

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

October/November 2022

ISSUE 132

FREE

The Clachan Inn Cooks Up Culinary Excellence Award

Dalry's Clachan Inn has been awarded the AA Rosette Award for Culinary Excellence 2021-22.

The AA Rosette award scheme, introduced in 1956, was the first nationwide strategy for assessing the quality of food served in restaurants and hotels in the UK. The AA team of inspectors has a wealth of experience gleaned through visiting venues across the length and breadth of the country, so when an award is made, it carries a lot of weight.

The Clachan is one of just seven establishments in south west Scotland to hold one of these prestigious awards and be recognised in the AA Guide, where it is ranked in fifth place (visit www.leadingrestaurants.co.uk/data/best-restaurants/dumfries-and-galloway for more on this).

Laura Burnie, who owns and runs the pub along with partner Phil Papworth,

said: "It's a really huge achievement that we are so proud of. We would like to give credit to our amazing and talented staff who work alongside us and without whom we wouldn't be where we are today.

"The award has been a very welcome boost after having had to navigate our way through two years of the pandemic, which in this industry has been challenging to say the least! We were hugely well-supported by our local communities and beyond when all we were able to offer were takeaways, for which we are really grateful, and we



The Clachan Inn Kitchen Team - from left to right are Jim Banner, Phil Papworth, Martin Templeton, Xander Foster and Robbie Thomson.

are just so pleased to still be able to be here on the other side of it all doing what we love!"

KEN BRIDGE BICENTENARY



The Ken Bridge illuminated by new lights installed by DRAX for the bicentenary celebrations, photographed by David Warren.

The bicentenary of the Ken Bridge was marked in style, starting on Saturday 27 August with a full day of celebrations.

The Ken Bridge was designed by engineer John Rennie and completed 200 years ago, permanently linking the communities of the Glenkens and forming an iconic Glenkens landmark.

Some 150 people of all ages gathered in the sunshine for a parade with giant puppet dragons, birds and airplanes. The parade travelled from New Galloway to the Ken Bridge, with local storyteller Anne Errington weaving tales along the way.

Continued on page 3...

SONGWAVE CHOIR

After more than two years of being unable to do what they love best, Castle Douglas-based SongWave Choir are finally performing again.

Chair of the choir, Jo Gallant, summed up the thoughts of all the singers: "After two very difficult years it was so lovely to be singing again for real, and to real people. We'd particularly like to express our thanks to the CatStrand for embarking on a joint promotion with us and to the community of Crossmichael for all their support and for the sumptuous spread of refreshments for choir and audience alike."

Kate Howard, the choir's new musical director, expressed her delight at how well the concerts were received, saying: "It's an honour and a pleasure for me to have been asked to take over such a talented group of singers who never fail to give of their best."

Formerly known as the Feral Choir, the renamed ensemble sings songs from all over the world, interspersed with related readings on subjects ranging from the plight of refugees to the joys of childhood in summer.

Having resumed rehearsals in September, SongWave are now working towards their winter concerts, which are planned for the weekend of 16-18 December.



To be kept up-to-date with future events you can sign up for their newsletter at www.songwavechoir.org.uk

Cath Ingham

The choir pictured outside Crossmichael Church after their debut post-pandemic performance.

Crunch Time for Pylon Scheme *An opinion piece...*

Glenkens has been threatened with a new pylon scheme for over six years.

At last, a public inquiry into SPEN's overhead proposal from Kendoon to Tongland on a new route begins on 1 November. No thanks to D&G Council, though. Last year officials recommended councillors "raise no objections".

SPEN had submitted a Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment but the Council failed to carry out its own review, yet said it was in broad agreement and problems affecting landscapes had been addressed. People living in Glenkens disagreed and insisted the adverse effects were so great as to be unacceptable. Close on 900 objections were submitted during the consultation period, many demanding that the most sensitive stretches of the line go underground.

The pylons question will eventually be decided by ScotGov, but the local planning authority is a consultee and was wrong to tell councillors to keep quiet. Fortunately, after being contacted by campaigners, councillors forced a discussion and this led to the inquiry.

There are, of course, many technical issues involved, but the more straightforward objections include:

- Ignoring the Holford Rules, which require SPEN to avoid areas of highest amenity value and follow the existing route which had been there for over 80 years. The public expect established principles like Holford to be followed. SPEN cite the presence of an SSSI at the spot where the existing line crosses Loch Ken as an excuse for ignoring Holford and abandoning the present route.

- SPEN is owned by Spanish energy giant Iberdrola, whose own Environmental Policy puts respect for the environment at the centre of the group's energy and business planning. SPEN, by choosing the ugliest option and pushing it through some of our most gorgeous and iconic countryside, make a nonsense of their parent company's policy pledge.

- Scottish Ministers, in their Scoping Opinion, told SPEN to consider alternative measures such as undergrounding. SPEN subsequently admitted that undergrounding is technically feasible and environmentally preferable, so why



wasn't this their default position from the start? It would have fulfilled Iberdrola's environmental promise, reduced impact on the environment, prevented lasting damage to Galloway's tourism, and (probably) won the approval of local communities. SPEN say it would cost £96 million more. But the operator would benefit from lower maintenance, higher transmission efficiency and immunity to storm damage.

Elsewhere in the country power lines

are going underground but SPEN are resisting best practice and planning to cut a swathe through the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area with huge steel pylons that will forever blight the pristine landscape awaiting National Park designation.

- The accompanying works programme, which is scheduled to last a full five years (and possibly longer), and the traffic management plan will hit New Galloway especially hard. This smallest of Scottish royal burghs hopes to become a gateway to the new national park and has struggled for decades to recover from economic decline. More than a quarter of a million construction vehicle movements – as many as 264 a day – will be shifting stone, removing timber and importing concrete and steelwork. Although banned from the high street, large numbers of construction HGVs will thunder through the normally peaceful village centre on the A712.

SPEN's Environmental Impact Assessment has been criticised as inadequate and flawed, as have other aspects of their proposal. They seem determined to inflict on us an unsightly above-ground scheme in order to maximise their bottom line for the benefit of Iberdrola's foreign shareholders. If allowed to do so, they will cause immense harm to future tourism on which Galloway and the rest of the region depend, weaken our already fragile local economy and discourage the inward investment needed to prosper. What's more, they will violate the high aesthetic standards expected in an area bidding for National Park status.

Galloway's communities can expect to pay dearly in years to come for this exercise in corporate greed.

Please visit www.gallowaywithoutpylons.org/ for further information.

Stuart Littlewood



The parade with giant puppet dragons, walking from New Galloway to the Ken Bridge.

Continued from front page...

Upon arriving at the Ken Bridge, Mark Zygodlo's 'Water Organ' played music based on the speed and turbulence of the river waters through bellows mounted on an 18-foot long catamaran.

People picnicked, paddled, danced to a silent disco and created their own bridges out of cardboard bricks in a fantastic community afternoon.

In the evening people gathered at the Ken Bridge Hotel for the build-up to the Ken Bridge light switch on. There was food and music before the countdown to the illumination which created a glorious display in the gathering dusk.

Many thanks to everyone involved

in this fantastic celebration, in particular the volunteers who worked so hard and Drax, who took full ownership of the spectacular bridge lighting. Funding for the community and arts events came from DG Unlimited, the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership, the Loch Ken Trust and the Blackcraig wind farm community benefit fund through the Glenkens & District Trust and Foundation Scotland.

The programme was also supported by the Year of Stories 2022 Community Stories Fund, which is delivered in partnership between VisitScotland and Museums Galleries Scotland with support from National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Peter Renwick,

CatStrand Arts Manager

Glenkens Schools Woodland Visit

Carsphairn Community Woodland, at Muirdrochwood Forest, near Carsphairn, was host to children from Dalry and Kells primary schools.

This was part of their series of autumn Wildlife Bonanza events, supported by the Galloway Glens scheme, which were being held to encourage the local community to visit and feel a connection to the site.

Children enjoyed a range of activities including wildlife walks, tree planting and tales from a crypto-zoologist.

The overall Bonanza programme consisted of three public events and the school visit. The first public event was Darkness & Stars, followed by Life as a Squirrel or Pine Marten and finishing with Fungi and Mushrooms.

For anyone planning a visit to the woodland, the Muirdrochwood car park is on the B729 towards Carsphairn, by the High Bridge junction (postcode DG7 3TE with 'what three words' location remit.breed.chestnuts).



Glenkens school children in the wildlife hide at Carsphairn Community Woodland with storyteller John Wheeler.

To find out more visit Carsphairn Community Woodland on Facebook. If you would like to join CCW visit www.carsphairn/CCWL or email carsphairncw@gmail.com



CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG PLEASE

The children at Dalry Primary School are fed up of the dog mess on the school field.

Today one of the children slipped on the field and got covered in dog mess. We are asking the people who bring their dogs onto the school field not to, please.

We would also ask people to pick up their dog's poo around the village. Our class will be making signs to put up around the village to ask people to clear up their dog's mess.

Kai and Archie (P6)



UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY

The 20-year-old Glenkens Art Workshop is in danger of folding through lack of numbers.

Our membership is down to an average of five per week, which has left us reliant on the generosity of grant providers to continue functioning.

We are a small, friendly group with different levels of ability. Each member works on their own project in various media. The group meets

on Thursday afternoons from 2-4pm at Balmaclellan Village Hall. Please come along! Rekindle your artistic abilities for only £3 a session with tea/coffee and biscuits thrown in.

Tom Leach
t_leach1@sky.com

CAP Priorities Get Moving

In line with the Glenkens Community Action Plan priorities, work on a communications hub website for the Glenkens and wider district is underway.

The aim is to create a one-stop shop for Glenkens residents and visitors that will highlight events, job vacancies and volunteering opportunities, as well as signpost to existing community websites.

Another project that hopes to show the strength of everyone working together is an asset network. This aims

to support our village hall volunteer committees, working towards ensuring the sustainability of our community and public spaces.

Both these projects are supported by the Blackcraig wind farm community benefit fund, through the Glenkens & District Trust and Foundation Scotland.

The CAP Steering Group met again in August and determined that the current focus for longer-term projects should be around Energy Efficiency and Land Use. These are important topics, and I am currently working out how we can best add value to the many enthusiastic and effective grass roots projects out there.

Other important CAP topics are childcare, housing and local jobs, and we

should see some concrete movement on those fronts soon.

The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust has a leadership role in delivering the CAP, but for success we need to see its delivery happening through a variety of different organisations. Local Initiatives in New Galloway is already doing great work on the Youth Activities strand of the CAP, and Propagate is working hard on local food elements. If you have any other ideas, I'd love to hear from you!

Helen Keron, Executive Manager, GCAT
helen@catstrand.com

**To see the action plan visit
[www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/
community-action-plan](http://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/community-action-plan)**

We Are the Ark



News of the international Ark movement is spreading in the Glenkens. More gardeners are laying aside at least 10% of their ground as wild garden.



Flower meadows and thickets attract greater biodiversity and neighbouring Arks create corridors for wildlife.



Find out more at
wearetheark.org
and put up a sign
explaining you're
making more space
for nature.

Education & Training Fund

Glenkens & District Trust (GDT) and Foundation Scotland have announced a new Education & Training bursary fund for people living in the Glenkens and district area.

GDT Trustees are keen to spread the word that this new fund is not just for school leavers but for anyone aged 16+ resident in the fund's area of benefit who is looking for support with the costs of accessing training or education opportunities – be that people who are re-training mid-career, returning to work after a gap, or entering further and higher education or an apprenticeship.

The fund has been created to help support access to opportunity and improved livelihoods, in line with the existing Community Fund and Community Action Plan priority 'An Economically Flourishing Community'. This new fund feels more relevant than

ever as we face rising living costs and a potential recession and associated impacts on employment.

As with the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund, the area covered by the new bursary scheme is defined by the Community Council areas shown on the map to the right.

Grants are available for both short courses (capped at £1,000) and multi-year courses, up to a maximum of three years and £3,000 (£1,000 per year of support sought). Travel, subsistence and childcare costs can be supported, and a range of course types will be considered including driving qualifications, if these can be demonstrated to help contribute to accessing a training or education opportunity. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate how they arrived at sums being sought – it's important to read the guidance on the fund's webpage before starting an application.

People with bursaries will be asked to report back on how they used the grant and what difference it made.



For more information about the new fund go to <https://tinyurl.com/GDTbursaryinfo>

The above map shows the GDT fund area of benefit.

From Geology to Theology

Many people may have assumed that David Bartholomew, minister of the four Glenkens churches for the last 28 years, had always been a Church of Scotland minister, but this is not the case.

The clue to another side of this modest and unassuming man is in his title of 'Dr'. However this is not a doctorate in theology but in geology.

Brought up in Edinburgh and schooled at Edinburgh Academy, David was initially unsure what to study at university but picked geology as he felt that resonated with his love of the outdoors and the natural world. After a brief time calling himself an atheist, the Christian faith became meaningful to him in his last year at school. Whilst at St Andrews University he joined a bible study group and spent several years helping out at the Church of Scotland summer missions in Ayr.

His time at St Andrews was followed by an MSc in mineral chemistry at Birmingham and then several years studying for a doctorate at Leicester University. This took him to remote Patagonia for three months and, on returning to Britain, he brought back two tonnes of rocks which were shipped via the Panama Canal – some of which have now found a home in the rock garden at their cottage in the Borders!



David and Heidi outside the Manse in Dalry.

On gaining his doctorate in 1984, David was unsure of his path. He toyed with the idea of working for an oil company but didn't feel the fit was right for him. He was delighted when a letter to the Geological Survey of Zimbabwe resulted in a job offer, leading to work on the mineral resources of Zimbabwe and field mapping. His strong faith and desire to serve God also led him to help out at a church in Harare by teaching Sunday School, and he also offered to help at a Scripture Union camp on an island in Lake Kariba where one of the other leaders was Heidi...

After nearly five years working in Zimbabwe, he felt a strong call from God to train for the ministry and this took him to Aberdeen University and his fourth degree – Bachelor of Divinity. During this time he and Heidi corresponded with one another until Heidi, who was working for Coopers and Lybrand by this

time, engineered a one-year posting to Aberdeen which allowed their friendship to develop further. They became engaged and then, in August 1992, were married in Harare. After their honeymoon they spent a month in Mozambique helping with a mission to street kids. The pull of a rural life led David to apply to be minister in the Glenkens, where he was ordained minister in 1994 – and retired in 2022.

In the same way that his love for God remained strong during his years as a geologist, so his connection to the earth continued during his years as our minister. Following encouragement from one of his elders, Roger Godfrey, he took up metal detecting in 1997 and became an enthusiastic metal detectorist, meeting several other detectorists in the area. He had met Derek McLennan before and had asked for the opportunity to join him detecting on church land at Balmaghie where he and his friends had made some interesting finds. Derek invited him to join him there on 1 September 2014, along with Mike Smith, the minister of the New Life Community Church in Castle Douglas. This was the day when Derek discovered the Galloway Hoard. David wonders if the stars aligned in some way for the hoard on church land to reveal itself to the trio, two of whom were ministers. He describes the "heart-stopping moment" when they discovered the richly decorated early Christian cross.

In retirement, David plans to continue metal-detecting, although he accepts that nothing will ever quite match up to the September 2014 find!

Nicolette Wise

See back page for an article on David's retirement...

CatStrand Singers Book Launch

Things have been very exciting in the world of the CatStrand Singers. Over the last two years the group has been working on a book of music, local history and anecdotes with accompanying CD, called *Singing the Galloway Glens*.

The songs are in a variety of styles, from traditional to modern. All have been written and/or arranged by Nicola Black.

Nicola has crafted newly commissioned songs, some from her own fertile imagination, some from poems and fragments of writing from writers, based on the area, its people and wildlife. There are also some arrangements of well loved, familiar Galloway songs.

The songs include some from weel kent characters not with us any more,

Tommy Edgar MBE, Bunty Scott and Logan Patterson, as well as present local writers Christine Rae and Debra Hall, as well as members of the Ken Words writers group.

"I can't wait to share these songs with my choirs and singing group," said Kate Howard, choir leader and composer.

The CD and book will be available at local outlets and via choir members. You can hear harmony versions of the songs by the CatStrand Singers by buying a CD or download at www.singingthegallowayglens.bandcamp.com

Also available on the website is a download of harmony parts for the songs which can be found in the 'merchandise' section. There will be a small initial fee and after that they are free to copy for choirs to use.

The CatStrand Singers have been meeting for twelve years and are a self-selecting group. There are no auditions

Singing the Galloway Glens



The Catstrand Singers



and anyone can join. They're always happy to welcome new members.

The project has been supported by the Galloway Glens scheme and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The first performance of the songs will take place at CatStrand on the afternoon of Sunday the 16 October at 4pm.

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All profits are ploughed back into benefitting the community.

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We rely on you so you can rely on us!

New Galloway Community Enterprises Ltd

CatStrand Highlights

It seems that summer has flown by in a blink, as has my first year in post as arts, culture and heritage manager at CatStrand.

However, not to worry, we have plenty to warm your cockles as the winter nights draw in.

We are delighted to have secured another year of funding for our arts programme from Creative Scotland, making it 15 years in a row! We were awarded our full request, which is a testament to the huge amount of work by many people that goes into creating and delivering the Arts Programme, plus the quality of the acts that CatStrand attracts.

So back to what's on...the National Theatre of Scotland have included us for two dates on their tour of May Sumbwanyambe's play **Enough of Him**, based on the life of Joseph Knight, an African man who lived as a slave in Scotland in the 1700s. This performance will be captioned to improve accessibility for all.

Paragon will host a one-day conference called **All In** about access and inclusion in the arts at CatStrand in early October. This will be a day of sharing experience and best practice, with a good element of performance included.



We have more theatre in the form of **Downs With Love**, a funny and uplifting story of a love triangle between Beth - a young woman with Down's Syndrome - her carer Tracy, and Mark who plays the guitar in the pub.

Jordan & Skinners' **The Time Machine: A Radical Feminist Retelling** promises a bold and irreverent reimagining of HG Wells science fiction classic. The day before the show the company will lead a theatre workshop, open to all.

On Tuesdays from October through to December, New Galloway-based writer Dr

Sarah Thomas invites you to join her in the Icelandic tradition of **Kvöldvaka**. This tradition was born of winter nights when the days were short and work still to be done, but satisfied a thirst for literature and imagination. The sessions will be based around weekly live readings of Sarah's ecological memoir *The Raven's Nest*, with the audience invited to knit, darn, spin, mend or draw whilst listening.

If music is more your taste, we have you covered with gigs from world-class jazz saxophonist **Tommy Smith**, jazz duo **Bancroft & Lynne**, genre-crossing harpist singer and composer **Esther Swift**, the soon-to-be folk legend that is **Kris Drever**, and finally **Fraser Fifield and Graham Steven's** folk instrumentation & jazz guitar. The long-established Glenkens choir **CatStrand Singers** are also returning to the CatStrand fresh from the launch of their new album (see article on opposite page).

Take a look at the *What's On* section on p34 or the ad below for more events or pick up our brochure, visit www.gcat.scot or join our mailing list for full details.

Peter Renwick



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CatStrand

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TOMMY SMITH FRI 7 OCT 7:30 CROSSMICHAEL CHURCH	PERFORMANCE COLLECTIVE STRANRAER: UNSUPERVISED ADULTING FRI 28 OCT 7:30 CATSTRAND
BANCROFT & LYNE THU 20 OCT 7:30 CATSTRAND	ENOUGH OF HIM TUE 1 NOV 7:30 WED 2 NOV 7:30 CATSTRAND
CUTTING EDGE THEATRE: DOWNS WITH LOVE WED 26 OCT 7:30	

CatStrand High St New Galloway DG7 3RN
01644 420 374 WWW.GCAT.SCOT

PROJECT IN FOCUS

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

The Galloway Glens Scheme is working to 'connect people to our heritage', while boosting the local economy and supporting sustainable communities.

It has been quite a ride, but there is no getting away from the fact that our delivery phase ends in September 2023 – in essence we only have a year left!

Over the last four years it feels like the Galloway Glens Scheme has increasingly found where it fits in the local funding and community development network. We are an example of the Biosphere 'In Action', and what can happen when the amazing qualities of our region are harnessed to draw down national funding on a scale and with a focus to make a difference.

Much discussion is underway about what happens when we go in September 2023, and working to maximise the legacy of the scheme.

What do we mean by 'legacy'? Legacy varies from who is going to look after the

'bricks and mortar' projects supported, through to who is going to make sure publications and partnerships generated from work undertaken are retained. Many projects supported through the Galloway Glens Scheme have a natural legacy partner – for instance National Trust for Scotland, Loch Ken Trust or Glenkens Community & Arts Trust.

Other aspects to our legacy might suit our bigger and longer-term partners at the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere. Over the next year you might notice us toning down the Galloway Glens 'brand' and beefing up the visibility of partners through our output. One positive to our departure is that we know we are going, and can plan accordingly. We want to leave partners and local communities keen to get involved in a similar initiative in the future.

We are also working to measure the impact of the scheme. Yes, this means number of people at events, using footpaths and attractions supported, but also some of the harder to measure points, such as total spend with Dumfries & Galloway Businesses, increased confidence and knowledge about the local heritage. It is easier to count how many people were at an event than it is to work out if the event

was actually enjoyable or useful.

Some of the unintended positive consequences of the Galloway Glens Scheme have actually been the most rewarding – a local supplier we used going on to bid for work with other departments in Dumfries & Galloway Council, innovative approaches used in supported projects being adopted by others on the national stage. How we best capture and evidence these to support the development of future schemes will be key.

As we step into our last year of operation, the scale of support received from so many places really hits home. From the funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund and partners such as Drax, the owners of the Galloway Hydro Scheme, through to the time and enthusiasm of volunteers working on projects.

Onwards, the last 12 months beckon, and we have plenty still to do...

The Biosphere Explorers project engaged children with the outdoors: Below left, children from Dalry Primary School plant trees at the Carsphairn Community Woodland. Below right, enjoying a Crichton Carbon Centre walk near New Galloway.

The Galloway Glens Team



Sponsored page, working in partnership





GALLOWAY GLENS
Landscape Partnership

Working towards OUR CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY FUTURE

MORE THAN
12,000
ELECTRIC VEHICLE
MILES TRAVELLED

1,400
HECTARES OF GALLOWAY
LANDSCAPE UNDER
ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

'GALLOWAY FOOTSTEPS' EVENTS
COMMITTED TO **1,900**
FEWER PIECES OF SINGLE-USE
PLASTIC AND A SAVING OF
42 TONNES OF
CARBON

43 JOHN MUIR AWARDS ACHIEVED,
EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE IN
THE NATURAL WORLD

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



PRIMARY
FUNDER:



THE GALLOWAY GLENS SCHEME IS OVERSEEN BY A PARTNERSHIP BOARD, INCLUDING:

The Galloway Glens Scheme is working really hard with partners to play our part in tackling the Climate & Biodiversity challenges that we all face, changing habits and reducing consumption. Dumfries & Galloway Council has set the ambitious target of being a net zero carbon region by 2025. With the COP26 Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow, this is a chance to review milestones from within the Galloway Glens Scheme so far...

We're all in this together, contact us with any queries you may have on climate or biodiversity and we will help or point you in the right direction.

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'LOCH KEN PLAN',
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OVERSEEING THE
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READY KEN PROJECT,**
DESIGNING AN ADAPTATION TOOLKIT FOR
THE LOCH KEN COMMUNITY IN THE
FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

SUPPORTING NATIONAL TRUST FOR
SCOTLAND'S GROUND-BREAKING
**'THREAVE
LANDSCAPE
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37 SCHOOL SESSIONS
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'BIOSPHERE EXPLORERS' EDUCATION PROJECT

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Glen Gravel/Glen Glyde

Wigtown is Book Town, Kirkcudbright is Artists Town and Castle Douglas is Food Town.

When you are a town it seems easy to find an identity and many of us enjoy the reputations that each of these towns enjoy, but when you are a Glen...what then?

You might argue that Dalry is Bird Town with the newly signposted Watson Trail, but I started to wonder if there is an identity in Glenkens that transcends one town or village; a collective identity. After all there is no question that the titles of Book Town, Artists Town and Food Town draw in revenue and investment. The answer I found was almost 100 miles north of New Galloway, in Aberfoyle... gravel!

Aberfoyle has become known in cycling circles as Gravelfoyle. Gravel, for the uninitiated, is the middle ground between mountain biking and road riding; and it is quite a big middle ground. With trails

ranging from well-groomed gravel paths to descents that rearrange your skeleton with vibration, gravel riders come in all shapes and sizes from those who appreciate a quiet ride in nature to thrill seekers looking to push the boundaries of what is possible on a bike.

So perhaps your question is, if there is a Gravelfoyle why does Scotland need a Glen Gravel? It is a good question, and one worthy of an answer, but the Glenkens secret weapon is not gravel but glide. The Glenkens cycling landscape is equally well placed to deliver you at the coast on roads raced in the British Cycling national road cycling championships and Tour of Britain.

Glenkens provides a Jekyll and Hyde experience for cyclists from the rolling roads by Loch Ken to bone-jarring escapades in the Galloway Forest Park; the sheer variety of riding to be had caters for most, if not all, and for those it doesn't cater for we find ourselves flanked by the 7Stanes mountain bike trails.

So why us? Well, to tell the truth,

Gatehouse of Fleet has already hosted the first Raiders Gravel event sponsored by big bike brand Canyon, but it wasn't big events that made Gravelfoyle. The Gravelfoyle destination brand and way-marked trails are a project operated by a local community interest company. The organisation is owned and operated by cycling enthusiasts local to Aberfoyle. Their aim was to develop a cycling-related infrastructure, grow participation and deliver the Trossachs as a cycle tourism hot spot, and most importantly to make cycling a key economic driver for the area.

Cycling in Aberfoyle has been a boost for not only hospitality, but also independent bike shops, guides, community shops and beyond. All it takes for the Glenkens is a few keen bodies to start mapping routes to build momentum in establishing a reputation as the gateway to some spectacular rides both on and off road. Of course, you may not want to share the Jekyll and Hyde secret of Glenkens gravel and glyde, but if you fancy mapping some routes maybe we can start a movement?

Alastair Lamb,

alastair.l.lamb@gmail.com

LOOK BEFORE YOU COOK

With the Gazette's emphasis on growing your own fruit and vegetables and vegetable swapping and sharing, I thought other gardeners might find the following (true) cautionary tale amusing.

Many years ago I worked in a college to the north east of London and each morning I gave two of my colleagues a lift to work.

One of them, Joy, was a keen gardener and liked to grow vegetables so inevitably

the conversation often turned to what we were growing and eating. One morning it was broccoli.

I told her that we had grown some really nice, dense heads of broccoli but couldn't cook them whole because they were occupied by big, squidgy green caterpillars which needed evicting.

"We don't have that problem," announced Joy confidently. "In all the years we've grown it I've never spotted a caterpillar on broccoli."

I had noticed that Joy wore glasses in the office but not outside so I asked, "Do you wear your glasses for cooking?"

"No, of course not," she replied, "I know all my recipes off by heart."

"Next time you cut a head of broccoli," I suggested, "Put your specs on, cut it into small pieces and inspect it to see what's inside."



"Alright," she agreed, "but I won't find anything. We just don't get caterpillars in ours."

A few days later I pulled up at the usual spot to find Joy looking a bit green about the gills. As she settled into the car her only words were, "I shall never, ever eat broccoli again!"

Sue Wiseman

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The Optimistic Environmentalist

Making the Most of Our Food and Garden: Part 2

As well as for growing food, the garden is good for relaxing in, shading, playing in, or giving us visual or sensory stimulation whilst we're there or through pictures or perfumes.

Make the most of your garden. For instance, use rose hips for drinks and salads; or elderberry flowers for fresh summer drinks or home-made wine. Herbs have multiple uses from cooking, scenting the home and healing eg mint for cooking and to make a tea to soothe the stomach or just enjoying; lavender for salads, scenting pillows or your home, or making an essential oil to treat infections. As well as decorations for the home, plants have uses eg willow for building barriers, structures for shelters, and furniture.

Hedges are good for birds and insects and can separate spaces and make corridors. A food hedge is good for your kitchen and looks decorative.

Remember these spaces are also

home to many different living creatures and plants and their needs should be considered too. Giving the right amount of nutrients and water to the soil and plants is important. Use organic fertiliser by growing clover or comfrey, for instance, and learn how to apply these appropriately to the garden or compost. If you buy compost, use peat-free; peat bogs soak up carbon from the air and hold it in like a carbon sink, so are vital to our battle to reduce carbon. Use rainwater collected by you because it contains fewer chemicals than drinking water, eg no chlorine.

Use plants that are good for pollinating insects such as open 'single' flowers for bee access and buddleia, loved by moths and butterflies. Install structures that will help everyone to coexist such as boxes for birds, bats, insects and other animals, or cages to keep your fruit protected whilst allowing animals to eat the rest.

Reduce negative impacts - use organic or natural pesticides and leave small areas untouched for insects to use, in turn feeding birds. Plant varieties that are more pest or disease resistant. Put cardboard under trees or biodegradable membrane on soil so weeds can't grow through, or use a weed wand to burn weeds on a path.

Encourage helpful species into your

garden to reduce those you don't want - hedgehogs, frogs and toads all eat slugs and snails. Buy encarsia formosa for your greenhouse, a harmless almost invisible wasp which kills white fly (www.rhs.org.uk/prevention-protection/biological-control-garden).

Companion planting is the close planting of different plants that enhance each other's growth, protect each other from pests, help with pollination and provide habitat for beneficial insects. For instance, plant basil or onions with peppers, or peas or beans with potatoes.

Be creative. Just because something is labelled as a weed does not mean that you can't use it for its beauty in a flower arrangement. However, be careful that you understand the plants so that you don't introduce weeds into your garden by mistake or poisonous plants where it would not be safe for children or animals.

If you want to send flowers that aren't home-grown, buy UK-grown cut flowers rather than imported ones; this can save up to 7.9kg carbon per bunch.

Use electric gardening tools such as battery-driven rather than petrol. If 21% of UK gardeners who use petrol power tools switched to green energy, it would save enough carbon to drive around the planet 29,820 times.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan



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VOLUNTEERS

LING
Local Initiatives in New Galloway
People, Places and Outdoor Spaces

Looking for a reason to get out and about more?
Would you like to meet up with friends and make new ones whilst supporting your community?

We are always looking for people of all ages and abilities to join our wonderful team of regular and occasional volunteers to help out at community events and share interests and skills

Come along to LING lunches to chat to Angie and find out more, or contact Angie on 07766 476 125
communityinclusion.ling@gmail.com
Facebook @newgallowaytownhall

GLENKENS YOUTH GROUP

The Glenkens Youth activity group is meeting on Monday evenings from 7-8.30pm at Dalry Community Centre this autumn.

To tie into the Glenkens Food Month the young people have enjoyed decorating and eating cupcakes and truffles, as well as playing basketball, table tennis, board games and chilling out together.

The activities in these sessions are based on the suggestions of the young

people themselves so please share your ideas and I will do my best to put them into action.

In October we will be making decorations for our Halloween party, and during the October holidays two day trips are planned - one to Dumfries to take part in a Mostly Ghostly Ghost walk and one to Flip Out Trampolining in Glasgow. The Glenkens Youth sessions are supported by Blackcraig wind farm community benefit fund, through the Glenkens & District Trist and Foundation Scotland, and are open to all Glenkens young people aged 11-19 (see poster on p30 for more details).

Glenkens Youth activities, including the park meet-ups and the hugely popular Outdoor Fun & Filmmaking sessions held over the summer, are a response to the requests from local young people and families for more opportunities for young people in the area to get together and do sports, outdoor and youth-led activities.

These activities wouldn't have been possible without the help of a group of amazing volunteers who have given up their time for free to help out - a massive thank you goes out to all of them. Feedback from volunteers is that they enjoyed their time with the Glenkens Youth



We are looking for people to be part of a small team to look at youth provision in the Glenkens area and how we can take it forward.

You could be a parent, carer, young person or represent an organisation.

This would be minimal commitment - if you're interested, please get in touch with Mary on 07967 959 511.

group and would like to take part again. If you would like to help out at any of our sessions or would like to find out more please get in touch.

I am always keen to hear about what young people in the area would like to do, including older young people who may be interested in volunteering or opportunities to build skills - you can contact me at youthwork.ling@gmail.com or phone/text 07719 708 668 to join the Glenkens Youth Whatsapp group for information on all local youth events and activities.

Olivia Donald,

LING Youth Activity & Development Worker

Pictured are young people decorating cakes at a Glenkens Youth session.



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Ukrainians in the Glenkens

It can't have escaped many people's notice – the tragedy occurring in Ukraine.

Nor, that there are now Ukrainians living amongst us in the Glenkens. People from Ukraine very much like their privacy and are unlikely to wish to speak about their life in Ukraine or the war, so in this article I won't be naming any individuals or describing the events causing them to be here. Likewise, my comments are from what I have read and heard from hosts across southwest Scotland.

In a previous article I wrote about how the people of the Glenkens have opened their homes to those fleeing oppression from the time of the Covenanters, to the two World Wars and now Ukraine. To my knowledge, in the Glenkens we currently have six adults and seven children with a further two adults and one child expected soon, in five family groups. Several of the children are now at school in Dalry.

As a host of a family of three, I can tell you that I have yet to meet or even hear of a Ukrainian who plans to settle here. They want to return to their homeland as soon as it is safe. To this end some are holding on to their jobs in Ukraine and working remotely, and at the same time seeking and finding work in Scotland. Their Ukraine earnings becomes a pittance when they bring it to Scotland because of the awful exchange rate, that and their incredible work ethic explains the desire and need for a second job. Many are keeping their children enrolled in schools in Ukraine and children are doing their Ukrainian schoolwork remotely in addition to attending schools in this country and everyone is doing what English lessons they can.

Some Ukrainians arrived in Scotland with little more than the t-shirts on their backs, and with clothes and footwear unsuited to the Scottish climate. The generosity of people in the Glenkens is worth the making of a film in itself.

Without even asking, toys, clothes and donations of money have arrived but most touching of all are the small gifts that come with love, a home-made jar of jam, a baked desert or a cake.

I don't want to name any of the generous individuals but the charity shop in Dalry has been a big help with free clothes and toys, and a grant towards



transportation costs. Both Mabie Farm Park and the Creetown Rock and Gem Museum have given free admission – I must admit that I am sometimes brazen in asking for a discount on my guests' behalf, it means that what money we have can go that bit further.

I am fortunate that I had spare rooms and was 'up for' a project following the death of my wife Betty in January. I expected that this would be my own effort, but how wrong I was. Friends, neighbours and parents of children at the school have rallied around to make my guests feel welcome and a larger circle of friends have given their time to help Ukrainians in the Glenkens with improving their conversational English (both parents and children).

As to the bureaucracy and total incompetence of government officials, well – I could write a book. Suffice it to say, that seven weeks after arrival, we are still missing most of my family's entitlement due to errors and delays in the system and our story is unfortunately far from unique.

One surprise is that language is not the biggest handicap; that honour goes to cultural differences. I could not have imagined how it would be to share a house with people with such a different way of living. In Ukraine they have communal heating which is fixed price so turning up the heating a few degrees or long showers cost nothing over there. I have put my big foot in it more than once by failing to anticipate our differences. Another shock for them is how poor our health and dental services are compared with what is available in Ukraine.

But having said all that, everyone can be part of the solution. If you see a Ukrainian walking around in the Glenkens (with or without their host), please introduce yourself and offer some basic conversation – this will help their English. Suggested topics: the weather (as always), traffic, price of food, local recipes, where have they been in Scotland, local events and even good places to forage for wild food.

Let us hope that they soon get what they want – to return to a peaceful Ukraine.

*Slava Ukraini!
Paul Goodwin*

Open Call for Young Creatives
(16 - 25yrs)

Spotlight

We are looking for new creative talent in the area and are offering the opportunity for an individual or group to get involved or feature in our Young Creatives programme.

For full details visit
www.csyoungcreatives.com/spotlight

SOPHIE'S POEM



The Beach

The waves, they dance
In joyous ways
They loop and swirl and prance
Oh how I wish I were the sea
So others could feel at one with me

The sand, it glimmers
In the sun
It blows and shines and glimmers
Oh how I wish I were the sand
So I to could be a heaven on land

The birds, they fly
Up in the sky
They dive and flap and cry
Oh how I wish I were a bird
So I wouldn't have to speak a word

The Beach, it glows
In the setting sun
It's calming, relaxing, peaceful
Oh what fun it'd be
To spend a day at this heavenly and beautiful sea

...News from the Banks of Loch Ken...



The Loch Ken Ranger Service is leading the way as one of the first community-led ranger services in Scotland.

The Ranger Service was set up by the Loch Ken Trust in April 2021 in a bid to protect and care for our natural environment.

The Loch Ken Ranger Service covers both land and water activities. Our newest land ranger, Leanne Pump, was appointed in June with a post generously funded by the NatureScot's Better Places Fund.

OUR NEWEST LAND RANGER, LEANNE PUMPR, TELLS US A BIT ABOUT HERSELF

I spent most of my childhood on a pair of water skis or on our cruiser on the local rivers down south. These days my pursuits are walking with our pack of hounds, paddle boarding, keeping fit and gardening. I have a passion for the outdoors and an interest in sustainability.

My family consists of myself, Guy (whom you may start to see around volunteering alongside me), our two grown-up children and three grandchildren. Our grandson is an avid adventurer and is happiest trekking through the woods or being in the

water. At two-and-a-half he already has his priorities right! I started my career later in life and went back to study after having my children and gained a foundation degree in Creativity for Young Children. I have managed a family centre and worked in partnership with education, health care, social care and the RAF.

We moved to New Galloway just over three years ago, closely followed by our expectant daughter and my mum (so much for our peaceful lives!). I worked with Capability Scotland as Child and Family coordinator and as part of my role I delivered and developed presentations within schools on the importance of wearing a cycle helmet; not just for cycling, but numerous sporting activities. I assisted Ken Scott and Mary Smith on the Loch Ken Trust education events and it ignited my passion further to be part of protecting our environment. Inspired by Ken and his font of knowledge, and spending time around the loch, has led me to where I am today.



What do you love most about your role as land ranger?

Being outdoors and being part of improving and sustaining the environment for future generations

What is your advice to anyone planning to explore and wild camp in and around Loch Ken?

Look at the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Check notice boards around the loch for fire risk information. Be respectful of the environment, leave no trace and always fully extinguish campfires.

To find out more about the work of the Loch Ken Trust visit www.lochken.org.uk

Pictured: Above - Leanne adventuring with her grandson. Below - Leanne with fellow Loch Ken Ranger, Ken Scott.

'Be Respectful of the environment and leave no trace'

Describe what your job involves...

Patrolling the loch, welcoming and educating visitors on responsible access, chatting to lovely people, clearing any rubbish left behind, working in partnership with landowners, hosting educational events and lots more. No two days are the same!



10,000 Years of Galloway History in a Day

After having been twice-delayed by the pandemic, *The Early Peoples of Galloway* conference scheduled for 2020 finally took place in September.

Once again the CatStrand was sold out for a Glenkens Story event attracting an enthusiastic audience from near and far. Our eight expert speakers took us through 10,000 years of history in a day.

Richard Tipping provided a breathtaking overview of the period as hunter gatherers arrived on the land stripped bare by ice. Dramatic events followed in succeeding millennia.

Aurimé Bočkutė introduced us to the Mesolithic world of hunter gatherers and the challenge of interpreting scant evidence such as flint workings and shell middens (which also included human knuckle bones!).

Andrew Nicholson, D&G's own archaeologist, galloped us through the local record of finds, from the prehistoric to Roman times, revealing the rich heritage of our region. Several of his cup-and-ring mark finds were discovered when he sat on a carved rock by chance to enjoy a picnic.

David Parsons interpreted the complex shifts of languages as different people moved through the area and the legacy left in place names - one of our best tools for interpreting the deep past.

Ronan Toolis introduced us to the age of the early Britons and the Kingdom of Rheged whose capital might well have been at Trusty's Hill at Gatehouse of Fleet.

Adrián Maldonado introduced us to the 'late antiquity' period which saw early Christian settlement in Scotland.

The four conference sessions were chaired by Michael Ansell, Lizanne Henderson, Margaret Elphinstone and David Bartholomew. David introduced the final lectures, covering the burial of the Galloway Hoard, by explaining that he had been present when a detectorist companion made the discovery on historic church land.

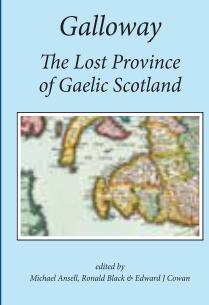
Orla Craig explained that her PhD research was examining the significance of the location, pursuing a theory that the area around Balmaghie was a "debatable land" and centre of an ecclesiastical power struggle.

Alex Woolf rounded up the conference with speculation on who was really in power in what is now Galloway at the end of the first Christian millennium.

Staging the conference was a major challenge but the CatStrand staff and volunteers rose to the occasion and the

BOOK LAUNCH

In 2018 the Glenkens Story staged a conference titled *Galloway: The Lost Province of Gaelic Scotland*.



A book of the proceedings - with the same title - was published on the day of this year's conference with the first copies on sale.

The book was edited by Michael Ansell, Ronald Black and the late Ted Cowan. It is published by John Dewar Publishers and is available from CatStrand priced £19.99.

Glenkens Story, along with the speakers and attendees, greatly appreciated the warmth and efficiency of the welcome and the high standard of catering. The success of the conference was also a tribute to the inspirational contribution by the late Ted Cowan to the planning of the event.

Mike Brown & Michael Ansell,
Glenkens Story Steering Group

Glenkens Community Shop Latest Grants

The Glenkens Community Shop is pleased to have made its second round of grants since life has, more or less, returned to normal.

Recipients included Loch Ken Dragon Boats, Clachan Crafters (a new group starting September in Dalry), Balmaclellan Heritage Group, LING, Youth Group Sports, Community Café, Dalry, Dalry Community Cupboard, Lorna Willock's Health & Weight classes (also new this autumn, based in Dalry), LING Community Inclusion Activities, Ken Words Writers Group

and Dalry Film Club.

We're so pleased to be able to give out grants again, and will welcome applications for the next round. The closing date for this is Saturday 26 November and application forms will be available in the shop from the end of October.

Grants are for sums of up to £500. Applicants should be either interest groups based in the Glenkens or individuals with projects which will benefit the Glenkens community. As you can see from the list, these are many and varied!

The shop is now open three full days a week - Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays - from 10am to 4pm. Do drop in sometime, we'd love to see you!

The Community Shop Team



Linda Garretty from the St Margaret's Guild manning the tombola at the Alternative Games which raised £250 for the local Food Train (see p27 for article on this year's Games).

CatStrand Xmas Panto

CatStrand Youth Players are delighted to bring a very busy and successful year to a close with their latest panto *Sinbad Sails Again* by Paul Reakes.

The drama season lasted much longer than usual this year with the unprecedentedly successful run of the Youth Players' production of *Lockdown* which reached the Scottish Final at Bathgate in June, finishing in second place.

After a short break over the summer months, rehearsals are already underway for the popular

Christmas pantomime which will take to the stage on Friday 9, Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 December.

Sinbad Sails Again is a brand new script by our favourite panto author Paul Reakes: it promises to be another hilarious show!

The storyline is almost like a sequel to the famous stories of Aladdin and Sinbad with both characters taking centre stage in the plot which involves Crossbones the pirate and his henchmen as the baddies and even Abanazar reappears from his exile to join in with the skullduggery.

Sinbad's mother Semolina and his brother Ali plus a few of their friends including Molly the monkey



add to the chaos but of course the Genie of the Lamp reappears to sort everything out and he ensures that everything ends happily ever after!

Tickets will go on sale soon and be sure to book early to avoid disappointment as they will sell out very quickly!

The Youth Players

Lunch at Kitty's

New Galloway Town Hall's LING Lunches have moved across the road to Kitty's Tea Room.

A huge thank you to Sylvia for her kindness and generosity towards supporting LING and our community. We'll be there while the renovations are in process at the Town Hall.

Lunches will still be served on Tuesdays between 12.30pm and 2pm. The ever-changing menu will be displayed in the window and on LING's Facebook.

Angie, LING's Community events and activities inclusion manager, and our volunteers look forward to seeing you all there!

The LING Team

Successful Late Night Openings

The CatStrand late-night openings on Fridays through July and August were a huge success, enjoyed by many.

The sharing platters were a highlight, as were the varied musical accompaniments. It was also a great chance to showcase our new bar, installed over the summer by NDH Joinery thanks to a very kind donation. It's an excellent addition to our café and displays our fine selection of drinks to great effect!

As the autumn draws in, we will be moving to monthly late openings instead of weekly, and the dates for your diary for the next few months are:

16 October – along with a Men's Shed Quiz Night

4 November – along with a Youth Open Stage Night

1 & 2 December – along with our Xmas Shopping Nights

Do feel free to come for a drink and hang out, even if you're not coming to the events. Thanks to all who came along this summer, we did enjoy having you, and we hope to see you all again this autumn.

Brian Edgar

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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OLD FRIENDS

I learned to use a sewing machine when I was five; my mother taught me to make clothes for my toys, and the memory is still sharp after seventy years.

For my generation this was a crucial skill; my friends and I started making our own clothes in our early teens, and it progressed from there. Our machines followed us through life, marking important times: soft furnishings for a new house, baby clothes, dresses and toys, repairs and renewals.

My mother taught me on an old Singer hand-cranked machine, heavy and slow, but sturdy - it had already come through the female line for three generations, with my mother having acquired it from her Great Aunt Maud. I progressed to a brand-new Bernina in 1972, to make curtains for our first house. It was top of the range at the time; I wanted it to last...

It did last - half a century of family service - but I was devastated when, in the middle of lockdown when I needed it most, it developed its first problem and became unusable. Worse still, I had run out of people prepared to service my 'vintage' machine, my old friend.

Last year, people might have witnessed an old lady doing a dance of joy in New Galloway High Street. There, in a window near the post office, was an old Singer, and on it a notice offering to mend and restore old sewing machines. John Johnes offers this service for pre-1980s machines. My Bernina was saved! John found parts on the internet, gave it a thorough overhaul and had it back to me within a week. John donates all fees to the New Galloway Town Hall Restoration Fundraiser Appeal and has so far raised over £1,000, which attracted match funding from the UK Government Community Ownership Grant Fund. John also restores and re-sells antique and vintage machines, and has some fine examples, mostly hand-cranked Singers. They are beautiful objects in their own

right and non-sewers have also bought them, just to enjoy their presence.

Chatting with John and his wife, Catrin, this 'presence of an old family friend' seemed to be a recurring theme. Catrin's 1937 Singer was passed down to her from her grandmother and mother; the handle of the hand-cranked machine worn smooth by three generations. She finds the family associations and gentle rhythms soothing in times of stress.

John's clients had similar affectionate stories to tell. They value the continuity, and the family memories brought by using it: making bunting for a family wedding, transforming a new kitchen with bright curtains, a quilt for a first-born, making garden cushions during lockdown... Several people also mentioned how their machines enable them to re-cycle and re-use materials. This was second-nature to my generation, and we are anxious to pass on these skills of self-sufficiency and conservation.

Happily, several of John's clients are passing-on to next generations. Catrin has taught her daughters and I have been teaching my great-niece, keeping the



Singer sewing machines were made at Kilbowie, Clydeside from 1884 until the factory closed in 1980. This beautiful 1929 Singer 99K is typical of the robust construction and ornate decoration. The oldest machine to pass through John's hands was an 1897 Singer 128K and its owner is delighted to have it back in working order.

line going from my great-great Aunt Maud, through six generations. Another client has bought a Singer to give for her niece's 21st birthday, to launch her into a fashion course at Kings' College, London. Hopefully, these will be the foundation for the 'Old Friends' of the future.

Annie Graham

*John Johnes can be contacted at
jjohnes@gmx.com or 07731 548 626.*



Cllr John Denerley laid a wreath at Carsphairn War Memorial in memory of the late Queen Elizabeth II on Friday 16 September. Pictured are Cllr Denerley (centre) with a group of villagers who attended to pay their respects to our late sovereign.

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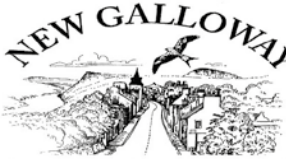


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FREE

Double synthetic fibre duvet, not much used. Machine washable. Contact: Sue on 07563 718 011

Used kitchen units available from 24 October. Contact: Gerry on 07952 507 108

Supermarket trolley style barbecue on wheels, little used. **Brand new bike tyre**, Kenda Desert, size 50-559 26x1.95. Contact: Alan on 07769 680 938

Magimix spiraliser attachment, came as a special offer, never used. Contact: sandjharvie@gmail.com



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

WANTED

Computer monitor/flat screen TV for use with Xbox/Playstation. Contact: Sarah on 07727 127 997

Double bed size divan base with drawers. Contact: 01644 460 673

Miniature Painting. By mistake I gave away a miniature painting on an easel to the Dalry Charity Shop. It's only about two inches high. Did you by chance buy such a painting from the shop in April?

I would dearly love to have it back as it was painted by a relative. Cost reimbursed plus a

reward and my undying thanks. Contact: Paul on 07973 174 342

Chest freezer. Contact: Tony on 07507 704 821

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

FOR SALE

Wooden fire surround, 56in wide, 49in tall, as new condition. Offers around £100. Contact: 07521 902 567

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.

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

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

Youth Intern

We are really excited to welcome our new intern, Phoebe Watt, to the CatStrand Arts Team.

Phoebe's background is film, having done a degree in Film and Media before studying a Masters in Film Curation, and she will be working with us for the next six months.

Phoebe has previously volunteered with the youth-led Climate Crisis Film Festival, and during her Film Curation degree she also worked with the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival. Both festivals aim to challenge audiences' perspectives on complex issues such as climate change and mental health, particularly by illuminating the diverse range of underrepresented voices of those who are impacted.

Phoebe says: "I'm so excited to be joining the team and really looking forward to getting involved. I would like to increase younger audiences' engagement with cinema and the arts through diverse programming that reflects the concerns and interests of my generation."

This role is supported by The Holywood Trust's core support of the CatStrand Young Creatives programme and by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership.

Peter Renwick and
Cat Campbell, CatStrand



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, or telephone Peter Matthews of A B & A Matthews on 01671 404100.

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Eco Feature

sponsored by



Meet the Producers

Glenkens Food Hub co-ordinators, Lesley and Tamsin, were delighted with the event held at New Galloway Town Hall in September as part of Glenkens Food Month.

The community had the opportunity to come and talk to producers about how they grow, farm or make their products. All the producers are based within 30 miles of the Glenkens and operate in an environmentally friendly and humane way, with a focus on rare breeds and using local ingredients.

Abi from **Hidden Veg** had a delicious beetroot salad and kale pesto to taste. Hidden Veg follows agro-ecological and permaculture principles and aims to produce no waste and to offer affordable produce.

Francis from **Baile Curriach**, a small farm near Dalbeattie, came to talk about their rare breed Shetland cattle. They are passionate about preserving this breed and manage them in a sustainable way, with the cows and nature at the forefront.

The herd are purely grass fed, producing high quality beef which tastes how beef used to taste!

Beans Greens is a radically simple, yet innovative, set-up. They grow healthy, tasty micro-veg from organic seeds in peat-free compost. Some of these greens have forty times the nutrient density of their fully grown equivalent! They can be scattered on salads, sprinkled on soup, mixed into an omelette, added on top of your cheese-on-toast and much more.

Ruth from **Low Auldgrith Steading** joined us from her regenerative, organic small holding near Thornhill. They work with traditional breeds of pigs, such as Oxford Sandy and Black, and Ryeland and Gotland sheep, from which they also sell the wool and fleeces.

Tom from **Earth's Crust Bakery** in Castle Douglas has been baking and catering for a long time, and does so in a thoughtful and considered way. This is highlighted in the ingredients he chooses, the healthful and tasty sourdough bread selection, and in the wide range of



The Glenkens Food Hub 'Meet the Producer' event at New Galloway Town Hall.

pastries, savouries, and cakes he offers.

Galloway Pasta were the most local of our producers, with Andrew making the pasta at The Smiddy café on the High Street in New Galloway.

A selection of cheeses was also available to try, kindly donated by another Glenkens Food Hub producer, **The Ethical Dairy**.

We are having a festive 'Meet the Producer' tasting event at the end of November, date TBC. Follow us on Facebook, sign up to our newsletter or look out for posters for more details. www.openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop

Tamsin and Lesley

The Glenkens Food Hub is supported by the Blackcraig wind farm community benefit fund, through the Glenkens & District Trist and Foundation Scotland.



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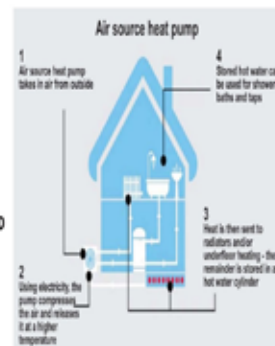
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One Hundred Skylarks, and More...

What a difference it made leaving the French windows open and letting evening birdsong, on the cool air after rain, into the Smiddy as we launched 'Over Holm and Hill - a Year Poetry-walking a Birdscape'.

The exhibition, which ran from 25 June to 22 July, was the creative culmination of a seasonal cycle of poetry walks on the 'Donald Watson Bird Walk' in the countryside around Dalry, led by local bird expert Chris Rollie and Ken Words project co-ordinator, Jane McBeth.

The walks, and accompanying writing workshops in Dalry Town Hall, prompted a richness of original material which was curated in a sequence that wrapped round the walls of the gallery space, giving viewers both pleasure and pause. If you missed the exhibition, you can catch up with it in January in the café gallery at Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries.

Meanwhile, throughout October Ken Words have another poetry-walk inspired exhibition on the walls – this time in the CatStrand Gallery. 'Polmaddy and the Rhinns - The Beholding Eye' runs from 3 to 29 October and invites viewers to reflect on the way we come to understand and perceive this landscape.

If you have any queries about either exhibition, please contact project co-ordinator Jane McBeth at jane.kenwords@gmail.com

Ken Words is a Glenkens Communities & Arts Trust project, supported by the Galloway Glens and Creative Scotland funding.



The Glenkens Scouts

The Glenkens Cub Scout Pack were delighted to receive a 'thank you' letter from the Queen's lady-in-waiting in response to the platinum jubilee celebratory cards we made for Her Majesty.

The Cubs would like to thank you for supporting our stall at this year's Alternative Games by donating and buying; we raised £78.70. It was amazing to have the Games revived after Covid, and to see so many people having fun and making old and new friendships. A lot of work goes on beforehand to make it such a success, and we thank everyone involved, even though James did promise I would win the Grand National Snail Race - maybe next year James!

(See article on p27 for more on the Games).

We are on the lookout for two Beaver Leaders if anyone is interested. I am sure Diana and Tim, if available, would help you get started. Beavers are between the ages of six and eight. *Heather, Hannah, Doug & Ben*

Pictured to the right is the letter received from the Queen's lady-in-waiting.



TOWN HALL TRANSFER FINALISED

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) is delighted to announce that it has now taken asset transfer of New Galloway Town Hall from D&G Council.

The building is held in trust for the benefit of the community – both those resident in New Galloway and Kells and across the wider Glenkens. Our thanks to the Council for their support over the

several years it has taken to bring this about.

There was a last-minute hiatus when dry rot was identified, but the council have guaranteed to treat, repair and restore and are working impressively fast and collaboratively with LING to coordinate the work taking place in the hall – and to maximise our capacity to stay open for activities at the same time.

Now that we have ownership of the building, the grant funding we have secured (totaling over £300,000) can begin to be released to us, with the planned renovations and refurbishment taking place between now and Christmas.

Thanks go to the several grant-funding bodies who have been so patiently waiting for asset transfer to finally be achieved. Their encouragement, advice and support, in some cases over many years, has been invaluable to us. They include: The UK Community Ownership Fund; The Glenkens and District Trust; The Garfield Weston Foundation; The National Lottery Community Fund; The Pilgrim Trust; The Architectural Heritage Fund; The Winnifred Ann Kennedy Trust; The Robertson Trust; The Galloway Association of Glasgow; The Hugh Fraser Trust; and the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Anne Glaister



Out and About in the Biosphere

The villages of the Glenkens sit among some of the highest conservation value areas in southwest Scotland.

The landscapes and incredible biodiversity of this region were recognised internationally in 2012 with the award of 'UNESCO Biosphere' status to more than 5,200km² of Galloway and Southern Ayrshire.

In the decade since its designation, the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere (GSAB) has been working to widen understanding of our local environments and how we can approach climate change impacts and the global nature crisis. Alongside this remit GSAB aims to help local people connect with the exceptional natural beauty that lies on our very doorsteps.

The Biosphere team includes specialists in land use and biodiversity who are working with farmers, landowners, and land-based enterprise across the Glenkens and beyond, encouraging the adoption of nature-friendly practice in land management.

Among the Biosphere's projects and partnerships are those designed to support our essential pollinators – bees, butterflies, beetles and more – creatures with brief and precious lifespans. As the colours of autumn evolve around us it is almost instinctive to be drawn to the big visual dramas of our changing seasons, but there is plenty to discover in the micro world below.

Malcolm Haddow is one of the newest members of 'Team GSAB' and shares here some of the smaller natural treasures we might spot in the Glenkens as days shorten and leaves begin to

fall. He says: "I am one of the project support officers and have been in the role since July. I recently graduated with a First Class BSc (Hons) in Wildlife Conservation Management from SRUC and am an avid biological recorder and amateur photographer in my free time. For anyone who hasn't done so before I recommend taking a closer look at some of the Biosphere's marvellous moths!"

The best way to observe moths is to create or buy a moth trap. The charity Butterfly Conservation provides an excellent and easy-to-follow guide; simply google 'budget bucket moth trap Butterfly Conservation' and voilà your new hobby as a lepidopterist has begun. Several exciting moths have

As the colours of autumn evolve around us it is almost instinctive to be drawn to the big visual dramas of our changing seasons, but there is plenty to discover in the micro world below.

been recorded in the Glenkens: among our autumnal species, look for the canary-shouldered thorn, august thorn, large wainscot, frosted orange and green-brindled crescent. Moths have undergone a marked decline in recent decades and by recording moths in your local area you can contribute knowledge to national databases, help track trends in populations, and play a part in achieving the Biosphere's objectives in conservation.

From marvellous moths we move on to dashing dragonflies! As vegetation begins to die back we are provided with ideal conditions to watch dragonflies. One of the last species to emerge, the migrant hawker, has only recently colonized Scotland. It readily breeds in any unpolluted standing water. Watch for migrant hawkers on patrol over vegetation at woodland edges and along

grass verges. Many of the upland species of dragonfly can be observed in autumn including the golden-ringed dragonfly, common hawker and black darter.

For the avid enthusiast, the nationally vulnerable azure hawker can be found at the southernmost part of its UK range in remote blanket bogs in the Galloway hills. There are records of azure hawkers at Silver Flowe, one of the Biosphere's Core Areas – this highlights the value of our UNESCO designation for threatened species.

Now to glorious galls. Autumn provides perfect conditions to find galls. A gall is in essence a benign tumour, created as a reaction of a plant's tissues to damage from a feeding or egg-laying

insect or fungus. One of the commonest ones to find is the ubiquitous oak marbled gall which, as the name suggests, grows on oaks, and these were once used to dye leather and cloth. The bedeguar gall is a spectacular sight to behold and grows on dog rose, caused by a group of wasp

larvae. Finally, look for the oak knopper gall, a colonist from the 1960s which chemically induces acorns to mutate to provide a safe space for the larvae to develop.

Autumn is a prime time to watch local wildlife and I hope we have inspired you to appreciate some of our smaller denizens. If you find any of the species mentioned above, please record them on iRecord or iNaturalist as it has never been more important to monitor our local wildlife than now.

The Biosphere's Land Use & Biodiversity team is available to advise on projects large or small including garden areas, community green spaces, and farming or land-based businesses. They are contactable at mary@gsabiosphere.org.uk with more information available at www.gsabiosphere.org.uk



Pictured, left to right: canary-shouldered thorn moth; bedeguar gall; Migrant Hawker dragonfly © Malcolm Haddow.

Community Plea to Save School

Dumfries and Galloway Council is proposing, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process, to discontinue education provision at Carsphairn Primary School, reassigning its catchment area to that of Dalry Primary School.

The community of Carsphairn want the school to maintain its 'mothballed' status, leaving the opportunity for the school to open if enough children wish to attend.

"We are currently in a 'catch 22' with the children presently in Carsphairn school catchment going to either Dalry, Kells or Moniaive primary schools due to the fact that Carsphairn isn't currently an option and, furthermore, it has proved impossible for parents to enrol their child in Carsphairn," says Liz Holmes, Carsphairn Community Council chair. She goes on to say: "There are children in Carsphairn who wanted to attend Carsphairn school after it was mothballed but found it impossible. At a meeting held in February 2019 it was agreed to temporarily mothball the school from

August 2019, and that if new pupils arrived then they could request to be enrolled at the school, dependant on there being availability of suitable staff. This has clearly not been the case, as parents have been unable to enrol their child at Carsphairn school, which means that we were given misleading and incorrect information at this meeting."

Carsphairn Community Council is currently working with South of Scotland Community Housing to create affordable housing in Carsphairn, either in or north of the village, within the next few years. The aim is to regenerate the community of Carsphairn through a number of strands, one of which is family housing. Having a school is key to the sustainability of the village and outlying areas in terms of its appeal to families, especially due to its remote location. Owing to the pandemic, there has been a trend of people moving to more rural areas like the Glenkens and there will almost certainly be a demand for our school as this trend continues."

Liz goes on to say: "Continuing to have the school mothballed would give the community the opportunity to regenerate, and it appears to cost the Council very little to keep the school in a 'mothballed' state. We would appreciate support from anyone who would like to submit their views on the



Members of the community have a petition running to gather support to keep the school open which has already gathered over 300 signatures - visit www.change.org to sign.

matter, and which may help prevent the school closure."

To submit your views, or find out more, visit dumgal.gov.uk/consultations or email statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk before 5pm on Friday 4 November.



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Glenkens Producers' Market



2nd Saturday Monthly
Dalry Town Hall, 10am-1pm
- 8th October & 12th November -
 ...fresh vegetables, baked goods, preserves, bread, fresh meat, smoked products, cheese, Galloway pasta and artisan cider, chocolates, handmade crafts, gift cards, plants...
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A Carsphairn Lass: Part II

Recollections by Betty McNally

When the war broke out there were lots of soldiers around and planes flying over us.

We saw many crashes in the areas. There was one in the glen towards Dalmellington where 11 British soldiers were killed and one in Loch Doon where a Czech pilot was killed. Parts of that plane were moved to the Aviation Museum in Dumfries. At night there were a lot of German planes going over to bomb Clydebank. One night we were coming home from the pictures in Dalmellington, the heather and grass round our house was all on fire. This was caused by German bombers dropping incendiary bombs after a bombing raid.

Lots of children and mothers came to stay in Carsphairn during the war. Our evacuees, a mother with three wee boys, came from Clydebank but there were two boys from Jersey at Drumjohn. When all the tanks were about, my mother spent her time on the girdle making scones and pancakes for everybody. In return we would get chocolate and rations from the soldiers. Just before Christmas one year, one of the Churchill tanks crashed near Stroma. It went upside down and six men were inside it. They were rescued and came to Stroma. We thought that they might have to spend Christmas with us, but they were collected before it.

Going to school one morning

we encountered a carry-on at Lagwyne. The army had staged a mock battle and had "blown up" the bridge over the Deugh, but they had built a Bailey bridge over the river so we could get to school. I remember twelve men from the Home Guard guarding the bridge as it was rumoured that the Germans were coming. I remember the Show at Carsphairn on the first Saturday in June. There were lots of animals and birds, hens, bantams, and pigeons in the McMorran's byre. There was a man who lived in a warm room above where the cows were.

I think it was the Randall sisters who had the hotel at that time. The hall was well used with concerts and whist drives. I remember the Popplewells, the owners of the Gaiety Theatre in Ayr, coming to judge a beauty competition. My sister was first, I was second and Jean Kirk was third. We were all very pleased. It was a really busy place with people coming down from Ayr and Glasgow. To me that was a long, long way.

My birthday was on Christmas Day and Mum always gave the family a party. I always wanted a bike, but

my parents said they couldn't afford one. There was one in a shop window in Dalmellington, and I watched that bike for weeks. On Christmas morning I came downstairs and there was the bike in the livingroom. I burst into tears – I was 14 and that was the first time I found out there was no Santa!

When I left school, I went to work with the Campbells

at the Holm and then I went to train as a nurse at Seafeld Hospital in Ayr. After that I went to work at Lamloch, looking after the McMillan children. I got married to William McNally in 1948 in Dalry Church. The service was conducted by both Reverend Mullo Weir, the Dalry minister, and Reverend Sievwright. William was Dalry born-and-bred and he had been in the army throughout the war. I was 18 when I got married and moved into the house that my husband bought for us.

Submitted by Frank McHugh, shared courtesy of the Doon Valley Gazette



The Home Guard marching along Carsphairn's main A713 road during the war, courtesy of the Carsphairn Archive.

We went to the village every Sunday to the Sunday School. We had only one bike between my mother and me, so we took it in turns to ride it or run behind. The Church service was held after Sunday School, so we stayed for it. We were scared of Mrs Sievwright, the minister's wife, who always wore a large hat and sat in the front pew. When Mr Sievwright was away during the war, Mr Tidd came by bus from Glasgow to take the weekly service.

Carsphairn was a very busy little village. We had two shops - Mrs Blyth's and Lawrence's. The Post Office and hotel were also busy.

CiC Autumn Update

The Connecting in Communities (CiC) team at Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) has been continuing to deliver an exciting and diverse programme of events aimed at bringing people together across the Glenkens and wider district.

A current highlight is the new Wellbeing Road Shows that are running in various

locations in the area and aim to be a one-stop shop for improving wellbeing. You can see the full October programme on the opposite page at www.gcat.scot and on our social media channels.

As well as our regular programme, September was a busy month as the team partnered with the Biosphere in delivering Carbon Literacy training, supported the GCAT team effort on the Ken Bridge 200 celebrations and took over the baton of Glenkens Food Month from New Galloway Community Enterprises. Some fabulous events there that we hope you enjoyed – and do look out for the next ones coming.

The more behind-the-scenes work of CiC lies in supporting volunteers and volunteer organisations, and we are

looking forward to a joint project with New Galloway & Kells Community Council to get information about the local help available to us all over the winter out to outlying households, amongst other ideas and other organisations.

We've also been continuing our work on assessing what the community development needs for the Glenkens and district will be in 2023+, and how CiC can support those. There are some clear emerging themes from the work so far, such as lifelong education and skills, community arts and community engagement, but if you have other thoughts and ideas, we'd love to hear from you on lisa@catstrand.com. We aim to have a draft plan available for review early in the New Year so that we can work on implementing it before the current phase of CiC ends in June 2023.

*Lisa Ridley,
CiC Project Lead*

THE MEN'S SHED

The Men's Shed has appointed a social secretary, Walter Starritt, who is busy trying to organise activities to get Shed members out and about.

So far we have arranged a Quiz Night at the CatStrand on Friday 14 October at 7.30pm. Please come along - non-Shed members are very welcome.

We are looking to hold an open day on Saturday 2 October between 10am and 3pm for potential new members to come and have a taste of making things that we can sell at the CatStrand Christmas Shopping Nights on the 1 and 2 December. This will be linked with a barbecue for those who have worked up an appetite - if we can find a chef...

Walter has provisionally booked a venue for hosting the Men's Shed Christmas meal. We are going to Nikos, in Castle Douglas, on Friday 16 December at 7.30pm. We are hoping for plenty of support from Shed members and partners, and will try to arrange transport.

Other suggestions have been a Golf Day, and visits to the Sulwath Brewery and/or the Bladnoch Distillery. Other suggestions welcome!

Please keep an eye on the Glenkens Mens' Shed Facebook page for more activities as they are arranged. For further information you can contact me at Leach at t_leach1@sky.com

Tom Leach



Photo of the Issue

*...Sponsored by the
Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Co*

This issue's winner is Susan Currie with a lovely photo of Buddie among the bluebells.

Susan 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: "We love Buddie in the bluebells - it made us smile!"

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



FREE

★ ACTIVITIES ★

Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust★ **OCTOBER ACTIVITY PROGRAMME** ★

All these activities are **FREE** & open to people with no experience or some experience.

All equipment will be provided.

Most activities will run in small groups so **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL** - see contact details below

PHOTOGRAPHY IN FOCUS

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The Smiddy, Balmaclellan plus 'out in the field'

Expert tuition to bring your photography knowledge and skills into focus

UKULELE WORKSHOPS

Wednesdays: 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th | 6pm-7.30pm

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Bring rhythm into your life with our informal Ukulele workshops

ARTistry

Thursdays: 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th | 10am -12.30pm

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

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Contact Leto: letosef@yahoo.com

PLAY READINGS

Thursdays 6th & 20th | 7pm-9pm

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Come and dip your theatrical toes into a fun evening of play reading, sampling a variety of characters and dramatic situations, in a friendly and welcoming space.

OPEN MIC NIGHT Thursday 13th | 7pm - 10pm

CatStrand

Performers free / Audience £5 includes a tot of whisky on arrival for Dutch Courage!

LGBT + FRIENDLY 'SAFE SPACE CAFÉ'

Saturday 15th | 5pm - 7pm

CatStrand Café

Drop by for an informal early evening of drinks, snacks and conversation

CHAIR YOGA

Fridays: 7th, 14th, 16th, 21st & 28th | 2pm - 3pm

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Suitable for beginners, gentle introduction to physical and mental benefits.

OCTOBER'S AUTUMN WALK IN NATURE

Sunday 23rd 10.00am-12.30pm

Meeting at Dalry Town Hall. Easy to moderate walk to Mulloch, spotting autumnal birds and early winter visitors.

PUDDING CLUB

Monday 24th | 6.30pm-8.30pm

CatStrand Cafe

Bring along your favourite Autumnal or Halloween style pudding, share flavours and recipes.

IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OF WHAT ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY, PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH AND WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO MAKE THEM HAPPEN

BOOKING ESSENTIAL For more information or to reserve your place, please call the CatStrand on 01644 420 374 between the hours of 11am - 4pm, or email jo@catstrand.com



Can You Help Save the MUGA

The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) beside Dalry School is part-way through an asset transfer, but needs more hands on deck to take things forward.

Would you be willing to give some time to pursuing the next stage of the transfer from the Council to the Dalry Community Properties Trust, getting the MUGA fit for use once the transfer is completed and/or organising user groups once it's up and running?

The MUGA is a brilliant asset to the communities of the Glenkens with a full size court suitable for tennis, basketball, badminton or other games, floodlights for dark winter

evenings, and a great space for the schools to utilise.

Meetings of a working group can be held in person or by Zoom, to suit members, but we do need enough people willing to help - let's secure this space for the Glenkens communities into the future!

If anyone is interested in supporting the MUGA, please either call Angie Bradford on 07766 476 125 or email Sarah Ade on sarah.ade@gmail.com

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Introducing D&G Scottish Communities Climate Action Network's (SCCAN) new regional network co-ordinator, Steven Clark:

Like the teams from Galloway Glens, the Loch Ken Trust (LKT) and many of your readers, I know time is of the essence and that there's a lot of work to do in the face of climate change.

For my part, that means building a critical mass of community-led groups on the SCCAN network, all doing their bit for resilience - or as Barney from the LKT eloquently rephrased it, to

create 'Future Ready Communities'.

A strong DG Network within SCCAN would help facilitate better communication and let community groups know that they aren't striving in a vacuum, by enabling the sharing of best practices for a multitude of climate action initiatives.

There is a world of people out there trying to make their communities more 'Future Ready' and SCCAN has the capability to bring them together.



Check out the SCCAN website, sign up for our newsletter or feel free to get in touch with me at steven@scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk for further information.

Steven Clark

Glenkens Churches Interim Moderator

Following David Bartholomew's retirement, the position of minister for the parish of 'Balmacellan, Kells and Dalry with Carsphairn' is officially vacant.

This means that the local presbytery appoints an interim moderator to oversee the preparations for a new minister to be recruited.

My name is Mark Smith and I am Minister for Dunscore with Glencairn & Moniaive - the other side of those hills - and I have been invited to take on the interim role. I will be acting as moderator (chair) for the Kirk Sessions and working with them to put in place what is needed for the parish to call a new minister. I also oversee the Sunday worship, ensuring that, as far as possible, there is cover for the planned services during the vacancy. I will also make arrangements for baptisms, weddings and funerals during the vacancy.

We do hope to be able to appoint a locum minister later in the year, who will take the majority of services. There is a lot of paperwork to do, lots of checks to be carried out, and some negotiations to pursue as the four congregations are looking to become one (union) and a new partnership (union or linkage) with Crossmichael, Parton & Balmaghie with Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham will need to be investigated.

The future for many rural parishes in our region is under review and more congregations will have to share fewer ministers, so the church will have to find imaginative ways to work. Watch this space!

As you can see in the Church Times section on p32, Sunday worship continues in our local churches - do support them, come along and see what really goes on. We have managed to ensure that all the usual Remembrance Sunday events and services happen this year and the kirk sessions are working on plans for Christmas too.

My wife, Debbie, and I live in Wallaceton (half-way between Dunscore



and Moniaive) with our elderly cat (Lily), a young tortoise (Dori) and a mad ginger puppy (Lottie). Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions on 01387 820 475 or mark.smith@churchofscotland.org.uk Mark RS Smith

Pictured above are Mark and Debbie with their dog Lottie.

SOLWAY CREDIT UNION

What It Is and How You Can Benefit

A *Gazette* reader asked if we could do an article about Solway Credit Union and how joining could benefit people here in the Glenkens - so here it is!

What if a bank, instead of being focused on profit, was focused on you?

Solway Credit Union (SCU) was set up in 1999 by a group of local people interested in promoting thrift; namely, encouraging better 'financial health' through regular saving and low cost loans.

SCU provides a range of practical, affordable and straightforward financial services to everyone living or working in our Common Bond area of Annandale & Eskdale, Nithsdale and the Stewartry. Current membership includes a number of folk from the Glenkens - and the SCU is looking to actively grow in visibility and activity across the region, addressing any perceptions that it is only for people in Dumfries.

The SCU benefits from all of the usual government-backed safeguards as members of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, but with one very big difference in how it operates: the principle of a credit union is that you can join a membership society that is run by, and exists to support, its members - not shareholders - and it is not seeking to make a profit.

The SCU currently offers a Share

product offered is a loan of up to three times the savings you have with the Union, with interest charged at only 1% per month - much lower than credit cards.

Aside from the core work of providing reasonable and helpful financial products, the SCU has also undertaken a range of financial education workshops in local schools - including Dalry school - seeking to instil good financial practice and savvy into our region's schoolchildren.

Based in an office in Dumfries, the SCU runs a website with information and allowing member deposits and withdrawals www.solwaycreditunion.co.uk

SCU will also be launching a new app in the next 12 months, giving members the full range of banking options through their phone.

If you think any of the Solway Credit Union's services would be of interest to you, please do get in touch, and we are also always looking for members to join the board of trustees. SCU administrator, Anne, is available for any queries on info@solwaycreditunion.co.uk or 01387 267200 or you can follow Solway Credit Union on Facebook and Twitter.

McNabb Laurie



JOIN THE MONEY REVOLUTION

Account, Junior Saver for children up to 16, a simple Loan Account for those wishing to borrow, and Payroll Deduction for regular savings. Savings and Loans are protected by free life assurance provided by CUNA Insurance Group.

Anyone living or working in the Stewartry can join the SCU. The core

Return of the Alternative Games

Finally, New Galloway was able to once again host the Games after a two year enforced absence during Covid.

First held in Parton in 1977, the popular event is now celebrating its 45th anniversary and attracted record crowds to New Galloway Park on Sunday 7 August. Many regular participants returned and were joined by lots of willing newbies keen to experience some of the unique events for the first time.

The reigning Gird 'n' Cleek World Champion, Arthur Harfield, had been patiently waiting to defend his title and had even appeared on TV with Susan Calman during his reign. However, he was assured of some feisty competition with several other former champions present, and the heats provided some great entertainment for the spectators. When it came to the final, the audience was in for a surprise as young Elizabeth, winner

of the Primary Girls final, became the youngest ever World Champion.

The Tractor Pull attracted a large number of entries, as did the Quad Bike Pull for the juniors, with both young and old showing their strength and some impressive times recorded.

The Mungo Bryson Memorial Trophy for the men's Tossin' the Sheaf competition was retained by George Dempster, and the ladies' Tossin' the Sheaf saw Dawn Spengel retaining the gold.

The ever-popular Snail Racing attracted a big crowd with curious punters rolling

up to support, encourage and even bribe the snails in each of the three races during the afternoon. The Classic Car Show was well supported once again and attracted a very impressive line-up of vehicles. The Connecting in the Communities project organised a mini-Commonwealth Games for the younger competitors which was very popular, and there were stalls with local produce for hungry, or thirsty, punters.

After 45 years, the Alternative Games continues to be enjoyed by locals and visitors of all ages and this year welcomed competitors and spectators

from as far afield as South Africa, Slovakia, France and Canada. The organisers would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Games a success once again and everyone who came along to spectate and compete on the day.

Brian Edgar



Spectators seated in the natural amphitheatre of New Galloway Park watching the Tractor Pull, photographed by Eric Broadhurst.

...I heard that someone tried to cheat in the snail race by removing the shell. Apparently he thought it would make the snail faster, but it just made it more sluggish... *Anon*

HEDGEHOG ALERT

If a hedgehog is out during the day, it is in need of help; big or small, they should not be out in daylight hours.

Alison, who runs a local hedgehog rescue centre, has a plea for Glenkens residents: "If you see a hedgehog out in the day, don't wait for tomorrow - please act straight away and help the hedgehog's life. At this time of year there are late litters who will not have had enough time to put on

the weight they need to see them through the cold winter (they need to weigh at least 600g).

"Please pick them up and keep them warm and dry until they can be collected - call me any time on 07722 516 514 and I'll come and get them."



GLENKENS TREASURES

An idea for a new section - Glenkens Treasures - has been suggested by a *Gazette* reader inspired by David Bartholomew's 28 years' service to the communities of the Glenkens and his part in finding the Galloway Hoard treasures.

The theme is that there are many people in our communities who often go "above and beyond" in helping others - checking in on elderly neighbours, helping at community events, raising money for good causes; the list is endless.

We would like to celebrate this kindness to others through the *Gazette* and ask readers to get in touch to nominate people they feel fit the bill. So please tell us who you would nominate, and why, giving your own name and contact details, and we'll be in touch.

You can email glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk or drop written nominations in to the CatStrand, marked Glenkens Treasures.

Its Christmas!!!
Arts & Crafts
DALRY TOWN HALL
November 27th 11am-3pm

Come enjoy shopping with Unique Artists & Artisan Crafters and Designers

Enjoy delicious homemade Cakes and hot drinks at the Pop Up Cafe

Unique gift ideas.

Admission £1 per adult.
 Children under 12 yrs Free

www.dalrytownhall.co.uk

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 Plants, pots, tools and more!
 Open daily 10am - 4pm

Available this Autumn

- heathers, cyclamen and winter pansies plus hardy perennials and shrubs for long-lasting colour
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Ernespie Farm, Old Military Road, Castle Douglas, DG7 3JG

BUSINESS in the SPOTLIGHT

Tarnia Hrynczyszyn qualified as a massage therapist in 2006.

After a pause in her training, Tarnia's passion was rekindled in 2017. She says: "Whilst training for my first trail marathon I sustained a series of injuries which spurred me on to studying massage in a more in-depth way, to help me gain an understanding of what was causing my injuries and how I could continue to progress with running."

Tarnia qualified in Sports and Remedial Massage with the Western School of Massage at the Caledonian University and also studied with the highly acclaimed Western School of Massage. "I aim to continue my studies next year, taking their advanced remedial training courses," says Tarnia.

Glenkens Sports & Remedial Massage

is the name of Tarnia's business, through which she offers a range of treatments, specialising in sports massage techniques which can help reduce injury time, relieve pain and improve range of movement.

A service of mobile appointments is available during the week within the Glenkens area, or appointments can be booked for Mondays and Sundays in Castle Douglas.

Tarnia goes on to say: "I believe in keeping my prices at as reasonable a rate as possible as I truly believe massage is good for people's overall wellbeing, with daily stress having a way of manifesting itself in the form of aches and pains."

To find out more or make an appointment call 07410 623 408, email glenkenspportsmassage@gmail.com or visit Tarnia's Facebook page @Glenkens Sports & Remedial Massage.



Glenkens
Sports & Remedial Massage

WINDY STANDARD WIND FARM

Our proposals to repower the first phase of Windy Standard Wind Farm would see the removal of 36 turbines and up to eight wind turbines erected in their place.

As a result, we have been focusing on the decommissioning process and identifying solutions to repurpose or recycle the blades.

We have formed a partnership with Ayrshire based 360 Safety and Training.

As a local provider of specialist safety and technical training to the wind industry, we hope to work together to incorporate repurposed turbine components into the delivery of wind turbine training courses.

The partnership allows us to contribute components to a local company and support the training of a local workforce, all whilst ensuring that our repowering proposals are helping to give turbine components a new lease of life.

Further information can be found at www.windystandardwindfarm.co.uk.

Keep in touch: communities@fredolsen.com / 07435 763 900



CPR Training in New Galloway

Following a very well-attended first CPR and defibrillator training session, a further session is being offered on Saturday 15 October.

This will provide a more in-depth introduction for those new to it all, with an opportunity for some hands-on practice and tuition.

The session will be run by Christine Rankin and Dr Elizabeth Kelly, from 10am to 12noon at New Galloway Town Hall, and there will be coffee and biscuits available.

Please note that places are limited to 12 so if you are interested in attending, please contact Christine Rankin at dalgowantraing@aol.com or 01644 420 259/07749 212 201.

Watson Bird Update

Please check out our new website at www.watsonbirds.org

You can now also buy postcards, letter cards and small posters of Donald Watson's paintings in the shop at CatStrand.

In the Watson Room at the Smiddy in Balmaclellan, you will find a display of most of the books that Donald wrote or illustrated - please feel free to visit.

Roger Crofts

McMillan Coffee Afternoon

Thursday 6 October

2pm till 4pm at Hair by Jayne, Dalry

- Great raffle prizes -

All welcome - will be great to see you!

KNOCKVENNIE HALL

At a village hall meeting, the current crisis in energy and the cost of living was discussed in light of how the hall might have additional benefits to our community.

Knockvennie Hall serves the community of the Urr Valley between Bridge of Urr and Corsock and Parton. The villages have their own halls, so Knockvennie is often thought of as a village hall without a village.

We have publicised the new snooker club which now has two good quality tables housed in the refurbished interior of the hall.

We are offering a 'heat bank' where folk in the area who might be experiencing financial difficulties (or not) are welcome to access the hall to socialise, make tea or coffee and have a blether, game of cards or play some dominos; relax in a warm place, meet folk.

If you would like to access the Hall please contact Jonathan (01556 650 187), Jerry (01556 650 505) or Andrew (01556 690 677) and we can arrange to open up for you.

We are still looking for snooker players - table hire is currently £4 per hour. Please contact one of the above to arrange a visit and try the tables out.

Andrew Pyle

GLENKENS YOUTH

Coming up this Autumn...

Ages
11-19

YOUTH MEET-UPS

Mondays 7.00 - 8.30pm
Dalry Community Centre

Sports, food, crafts, table-tennis, a space to meet friends

September: 5th, 12th (19th - Cancelled), 26th
October: 3rd, 10th

FREE OCTOBER HOLIDAY TRIPS

Monday 17th: Mostly Ghostly Tour, Dumfries
Monday 24th: Flip Out trampolining, Glasgow

Booking essential!
Book at tingurl.com/GYoctober

HALLOWEEN

Monday 31st October
7.00 - 8.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Music, games, hot dogs...

To join the Glenkens Youth Whatsapp group for updates or for more info message Olivia on **07719 708 668**

LING Youth Work is funded by Glenkens & District Trust to help young people in the Glenkens access sports, outdoor and youth-led activities and have a say in the community.

For info contact Youth Activity & Development Worker
Olivia Donald at youthwork.ling@gmail.com

Veg,
bread,
cakes, pies,
preserves

meat,
eggs, cheese,
pasta, scones
& more!

Glenkens Food Hub

Shop online for seasonal, local, good food.
openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop

Order from midday Friday to midday Tuesday for delivery or collection the following Friday

14 - 18th Oct	21st Oct
28 - 1st Nov	4th Nov
11 - 15th Nov	18th Nov
25 - 29th Nov	2nd Dec

Delivery within the Glenkens or collect from Dalry

Follow us on Facebook or get in touch for more information
lesley@propagate.org.uk | 07587122151

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Fresh produce delivered to your door

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Struggling with menopause?

Get in touch to see how I can help!
07587122151 | lesley@thenourishingspace.co.uk

FREE COURSE

Alastair Lamb, who lives in Dalry, has been working on a brand new online course with his company, The Dream Clinic.

"The aim is to unleash the people with an idea or dream to make our world a better place," says Alastair. He continues: "We'd like to start at home so are giving away 100 free places to Gazette readers."

You can take a look at the course and get the discount at www.udemy.com/course/delivering-big-ideas-by-the-dream-clinic/?couponCode=GLENKENS22 or if you want to know more email alastair.l.lamb@gmail.com



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

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- 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

For more information visit 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

For more information visit 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

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CASTLE DOUGLAS

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

*The Surgery
High Street
New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

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

WHERE TO LOOK FOR LOCAL JOB LISTINGS

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

KEY GLENKENS CONTACTS

LOCAL DOCTORS' SURGERY

Glenkens Medical Practice - 01644 420 234

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- Balmaclellan: Martin Warnock - 07939 261 391
- Carsphairn: Liz Holmes - 07718 358 160
- Corsock: Julie Garton - 07769 647 702
- Kirkpatrick Durham: Heather - 07551 639 629
- Crossmichael: Richard Middleton - 01556 670 691

- Dalry: Graham West - 01644 430 503
- Mossdale: Shop - 01644 450 281
- New Galloway: 07741 656 601
- Parton: Erica or Brian - 01644 470 277

FOOD DELIVERIES

- Galloway Foodbank - 07730 788 335
- Glenkens Food Hub - www.openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/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: call 07966 103 912 to find out about Glenkens delivery days
- 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

Glenkens Scout Group: Contact Heather McIntosh on 01644 420 375

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING): Contact newgallowaytownhall@gmail.com

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

Dalry Town Hall: Contact Lesley Blissett at lesleyblissett52@gmail.com

Glenkens Community Centre: Contact Gary Blissett at garyblissett51@gmail.com

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

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

CatStrand: Contact Fiona Limbrey at fiona@catstrand.com or 01644 420 374 or pop in to the CatStrand

Schools: Visit the school office or call Dalry Primary on 01644 430 105 (for Nursery/ELC too), Dalry Secondary on 01644 430 259 or Kells on 01644 420 340

Carsphairn Heritage Initiative: Contact Karen Hall at carsphairnhi@gmail.com

Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP): Contact McNabb Laurie at 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 - 2 Oct, 6 Nov
Carsphairn: 11am - 9 Oct, 13 Nov
Kells: 11am - 16 Oct, 30 Oct, 20 Nov
Dalry: 11am - 23 Oct, 27 Nov

Special Services

Harvest Thanksgiving (11am) & **Lunch** (12noon), 2 Oct, Balmaclellan Village Hall
Communion, 23 Oct, 11am, Dalry Church

Remembrance Sunday, Carsphairn (10.30am in the church), Balmaclellan (11am at the war memorial), Kells (11am at the war memorial), Dalry (12noon at the war memorial)

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

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

Sundays: 10.30am Sung Eucharist, followed by coffee/tea
Visitors welcome - for information, including directions, please see our website www.stmargaretsnewgalloway.org or call our vestry secretary, Christine Rankin, on 01644 420 259.



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

October - November 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 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

If you are a local Glenkens resident and are interested in joining the GCT Ebike Club please see <https://www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org/gct-ebike-club>
 phone 07704 662925
 or email jon@catstrand.com

EXCURSIONS

1 October 2022 Saturday

THE TRANQUIL GARDENS

Acorn Bank House & Garden, Temple Sowerby, Cumbria
 Explore the working watermill and discover the house and the industrial history of the wildlife grounds. Plants for sale.
 Refreshments available. **Admission £9** (NTS members free)

AND

Larch Cottage Nursery, Melkintrope, Cumbria
 Plants for sale. Refreshments available.

Fare £10

SOLD OUT.

Please phone the CatStrand (01644 420374) if you wish to be on the waiting list in case of any cancellations.

15 October 2022 Saturday

The Creative Crafts Autumn Show with Creative Crafts for Christmas
 SECC, Glasgow

The Creative Craft Show is a haven for knitting, cross stitch, paper crafting, jewellery & dressmaking and stitching enthusiasts, offering all the very latest supplies, ideas and innovations in the hobby world! You'll find everything from kits, charts and patterns to fabrics, yarns, threads and buttons plus opportunities to gain advice from industry experts.

Admission £11 at the venue; discount for online booking

Pickups:

0800 Kirkcudbright (Harbour Square Bus Stop);
 0825 Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill);
 0835 Crossmichael (Shop);
 0900 New Galloway (CatStrand);
 0910 Dalry (Underhill);
 0925 Carsphairn (Shop)

Fare £10

For more info please see the website:

<https://www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org/excursions>

Drivers Needed

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

MINIBUS DRIVING

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

PATIENT TRANSPORT

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

Interested?

Email gct@catstrand.com or phone 07841 512449

WHAT'S ON October/November

OCTOBER

Fri 2 to 30, Chair Yoga, 2-3pm, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Sat 2, Men's Shed Open Day, Men's Shed, Balmaclellan, 10am-3pm, see p17

Mon 3, Dalry Community Council meeting, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Tue 4 to 25, Photography in Focus, 10am-12pm, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Tue 4 to 25, Tai Chi, 10am-12pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Tue 4 (for 6 weeks), Digital Art Drawing Course, 4.30pm, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Wed 5 to 27, Ukulele Workshops, 6pm-7.30pm, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Thu 6 to 28, 10am -12.30pm, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Thu 6 & 20, Play Readings, 7-9pm, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Thu 6, Chance to Dance, 6pm, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Fri 7, John Fenner: Joie de Vivre Jazz, Lochinvar Hotel, 8pm

Fri 7, Paragon presents All In, 9.30am- 4.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 7, Tommy Smith, 7.30pm, Crossmichael Church

Sat 8, Glenkens Producers Market, Dalry Town Hall, 10am-1pm

Sat 8, Art Explorers, 10am, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Sun 9, Carsphairn Community Woodland Rural Skills & Crafting Day, 11am-3pm, Muirdrochwood Forest

Mon 10, Young Creatives Ambassadors, 5pm, CatStrand

Mon 10, Dalry Town Hall Management Meeting, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 13, Open Mic Night, 7-10pm, CatStrand

Thu 13, Ken Words: Glenkens Writer's' Cafe, 7pm, CatStrand

Fri 14, CatStrand Late Night Opening with Men's Shed Quiz Night, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 15, LGBTQ Friendly 'Safe Space Café', 5-7pm, CatStrand Café

Sat 15, CPR & Defibrillator Training, New Galloway Town Hall, booking

essential - see p30

Sat 15, GTI Bus Trip: Creative Crafts Autumn Show, Glasgow, see p33

Sun 16, CatStrand Singers: Singing the Galloway Glens, CatStrand, 4pm, see p6

Wed 19, Film Night: King Richard, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall, refreshments available, book at www.gcat.scot or email jimcreid@hotmail.com

Thu 20, Bancroft & Lyne, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 22, Art Explorers, 10am, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Sat 22, Community Café, 10am-12pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 23, Autumn Walk in Nature, 10am-12.30pm, see p25

Tue 25, Pudding Club, 6.30-8.30pm, see p25

Wed 26, Cutting Edge Theatre: Downs With Love, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 28, Performance Collective Stranraer present Unsupervised Adulting, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Mon 31, Halloween Party, 4.30-6.30pm (under 11s) & 7-8.30pm (11-19yrs) Dalry Town Hall, see p3

Mon 31, Young Creatives Ambassadors, 5pm, CatStrand

NOVEMBER

Tue 1, Random Writers, 4.30pm, Dalry Library

Tue 1 & Wed 2, National Theatre of Scotland Presents: Enough of Him by May Sumbwanyambe, 7.30-9pm, CatStrand

Wed 2, Film Night: Biggest Little Farm, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall, refreshments available, book at www.gcat.scot or email jimcreid@hotmail.com

Thu 3, Chance to Dance, 6pm, CatStrand

Fri 4, Song Share, Dalry Town Hall, 8-11pm

Fri 4, deadline for comments on the consultation for closure of Carsphairn School must be submitted to statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk before 5pm, see p22

Fri 4, CatStrand Late Night Opening

with Youth Open Stage Night, 7.30pm

Sat 5, Art Explorers, 10am, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Sun 6, High Tea Tunes Special: Esther Swift, 2pm, CatStrand

Mon 7, Dalry Community Council Meeting, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Tue 8, Devising Physical Theatre by Jordan & Skinner, 7-9pm, CatStrand

Wed 9, The Time Machine: A Radical Feminist Retelling, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 10, Ken Words: Glenkens Writer's' Cafe, 7pm, CatStrand

Thu 10, Kris Drever, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 12, Glenkens Producers Market, Dalry Town Hall, 10am-1pm

Mon 14, Dalry Town Hall Management meeting, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Wed 16, Film Night: Operation Mincemeat, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall, refreshments available, book at www.gcat.scot or email jimcreid@hotmail.com

Thu 17, Chance to Dance, 6pm, CatStrand

Sat 19, Ensemble Hesperis: Concert, 7pm, CatStrand

Sat 19, Ensemble Hesperis: Playing Sessions, 11am & 2pm, CatStrand

Sat 19, Art Explorers, 10am, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Sat 19, Community Café, 10am-12pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 25, Fraser Fifield & Graeme Stephen, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 26, Random Writers, 2pm, Wigtown Festival Company, CatStrand

Sat 26, closing date for Glenkens Community Shop grants, application forms available at the shop from end Oct, see p15

Sun 27, Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair, Dalry Town Hall, 11am-3pm, see p28

Mon 28, Young Creatives Ambassadors, 5pm, CatStrand

DECEMBER

Sun 4, Christmas Fayre, Sunday, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Thu 1 & Fri 2, CatStrand Late Night Opening with Xmas Shopping Nights

REGULAR EVENTS

Balmaclellan Village Hall:

Tuesday Afternoon Teas, 1st Tues each month, to book email warburton.julie@googlemail.com

Glenkens Crafters, Wed 10am-12noon, for info contact julia.higgins55@outlook.com

Books in Balmaclellan Community Library, Wed 10.30-12.30 & 5.30-7pm; Fri 5.30-7.30pm; Sat 10.30am-12.30pm (tea & coffee available on Sat).

Balmaclellan Blether, 3rd Thu each month, contact warburton.julie@googlemail.com

Glenkens Art Workshop, Thu 2-4pm, contact t_leach1@sky.com

Easiobics, Tue & Fri 9.30-10.30pm, contact mlfagan@live.co.uk

Circuits, Sat 8-9am, contact John 07544 713 586

Kettelbells, Mon & Tue 6-7pm, contact John 07544 713 586

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 11-16), Mon monthly, 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 monthly, 10-11am (age 5-8) & 11.15am-12.30pm (age 8-12)

CatStrand Youth Players, meet weekly, contact briangm@catstrand.com

New Galloway Town Hall:

Please note that, during ongoing works in the town hall, entry will be through the back emergency exit door and some activities will be transferring elsewhere.

Crafty Corner with tea & biscuits, Mon 2-4pm, contact Kristina on 07789 680 468

Glenkens Youth Activity Group, ages 11-19, Mon 7-8.30pm, currently held at Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, see p30, contact Olivia on youthwork.ling@gmail.com or text 07719 708 668)

LING Lunches, Tue, 12.30-2pm. No need to book, currently held at Kitty's Tea Room, opposite NG Town Hall, contact angie on communityinclusion.LING@gmail.com

Sports Evenings, indoor bowling & table tennis, Tues 7-9pm, drop in or contact Ray on 01644 420 438

Tai Chi, possibly suspended during works, contact Ju-lie on gentletaichigroup@gmail.com

Wee Messy Crafters, Wed, 1-2pm, contact weemessycrafters@gmail.com

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

Martial Arts, Thur 5.30-6.30pm (beginners & tots) & 7-9pm (age

6+), contact @Facebook KMANews or kmabrian@gmail.com

Gentle Yoga, Fri 5.45-6.45pm, contact kathyr64@hotmail.co.uk

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

Dalry Library:

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

Glenkens Book Group, last Friday of each month, 2pm, call June to book on 01644 420 361

Dalry Town Hall:

Tai Chi, video-led instruction, Mon, 2-3pm, contact lesleyblissett52@gmail.com

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

Song Share, 1st Friday each month, 8-11pm, contact anne.chaurand@btinternet.com

Various:

Crossmichael Heritage Centre, open Wed & Fri, 1.30-4.30pm

Cub Scouts, Wed 6.15-7.30pm, Scout Hall, New Galloway

Glenkens Community Shop, open Wed, Fri & Sat, 10am- 4pm

Knockvennie Hall Heat Bank & Snooker Club, contact Andrew on 01556 690 677

Outdoor Bowls, Dalry, contact Fiona Ramsay on 01644 430 587

Table Tennis, (available 24/7), Dalry

Snooker, (available 24/7), Dalry

Indoor Bowls, (October to March), Dalry

Badminton, (available 24/7), Dalry

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

Dalry Library & Customer Service Centre

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

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

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

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

USEFUL NUMBERS:

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

END OF AN ERA

On the last Sunday in July, over 100 faithful folk from all the Glenkens churches gathered together in Dalry Church for the Revd Dr David Bartholomew's last service before his retirement.

David has served for 28 years as Church of Scotland Minister for the Glenkens, which includes the churches of Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells. The uplifting service, albeit bittersweet, was enriched by the Glenkens Choir, led by organist and choir master, Geoff Davidson.

David and Heidi moved to the manse in Dalry in 1994, where their children Fiona, Jamie and Stuart were all born, raised and schooled.

During the service, David reminisced about his time in the Glenkens starting with his first communion service at Dalry which was followed later in the day by a dash to the Cresswell for daughter Fiona's birth. He and Heidi were so touched by how delighted his new congregations were to have a family in the manse – they received over 200 cards which they still have today.

David stressed that he had always tried to be a minister to the whole population of the Glenkens, not just church members – one parishioner pointed out afterwards that "David has always been there for everyone" whether regular church goers or not.

As well as baptisms, weddings and funerals, there have been prayer groups, Alpha courses, Sunday Schools, children's holiday clubs, and social events such as Quiz Nights and Beetle Drives.

Members from each of the four churches gave personal tributes, which included memories such as the Easter dawn services, Carols by Candlelight, and an appreciation of David and Heidi having dedicated such a huge part of their lives to the Glenkens communities. On a lighter note, it was remembered that at a 'Carsphairn's Got Talent' evening, David provided an entertaining turn as the Revd I M Jolly!

Other personal touches during the service included a prayer and blessing written by Alan Sidaway, and David leaving the church to a farewell march specially composed for the occasion by Geoff Davidson.

The service was followed by a large gathering in Dalry Town Hall with presentations and a buffet lunch. Gerald Bell's words of appreciation were followed by a presentation by Ian Knox, Session Clerk, of gifts from church members and the community which included a framed picture of the Holy Linn. On behalf of Carsphairn church, Irene McCreath also presented a gift and lastly Marion Bone presented a bouquet of flowers to Heidi who has supported David throughout their time in the Glenkens. Interim Moderator, Revd Mark Smith (see article on p26), then said Grace and the buffet lunch was served, allowing folk to mingle, chat and reminisce.

When the Covid pandemic hit our shores, the various lockdowns included all places of worship. David and Heidi



David in Dalry Church giving his last service before retiring.

rose to the challenge and started recording and filming services which were uploaded onto YouTube and available to all. Heidi's technical and photographic skills provided a stunning backdrop of the 800sq kilometres of the Glenkens, accompanied by inspirational music, while David led the services with prayer and Bible readings. As well as providing spiritual sustenance to Glenkens church goers, these videos allowed the beauty of the Glenkens and Galloway to be shared across the whole world. There are now over 100 services on the church YouTube channel for the years ahead, a truly magnificent legacy for us all from the couple.

Glenkens Church Community

Here at the *Glenkens Gazette*, we extend our best wishes to David and Heidi as they embark on retirement in the Borders. We would also like to thank David for donating his archive collection of *Gazettes*, which date right back to the first edition, to us. These will be available for members of the community to peruse - please get in touch if you would like to look through our past editions.



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Editing & Design:

sarah.ade@gmail.com

The Glenkens Gazette is an initiative of the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust, a Registered Scottish Charity No SC032050

The role of the Gazette is to represent the voice of the community and does not represent the views of GCAT.