



GLENKENS GAZETTE

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



December 2022 / January 2023

ISSUE 133

FREE

Eli's Hair Raiser

Dalry Secondary School pupil, Elizabeth Stevenson, has a new look after a charity event to help raise money for the Little Princess Trust.

Elizabeth volunteered to have her long hair cut to help raise money for this special charity, and has so far raised £415. Her hair has been donated to make real hair wigs for young people who have lost their hair, either through treatment for cancer or other conditions that have caused hair loss.

Eli said: "I decided to have my long hair

cut to help raise money for this special charity. My hair will be donated to make real hair wigs. In particular I wish to raise awareness of how cancer can affect children and young people. I am raising money in memory of close family members affected by cancer, and also in tribute to Alex (better known as TechnoBlade) and Edd Gould - both YouTubers who sadly lost their young lives to cancer."

**To donate please visit
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/eli-stevenson**



*Pictured Right:
Eli with her long hair. Below: left
- Eli's mum, Miriam, helping with the hair cut. Middle - look at all that hair! Right
- Eli outside Blackburn's hairdressers in Castle Douglas with her brand new look.*



Citizens Advice Outreach Service

Dumfries & Galloway Citizens Advice Service (D&GCAS) will be providing a face-to-face outreach clinic at community venues across the Glenkens.

Once a week for the next two years, D&GCAS will offer general welfare and debt advice and signposting to other sources of help and support. Provision of this service has been made possible through funding from the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund



administered by Foundation Scotland in partnership with Glenkens and District Trust. This is of particular importance given that the rising costs of energy and other household necessities are hitting those from rural areas particularly hard.

D&GCAS is working with the Glenkens Communities & Arts Trust's Connecting in Communities team to identify suitable locations for the delivery of the project and recruitment for the new adviser post is underway.

In accessing this award Phil Stewart, chief executive officer of D&GCAS,

commented: "Our objective in growing our service reach into the Glenkens is to ensure that no one is left behind when it comes to accessing the advice, support and assistance that they need during these very challenging times. We find that living in a rural location often exacerbates the issues faced."

Until the project begins Glenkens residents can access existing provision in the Parish Church Halls, Queen Street, Castle Douglas. This service is open on Wednesdays from 10am-4pm for drop-ins (closed 12.30-1pm) and Fridays from 10am-4pm for appointments only (closed 12.30-1pm). You can call 0300 303 4321 or email info@dagcas.org to book an appointment.

Have Your Say on the Future of Glenkens Forestry

It has been announced by Environment Minister Mairi McAllan that a public consultation on future grant support for forestry is to take place in early 2023.

The aim is to seek views on the evolution of the Forestry Grant Scheme and find ways to improve the delivery of the Scottish Government's priorities for Net Zero, biodiversity, community wealth building and the economy.

Morag Paterson, who is on the forestry sub-committee for Dalry Community Council and also a founding member of Glenkens-based group Communities for Diverse Forestry (CDF), gives us an overview of how this could impact us and why we need to have our say:

We very much welcome the announcement on the public consultation reviewing the forestry grant. In addition, measures will be put in place by spring to enhance public involvement in woodland creation proposals within the existing scheme, for which CDF have been positively

campaigning on for over the last two and a half years. The necessity for improving community engagement is backed-up by three recent reports, including the State of the Biosphere and a paper commissioned by the James Hutton Institute.

We must take a balanced approach when increasing tree cover, using a more diverse range of species - including within commercial forests - to enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity and build resilience from future threats from pests, disease, and climate change. We also must safeguard important species like curlew and black grouse through appropriate site choices and prioritise protecting our peatlands.

With overall commercial afforestation targets heavily focused in the south of Scotland, rural communities must get involved with shaping suggested improvements to the Forestry Grant Scheme. We hope to see some partnership between environmental organisations, supporters of multi-functional forestry and community-led initiatives working together to facilitate responses.

We need as much input as possible for the review. Unfortunately, we are hearing that people find this type of

consultation inaccessible and difficult to navigate, and there is a strong feeling of disenchantment with how recent regional and national consultations have been delivered. With this in mind, Dalry Community Council is keen to support anyone who would like advice with regard to responding to the consultation, as it is crucial that there is a high level of community feedback - see contact details in panel below.

Dundeugh Forest Long Term Management Plan is open for consultation this December and Mackilston has just had an application for forestry re-submitted.

Dalry Community Council would like to hear from anyone who has comments or suggestions with regard to these proposals or would like to get involved with the Forestry Grant Scheme consultation at sjtdalrycc@gmail.com or 07917 102 693.

Blackcraig Wind Farm Winter Round

The Glenkens and District Trust, working in partnership with Foundation Scotland, is delighted to announce a further ten awards made from the Community Fund in its winter round, with a total sum awarded of £126,362.

The trustees are always pleased to see applications spanning the full range of the fund's strategic priorities but in this round there was a notable concentration of applications focused on providing benefit to the youngest members of our community. This felt particularly vital to trustees as the cost of living crisis starts to impact on family budgets and opportunities. Grants included £12,965.93 to support Scottish Childminding Association to recruit, train and support five new childminders in the Glenkens,

increasing local childminding provision and early learning and employment options for local families; £1,000 to Crossmichael and Parton Playgroup to hire a minibus once a month for a year, enabling nursery children to get out and explore their local area and natural environment; £350 for Springholm Nursery to buy a laptop to assist with an outdoor education project photographing natural materials and putting them under the microscope; £1,310.40 for Springholm Parent Council to enable primary children to access ranger-led outdoor education sessions at Loch Ken; and finally £3,026 for Crichton Carbon Centre to promote 'Biosphere Explorers' resource packs that will help increase local primary school pupils' understanding of climate change, biodiversity and sustainability.

On this crucial issue of climate change trustees were pleased to issue the first award of a larger, multi-year grant, in the form of £45,000 over a period of three years to the Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT). This is to support a project delivering tree planting around streams

in the upper Urr area which aims to protect waterways from the impact of rising temperatures, enabling habitats to remain viable for instream species through shading, and helping to maintain good water quality, as well as preventing erosion and encouraging biodiversity by helping to connect fragmented landscapes by acting as wildlife corridors. This project builds on the first phase of work by GFT which the fund had also supported.

Once again trustees were pleased to see that the priorities identified in the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan (CAP) published in 2020 are now starting to come to fruition in the shape of developed projects which are being taken forward by a range of local community organisations. To enable the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust to continue their leadership role across the CAP they received an award of £25,000.

Congratulations to all the successful applicants. For more information on the fund, including the availability of the new Education & Training bursaries, visit www.glenkenstrust.org.uk

Affordable Community Homes Coming to Balmaclellan

The old filling station site in the centre of Balmaclellan, just opposite the Smiddy, has changed ownership.

The Pamela Young Trust (PYT) has purchased the site with a view to constructing community housing. PYT chair, Steve Davie, said: "The recent Housing Needs and Demand Assessment commissioned by the Glenkens District Trust underlined the gap in local affordable housing, and this is borne out by the length of our waiting list. Whilst it may be some time



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
help with housing in the Glenkens

before building can start, we are excited about adding to our list of affordable properties for local people".

At this stage PYTs plans are embryonic, but the intention is to create properties that will provide attractive, affordable and environmentally sustainable homes whilst enhancing the aesthetics of Balmaclellan village

centre. Planning permission is in place for two houses but PYT will be looking carefully at the latest research on building homes fit for the 21st century before deciding on plans.

In the short-term, PYT plan to clear the site in order to provide temporary parking for local residents, and those visiting the Smiddy.

New Housing in Carsphairn

Across rural Scotland, communities are facing challenges that impact upon their vitality, resilience and future sustainability.

Issues such as a lack of new homes being built, rising house prices and development costs, a lack of affordable housing, energy costs, second home ownership and properties entering the short-term holiday market combine to limit opportunities for those who live and work in our rural communities. Lack of housing options will impact upon the sustainability of local service provisions – local schools, shops and support – particularly to our ageing population in Dumfries and Galloway. However, communities across Southern Scotland are working to identify and provide local solutions to these challenges.

Carsphairn is one such community - a de-population trend has already impacted upon the school, with the Local Authority currently undertaking formal consultation on its future following its mothballing two years ago.

Carsphairn Community Council are keen, at this stage, to understand the manner in which suitable housing supply is impacting their community. Working with South of Scotland Community Housing (SOSCH), they have launched a Housing Survey – part of a wider localised Housing Needs and Demand Assessment that can be used to inform future decision-making. SOSCH is a registered charity who support communities in exploring affordable, community-led housing solutions which address local need, to build sustainable, rural communities across the south of Scotland.

Community-led homes give individuals and families opportunities to live, and work, within their communities in an affordable way with secure tenancy options. Community-led housing is about communities taking charge in addressing housing issues to provide strong and resilient communities that might not be possible through the mainstream provision of housing alone. SOSCH have already supported a number of communities in Dumfries and Galloway to plan and deliver community-owned safe, secure, low-energy affordable homes.

The Scottish Government supports rural community-led housing and development,

particularly through the Rural Housing Fund. SOSCH assist communities to access this funding and a Housing Survey is a key first step in this process.

So, if you live in Carsphairn and are in need of more suitable housing - or have a connection to the community and would like to relocate or are interested in living in the Carsphairn area - please complete the Carsphairn Housing Survey by scanning the QR code below or visiting www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CarsphairnSurvey. You can also call South of Scotland Community Housing on 07743 4467 21 if you are not online and require a paper copy. **The survey will run until 9 January 2023.**

In addition, SOSCH are also keen to hear about any prospective opportunities for new housing supply and are seeking any information relative to suitable development land or existing empty properties (housing or non-housing) in the local area. Should you be aware of any such opportunities, please contact Alison Gordon, South of Scotland Community Housing at alison.sosch@outlook.com

Carsphairn Community Council

Pictured is the view of Carsphairn village and the hills beyond, taken from above Lagwyne Cottage.



BUSINESS in the SPOTLIGHT

Galloway Scottish Pasta is a brand new venture for Andrew and Margaret, who some readers may be familiar with as they have run the Smithy Café in New Galloway for the last five years (see article on back page).

"A comment from someone during the Glenkens Food Month about food miles incurred when eating pasta made us wonder if we could make pasta from as locally-produced flours as possible. We also wanted to make a pasta that was distinctly Scottish and not just made in Scotland," says Andrew.

Experiments began, with mixtures of wheat and oat flour, and the couple found that organic Aberdeenshire oat flour gave the pasta a different colour and texture to traditional pasta, although it did make it more difficult to produce.

"From the start, we had wanted to

slow-dry the pasta as that was the best way to retain its original flavours and texture; it also made it easier to store and extended the shelf-life. It became apparent, however, that the weather in Scotland in winter is not ideal for slow-drying pasta!" Andrew continued.

This led to the creation, in early in 2022, of a humidity-controlled room within The Smithy cafe, where visitors can now see the pasta being made and dried.

Galloway Scottish Pasta is available to buy at local shops in New Galloway, Balmacellan and Dalry, as well many other outlets throughout Dumfries & Galloway, from F&O Larder in Stranraer, Harris & Co in Castle Douglas to The Wee Shop in Moffat.

You can also buy it online at www.gallowaypasta.co.uk and through the Glenkens Food Hub (see ad on p30 for how to use the Hub). To find out more about Galloway Pasta follow them on Facebook @gallowayscottishpasta



Glenkens Producers' Market



2nd Saturday Monthly
Dalry Town Hall, 10am-1pm

- 10th December & 7th January -

...fresh vegetables, baked goods, preserves, bread, fresh meat, smoked products, cheese, artisan cider, chocolates, handmade crafts, gift cards, plants...

*** Save Fuel - Shop Local ***

Want to know what's going on? Then visit
www.dalrytownhall.co.uk

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SWEET TREAT
SATURDAY
FRESH CREAM
CAKES
AVAILABLE TO
ORDER



INFORMATION

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY

7.30am - 5.30pm

SATURDAY 8.30am - 5pm

SUNDAY 8.30am - 3pm

LOCAL SUPPLIERS

DALMELLINGTON COUNTRY
BUTCHERS

UPPER DULLARG EGGS

MITCHELLS FRUIT & VEG

SWEETCAKES BAKERY

GLENKENS HONEY COMPANY

CREAM O GALLOWAY

GALLOWAY LODGE PRESERVES

IRVINGS BAKERY

SCOTTISH GALLOWAY PASTA

GLENKENS HONEY COMPANY

POP IN FOR A CHAT AND A BROWSE

Festive Feasting with the Glenkens Food Hub

A year after its launch, the Glenkens Food Hub is now a fully-fledged part of shopping in the Glenkens, offering a convenient way to buy local produce.

Lesley, who works with the Food Hub, says: "If you haven't tried a shop with us yet, now is the time! With Christmas in mind the focus this month is on meat for festive feasts. Whilst the Hub loves its veg, the meat offered comes from regeneratively farmed animals within a 30-mile radius of the Glenkens, and is exceptionally tasty and ethical; food which you can eat with a clear conscience."

Naomi, Katy and Finn from Suie Fields gave us a few words on their farming ethos, which we feel encapsulates the ethos of all our Hub producers: "Our aims are to explore regenerative

practices to produce nutritious and tasty food locally, while increasing soil health and carbon uptake and providing space for nature to thrive. We believe that, rather than being a key driver of climate change and biodiversity loss (and soil loss for that matter), agriculture has the potential to be an important part of the solution. We also believe that people have a right to have access to healthy food free from chemicals, which are not only harmful to our soil and ecosystems but also to our health. We endeavour to have a positive impact on the land and maintain an absolute respect for all creatures, domestic and wild."

The Hub stocks produce from four farms - Low Auldgrith Steading, near Thornhill and Suie Fields, near Auchencairn both offer a selection of pork, lamb, and beef while Barnbarroch organic farm, near Wigton, and Bailie Curriach, near Dalbeattie, both specialise in grass-fed beef.

Here are some favourite choices for the festive season to inspire you to eat local for those holiday celebrations.

Without a doubt the favourite at Low Auldgrith is 'pigs in blankets'. They find their way onto the dinner plate, the buffet table and even into a festive breakfast. Simply wrap their high-meat content, deliciously tasty sausages in bacon and slow-roast in the oven to bring out the best of the flavour. They highly recommend using their dry cured streaky bacon as the extra fat really adds to the flavour or, for an interesting twist,



try their smoked bacon.

Suie Fields would recommend their Highland beef topside roasting joint, roasted in the slow cooker with lots of herbs and veg for a melt-in-the-mouth dish.

Luke and Francis at Bailie Curriach highlight their Shetland beef sirloin, salmon cut, slow roasted in the oven with all the trimmings.

For Christmas at Barnbarroch they will be having a luxurious beef Wellington using a mouth-watering cut of their own grass-fed, Galloway beef wrapped in mushrooms, prosciutto and puff pastry. Delicious! Barnbarroch farm has been certified organic for over twenty years and, as producers of high-quality beef, they love nothing better than sharing their own produce with family and friends.

Christmas is the ultimate time to celebrate quality. Whilst turkey may be traditional, locally grown, sustainable, high welfare beef, lamb and pork could work just as well for this year's festive feast?

See ad below for how to order from the Glenkens Food Hub online. If you would like to shop at the Hub but don't have access to a computer please call Lesley on 07587 122 151 to book a time slot to place your order over the phone.



A favourite at Barnbarroch is their home-grown grass-fed beef Wellington wrapped in mushrooms, prosciutto and puff pastry.

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Buy all your favourite local produce here this Christmas

OPENFOODNETWORK.ORG.UK/GLENKENS-FOOD-HUB/SHOP

ORDERS OPEN 12PM WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER

ORDERS CLOSE 10PM SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER

DELIVERY/COLLECTION TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

WITHIN THE GLENKENS OR COLLECT FROM DALRY

DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER?

CALL TO BOOK YOUR PHONE ORDER SLOT - 07587122151

New Galloway's Community Shop

As the festive season approaches, staff at New Galloway Community Shop have been stocking up in the hope that they can help take a little of the stress out of your Christmas shopping.

Last-minute gifts, Christmas dinner essentials, items for the post-Christmas clean or those last-minute bits and pieces... Whether it's meat, vegetables, local produce or household essentials, New Galloway shop has regular deliveries arriving throughout the week. If there is anything specific you need, you can ring up or pop in and order it.

Sometimes it's a struggle to find that last-minute gift or stocking-filler, but the shop has been stocking up on a range of seasonal items to suit budgets, which can also be gift-wrapped.

This year New Galloway shop are also raising funds for Marie Curie, thanks to a talented local resident who has donated hand-knitted snowmen and reindeer.

The shop will be operating extended hours to coincide with the Catstrand Christmas Shopping Nights on Thursday

1 and Friday 2 December, as well as during the Christmas Lights Parade on Sunday 4 December, and will be closed on Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day to allow staff a well-deserved break.

New Galloway shop is a community owned and operated enterprise (owned by New Galloway Community Enterprises - NGCE) that relies on your custom to thrive and survive. NGCE would like to say "thank you" for your continued support in 2022.

The shop also offers volunteering opportunities which would be a great opportunity for a young person just starting out to gain hands-on experience and to learn key skills, and also great to put on a CV. Or if you have recently moved to the Glenkens, and perhaps would like to meet some more people, volunteering is a great way to make new friends - get in touch to find out more at ngce5000@gmail.com or call 01644 420 620.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2023 from everyone at New Galloway Community Enterprises!

Pictured: Below - one of the shop's Christmas hampers filled with local goodies. Bottom - the welcoming interior of New Galloway Community Shop.



CatStrand Christmas Shopping Nights

'Shop Local for Christmas'

**Thurs 1st and Fri 2nd Dec
6.00pm - 9.00pm**

Browse our gifts with a mulled wine and shortbread.

CatStrand Bar open for drinks.

New Galloway Community Shop also open late.

**Normal Opening Hours until 23rd Dec. at 3.00 pm
Closed 24th Dec to 10th Jan 2023 incl.
Re-opening Tue Jan 11th at 11.00 am**

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
Thanks for all your support throughout 2022.**

**Please Note:
Throughout Jan and Feb opening times are:
Tues-Sun 11.00-4.00 & closed Sun and Mon.**



Stewartry Food Train

The local Food Train, based in Castle Douglas, has received a boost to its funds thanks to local fundraising efforts.

The guild at St Margaret's church in New Galloway ran a tombola stall at the Alternative Games in August, raising a sum of £460 for the Stewartry Food Train.

Jiff Hyde, development officer at the Food Train, said: "With costs rising in every direction, we really appreciate this contribution from St Margaret's Guild. All the money raised enables us to support older people who wish to remain in their own homes by providing grocery shopping and delivery, help with small household jobs, a befriending service and Meal Makers, a neighbourhood meal sharing service. We are so grateful to St Margaret's for their donation, as well as to our wonderful volunteers who deliver our services."



Galloway Community Transport Bids a Fond Farewell to Glen

Glen Murray is retiring from the role of Galloway Community Transport Manager at the end of December.

He has been in this post for some eight years, having been with Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) prior to this appointment. For almost all of that time, he was the only member of staff working on what was then called the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) and put some quite Herculean amounts of work into transforming that organisation into what it is today. From the start, when there was just one minibus, the fleet has grown to three minibuses plus the operation of three Council-owned buses, an eCar and the range of ebikes that it boasts today.

From 2019, when Galloway Community Transport (GCT) was re-born as its own SCIO, it has been able to fundraise and take on contracts in a way that it couldn't before. GCT is still very much a core GCAT project and a critical part of the GCAT family. From such modest beginnings GCT is now a key transport provider in the Glenkens and beyond

running registered bus routes, school bus runs and patient transport services, as well as accommodating registered user-groups and organising recreational trips.

As Glen approaches his well-deserved retirement, it is just as well that he has been joined by two new(ish) members of the GCT team. Jon Betts joined as administrator last November and will be stepping up as GCT manager from January. The administrator role was back-filled by Sue McMinn in October, and between the three of them, they are working hard to achieve a smooth transition to 'life after Glen'.

GCT wouldn't be where it is today, and indeed couldn't run, without its pool of paid and volunteer drivers – their contribution to the success of GCT cannot be overstated. It is also supported by a Trustee board, whose advice I know Glen always appreciates.

Glen leaves GCT on something of a high – it is known regionally and nationally as a gold standard Community Transport Organisation, and we have very recently found out that we have received full grant funding to cover the cost of an additional minibus – this time a fully accessible electric one – putting GCAT and GCT's aims of net zero operations one step closer.



Glen at the wheel of one of the minibuses in the GCT fleet.

So, we wish Glen all the very best for this next phase of his life, and hope that he takes with him proud memories of all that he has achieved with Galloway Community Transport while he sails off into the sunset!

We look forward to working with Jon and Sue as they consolidate and build on Glen's success.

*Helen Keron,
GCAT Executive Manager*



EST. 2007

Catstrand

MIDWINTER PROGRAMME



THE FURROW COLLECTIVE
LUCY FARRELL, RACHEL NEWTON, EMILY PORTMAN & ALASDAIR ROBERTS
WE KNOW BY THE MOON
'A SPARK OF LIGHT INTO THE WINTRY GLOOM'
SUN 11 DEC 7:30PM



PASSING THROUGH
WED 14 DEC 7:30PM



YOUTH PLAYERS PANTO
SINBAD SAILS AGAIN
FRI 9 DEC 7:30PM
SAT 10 DEC 7:30PM
SUN 11 DEC 2:00PM



SONGWAVE CHOIR: MUSIC FOR MIDWINTER
SAT 17 DEC 3:00PM
CROSSMICHAEL CHURCH



MIDWINTER CEILIDH WITH WHIRLIGIG
THUR 22 DEC 7:30PM
DALRY TOWN HALL

High St, New Galloway 01644 420 374 GCAT.SCOT






Glenkens Archaeology: Chapelyard

The Chapelyard site, situated halfway between Dalry and Knowehead, has had a fascinating and complex history which has remained formally un-investigated...until now!

The 'Can You Dig It' community archaeology team investigated this multi-phase site that stretches from a possible medieval chapel through to the ruins of a post-medieval farming settlement.

While nothing remains of the chapel, the site was tested for any surviving traces or medieval finds. At the same time, the remains of adjacent farmstead ruins were surveyed, and it appears they date from at least the 17th right through to the 19th century.

Claire Williamson, archaeologist from the Can You Dig It project, would like

to thank everyone who took part in this project.

Jan Hogarth,
Galloway Glens Education &
Community Engagement Officer

Pictured: Below left - Joan and John managed to get down to the foundations of one of the structures and even got a few bits of 19th/20th century pottery along the way. Below right - Geoff, Sheila, John and Joan investigate a possible small rectangular structure just to the east of the enclosure.



Community Woodland Fun

Carsphairn Community Woodland held another enjoyable open day in October.

Despite the weather there was a great turnout and those attending enjoyed participating in the activities on offer, with the more energetic folk tackling the climbing wall provided by the Galloway Activities Centre.

Children were able to enjoy various activities including a coconut shy, a fairy trail and 'roll the stone into the crocodile's mouth'!

Photos show some of the demonstrations and activities that took place.

Pictured are visitors getting involved with demonstrations of spinning and weaving, crook making, archery and, for the most intrepid, Galloway Activity Centres climbing wall.



THE GALLOWAY GLENS SCHEME – OUR APPROACH

£4 MILLION

SPEND RECORDED THROUGH
THE SCHEME TO DATE

9

**NEW OR REFURBISHED
BUILDINGS**

90 ATTENDEES

SO FAR ON 'GO WILD'
OUTDOOR EDUCATION
CAMPS

23 MILES

OF IMPROVED FOOTPATH,
INCLUDING 4 NEW BRIDGES

11 INTERN

POSITIONS WITH
PARTNERS SO FAR

LAUNCHED THE
SOUTH OF
SCOTLAND TREE
PLANTING
GRANT SCHEME
IN D&G

27 AWARDS MADE
THROUGH THE SMALL
GRANTS SCHEME

OUR APPROACH

- Identify challenges facing communities and work in partnership to design solutions
- Establish a relationship with partners and then trust them to deliver
- A 'place-based' approach – breaking barriers between topics and sectors, with a focus on the Ken/Dee Valley
- Draw funding from the national stage to be spent in D&G
- Use our time-limited nature to our advantage, encouraging momentum and urgency

OVERSEEN BY A PARTNERSHIP BOARD CONSISTING OF:

The Galloway Glens Scheme is five years of co-ordinated and focussed activity in the Ken/Dee valley, seeking to 'connect people to their heritage' while boosting the local economy and supporting sustainable communities.

As we approach the end of the Scheme in September 2023, we look at headline achievements so far and try to summarise the approach taken.

We are an initiative of the Dumfries & Galloway Council's Environment Team. Many thanks as always to all partners and funders, without whom none of this would be possible...

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**LOCH KEN
TRUST**
NOW RUNNING ONE OF THE
FIRST COMMUNITY-LED
RANGER SERVICES IN
SCOTLAND

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TRAVELLED BY TAGGED GREENLAND
WHITE-FRONTED GESE

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HEADLINE PROJECTS
SUPPORTED UP AND
DOWN THE VALLEY

>2,500
ENTRIES IN THE PLACE
NAMES DATABASE

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'NATURE POSITIVE'

PROJECTS SUPPORTED
INCLUDING THRAVE LANDSCAPE
RESTORATION PROJECT,
PEATLAND CONNECTIONS AND
THE BLACK WATER OF DEE
HABITAT RESTORATION

KIRKCUDBRIGHT

>75%
OF SPEND IS
WITH D&G BUSINESSES

Calling All Crafters!

A new community craft project is planned to commence in the new year.

Angie Bradford, in her role as LING events, activities and inclusion manager, and Miriam Stevenson, of Midge Porter Design, are proposing a year-long multi-textile craft project which will hopefully result in a combined community wall hanging that will tour the Glenkens.

The working title is 'Inspiring Glenkens'. The idea behind the project is to bring together the talents of the community craft groups of the Glenkens in a single project. As there seem to be quite a few new faces in the area, Angie and Miriam also thought it would be a nice way of helping people feel involved with their new home, and to introduce them to the existing craft groups in the region.

Miriam said: "We thought that 'Inspiring Glenkens' would be a good title to encourage established local crafters to share what inspires them about our beautiful and diverse region

and for new residents, who maybe don't know as much about the area but have been inspired to come and live here, to express themselves creatively".

There are several active craft groups in the Glenkens, all of which are very welcoming and encourage crafters to bring their own projects to work on and to share ideas and tips with other members. The groups also offer the opportunity to try out new crafts.

'Inspiring Glenkens' plans to reach out to new and existing members of craft groups in order to create a combined community craft project. Textile panels for the wall hanging would be created, either individually or as teams, with crafters using any textile craft medium they like. The aim would be to meet every three to four months to show and discuss progress, and for people to get to know each other (if they don't already).

An application for funding for the project, if successful, will be split between local craft groups in Balmaclellan, Dalry and Carsphairn.

For further information, interested parties can contact Angie at



communityinclusion.ling@gmail.com or Miriam at midgeporterdesign@btinternet.com

If you would like to take part you would be made most welcome - details of the craft groups involved are:

Balmaclellan – Glenkens Crafters:
Balmaclellan Village Hall, Weds 10am-12pm. Contact: Julia Higgins Julia.higgins55@outlook.com

Carsphairn – Carsphairn Craft Group: Lagwyne Hall, Fri 10am-12pm. Contact: Maggie Phillips at carsphairncraftgroup@gmail.com

Dalry – Clachan Crafters:
Glenkens Community Centre, Thurs 2-4pm. Contact: Sarah McAdam at minimac01644@gmail.com

WATSON BIRDS 

Shout Out for Memories of Donald Watson

Watson Birds is currently producing a book about Donald Watson, the local bird artist, writer and conservation campaigner who lived in Dalry for over 50 years.

As editor, I have commissioned contributions covering all aspects of Donald's life from those who knew him well; the artist, the scientist, the man of the Glenkens, the family man and the conservation campaigner.

If you have any memories or tales of Donald please let me know as I would love to include local anecdotes.

Please get in touch with me by letter at 6 Eskside West, Musselburgh, EH21 6HZ, by email at roger.dodin@btinternet.com or by phone on 07803 595 267.

*I look forward to hearing from you,
Roger Crofts*

Carsphairn



Carsphairn's branch of the SWI is a small, social and active group who enjoy sharing experiences and skills, as well as learning new ones.



A beautiful tapestry, which was a Carsphairn SWI millenium project, which was recently moved into the main section of Lagwyne Hall so it can be appreciated by everyone.

Membership of the SWI is available to all women in Scotland and there is an emphasis on friendship and inclusiveness. Within the SWI, preserving traditional skills remains important. However, these are added to by the introduction of new experiences and ideas, we like to move with the times.

We extend an invitation to anyone who would like to join us. You will be made very welcome and could come along as a visitor in the first instance, to see if you enjoy it. To find out more please call 01644 460 577.

The Optimistic Environmentalist

Rubber, Bakelite and an Eco Friendly Christmas

This section has been inspired by readers' questions on the recyclability of bakelite and rubber.

Pure rubber is a natural product made from sap; this 'green' rubber can be melted down and remoulded and will biodegrade over a long time.

However, most rubber is mixed with chemicals and metals that improve particular features, eg hardness, durability and elasticity. This type of rubber is therefore reused rather than recycled.

Estimates vary but globally we produce in excess of two billion worn-out tyres per year - the largest percentage of rubber used. Tyres can be recovered (remoulds) to prolong their life. Some children's play areas use old tyres for children to clamber in and out of or to hang from trees or use as a seat on swings. They can also be used in your garden or public places for barriers or to grow plants in.

There are companies that cut up used rubber to make things like mouse mats, cup stands or clothes. Rubber is ground up to make playground, fitness or running track flooring, mats, shoes, garden mulch, sports turf, livestock pens, and mixed into road hardcore.

Reclaiming and reusing rubber uses far less energy than producing new rubber, decreasing the demand on plantations, deforestation and impact on water, soil and animal habitats. According to www.asm-recycling.co.uk, recycling four tyres reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 323 pounds (about 147 kg). Much of our waste rubber goes into landfill, but this does not apply to tyres which must be repurposed or exported.

Bakelite is a plastic made from synthetic chemicals. It was used more in the 30s and 40s. Now it's only used in homes for cooking handles on pots and utensils because it does not get hot or soften when heated. It is mostly used for brake pads, wire insulation and related automotive components.

It is difficult to recycle because it does not lend itself to remoulding when heated and releases many harmful chemicals. There is a limited interest in trying to recycle bakelite as a carbon source for iron and steel-making, but in general this plastic goes to landfill.

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Some Eco Christmas Ideas

- Gifts with as little plastic as possible
- Cuddly toys often have plastic beads inside but don't say this; to be sure, make them yourself or get a friend to
- Wooden toys with FSC certification (a standard which guarantees that trees are replaced responsibly); broken parts can then be composted but only if the paint or varnish is safe
- Board and computer games - they can teach children and adults about environmental issues and solutions whilst having fun eg www.chaostheorygames.com and www.thegoodlifegame.co.uk
- A beekeeper's course, suit or other equipment
- Seeds, eg wildflowers and other insect-attracting plants
- Peat-free compost
- Electric gardening tools
- UK flowers, eg www.gallowayflowers.co.uk
- Wind up equipment, eg a radio
- Bamboo or organic cotton bedding
- Products with clear green credentials, eg www.ethicalconsumer.org, www.theecoshopuk.com
- Make your own Christmas crackers containing paper hats, surprising eco facts and ideas about actions that the recipient can do
- Use wrapping paper and tape that is recyclable (a lot of Christmas paper isn't)
- Wrap parcels in paper and cardboard, trying to minimise use of plastic bubble-wrap, jiffy bags, etc. It is better, though, to reuse or pass on rather than just throw away
- Support environmental charities as presents, eg Friends of the Earth, Green Peace, World Animal Protection, WWF, RSPB, Sea Shepherd. Many send information packs containing stickers and posters, or newsletters to interest the whole family explaining their work
- Have a competition with your family or friends to create tasty recipes with Christmas leftovers

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan





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The Battle of Stirling Bridge

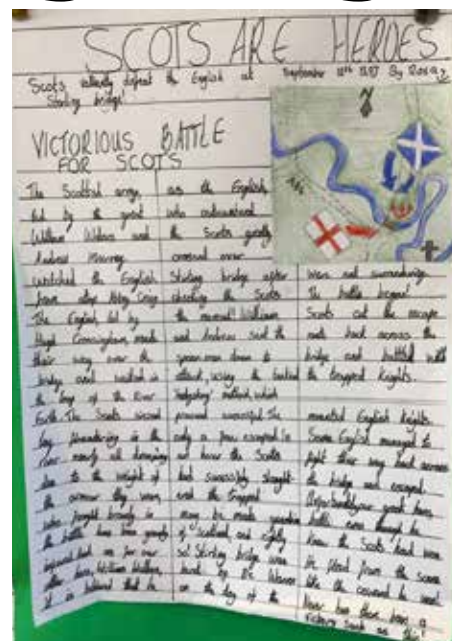
Dalry Secondary S1 students took part in a re-enactment of Scotland's first war of Independence - the

Battle of Stirling Bridge - using the school grounds as their outdoor theatre.

Their drama was scripted by Mrs Warren and explored how, on 11 September 1297, Andrew Moray and William Wallace defeated the English forces of John de Warenne and Hugh de Cressingham near Stirling, on the bridge over the River Forth.

After bringing the story to life through drama they then tried their hands at journalism, producing their own excellent newspaper reports of the battle to display in the classroom. Perhaps some future journalists are emerging in Dalry - watch this space...

Pictured left are S1 pupils re-enacting the battle, with history teacher, Mrs Warren, having been fatally wounded.



The pupil article above, written in 'news' style, is by Molly and Rosa.

Dalry School Basketball Team

Dalry Secondary got off to an incredible start in this season's regional basketball matches.

There were two games, one against Castle Douglas High School and the other against Dumfries High School, and the Dalry Secondary team won both. The wins become even more impressive when you take into account the fact that both of the other schools have well over ten times the number of pupils that Dalry Secondary has (CD has 550 students and Dumfries has around 800, compared with Dalry's 45), highlighting the level of skill of the Dalry players.

Since the start of the last school session, a number of pupils

have really taken to the sport and improved immeasurably, with five pupils now playing competitively for Ayr.

To further support the team the school are looking to purchase a **new basketball kit** so the boys really look the part at their games. **Any fundraising/community donations would be very welcome!**

If you would like to donate, either hand donations in to the school office or you can make a payment to Friends of Dalry School (bank details are Friends of Dalry School, sort code 80-06-11, account number 00322693) or to get in touch with FoDS visit them on Facebook @Friends of Dalry School.

Pictured below are members of Dalry Secondary's basketball team raring to go before the November matches, from which they came away victorious.



Schools and the Community

Traditionally the 'friends of the school' are parents of pupils who attend that school.

It makes good sense - after all, it's the children of those parents that benefit from the fundraising and social events that are often seen as the core business of a 'friends of the school' group. The wider community often holds less interest in the role of a school, but I feel that rural communities need to challenge that norm to retain a thriving existence.

Friends of Dalry School (FoDS) was set up some years ago in order to provide a fundraising body for Dalry school, which includes both the primary and the secondary school. The organisation is a registered charity, so is able to apply for funding and benefit from opportunities such as reduced tax that the school or parent council would not be able to access.

But why, once your children have flown the nest or you are living an independent single life, would you take an interest in Friends of Dalry School? The truth is that there are many motivators. Estate agents across Scotland will tell you that schools are a 'top 3' consideration for house buyers - so a flourishing school with great opportunities adds to your house value.

As well as benefiting local homeowners on a financial level, schools also impact a community's overall health and wellbeing, having traditionally been one of the pillars of a community along with churches, post offices and, some might say, the public houses. Schools, however, hold a unique position in maintaining a balanced, multi-generational community.

Schools enable our communities to regenerate. The Office for National Statistics shows that ageing households not only have fewer members but they often need less and spend less which, in turn, reduces opportunities for business which reduces opportunity for employment which reduces migration to the area which reduces opportunities for business, which reduces...well you can see where this goes.

On the social side, the multi-generational nature of our rural communities is what enables them to thrive, and has been shown to be one of the healthiest ways to live. Communities where residents of all ages interact supports cultural traditions and values - as well as new innovations



and technology - being shared between generations, which helps build a sense of personal and community identity and safety while encouraging tolerance. Members of a healthy, mixed-age community have been shown to possess a more positive, confident outlook as a result of interacting with a broad spectrum of ages, while social barriers are broken down.

Members of a healthy, mixed-age community have been shown to possess a more positive, confident outlook as a result of interacting with a broad spectrum of ages, while social barriers are broken down.

It is these benefits, rather than improving your house price, that I hope will motivate you to become a Friend of Dalry School - supporting our community school supports us all, helping our wonderful Glenkens to continue to thrive into the future.

What's Great About Dalry Secondary

At the risk of sounding like a certain president, let's 'Make Dalry Great Again' - or indeed remind people that it **is** great, as it's often the things closest to home that get overlooked.

Let's make Dalry Secondary the school of choice for those in the Glenkens. Dalry's rural position is seen by some as a reason to dismiss it, but in truth it is a strength. The benefits go far beyond a high teacher-to-pupil ratio. Its location on the edge of the Forest Park opens up unique opportunities. It's proximity to renewable energy schemes, forestry and agriculture brings rich opportunities for both business and education if we can capitalise on them. And I haven't even touched on working with eco-tourism or cycling initiatives, and all the other exciting projects and developments under way as we speak.

We, as a united Glenkens community,

can't expect an education department in Dumfries and a head teacher in Castle Douglas to see what we see; they don't live here. We need to ensure that the assets we know are here are utilised to their full potential.

Becoming a Friend of Dalry School is not just about donating money, although that does help to access opportunities. It is about creating a strong network and supporting the school through time, energy and sharing a united vision. It's singing Dalry Secondary School's praises to all and sundry so people are aware of what an asset it is, both for our children

and for the wider community. Through the school, we can create a work force suited to the needs of our communities. If our young people are nurtured and supported and are raised with a love of the Glenkens and a real sense of place, there is a strong likelihood that they will stay in the area, or return from worldly adventures to start families back where they grew up.

FoDS is a place where you can bring whatever you have and make a difference. We should look at the future with ambition. Dalry Secondary School can thrive and be a centre of excellence in rural education.

An easy way to support the schools is to set up a monthly donation - please get in touch for bank details. FoDS is also registered at www.giveasyoulive.org.uk where you can login and each time you make a purchase at many regular sites like Amazon and Tesco, an amount is donated to FoDS - so it doesn't even cost you anything! To find out more, or get involved, visit the Friends of Dalry School Facebook page - the more people who join FoDS, the more our shared vision for our schools, and our community, grows!

Alastair Lamb,
parent of children in Dalry
Primary and Secondary Schools

Farewell to Ranger Ken

The Loch Ken Trust has bid a fond farewell to Ranger Ken Scott.

Ken was the trust's first ever Loch Ken Ranger and paved the way for us as one of the first community-led Ranger Services in Scotland.

Over his eighteen-months of employment Ken has patrolled the loch over 200 times and responded to over 166 incidents including dirty camping, campfire damage, wildlife crime, pollution and fly-tipping, often working in conjunction with partner agencies such as D&G Council Community Safety team, D&G Council Access Officer, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Police Scotland Wildlife Crime team.

Education sessions were a very important part of Ken's work and funding enabled him to host lochside events for a number of local schools.

Ken said: "It's very exciting that our next generation are growing up with the knowledge to help them look after this beautiful environment."

Ken's commitment to his work has ensured our beautiful Loch has been better cared for, enabling everyone to enjoy our natural world responsibly. Local landowners commented on the vast reduction of antisocial behaviour and rubbish left on their land since Ken took up his position in April last year.

Ken was instrumental in the setup of our Visitor Management Plan and his friendly presence around the loch will certainly be missed by all.



Ken educating local school children on safe and sound lochside protocol.

The Loch Ken Trust would like to thank Ken for all the amazing work he has done over the past eighteen months and wish him all the best for the future.

Our most recently appointed Ranger, Leanne Pump, will continue with patrols around the Loch.

The Loch Ken Trust Team

Connecting Community Spaces Through New Asset Network

A new network is being set up in the Glenkens and district to support town hall and village hall committees.

Thanks to funding from the Blackcraig Wind Farm Fund, Becca Nelson has just started in post with Glenkens Communities & Arts Trust as the Glenkens asset network facilitator.

Becca will be hosting bi-monthly network meetings for all interested parties with an additional day a week to move some of the actions forward which are flagged up at these meetings. Becca said: "I am looking forward to meeting everyone and getting the network going. The committees do such good work

already, I'm excited about how I can help them and how we can perhaps achieve even more by working together."

Becca will be introducing herself around the area throughout November and December, with a view to having the first network meeting in January.

If you would like to get in touch with Becca before then you can email becca.glenkens.anf@gmail.com



Galloway Sorting Tender

Many readers I'm sure will be aware of the old railway which ran from Dumfries to Stranraer and Portpatrick, known as the Paddy Line.

Its stations included Castle Douglas, Crossmichael, Parton, New Galloway (actually at Mossdale) and Gatehouse of Fleet.

The line carried passenger traffic and freight, but also an important part of its business was to take a 'sorting tender'. This was a small post office sorting facility where letters and packages were sorted by post office staff on the move, so that they were ready for immediate delivery when they reached their destination.

The Galloway Sorting Tender ran from 1871 to 1904 when the name changed to Galloway Sorting Carriage and then from 1930 to 1940 it was known as Galloway

TPO (Travelling Post Office).

An example of one of these carriages is preserved in the National Railway Museum in York, although the preserved example was never used on the Paddy Line - a photo of the interior is included below.

On 31 December 1935, the sorting carriage was involved in the Ken Valley derailment. Two postmen were injured



and the carriage was destroyed.

Stamp collectors sometimes come across examples of Victorian stamps that bear the cancellation which was used on board 'Galloway Sorting Tender' - the example below is from 1872.

Paul Goodwin



The Glenkens Kvöldvaka

A wonderful Icelandic winter tradition has been unfolding in the Glenkens: the kvöldvaka ('evening wake').

It is brought by New Galloway based author Sarah Thomas, whose new memoir *The Raven's Nest*, is set in Iceland's rural and rugged Westfjords region.

Dating back to a time when the majority of Icelanders lived on farms, in the winter months, when the days became short and outdoor work was made impossible by darkness, the household would come inside. After the rökkurstund - an hour or so of relaxation in the twilight hour - a single fish oil lamp would be ritually lit, and the kvöldvaka would begin. The household would share in the light of

that lamp, and as they continued the necessary wool work of knitting, darning and spinning, someone would read aloud to them - the sagas, poetry, the scriptures. Even in times of scarce resources and deepest poverty, everyone could share in a story and become literate, and this gave rise to the nation of book lovers Iceland is today.

"Kvöldvaka is a wonderful tradition I witnessed when I spent several years living in Iceland, and became part of a family of sheep farmers and fishermen. I decided to use it as a way to share my new book which is about those people and that place," says Sarah. She continues; "Being read aloud to in this way as an adult is very special. It is relaxing, transportive and convivial in a way we rarely get to experience. I invite audiences to bring their knitting and



mending to do as I read, and in a strange way this 'creates time'. You complete that darning you never get around to, whilst hearing a story, and you get some alone time in your mind whilst being in company.

Being read aloud to in this way as an adult is very special. It is relaxing, transportive and convivial in a way we rarely get to experience.

"At my readings, jumper armpits have been mended, mittens made, embroidery done. In some ways, this combination of handiwork and story is the most profoundly human thing we can do. We are wired for it. Perhaps that's why it feels so calming. In an increasingly fractious world this feels like a valuable thing to offer. Since June, I have toured with *The Raven's Nest* through Iceland and the UK doing this at music festivals, literature festivals, bookshops, art galleries, village halls, and - a particular highlight - the Royal Botanical Garden in Edinburgh for Book Week Scotland."

Another Icelandic bookish phenomenon begins at this time of year: the

Jólabókaflóð ('Christmas Book Flood'). It is tradition for everyone to receive a book for Christmas and part of Christmas Day is spent reading, so November onwards sees a flurry of book buying - a fine tradition! Why not gift a copy of *The Raven's Nest* to

a loved one this Christmas?

It's dark outside, so come coorie in by candle glow and lamplight and be read to. And if you wish, bring your knitting and mending!

Glenkens Kvöldvaka is part of the CatStrand Arts Programme and is also supported by the Galloway Glens Scheme. It will continue for the following dates: 29 November at CatStrand, 6 December at The Smiddy and 13 December at CatStrand, on a 'pay what you feel' basis.

Signed copies of *The Raven's Nest* are available at the readings and Sarah will be happy to inscribe them for you. The book is also stocked in the CatStrand shop as well as all good bookshops and online.

Ukrainian Lessons?

My name is Graham and I am resident in the Glenkens.

I am retired and do a little voluntary work at the primary school in Moniaive.

I have had a broad experience during my working life and the last 12-15 years I have mainly worked with young children in the 3-11 age group; incidentally this has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my life.

Ever since the war in Ukraine started I have been wondering what I can do to help, aside from donating some money to an account set up by the Ukrainian Army.

I have decided that next summer (July/August), during the summer holidays,

I will make a trip to Ukraine in my van along with my dog Ivy. My plan is to fill the van with enough supplies to help set up a small kindergarten and primary school.

In conjunction with the staff at Moniaive primary school and playcare centre I will make a list of things to take.

I am limited to what I can take as it all has to fit in my van. I will publish a list and start fundraising early next year.

At the moment I am asking the Ukrainians who are resident in Glenkens for help. Mainly I would like to learn some basics of the Ukrainian language and alphabet. I am able to pay a small amount to anyone who can help.

Thanks in advance,
Graham

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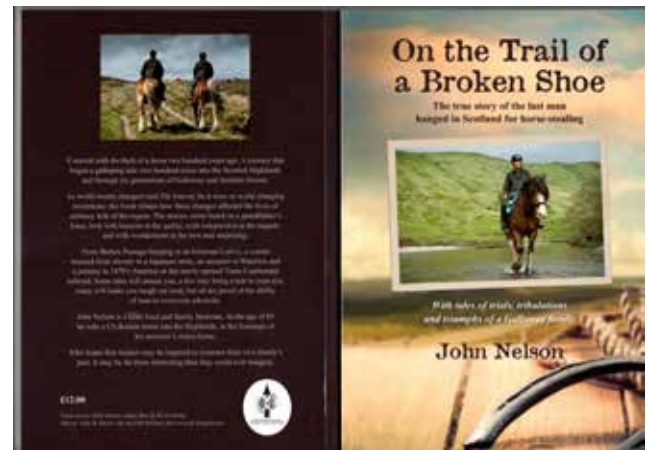
On the Trail of a Good Story

The Glenkens Story's motto has always been "Sharing Our History" and this will be the focus of the history group's first meeting in 2023.

John Nelson lives near Crossmichael and has a deep interest in local and family history. One of his family's stories became the focus of John's book, *On the Trail of a Broken Shoe: The True Story of the Last Man Hanged in Scotland for Horse Stealing*. Since publishing the book in early 2022 John has spoken to many audiences about the story, the journey it inspired and the light it sheds on Galloway's rural past.

But how does someone take a family story and share it with a wider audience? The Glenkens Story has

invited John to talk about how he set about "Sharing Our History" and how the book itself came about. In conversation with historical novelist Margaret Elphinstone, John will describe how he took a family tale, gathered facts from friends and relatives, visited archives and records, polished his story-telling skills in creative writing classes and went on to publish, negotiating the hazards of marketing and the vagaries of the book trade. Every family has something to contribute to the total of local history. This is a story of how individual stories can be shared.



This event will be held on Sunday 22 January from 2-4pm at CatStrand, New Galloway. For tickets, priced £8, call 01644 420 374 or visit www.gcat.scot
Mike Brown

Hallowe'en in the Glenkens

This year hallowe'en in the Glenkens was great fun, with lots of guising going on as well as a party in Dalry Town Hall.

LING (Local Initiatives in New Galloway) joined forces with Friends of Dalry School (FoDS) to put on a halloween party for children and young people in the area, which was a great success. Kids enjoyed a range of hallowe'en-themed party games, starting with fun for the wee ones from 4.30-6.30pm, and then more activities suited to older children from 7-8.30pm.

Activities included decorating biscuits, pin the smile on the pumpkin, musical monsters, 'mystery boxes' with horror-filled contents, dooking for apples, turning people into mummies and eating ring biscuits on strings.

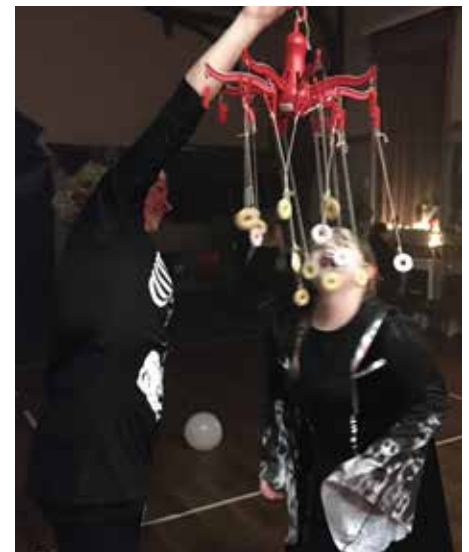
The young people also enjoyed

hanging out together and listening to hallowe'en music, as well as eating a range of halloween-themed snacks from 'dead finger' hot dogs to 'raw meat' and 'sick' crispy cakes to 'eyeball' jelly - and, of course, lots of sweets!

LING would like to say a big thank you to FoDS for organising the party, in particular to Julie and Sarah for all their hard work - the young people had a great time.

On the theme of Hallowe'en, children also enjoyed guising in the Glenkens villages, and in New Galloway the McGaws and the Joneses outdid themselves once again with well thought out, terrifying themes perfect for the intrepid guiser...definitely not for the faint hearted!

For more on LING youth events, see p30, and there is an ad on the back page of this issue for a youth worker if that's something which may be of interest to you or someone you know.



A Glenkens young person accepts the iced ring challenge at the Dalry Town Hall LING/FoDS hallowe'en party.

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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The Life of the Atlantic Salmon

The Atlantic salmon has a complicated life.

Their lifecycle of breeding in freshwater before going to sea to grow before returning to their home river to breed is taught at schools across the country.

Atlantic salmon face challenges that would be unsurmountable to many fish. This is due to the different osmotic challenges the two environments pose; in freshwater the fluids in the fish will be saltier than their environment and water will try and flood in, the reverse is true in saltwater. For a young salmon, about to embark on its journey to sea, it must change its physiology from that of a freshwater fish to a marine fish. The switch, called smoltification, puts huge stresses on the fish. To add to that stress, whilst the fish is undergoing this change it must negotiate its way down a river from its home grounds to the sea; on the Dee this is a journey of up to 30 miles.

Within the river, the migration is relatively passive; fish wash down, riding the current during elevated flows. In areas of still or very slow-moving water they cannot just ride the current, however, and they must swim; this swim involves the highest risk. Diminutive in size (typically less than 15cm) they are a tasty snack for many predators such as pike, trout, cormorant and otters, which abound in the slower water. Anything that likes a fishy supper likes a tasty smolt!

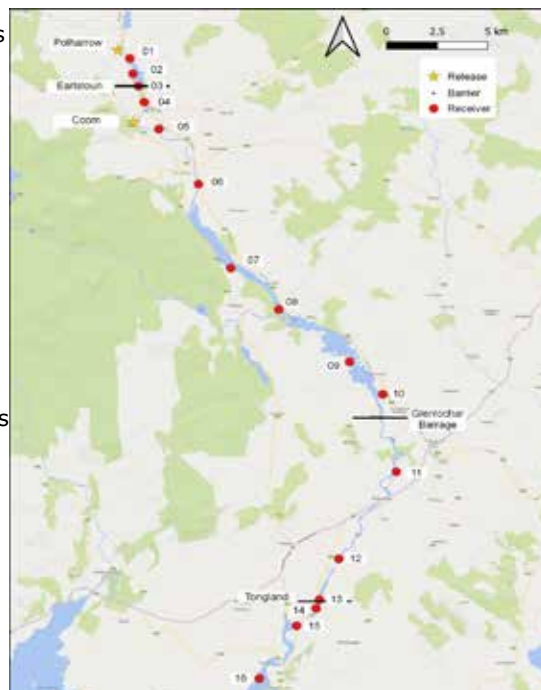
Towards the end of the ice age, the first of the Dee salmon entered the river. They found a river that had a small number of lochs and, in the lower reaches, sections of slow flowing water, but in the main access was a breeze and the habitat for rearing their young was superb. The Dee became the most prolific salmon river in southwest Scotland and the spawning grounds in the Ken, from New Galloway upstream, were some of the most important areas for them.

In the early 20th century, power within the river Dee was identified and one of

the biggest hydroelectric schemes in the world was constructed. Dams were constructed throughout the river creating large expanses of new 'stillwater'; still water that predators abounded in. Flow was controlled, blunting the small rises in water that the fish relied upon to migrate out the river. The natural outlets to lochs were replaced by concrete walls and turbines - turbines that the fish would have to pass through. Salmon were considered, but our knowledge of their needs was scant. Upstream migration of fish was provided, but little thought was put into the needs of the fish leaving the river.

100 years on we understand salmon in greater detail. In 2021 Galloway Glens, DRAX, Galloway Fisheries Trust and the Dee District Salmon Fisheries Board came together to embark on a piece of ground-breaking research to investigate the issue and get a better understanding of what's going on. We captured a small number of smolts upstream of Dalry and implanted some tiny acoustic tags within them. These tags go ping at frequent intervals with unique pitches. Throughout the Dee system we placed several receivers which recorded the fish as they passed on their way downstream. From this we could determine where and when the losses occurred.

The work went better than expected and we managed to determine that 58% of the smolts leaving the Upper Dee would make it to the estuary. The mortality at dams was lower than expected with 88% of fish making it through past the barriers, passing through the turbines under generation, even when alternative routes were available. Overall, the pattern of migration was similar to that found in other rivers with a natural flow. It was



A map of the smolt listening stations along the migration route; red dots are receivers, yellow stars are smolt trap-and-release sites (Polharrow and Coom burns) and black lines are man-made impoundments (Earlstoun and Tongland dams, Glenloch barrage).

also noted that 2021 was a very good year nationally for smolt migration with elevated flows in the spring happening at the right time and with the right frequency. These results are a snapshot in time, and in a year when conditions for smolt migration were excellent. Further work needs to be done to determine what would happen in other years when migration is trickier.

A detailed summary can be seen on the Galloway Glens website.

Galloway Glens would like to thank DRAX, Galloway Fisheries Trust, The Dee District Salmon Fisheries Board and Glasgow University for assistance in this project as well as, of course, the National Heritage Lottery without which none of this work would have been possible.

Nick Chisholm



Spalding Bowling Club

Well done to all the winners at spalding this season!

Spalding held its annual prize giving at Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry. Another good season was had by all with this year's Gents Champion being John peacock and Ladies Champion Kate Bone.




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Perennial plants, come and dig them up and take them away; everything must go. Contact: sandjharvie@gmail.com

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We are seeking to buy a home with 2-3 bedrooms and 3-5 acres of land. Anywhere and any condition considered - please help us to stay in the Glenkens!

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

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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



The Nature of the Games We Play

I began the year intent on two things that I'd not done before.

One was to record the broad habits of our (Dalry) jackdaws or 'Jaikies' throughout the year, to answer some basic questions beyond their obvious sociability and habit of nesting in lums. I have done this. Secondly, in the light of a grandfatherly realisation that many children don't have the deep connection with nature that many of my generation had, I resolved to make seasonal recollections of my own outdoor activities as a boy. I have done less well on this, but an autumn request for this article provided a fruitful opportunity.

Summers were usually a blur of all sorts of street games, especially football in days of no cars parked on my street. Nature took a back seat except for making dens in stacked hay, 'dookin' and 'paidlin' in the burn on hot days, and catching minnows or 'beardies' in bottles. A few rasps were picked but mostly missed, so short is their season and so busy we were. However, the return to school and shorter days brought more focus to our time. Reps from Delrosa went round the classes with sacks encouraging us all to gather ripe rosehips for their (delicious) rosehip syrup. The rewards were very worthwhile and would often amount to a tanner or even a shilling or two. Of course, rosehips and doghips were well known to us as 'itchy pooders', which have to be experienced to be believed. Essentially, the skins were peeled off and sometimes eaten, recalling apples, while the hairy seeds or 'pooders' were deployed behind the shirt collar of some poor unsuspecting pal. Frantic removal of shirts and 'pooders' ensued. Pea shooters were also employed around this time, though I don't recall peas ever being used, but rather rowan berries shot through the hollow stalks of umbellifers, with strips of plastic insulating tape forming mouthpieces for the lucky ones who could procure these. Playgrounds and public spaces were littered with rowan berries and rosehip skins, with some, for shame, even finding their way into school corridors.

The bramble and nut seasons followed closely, with whole families involved in the former. Bramble jeely was a standard in school play-and-pit-pieces, and indeed on homemade scones. A few of the avant-garde dabbled with bramble and elderberry

winemaking and indeed this was annual in the café-owning Italian families. To avoid disappointment, most nuts were gathered too early, unripe green husks discarded along the way, but for those who knew a secluded hazel shaw the extra wait was worthwhile. Chestnuts or 'chessies' - 'conkers' down south - were scarce and generally very wee in my boyhood upland parish of New Cumnock.

...these autumn months and their natural products were enmeshed in our youthful lives and that connection with the natural world – the real world – was instilled in us all.

Nevertheless, we tried and a 'drookin' in vinegar was one of the common tricks employed to secure a hardened 'bully' three of four, though I'm not sure it ever really made much difference. One or two lucky ones were somehow able to cross the border to Drumlanrig in Dumfriesshire, where the legendary 'chessies' were reputedly like apples.

Gooseberries or 'gudjucks' as we knew them had already been plundered and during these earlier forays the plum and apple crops in the few walled gardens were noted for later. Owners were aware of this, of course, and successful raids had to be planned with cunning and precision, in contrast to the wild back garden raids around the housing scheme where I was born and grew up. Strawberries were early, scarce and usually too close to the houses to risk, and so it was that 'tumshies' (turnips) were the standard loot. Although I revelled in the thrill of the chase, I never really warmed to their raw taste and texture, though some of the more adventurous growers had sweet snowball 'tumshies' and they were just about palatable.

The biggest and best 'tumshies' for Hallowe'en lanterns – pumpkins

were exotic and unheard of – were from certain farm fields. As the date approached word spread around the school as to just where the biggest and best were to be found, with accompanying tales of irate farmers and narrow escapes. My most memorable and narrowest escape happened as a small group of us returned through a 'tumshie' field from Knockshinnoch Lagoons with

armfuls of bulrushes (reedmace) for vase decorations, together with several huge 'tumshies'. We were spotted by the farmer – a noted livewire – who stopped on the road as we left his field. He was raging and ordered us all into the back of his vehicle, including my mongrel dog, Dusky. I was

first in and slipped across the back seat, opened the far door and jumped out with the dog. We were soon over a dyke and running across the burn to the scheme and safety. I was glad I did because the other three and another dog were taken directly to the police station, which was closed and so they were all locked up in a dark farm shed for an hour or two. This would have completely freaked me out, and still does a bit on recollection. I can't remember if the police came to our door on that occasion or not, though I would have regretted it if they had.

By Hallowe'en, of course, street bonfires were already constructed in anticipation of Guy Fawkes' night. Some were huge and often had internal chambers or dens where sentries could spend time guarding against thieves of combustibles, or even those who would ignite a neighbouring street's pile. So, into November and bonfires ebbed, flowed and burned as the feuds developed. Mostly, no real harm was done beyond an early fire, but I do remember one near tragedy when a bonfire was prematurely lit with several unaware sentries in an internal den of breadboards, and it was always a relief to see the street's labours and pride win

through to the 5th, when inter-street harmony was restored.

Thus, these autumn months and their natural products were enmeshed in our youthful lives and that connection with the natural world – the real world – was instilled in us all. Every passing week sees something new in nature and, whilst we didn't see it all, we saw enough to celebrate in our games and pass-times that lit a passion in our eyes and a glow in our dreams.

Chris Rollie



Protecting the Hearts of Our Communities

Here in the Glenkens and neighbouring communities, our hearts are being better protected thanks to the Loch Ken Trust (LKT).

The LKT has funded new publicly accessible defibrillators and heated boxes in which to house them to six Loch Ken communities, as part of their 'Protecting Our Heart' project.

The project is part of the Loch Ken Plan, which aims to make Loch Ken the world's first 'Future Ready Community'. In a rural area like ours the wait time for an ambulance can be lengthy, and the survival rates for heart attacks are lower than the national average. Since we are unlikely to see extra ambulances in the area, the Trust decided to expand the network of existing defibrillators to provide better coverage.

There are now defibrillators in

installed at Forrest Estate, Dundegh, Glenlochar, Clarebrand, New Galloway, Crossmichael and Mossdale. The project was funded by a grant secured from the National Lottery's Awards For All programme and supported by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme.

LKT officer, Barney Fryer, said: "This is a hugely important project for us at the Loch Ken Trust as it is all about looking after the health and wellbeing of the people in our communities."

Sharon Fishwick, of Dundegh, said: "The residents of Dundegh have been trying to get a defibrillator installed in our remote village for years. We would like to thank the Loch Ken Trust for their continued support as we take ownership of our defibrillator."

Please watch this space for details of cardiac training which will be available in the near future.



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

Pictured above: Loch Ken Trust Officer Barney Fryer with Dundegh residents Sharon Fishwick and D Aitken, alongside the newly-installed defibrillator at Dundegh.

Harvest Festival Speech 2072

Dear People, it's my turn to welcome you to our Glenkens Harvest Feast. You've all contributed to this spread.

There are some new faces since last year. A few have just come into this world and probably aren't listening. Others have taken a long, difficult road to reach us at last. Welcome, all of you!

Some friends are gone since last year. We miss them all. We'll pause while I read their names...

Nothing's certain. We've known hunger. We've known danger. We've lost people we love. When the signal's live we hear similar, or worse, stories from across the world. We'll never meet those others, but we stand in solidarity with them all.

Together we live frugally and work hard, but today is our autumn feast. Everyone can eat their fill. Everyone deserves thanks.

Let's remember who made all this possible: You hill farmers who know this land like the back of your hands, who care for the herds who roam our hills. If it wasn't for you we wouldn't only be hungry; we wouldn't know the sound of a curlew, a lapwing or a black grouse.

All of you who protect our woods and wetlands. Look at the wild harvest in all its glorious colour spread out before us. Think of the trees that sprang from seeds which stayed hidden in the soil through the worst of times.

You farmers, fishers, growers and foragers who look after our meadows, lochs and rivers and who brought in this delicious food today - just smell that barbecue - don't worry - only a few words to go now...

You brave souls who've made it here from lands destroyed by drought and floods, or devastated by war. Without your skills and hard work we wouldn't be here today.

Above all, we thank those who made the change, way back in the 2020s. The ones who refused to let our good earth vanish under sitka spruce. Who

protested against the cow factories, the flattened fields, the lost woodlands, the lakes of slurry and poisoned water courses. Who dared insist that the land belongs to those who live on it. Who ensured that against all the odds we would cherish our soil, our trees and flowers, our birds and insects and animals, all these beings who came here as the ice melted and whose rightful home this has been for twelve thousand years. Who believed that vibrant communities, healthy farms and other-than-human lives mattered more than any money ever minted.

If it wasn't for those courageous people - those honoured ancestors of all of us, wherever we were born - we wouldn't be here today. They knew that in a dangerous world food won't fly your way forever. If they hadn't stood up for our soil, our land and our people there's no way we could survive here now.

Therefore we remember them. They lived in an uneasy comfort we can't begin to dream of, but they had the wit to think of us. So raise your beakers and let's drink to the brave rebels of the 2020s!

MNE

From the Bookroom

'From the Bookroom' is a new section where Glenkens-based author, Robin Yassin-Kassab, will take readers on a journey through some of his favourite books.

Robin is author of the novel *The Road From Damascus* and co-author of *Burning Country: Syrians in Revolution and War*.

In the summer I spend every spare moment outside, but in the winter I retreat to my bookroom, light a fire, and generate some verbal heat.

In the summer I walk about in the garden, or up and down the hills, but in the winter I board my mind's vessel and set out through the surging pages of books. Books in grim wintertime serve as both Vitamin D and a passage to other worlds.

The colder the weather, the darker the days, the warmer and brighter I like my books.

So this year, as the solstice approaches, I've pulled a present off the shelf I've had stored up for over a decade. That is, *By the Sea*, a novel by Abdulrazak Gurnah.

It throws me through time and space, linking me first to where I was when I acquired the book. That is, Palestine, a hotel in east Jerusalem to be precise, in spring 2009. I was there for 'Palfest', the Palestine Festival of Literature, in the company of several wonderful writers, including Abdulrazak, who has since won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

The hills of the West Bank, like the rest of the Levant, experience bracing cold in the winters. It snows as much there as it does in Galloway. Fortunately, therefore, this novel links me also to Oman, on the Tropic of Cancer, where I lived for five years.

Not that the novel is set in Oman. It's set mainly in Zanzibar, on Africa's east coast, but Zanzibar was once – from the late 17th Century to the 1960s – the capital of the Omani Empire. Based first on slaves, then on cloves, the empire was rooted in the monsoon trade winds which blow east to west in the last months of the year, across the Indian Ocean to Africa, and then west to east in the early months of the new year, from Africa to the Arabian Gulf, Iran and India. (The English word monsoon derives from the Arabic word for season – 'mousem'.)

In Zanzibar and similar ports a new culture was made from the mixing of several. The language – Swahili – encapsulates it: Bantu in structure, Arabic, Persian and Bantu in vocabulary.

There were plenty of Swahili speakers in Oman – a bright, hot, very friendly country, blessed with blue skies, blazing smiles, giant



turtles, and frankincense trees.

It's impossible to sum up *By the Sea* in a few sentences without doing it an injustice. Instead, I suggest you explore for yourselves this complex family drama teased out in retrospective conversation between migrants. It's a tale of memory and loss, of love and arbitrary injustice, of imprisonment and exile. And it dances continually between worlds, from the east African coast to the chilly southern English seaside. So these are two extra locations to hold in my mind – alongside Jerusalem, Palestine; Muscat, Oman; and the Glenkens, Galloway – as I sail this bookroom towards the light, towards the lengthening days of a coming new year...

Robin Yassin-Kassab

Illustration of Robin speaking at an event by artist and author Molly Crabapple.



Connecting in Communities (CiC) is keen to get the word out about two new groups which have just been launched.

'Menopause Really Matters' is a friendly group which meets monthly, with the aim to create an environment in which members can nurture and support each other in a safe space, where people can talk and improve their quality of life. We will also be inviting guest speakers each month to provide relevant information and advice.

Our first meeting was warmly received and hugely enjoyed. One attendee said; "It was wonderful to be in a welcoming environment to meet, talk and laugh with new friends about shared experiences."

If you would like to come along, contact either lesley@thenourishingspace.co.uk or jo@catstrand.com or call 01644 420 374 to book in or find out more.

CiC is also excited about a new

Community Drama Club which will launch in February 2023, and we are keen to hear from anyone aged 18+ who would be interested in performing and/or supporting, with a view to working on productions to be performed around the region.

If you want to return to an interest in theatre, or to newly unleash your inner thespian, please get in touch to find out more about this exciting new community group which is free and open to all. The contact person is Jo at jo@catstrand.com or 01644 420 374.

CiC are most grateful to funders Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, administered by the Glenkens and District Trust and Foundation Scotland, and the National Lottery, whose contributions help make all our activities possible.

Jo Jackson,
CiC Activity Officer

Christmas in New Galloway

Everyone from across the Glenkens is invited to New Galloway's Christmas celebrations.

The Christmas lights parade, led by piper Ian Wemyss, will begin at New Galloway Golf Club car park and make its way down the High Street at 5pm. Please arrive at the car park by 4.40pm, where there will be hot chocolate and mince pies to keep you warm while you listen to carols by Kells school pupils (children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult).

In anticipation of the parade, please could High Street residents have your outdoor Christmas lights switched on by 5pm on Sunday 4 December. If you need assistance putting your lights up do get in touch on 07766 476 125 or email communityinclusion.ling@gmail.com - thank you!

For more on New Galloway's Christmas celebrations there will be a brochure available from the end of November.

We would like to thank all volunteers and supporting organisations who have helped to provide this year's New Galloway Christmas celebrations. Let the festive fun begin!

Angie Bradford,

LING Community Events & Activity inclusion Manager

Urr Valley Garden Club

The Urr Valley Garden Club re-convened in April, after a two year pause, and have so far enjoyed an illustrative talk covering the history of Threave, a visit to The Lost Gardens of Arbigland and also a visit to Luckie Hargs garden in Bainbridge.

From October through to March monthly meetings are held at Haugh of Urr Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm. The Winter Programme for 2022/23 is as follows:

- Thursday 15 December: Christmas Capers
- Thursday 19 January: My expedition to Vietnam, by Richard Baines, Curator at Logan Botanic Gardens
- Thursday 16 February: An illustrated talk on Alipine Plants, by David Lawson
- Thursday 16 March: An illustrated/practical talk on Propagation, by Nadine Stotten-Thorn, Garden Instructor from Threave
- AGM Thursday 20 April: AGM followed by Garden Design with Owen Harlow, formerly of Threave

Annual Membership remains at £10; subscriptions run from 1 April to 31 March. The guest fee is £3 per person. New members are always welcome; if you are interested please contact 07977 050 971 or 07971 105 626.



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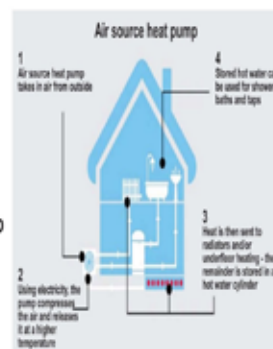
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...News from the Banks of Loch Ken...

Protecting our planet is very important to The Loch Ken Trust.

In order to make our planet better we have to know where we are right now.

Our Baseline Ecosystem Assessment project forms a key part of the Loch Ken Plan. We will be hosting a **range of activities over the year ahead** to really understand the state of the ecosystem that is Loch Ken.

Loch Ken and the surrounding area is a paradise for wildlife watchers.

It's a colourful place – look out for red squirrels amongst the trees and red deer silhouetted on the skyline. The loch is home to a wintering flock of Greenland white-fronted geese. This population represents one of only a handful of wintering flocks on mainland Scotland.

'Be Respectful of the environment and leave no trace'

A significant area of the loch is designated a Special Protection Area for this species - the highest level of protection awarded to birds in Europe.



Also frequenting the loch are otters, red kites and ospreys.

The activities will range from professional scientific studies, through to bio-blitzes and other forms of 'citizen science'. We will also be hosting visits from schools across the region and higher/further education students.

One of our objectives is to produce a short-list of 'priority' species, across air, land and water that we can track as a proxy for overall ecosystem health. Salmon, for example, are a great indicator of overall ecosystem health.

These species will form the basis for a programme of ongoing scientific monitoring for The Loch Ken Trust and the wider

community. They will also guide the work of the Loch Ken Ranger service to protect, restore and improve our environment.

PROTECTING OUR NATURAL WORLD

Our natural environment is under pressure like never before in human history. Whether it is the effect of climate change, or the growing biodiversity crisis, it has never been more important to understand what is going on in our ecosystem and to conserve, protect and restore our natural habitats.

GET INVOLVED...

We would love YOU to be involved in this project! Is there a particular area that interests you? Please get in touch lktoffice@protonmail.com - we'd love to hear from you!

Photographs © Ken Scott





Dear Gazette,

I captured this image of the Remembrance Day one-minute silence at New Galloway war memorial. It reminded me of something out of a Thomas Hardy or Brontë novel... Ros

Music for Midwinter

As we head into the depths of winter, SongWave community choir will bring you songs from many lands and traditions that bring warmth and heart to the season.

Under musical director Kate Howard the choir will be performing two concerts in the Glenkens on Saturday 17 December; at 3pm they will be in Crossmichael Church and at 7.30pm they will be in Kirkpatrick Durham Village



SongWave
community choir

Hall. An added attraction in the evening performance will be the Dumfries & Galloway Clarsach Society led by Wendy Stewart.

From Shchedryk, a Twelfth night carol from the Ukraine, to Laula, a lullaby from Estonia; from Arise and Hail, an English West Gallery carol, to In Freenship's Name, from the singing of the Border Shepherd Willie Scott, there's something for everyone and a



chance to join in too!

Taking into account the current financial constraints on many people, tickets are priced at 'pay what you feel' with a minimum of £5.

To find out more and be kept up-to-date with future events visit www.songwavechoir.org.uk

Photo of the Issue



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

This issue's winner is Andrew McCluckie with a striking shot of his collie dog, Jasper, paddling under the Loch Stroan viaduct.

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

Company owner and competition judge, Hannah Gould, said: "What a shot! The composition is lovely, with the circular frame highlighting the dog. We felt it was just right for the season - reflections of a crisp autumn/winter day in the Glenkens."

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

Connecting in Communities

December 2022/ January 2023

Activity Programme

ARTistry - Life Drawing Classes

Thursdays - Dec 1st, 8th & 15th / Jan 12th, 19th, 26th
10am-12.30pm

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan - £7.50

Contact: Leto Seferiades letosef@gmail.com
07763 235888

Chair Yoga

Fridays - Dec 2nd, 9th & 16th / Jan 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
2pm-3pm

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan By donation, suggested £5
Suitable for beginners, gentle introduction to physical and mental benefits.

Contact: Kath on kathry64@hotmail.co.uk
07720 949430

Menopause Really Matters

Mondays - Dec 5th & Jan 9th | 7pm - 8pm

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan.

A supportive & informative group. Advice, guest speakers and friendly network guaranteed.

Donations to 'The Menopause Charity.org'

Contact: Lesley Atkins lesley@thenourishingspace.co.uk
07587 122151

Art For Wellbeing

Mondays & Tuesdays - Dec 5th, 6th, 12th, & 13th / Jan 9th, 10th
16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, 30th & 31st

By donation for art materials

Mondays | 1.30pm-3pm **Crossmichael Memorial Hall**

Tuesdays | 10.30am-12pm **Dalry Town Hall,**

Tuesdays | 1pm-2.30pm **Kirkpatrick Durham Village Hall**

Tuesdays | 2pm-3.30pm **Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn**

Contact: jo@catstrand.com / 01644 420374

Glenkens Ukes (Ukuele Workshops)

Wednesdays - Dec 7th & 14th / Jan 4th, 11th, 18th 25th
6.30pm-8pm

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan - £3.00

Dec 14th FREE Festive Sing A Long | 7pm-9pm

Contact: Brian Jones on brianjones@gmail.com

07760 884113

Photography in Focus

Tuesdays - Dec 6th, 13th Jan 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st | 10am-12pm

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan plus 'out in the field'

Expert tuition to bring your photography knowledge and skills into focus.

Contact: ianbiggar@btinternet.com

07799 372052

Glenkens Pub Quiz Nights

Sunday Dec 11th | 7pm The Clachan Inn Dalry

Thursday Jan 12th | 7pm The Ken Bridge

Teams of 4/6 - £1 per person

Contact: Chris Jowsey on necjj00@btinternet.com
07925 914681

Boccia Club

Wednesdays - Dec 14th & 11th Jan | 2pm-3pm

Catstrand FREE

Indoor Boules in the CatStrand Auditorium

An inclusive afternoon of fun indoor bowling, suitable for all abilities, all welcome Contact: jo@catstrand.com

Call 01644 420374

Open Mic Night

Thursdays - Dec 15th & Jan 12th

7.30pm-10pm CatStrand

Performers free / Audience - £5 includes a tot of whisky on arrival for Dutch Courage! Or Mulled Spiced Apple Juice.

Contact: Alan McClure alanmcclure70@hotmail.com

LGBTQI + Film Night in association with

SAFE SPACE CAFE

'Carol' Saturday - Dec 17th | 7pm

'Tangerine' Saturday Jan 14th | 7pm

CatStrand, New Galloway

£6 / U 26 £4

After film drinks, snacks and chats in the CatStrand Café

All welcome

Contact: jo@catstrand.com / 01644 420374

Pudding Fan Club

Monday - Dec 19th | 6.30pm-8.30pm

CatStrand Café FREE EVENT Please bring along your

favourite flavoursome Autumnal style pudding, share

flavours and recipes. (or just come to enjoy the puds on offer)

Contact: jo@catstrand.com / 01644 420374

Afternoon Tea and Table Top Games with Fabby Cakes

Thursday 26th Jan | 2.30pm-4.00pm

Dalry Town Hall. All welcome to share warm welcoming space, hot drink, delicious cakes and fun games!

Contact: jo@catstrand.com / 01644 420374

All bookings through email: jo@catstrand.com or call 01644 420374

Visit: www.gcat.scot/CiActivityProgramme

unless otherwise specified

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!

Contact jo@catstrand.com or call 01644 420374

Youth Players Xmas Panto

It's panto time again...
oh yes it is!

CatStrand Youth Players, supported by a few of the older members, have been working hard at rehearsals since September to bring this year's panto to the stage.

Our behind-the-scenes crew have also been busy making scenery and props. The cast and crew have had great fun working on *Sinbad Sails Again*, a brand new script by our favourite author Paul Reakes and everyone is proud that the shows on Friday 9, Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 December will be the world

premiere production (see Diary on p30).

The story incorporates a few familiar characters and starts in Aladdin's palace one year after his wedding to his princess. Abanazer is still in exile on a desert island and as Sinbad returns from his latest voyage he is immediately recruited to help Aladdin find his famous magic lamp which gets stolen by some mysterious characters who trick their way into the palace.

The usual songs, mayhem and laughter ensue as the baddies are pursued around the world. Could there be a happy ending? You'll just have to come along to find out! At the time of going to press, tickets were selling very fast but there

might still be a few left if you are lucky...

The principal roles in the panto feature Megan Oliver as Sinbad the Sailor, Fiona Edgar as Aladdin, Ella Campbell as Zara, Lorne Johnstone as Jasmine, Ruby Harfield as Semolina Sinbad, Dante Newbery as Ali Sinbad, Laura Edington as Abanazer and James Wallace as Crossbones the Pirate.

As soon as Sinbad has sailed again it will be straight into rehearsing for the 2023 Youth Drama Festival with the aim of repeating the successful run to the Scottish Final earlier this year. We'll have more news on that in the next edition.

The Youth Players

Come and Help Us Shape Community Activity Across the Glenkens and District

You are cordially invited to a gathering of valued partners and friends of 'Connecting in Communities'

Monday 5th December
sessions at 4-5:30pm and 7-8:30pm
Balmaclellan Village Hall

As the current round of funding for Connecting in Communities nears its conclusion, we'd love to hear the views and aspirations of residents and organisations about the future of community development in the Glenkens into 2023 and beyond.

Come along for a glass of mulled wine or spiced apple juice and share your knowledge, experiences and ideas with us!



Please RSVP advising on your attendance and at which session to:
lisa@catstrand.com or 01644 420374 or call into the Catstrand, New Galloway

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GLENKENS TREASURES



* PAUL GOODWIN *



In the last issue, we announced a new section – Glenkens Treasures - where we can celebrate the many people in our communities who go 'above and beyond' in helping others.

We are delighted that the first Glenkens Treasure nomination is Paul Goodwin. Paul is well known to Gazette readers due to all his work with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, with regular Gazette contributions on the wars, war memorials and plane crashes in the Glenkens.

Paul has also taken some of the stories of local servicemen and women to our schools as well as to the wider public. Paul volunteered at Dalry School for years, offering his skills in IT and running after-school

clubs for students. More recently, Paul volunteered to host a Ukrainian family and has gone 'above and beyond' in helping them, and other Ukrainians living locally, settle into the community. Congratulations to Paul, and thank you for all your kindness to others.



Please get in touch if you have someone to nominate for our Glenkens Treasure section; tell us who you would nominate, and why, giving your own name and contact details, and we'll be in touch. You can email glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk or drop written nominations in to the CatStrand, marked Glenkens Treasures.

Woodland Apprentice

Carsphairn Community Woodland's apprentice is supporting all aspects of forestry work at Muirdrochwood Forest.

The community took ownership of the woodland in March 2021. This change in ownership, enabling the community to reshape the woodland to benefit all, ties into a broader ambition for the woodland to support local jobs and training opportunities. The first training role is underway, with Phoenix Lord part-way through his pre-apprentice position, working on a variety of forestry management tasks around the site.

Phoenix joined Carsphairn Community Woodland in June following a six-week forestry work experience at the woodland, in conjunction with Tarff Valley and has been working on a whole range of activities through the summer. His contract runs until December 2022.

Phoenix said: "I have enjoyed my experience at Carsphairn Community Woodland. I have learned a lot of valuable skills which is a great advantage for my future as I continue my forestry career."

Phoenix is being managed day-to-day by Andy, the Muirdrochwood Forestry Supervisor and Mentor. Andy said:

"Phoenix has shown a keen interest in all aspects of forestry activities and also flora and fauna. In the woodland he has been a great help, tackling all tasks put in front of him and he has come on a lot in his time here. I have no doubt he will be a great asset wherever he goes next."

Carsphairn Community Woodland see the use of the site as a focus for local jobs and skills training as a vital part of the organisation's work.

Phoenix's Six-Month role is being funded in partnership between Carsphairn Community Woodland and the Galloway Glens Scheme, using their award from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Jan Hogarth, the Galloway Glens Education & Community Engagement Officer, added:

"One of the main aims of the Galloway Glens Scheme is to encourage and support the next generation to be able to plan their working lives

here in Galloway. The efforts of the volunteers at Carsphairn Community Woodland are already yielding real work experience and training opportunities, congratulations to all involved."

For anyone planning a visit to the woodland, the Muirdrochwood Forest car park is on the B729 near the High Bridge of Ken junction (postcode DG7 3TD), and the 'what three words' location for the site is remit.breed.chestnuts.

For more information about the wider Muirdrochwood Forest site follow Carsphairn Community Woodland on Facebook or visit www.carsphairn/CCWL or email carsphairncw@gmail.com



Meeting Our Glenkens Councillors

Dougie Campbell, Independent

I was privileged to be re-elected as your councillor in May and I'm really looking forward to continuing to represent and support the Glenkens community.

It's fair to say, however, that we have some significant challenges ahead of us, due to factors such as Brexit, recovery from Covid and now of course, the cost of living crisis which is impacting on us all.

Following the election, the first task for our newly-elected councillors was to form an administration to oversee continued delivery of vital services such as waste collection, roads maintenance and social work services. I joined a new group of seven independent councillors from across the region and, without our collective support, none of the major political parties would have been able to form a majority administration. After a period of negotiations with all parties, the new Independent Group agreed to form an administration with Labour and SNP colleagues. This new administration, described by the media as a 'Rainbow Alliance', has adopted a very different approach to that of the last five years, which means

Council plans for the next five years, including annual budgets and spending programmes will be developed with the participation of all councillors. It's a new way of doing business, but it was self-evident that we all recognised that the cost of living crisis will be the defining issue for the Council over the course of the difficult years ahead.

I very much hope this collaborative approach will ensure we are in a stronger position to protect and modernise vital services. During my campaign to be elected as your independent councillor, I maintained that we needed to take party politics out of council decision making, always seeking to do the best for people living and working here. And, with the challenges ahead, I don't think that's ever been more important.

I've taken on new responsibilities, and have been appointed Vice Chair of the Finance, Procurement & Transformation Committee and, Chair of Stewarty Area Committee, which means I'll be closely involved in the decisions that directly affect the Glenkens. Although no longer Environment Champion, the Council has agreed that the environment should be every councillor's priority and has re-established our Climate Emergency Cross Party Working Group.

We recognise that the deteriorating



condition of our roads and public transport in Dumfries & Galloway are issues people are concerned about, and we've asked council officers to draw up proposals to address these challenges. I'll update you on this in subsequent issues of the *Glenkens Gazette*.

As always, my priority as your local councillor will be to support the Glenkens. We've come through the Covid pandemic which has been an incredibly difficult period for everyone, and I'm sure that the community spirit demonstrated throughout will again hold us in good stead for the challenges ahead.

If you want to speak to me about any council related issue I can be contacted at dougie.campbell@dumgal.gov.uk or 07388 956 558.

Greetings from the Manse

After the solemn drama of the start of November (All Saints' Day, Bonfire Night, Remembrance) we have two weeks' rest before...yes, you've guessed it...Advent!

If you're already sick of tinny carol music, jingly bells, corny TV adverts and garish displays everywhere, read on. It might just help you have the best Christmas ever...

Would you like to hear the Christmas story more clearly; to have a real sparkle in your decorations; for your lights to push back the mid-winter darkness?

It has been said that failing to plan is planning to fail. With Christmas, failing to prepare will strip the hope, peace, joy and love from the celebrations and ruin the New Year to come.

So it's time to start getting ready. That's what Advent is about. We are reminded of the truth behind the festival. Advent enriches Christmas by allowing us to seek God's Hope, Peace, Joy and

Love in our lives so that they can fill our celebrations as they filled the stable all those years ago.

In our worship and reflections we will be revising what we already know – that Jesus gave up everything to come into this world to show us true Hope, true Peace, true Joy and true Love. The familiar words of carols and readings become clearer above the jingly bells. The candles outshine the tinsel. The dirty, smelly stable out-sparkles the tinsel. The gifts we give carry more value. The lights push back the darkness like never before!

This Advent, join us on the great Adventure (see what I did there?!) into Christmas ... and beyond!

Whatever form your celebrations take – carol-singing, mad light displays, panto, giving gifts, Christingle, over-indulging in food and drink, opening presents on the big day, etc – enjoy them. What we celebrate is amazing...awesome...life-changing!

May God Bless you at this Blessed time of year.

*Rev Mark RS Smith,
Interim church moderator for the
parishes of Balmaclellan, Kells, Dalry and
Carsphairn*

LOST ITEM

By mistake I gave away a miniature painting on an easel - about two inches high - to the Dalry charity shop.

Did you by chance buy it from the shop in April? I would dearly love to have it back as it was painted by a relative. If you could return it, I would happily provide a reward and my undying thanks!

Paul,

07973 174 342

LING Trustees, along with employees Angie and Ronnie Bradford, Olivia Donaldson and Claire Dean, would like to wish all LING members, volunteers, friends and families and the whole of the Glenkens community a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New year!

WINDY STANDARD WIND FARM AN UPDATE

We are pleased to be moving forward with our plans to repower the first phase of Windy Standard Wind Farm, which would see the removal of 36 turbines and eight turbines up to 200m to tip erected in their place.

It is expected that we will submit our proposals to the Scottish Government in the very near future. Upon submission everyone will have the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Further information will be available at www.windystandardwindfarm.co.uk

If consented, our proposals will bring forward many benefits, including:

- Delivering sustainable and creative uses for decommissioned materials in the region, creating local jobs and supporting a circular economy
- Supporting the training of wind turbine technicians in Dumfries & Galloway
- Providing over £8m in community benefit throughout the lifespan of the project
- Generating 49MW of clean electricity

We will notify local residents and stakeholders when our plans are submitted. In the meantime, please do keep in touch at www.windystandardwindfarm.co.uk / communities@fredolsen.com / 07435 763 900.



Advertisement



Gillespie Gifford & Brown LLP
Solicitors and Estate Agents

Dumfries & Galloway

01556 503744
www.ggblaw.co.uk

All legal advice

*Offices in Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie
Kirkcudbright and Dumfries*

FINLAY CARSON MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



**If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch**

Write to:
107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ
Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

Phone: 01556 504991

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

GCAT Needs You!

The Glenkens Community and Arts Trust AGM is coming up in the New Year, and we are seeking nominations for three new Trustees.

If you appreciate the work that we do, whether its our Arts programme, CatStrand Young Creatives, Connecting

in Communities, Galloway Community Transport, the Glenkens Gazette or the Community Action Plan, consider joining our Board. It's a friendly group that meets every two months to provide strategic oversight and good governance for our ever-evolving organisation. You don't need any particular skill sets other than the commitment to think hard about what GCAT needs and how you could help – although this time, we are looking particularly for people with an interest in numbers and spreadsheets! But we need

**Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust**

three new people, so do apply if you have more general skills.

If you're interested getting right to the heart of the community in this voluntary role, contact Helen Keron for an informal chat on helen@catstrand.com by 18 December. Looking forward to hearing from you!

*Helen Keron,
Executive Manager*

Get into the Christmas Spirit

Singing popular Christmas carols, and listening to traditional readings, is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit by reminding us of the simple joy of the Christmas story.

On Sunday 18 December, at 6pm, St Margaret's Church in New Galloway are holding their Carol Service to which all members of the community, and any visitors, are welcome. Following the service, the St Margaret's Guild will be serving mulled wine, and spiced apple ale (non-alcoholic) as well as a selection of festive nibbles.

McMillan Fundraiser

The Macmillan Coffee Afternoon held at Hair by Jayne raised an amazing £820.

"There was a great turnout! Next year we will hold it in the Town Hall so folk can stay and chat," says Jayne, continuing; "I would like to share the thanks we received from the Macmillan donations team; a lovely letter, thanking everyone involved for their support."

There will be a Christmas bake stall outside Jayne's salon on Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 December where funds raised will go to Dalry Film Club.

Ernespie Plants

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



Available this Winter

- Shrubs including Pieris, Magnolia and Witch Hazel for planting now until January
- Poinsettia, Wreaths and lots of Christmas gifts!




D&G grown CHRISTMAS TREES
in a range of sizes!!



Ernespie Plants
www.ernespiefarm.co.uk

[@ernespieplants](https://www.facebook.com/ernespieplants)
[@ernespieplants](https://www.instagram.com/ernespieplants)

Ernespie Farm, Old Military Road, Castle Douglas, DG7 3JG

GLENKENS YOUTH

Pre-Christmas dates.. **Ages 11-19**

Youth Meet-Up
Sports, food, crafts, table-tennis, a space to meet friends
Mondays 7.00 - 8.30pm
Dalry Secondary School

November: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
December: 5th, 12th, 19th

Cinema trip and Christmas night out
in December - watch this space, details to come

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

Join the CatStrand Boccia Club

Connecting in Communities (CiC) have started a Boccia Club once a month at the CatStrand.

Boccia is an indoor boules activity which is accessible to all ages stages and abilities. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 2-3pm, with a post-game cuppa and cake afterwards in the CatStrand café.

Jon, who approached CiC to introduce the idea of a Boccia Club to the Glenkens,

explains: "Everyone is most welcome - all abilities, no barriers. Come and join us to have a lovely sociable afternoon playing boccia."

CiC and Jon are hoping to build the activity into The Glenkens & District Boccia Club with opportunities to have inter village matches and tournaments.

If you enjoy Boules, would like to make new friends and help us build our team, please contact Jo at jo@catstrand.com or call 01644 420 374 to find out more.

Jo Jackson, CiC Activity Officer



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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Email glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk or call/WhatsApp 07727 127 997

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CROSSMICHAEL THERAPY CENTRE

- Your Health is Important -

Acupuncture & Chinese Herbal Medicine

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

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

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

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

To make an appointment call 07786 079 845

or email info@matthewpajo.co.uk

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 VETERINARY SURGERY OAKWELL ROAD CASTLE DOUGLAS

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

*The Surgery
High Street
New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

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

WHERE TO LOOK FOR LOCAL JOB LISTINGS

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

KEY GLENKENS CONTACTS

LOCAL DOCTORS' SURGERY

Glenkens Medical Practice - 01644 420 234

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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

- Crossmichael: Richard Middleton - 01556 670 691

- Dalry: Graham West - 01644 430 503
- 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 - 4 Dec, 1 Jan
Carsphairn: 11am - 11 Dec, 8 Jan
Kells: 11am - 18 Dec, 15 Jan
Dalry: 11am - 11am Dalry 25 Dec, 22 Jan

Special Services

Carols by Candlelight, Sun 18 6.30pm, Balmaclellan Church. **Children's Christmas Party**, Sat 17, 5pm Carsphairn Church. **Watchnight Service**, Sat 24, 11.30pm, Carsphairn Church.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

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

Sundays: 10.30am Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments

Christmas Services: *Carol Service*, Sunday 18 December, 6pm. *Christmas Day* - Sung Eucharist, 10.30am.

Visitors welcome - for information, including directions, please see visit 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

December 2022 - January 2023

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.

Glenkens eBike Club

If you are a local Glenkens resident and are interested in joining the Glenkens eBike Club please see our webpage:

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

phone 07841 512449

or email jon@catstrand.com



FREE BIKE WORKSHOPS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY FOR ADULT LEARNERS

BIKE FAMILIARISATION, SHORT LOCAL JOURNEYS AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING WORKSHOPS

LEVEL 1:

SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER 10:00-11:00
GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE CAR PARK, NEW GALLOWAY
 SAFE TRAINING AWAY FROM THE ROAD * BIKE SAFETY CHECKS * ROAD SAFETY TECHNIQUES * HELMETS AND EQUIPMENT ARE AVAILABLE TO BORROW

LEVEL 2:

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER 10:00-11:30
GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE CAR PARK, NEW GALLOWAY
 RECAP ON LEVEL 1 SESSION * SHORT LED RIDE AROUND NEW GALLOWAY

LEVEL 3:

SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER 10:00-11:30
GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE CAR PARK, NEW GALLOWAY
 RECAPS ON LEVEL 1 & 2 SESSIONS * LED RIDE FROM NEW GALLOWAY TO DALRY

JANUARY DATES: 7th / 14th / 21st

FREE! ADVANCE BOOKING AND REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL.

EMAIL: JON@CATSTRAND.COM OR CALL 07841 512449

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT AND CYCLING UK



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 December/January

DECEMBER

See CiC programme on p25

runs until 9 Jan, Carsphairn
Community Housing Survey, see p3

Thu 1 & Fri 2, CatStrand Christmas
Shopping Nights & New Galloway
Shop late night opening, 6-9pm, see
p6

Fri 2, Song Share, 8-11pm, Dalry
Town Hall

Sat 3, Community Café; 10am-1pm,
Dalry Town Hall

Sat 3, Christmas Craft Fair, 11am-
3pm, Mossdale Village Hall

Sat 3, Zoë Bestel, Kate Kyle & Eilidh
McGrath, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 4, New Galloway Christmas
Lights Parade, 4.30pm Golf Club car
park, see p22

Sun 4, Corsock Craft Fair, 11am-
3pm, Corsock Village Hall

Mon 5, Connecting in Communities:
Community Discussion, sessions
at 4-5:30pm and 7-8:30pm,
Balmaclellan Village Hall, see p26

Tue 6, The Raven's Nest: kvöldvaka,
7pm, The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Tue 6, Art for Wellbeing, 10.30am-
12noon, Dalry Town Hall (continues

on January 10,17,24 and 31)

Wed 7, Glenkens Church Guild Coffee
Morning, 9am -12noon, Dalry Town
Hall

Wed 7, Dalry Film Club: Sorry We
Missed You, 7:30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 8, Ken Words- Glenkens Writer's
Cafe, 7pm, CatStrand

Fri 9 & Sat 10, Panto: Sinbad Sails
Again, 7:30pm, CatStrand

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

Sun 11, Panto: Sinbad Sails Again,
2pm, CatStrand

Sun 11, The Furrow Collective -
We Know By The Moon, 7.30pm,
CatStrand

Tue 13, The Raven's Nest:
kvöldvaka, 7pm, CatStrand

Wed 14, Passing Through, 7.30pm,
CatStrand

Thu 15, Open Mic Night with Alan
McClure, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 15, Urr Valley Garden Club Talk:
Christmas Capers, 2pm, Haugh of Urr
Village Hall

Sat 17, Songwave Choir: Music
for Midwinter, 3pm at Crossmichael
Church and 7.30pm at Kirkpatrick
Durham Village Hall, see p24

Sat 17, LGBTQ+ Film Night, 7pm,
CatStrand

Sun 18, Carol Service, 6pm, St
Margaret's Church, New Galloway

Sun 18, CatStrand Christmas Grotto,
drop-in between 11am-3pm

Wed 21, Dalry Film Club: Downton
Abbey - A New Era, 7.30pm, Dalry
Town Hall

Thu 22, Midwinter Ceilidh with
Whirligig, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 31, Dalry Community Hogmanay
Party, details tbc, Dalry Town Hall

JANUARY

Sat 7, Glenkens Producers Market,
10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Wed 11, Dalry Film Club: Our Ladies,
7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 12, Ken Words- Glenkens
Writer's' Café, 7-9pm, CatStrand

Sat 14, LGBTQ+ Film Night:
Tangerine, 7pm, CatStrand

Thu 19, Urr Valley Garden Club Talk:
'My expedition to Vietnam' by Richard
Baines, Curator at Logan Botanic
Gardens, 2pm, Haugh of Urr Village Hall

Sat 21, Community Café, 10am
-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 22, The Glenkens
Story: On the Trail of a Good
Story, 2-4pm, CatStrand,
see p16

Sun 29, Clachan Folk
Sessions, 5-7pm, The
Clachan Inn, Dalry



LING lunches are a community project, and are currently being served at Kitty's, opposite the New Galloway Town Hall, from 12.30-2pm each Tuesday.

Everyone in the Glenkens is very welcome - if you haven't got access to transport, why not give the public bus a go? It stops off at 12.30pm in New Galloway and leaves at 1.30pm; just enough time for you to meet, chat and eat!

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:

Carsphairn SWI, 3rd Thu of the month, 7.30pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Craft Group, Fri 10am-12noon, includes tea & coffee, Lagwyne Hall, contact carsphairncraftgroup@gmail.com

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

Boccia Club, 2nd Wed of the month, 2-3pm

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:

During ongoing works entry may be through the back door and some activities transferring elsewhere - call 07749249781 to check.

Men's Monday Morning Coffee, Mon 9.30-11am

Glenkens Youth Activity Group, ages 11-19, Mon 7-8.30pm, currently held at Dalry School Gym Hall, contact Olivia on youthwork.ling@gmail.com or text 07719 708 668

LING Lunches, Tue, 12.30-2pm. currently held at Kitty's, 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, 10.30-11.30am, contact gentletaichigroup@gmail.com

Zumba, Wed 7-8pm, 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, transferred to

Balmaclellan, 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

Clachan Crafters, Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, Thurs 2-4pm, contact 07500 861 041 or minimac01644@gmail.com

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

Smithy Awarded Travellers' Choice Third Year Running

The Smithy in New Galloway has been recognised by Tripadvisor as a Travellers' Choice award winner for a third year running.

The award celebrates businesses that have received great traveller reviews on Tripadvisor over the last 12 months and recognises those businesses whose reviews place them in the top 10% of restaurants worldwide. As challenging as the past year was for the hospitality trade, The Smithy stood out by consistently delivering positive experiences to their customers.

Margaret and Andrew, owners of The Smithy, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have received this award as it is based on the positive feedback left by customers of both the food and

service that they receive at The Smithy.

"This has been a year where we have had to adapt and evolve to cope with the challenges that have come our way and it is pleasing that the changes have been well received by our customers. This award was made possible by the hard work of our staff and the great service and quality of produce that we receive from our suppliers.

"Next year will be another challenging year for hospitality businesses and we thank all of our customers for their continued support. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year."



A proud Andrew and Margaret in their cafe with their 2022 Tripadvisor award.

Launch of the Gazette Hub

The *Gazette* is excited to announce that the Glenkens Communications Hub project, offering an online resource for news, events, information, history and much more, is nearly ready to go.

This project was set in motion through the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust following-up on the need highlighted by Glenkens residents in the Community Action Plan, and has been enabled through funding from Blackcraig Wind Farm Fund and the Galloway Glens Scheme.

In light of this, **we are looking for a digital editor** to work one day a week on maintaining the Gazette

Hub and social media presence. This will initially be a year-long freelance post, but with a view to continuing longer-term. Please get in touch at glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk if this is something you would like to find out more about.

And be ready for the next edition of the Gazette as it will have a fresh new face, aligning with its fresh new online presence!

DO YOU LIKE GETTING OUT AND ABOUT? DO YOU HAVE A FEW SPARE HOURS EVERY TWO MONTHS?

We are looking for someone to deliver the Glenkens Gazette to outlying homes throughout the Glenkens.

Delivery is required every two months for a year and we estimate 30 hrs work (delivery to be carried out over the first week of gazette publish date). We can offer £10 p/h plus fuel costs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
GLENKENSgazette@HOTMAIL.CO.UK
 OR CALL 01644 420374

GLENKENS COMMUNITY & ARTS TRUST
GLENKENS GAZETTE

Job Vacancies
 supporting Glenkens Youth provision

Youth Development Worker
 7 hours per week @ £15 p/hour

Youth Work Assistant
 3 hours per week @ £11 p/hour

Jan - May 2023 with possibility for extension
 For details and job description please see
www.newgallowaytownhall.com or email
newgallowaytownhall@gmail.com

LING
 Local Initiatives in New Galloway

Foundation Scotland

Blair Templeton
 Remedial Massage and Mobilisation Therapies

www.blairtempleton.com
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messagebt@outlook.com
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 19 Townhead Crescent, Dalry, DG7 3UR

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
 Submit events, activities, news stories, cartoons, reviews, tips & techniques, fiction, photos, ads or ideas... Contact Sarah Ade on
 07727 127 997 or glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk
FEB/MAR COPY DEADLINE: 5 JAN

CREATIVE LAND
 natural power

LEARN
 The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

The Scottish Government
 LOTTERY FUNDED

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.