Services

Soup & Sweet Lunch, 2 Apr, 12.30pm, Dalry Town Hall  
Good Friday Service, 15 Apr, 7.30pm, Dalry Church  
Easter Dawn Service, 17 Apr, 7am, New Galloway Park  
Easter Breakfast, 17 Apr, 7.30am, New Galloway Town Hall  
Communion, 1 May, 11am, Balmaclellan Church  
Conventicle 8th May, 3 pm, Carsphairn Churchyard  
*Local Church of Scotland congregations can be accessed on YouTube under 'Balmaclellan, Kells and Dalry linked with Carsphairn' or can be emailed. Contact David on 01644 430 380 for paper or email copies, 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](http://www.stmargaretsnewgalloway.org) or call our vestry secretary, Christine Rankin, on 01644 420 259.*



**GALLOWAY  
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**  
[www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org](http://www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org)  
 email [gct@catstrand.com](mailto:gct@catstrand.com)  
 phone 01644 420374 mobile 07841 512449

## April - May 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

Fortnightly - Tuesday mornings

Outward Pickups:

Dalry (Underhill) 09:30

New Galloway (Town Hall) 09:35

CatStrand) 09:37

To Merrick Leisure Centre and Aldi

Return Pickup Newton Stewart (Aldi Car Park) 11:30

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.



### GCT Ebike Club Drop-In Launch

JOIN US

CatStrand, New Galloway

**Saturday 2 April, 13:00-15:00**

drop in to see the ebikes, meet the team and hear more about the club.

*If you can't join us at the launch but are interested in the GCT Ebike Club please see*

[www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org/ebikes](http://www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org/ebikes)

phone 07704 662925

or email [jon@catstrand.com](mailto:jon@catstrand.com)

### Cycle Training



Like to try an ebike, join a group cycle ride, brush up your cycling skills?

Try a free 1 to 1 confidence-building session with local Sustrans Senior Development Officer, Annick Larogue.

CatStrand, New Galloway

Thursdays from 10am

For further information/ booking email

[annick.larogue@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:annick.larogue@sustrans.org.uk)

or call/text 07824 863032

Sustrans is a registered charity in Scotland (SC069263) 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](mailto:gct@catstrand.com) or phone 07841 512449

# What's On April/May

## APRIL

**Sat 2,** A Squatter o' Bairnsangs, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Sun 3,** Community Tree Planting & Launch of Photo Comp, 11am, Parton Village Hall (includes refreshments)

**Wed 6,** Our Carnal Hearts, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Thu 7,** Clare Hammond, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Fri 8,** Storytime & Crafts, 11.30am-1pm, Dalry Library

**Sat 9,** Puppet Animation Festival: Nettles in the Garden Travelling Shadow Theatre + Workshop, 2.30pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

**Sat 9** (then every Tue for 5 weeks), Songwriting Course, 12-18yrs, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Sat 9,** Producers Market, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

**Mon 11 - Fri 15,** DG Dance Weekender Intensive Easter Week, 10.30am-4pm, Dumfries - transport can be provided

**Mon 11,** After Noguchi - Paper Sculpture Workshop, 12noon-1.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Tue 12,** Wee Mousie - Taster Theatre Workshop, 12noon-1pm (8-11yrs) & 1-3pm (12yrs+), CatStrand, New Galloway

**Wed 13,** Film Night: House of Gucci, 7pm, tickets

through [www.gcat.scot](http://www.gcat.scot) or on the door, Dalry Town Hall

**Wed 13,** When the Sparks Fly: Two Iron Working Sites Around Loch Ken, 7.30pm, online event - book at [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

**Thu 14,** Eco Art with IRose Studios, 12noon-2pm, under 10yrs, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Thu 14,** Ken Words: Glenkens Writer's Café, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Fri 15,** Puppet Animation Festival@:Odd Socks by Nikki Kalkma, 3pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Sat 16,** Puppet Animation Festival: Seedheart, 2.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Sat 16,** Illustrate!, 2-4pm, 11yrs+, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

**Sun 17,** The Rheingans Sisters, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Sun 17,** Arts a& Crafts Fair, 11am-3pm, Dalry Town Hall

**Sat 23,** Better Lives Partnership Bridge to Creative Project - Art in the Community, 1pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Sat 23,** The Galloway Players, 4-5pm, Dalry Town Hall

**Tue 26,** A Historical Treasure Trail in Maps: Buying Up and Selling Out in the Age of Improvement, 7.30pm - A 'hybrid' event, book at [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) to attend online or in person, at the Balmaclellan Smiddy

**Thu 28,** Ken Words: Online Writer's Café, 7pm

**Sat 30,** Visiting the Green Well of Scotland, 1.30pm; a visit to the well, near Carsphairn, booking essential at [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

## MAY

**Wed 4,** David Scheel: Don't Shoot Me I'm Only the Piano Player, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Wed 11,** Film Night: Harriet, 7pm, tickets through [www.gcat.scot](http://www.gcat.scot) or on the door, Dalry Town Hall

**Thu 12,** Ken Words: Glenkens Writer's Café, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Sat 14,** Producers Market, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

**Tue 17,** Rapture Bites: A Number, 1pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Wed 18,** Siobhan Miller, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Sat 21,** Vanishing Point presents The Metamorphosis: Unplugged, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**Sun 22,** Afternoon Concert, Dalry Town Hall, contact [anne.chaurand@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.chaurand@btinternet.com)

**Fri 27,** Pop-up Café, 10am-12pm; teas, coffees cakes and blether, payment by donation, Dalry Town Hall, contact [vickileelucas01@gmail.com](mailto:vickileelucas01@gmail.com)

**Sat 28 (4pm) & Sun 29 (11am),** Starcatchers & Andy Cannon present 'Spike! A Dinosaur Caper', CatStrand, New Galloway

# REGULAR EVENTS

## Balmaclellan Village Hall:

**Tuesday Afternoon Teas**, first Tues every month, to book email [julia.higgins55@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:t_leach1@sky.com)

## Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn:

**Craft Group**, Fri 10am-12noon, includes tea & coffee, Lagwyne Hall

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

## CatStrand, New Galloway:

**Margaret Morris Movement: Health Play** (age 3-7), Mon (during term time), 3.45-4.30pm

**Margaret Morris Movement: Children's Grades & Youth Dance** (age 8-15), Mon (during term time), 4.30-5.30pm

**Youth Volunteers** (age 10+), last Mon of the month, 5.30-7.30pm

**Scriptless Drama Club** (age 11-19), Tue, 5.30-6.30pm

**Newton Stewart Bus Service to Tesco**, Wednesday evenings

**A Chance to Dance**, Thu bi-weekly, 6-8pm

**Dance Weekenders** (age 12+), Sat - monthly, 1-4pm

**Art Explorers**, Sat - fortnightly, 10-11am (age 5-8) & 11.15am-12.30pm (age 8-12)

**CatStrand Youth Players**, meet weekly to work on festival plays and an annual pantomime, contact [briangm@catstrand.com](mailto:briangm@catstrand.com)

## New Galloway Town Hall:

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

**LING Lunches**, Tue, Elevenses 11am & lunches from 12.30-2pm. No need to book, contact Ros on 07749 249 781

**Sports Evenings with indoor bowling and table tennis**, Tues 7-9pm, drop in or contact Ray 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, includes coffee & biscuits, contact Ju-lie [gentletaichigroup@gmail.com](mailto:gentletaichigroup@gmail.com)

**Zumba**, Wed 6.30-7.20pm & 7.25-8.15pm, contact samantha.

[rushton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rushton@hotmail.co.uk) (booking essential)

**Martial Arts for Children**, Thur 5.40-6.30pm (children) & 7-9pm (age 6 and up), contact Brian or Nancy on Facebook KMANews or [kmabrian@gmail.com](mailto:kmabrian@gmail.com)

**Gentle Yoga**, Fri 5.30-6.30pm, contact [kathyr64@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathyr64@hotmail.co.uk)

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

## Dalry Library

**Random Writers** (age 12+), Thu bi-weekly, Dalry Library, 3.45-5pm

## Dalry Town Hall

**Tai Chi**, video-led instruction, Mon, 2-3pm, contact [lesleyblissett52@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyblissett52@gmail.com)

**Dog Training**, Tue, 7pm, contact Eric Broadhurst 07831 590 822

**Film Nights**, Wed, see listings opposite

**CatStrand Singers**, Thu, 11am-12.30pm, contact anne. [chaurand@btinternet.com](mailto:chaurand@btinternet.com)

**Song Share**, 1st Friday each mont, 8-11pm, contact anne. [chaurand@btinternet.com](mailto:chaurand@btinternet.com)

**Glenkens Producers Market**, 2nd Sat each month, 10am-1pm, contact [lesleyblissett52@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyblissett52@gmail.com)

## 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

# UKRAINE FUNDRAISER

Local lad Gavin McGhie is raising funds for the people of Ukraine.

Gavin says: "I was driving to work one day and decided I wanted to do something to help, and started thinking what I could do."

On 17 March, Gavin and his brother Frank walked a 60-mile loop of the Galloway Forest Park in 22 hours without stopping.



Gavin and Frank reaching Clatteringshaws at daybreak.

Money raised will go to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. At the time of going to press, the figure is at £2,760 and it's growing all the time.

**Support Gavin's fundraising campaign and send in your donations - the page will stay open until 17 April - [www.gofund.me/fc695b57](http://www.gofund.me/fc695b57)**

Are you considering offering a home to people forced to leave Ukraine?

Massive Outpouring Of Love (MOOL), an organisation in D&G which was set up to support refugees, are coordinating refugee hosts in the region.

MOOL are offering Zoom meetings for help and advice and have an area coordinator who can be contacted at [castledouglas@mool.scot](mailto:castledouglas@mool.scot) if you would like to find out more.

## Job Opportunities in the Glenkens

Local Initiatives in New Galloway have vacancies for the following freelance positions to help increase resources, opportunities and resilience in our community.

### Project Officer - Town Hall Renovations

15 hrs p/w (flexible), £20 p/hr, fixed term 9 months

### Events, Activities & Inclusion Manager

20 hrs p/w (flexible), £17.50 p/hr, fixed term 2 years

### Youth Activity & Development Worker – Glenkens

9 hrs p/w (flexible), £12-£15 p/hr, fixed term 1 year

For more details and how to apply, please see [www.newgallowaytownhall.com](http://www.newgallowaytownhall.com) or scan the QR code:



We are keen to encourage a wide range of applicants and warmly invite anyone interested to contact us with questions or for an informal chat - email us at [newgallowaytownhall@gmail.com](mailto:newgallowaytownhall@gmail.com)

**The closing date for all posts is 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022**



## KNOCKENGORROCH

WORLD CEILIDH IN THE HILLS

~ 19-22 May 2022 ~

**AFROCELT SOUND SYSTEM**  
**NEWEN AFROBEAT**  
**L'ENTOURLOOP | PLUMP DJS**  
**MUNGOS HI FI SOUND SYSTEM**  
**ROSS AINSIE & ALI HUTTON'S SYMBIOSIS**  
**LOWKEY | THE POOZIES | KEL ASSOUP**  
**MOISHES BAGEL | CALLUM EASTER**  
**NOVA | TINDERBOX ORCHESTRA**  
**DON KIPPER | TWELFTH DAY**  
**AN DANNSA DUB | SAMSON SOUNDS**  
**ZOE BESTEL | FEHDAH**  
**DUB STUY | DOLPHIN BOY**  
**& MANY MORE**

Dance tent, acoustic sessions, workshops, kids area, fire show, real ales, good food, stalls and camping. All in a beautiful river valley in the Southern Uplands

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW  
[KNOCKENGORROCH.ORG.UK](http://KNOCKENGORROCH.ORG.UK)

## 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](mailto:glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk)

**JUN/JUL COPY DEADLINE: 5 MAY**



**Editing & Design:**  
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