

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

February/March 2023

ISSUE 134

FREE

Community Push to Revive Glenkens Sports MUGA

A community bid is being made to bring a sports pitch back to life.

A steering group of Dalry Community Properties Trust is looking to take on the multi-use games area (MUGA) near the school.

This would enable the use of the facility - which has been closed for over eight years due to the growth of moss and algae on the surface - by local groups, schools, individuals and businesses.

Sarah Ade from the group said: "We have had a great response from the communities of the Glenkens to our shout-out asking who would use the MUGA. For a successful application for transfer of the space from D&G Council to community ownership we have to illustrate a strong case for community use and community benefit. The feedback we have had will lend the application a lot of weight. There have been suggestions ranging from wheelchair basketball to walking football to tennis and e-bike training. The space is really versatile, and the community are once again excited to be able to make use



Members of the community along with some of the Dalry Secondary School basketball team in front of the Glenkens MUGA © Jim McEwan/The Galloway News

of one of our key Glenkens assets.

"We have a really active group of young people who play basketball and it would be a brilliant place for them to practise. The school has a basketball team which would utilise the space, as well as using it for other sports."

Becca Nelson, the new Glenkens Asset Network Facilitator, said: "I'm

delighted to see the groundswell of support for getting the MUGA back into use as a community facility, and am looking forward to supporting the team of volunteers in their efforts to achieve this."

Anyone who would like to comment on what the pitch could be used for should email glenkens-muga@outlook.com

Biosphere Team Set Sights on Dalry as Eco Office Site

The Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere's plans for a sustainable office space at St John's Town of Dalry are gaining momentum.

Architects from Prospus Group, who have a base in Dumfries, have been appointed and work on the Biosphere's new hub will begin in the first half of 2023. The site earmarked for the development is

0.3 Ha of council-owned land at Underhill, which would be leased to the Biosphere over 20 years.

In accordance with UNESCO's sustainability ethos, the office will be a low carbon building sympathetic to the natural environments in and around Dalry, with a light 'footprint' on the ground.

As well as creating a workplace to house the Biosphere's team of eleven full-time staff, options to create meeting rooms, exhibition space and co-working areas that local people can access are also being explored.

Continued on p10...

Tenants Face Glenkens Eviction

Nine tenants in private rented accommodation in the Glenkens have been given notice to quit.

News was confirmed as the *Gazette* went to print. The owners of the Kenmure Steadings south of New Galloway have announced they are selling six properties. The tenants, some of whom have lived on the site for over 20 years, have been told that they have eight to twelve weeks to find somewhere else to live. New Galloway & Kells Community Council is writing to the landlord seeking a meeting to discuss the issue. The *Gazette* will carry further details in the next edition.

See other housing news pages 8 & 9...

Carsphairn Primary School Receives Temporary Reprieve

Following the recent consultation for closure of Carsphairn Primary, Dumfries & Galloway Council's Learning and Education Directorate is recommending that the Education Committee vote on 28 March to continue the current mothballed status for up to two years.

Carsphairn Community Council (CCC) question the period of two years which appears not to follow the relevant clauses of the Education Act 2010.

Although CCC are cautiously pleased that a case could not be made to close the school at this

time, mothballing rather than re-opening the school means that children who wish to learn at their local school will continue to be forced to travel to Dalry.

This means a potential journey of 20 miles to Dalry and back in all weathers, if resident in the Upper Deugh valley, where it is currently likely a primary school child will settle in the near future.

Liz Holmes, chair of CCC, said: "We are glad that firstly the schools inspector who assessed the closure report felt that the case for closure had not been adequately made, and secondly that the Learning and Education Directorate seem to have recognised that Carsphairn's affordable housing project, led by the South of Scotland Community Housing group and aimed at regeneration of Carsphairn community, should bring young families with children to settle in Carsphairn.

"These children will have the undeniable right to be educated in their local school in their local community [not one at least ten miles away]."

CCC would like to thank all the residents, parents, and pupils who took the time to respond to the consultation, and who demonstrated overwhelming support to re-open the school. They would like to remind Carsphairn-based **families who are completing forms to enrol their children in school/nursery to place Carsphairn School as their first choice** on the form, despite its current mothballed status, as this clearly shows the desire for the school to re-open.

Liz continued: "CCC will continue working with the community and D&G Council to try and save the school, encourage more young families to move to Carsphairn and help us to ensure the long term sustainability of our community."

Ever Considered a Career in Childminding?

If so, could 2023 be the year to make it happen?

There is currently an exciting opportunity for residents of the Glenkens looking to set up as childminders. Eligible candidates will be supported in becoming registered childminders by accessing a host of free benefits including:

- Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) induction support programme
- Tailored and personal support sessions from SCMA's dedicated Childminding Development Support Officers
- SCMA policy toolkit comprising guidance and templates
- Start-up package of training courses: Business Side of Childminding, Child Protection in a Childminding Setting and Parental Involvement

- On completion of registration with the Care Inspectorate and HMRC, a £1,000 start-up grant

You can find out more about the process at a no-commitment Information Event at the Smiddy in Balmacellan on 27 Feb – just drop in any time between 4-6pm to meet

SCMA staff and find out more. Creche facilities will be available.

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust's Connecting in Communities (CiC) team is supporting the SCMA in this campaign, as part of their grant from the Blackcraig Community Benefit Fund. You can stay abreast with what's happening through their website at www.gcat.scot, the CiC Facebook, by email at jo@catstrand.com or keep your eyes peeled for posters around the Glenkens for more details.

*Fiona Limbrey,
Connecting in Communities*



Spring Flower Fundraiser

SWSRnR, a charity raising funds to support veterans back into work, is trying to sell 2,500 spring flowers to raise £5,000.

Robin Hood, who runs the charity, said: "D&G Council has given me a shop in Midsteeple, Dumfries, rent-free until Easter to help me sell the plants - I've sold almost 200 in total so far. Raising £5,000 would fund two HGV licenses for unemployed local veterans, enabling them to get back into work."

You may have come across Robin undertaking his other main fundraising activity of pulling charity mascot Jock, a giant wooden statue of a soldier, around the country.

"Over the last seven years I have pulled our mascot over 2,000 miles, and the money raised has got 68 veterans back into work," says Robin.

So if you happen to be shopping in Dumfries town centre, why not swing by the Midsteeple for some lovely spring flowers in support a worthy cause.

THE GLENKENS HUB

After an exciting few months in development, the new 'Glenkens Hub' website and social media channels are moving into a testing phase prior to launch in the spring.

They will be an evolution and an amplification of the familiar *Gazette* print editions, bringing you regular digital updates on local news,

weather and areas of interest to Glenkens and district residents. In addition, the website will have a Glenkens-wide events calendar, where organisations can upload upcoming events and activities, plus notifications of local jobs, volunteering opportunities and housing needs. It will also host a wealth of local interest articles, some gleaned from the *Gazette* back-catalogue and some kindly donated by the Galloway Glens Scheme. So all in all, your one-stop-shop for all things Glenkens!

To help make this happen, we have

recruited Gail Challis to the role of Glenkens Hub digital editor, supporting Sarah Ade in her ongoing role of *Glenkens Gazette* editor. Gail lives outside Carsphairn, where she is very active in the community and has a wealth of experience of creating and running community websites. Sarah and Gail will be working behind the scenes through February and March to get the website and social media channels ready for their launch with the April/May edition of the *Gazette*. We're also taking the opportunity to spruce up the *Gazette* brand.

This Glenkens Hub

project has been made possible by funding from the Blackcraig Wind Farm community benefit fund, administered by the Glenkens & District Trust and Foundation Scotland, and from the Galloway Glens Scheme. Thanks go to them as well as to the *Gazette* sub-committee, who keep the *Gazette* on the straight and narrow and have been invaluable in the development of this further project. The Glenkens Hub was inspired by the request of the communities as part of the Glenkens and District Community Action Plan and we hope that you find it both enjoyable and informative – just like the *Gazette*!

Gail said: "I'm delighted to be on board and excited to be able to deliver a much needed communication hub for the Glenkens. In the next few weeks we'll be starting beta testing to make sure everything works as it should ahead of the launch in April, when we'll be asking readers to try out the site and give us feedback."

For more information or to help with the beta testing phase you can contact Gail on glenkenshub@hotmail.com

Helen Keron, Glenkens Community & Arts Trust Executive Manager



Gazette Editor, Sarah Ade (left) with newly appointed Glenkens Hub Digital Editor, Gail Challis.

Crossmichael Cosy Corner

Situated in Crossmichael Church Hall, the Cosy Corner is now open every Tuesday afternoon from 1pm until 5pm, providing a warm and welcoming place to spend the afternoon, meet people, make new friends and enjoy reading, chatting and playing board games.

Free beverages and a biscuit await and everyone is welcome, whatever their age or interests.

Volunteers are keen to get people involved, so do drop in and stay for as long or short a time as you want. And if you have any ideas about anything else the Cosy Corner could do to support the community, we would love to hear from you.

For any further information please phone 07889 016 963.

Anne Carstairs





At Connecting in Communities (CiC) we have completed our community consultation into future plans to connect the communities of the Glenkens through fun and exciting initiatives.

I was delighted to meet more than 100 people from the communities of the Glenkens, all giving their views and comments on how they see community work in the Glenkens in 2023 and beyond. This feedback will be collated into a Glenkens Review Community Report - watch this space!

Also, this month the CatStrand will have the first of what will become regular outreach sessions from **Citizens Advice** Scotland where you can get confidential advice on everything from how to read a smart meter to help with bills and what benefits you may be entitled to.

In other news, CiC are pleased to announce a flurry of new activities for 2023. You can find a full timetable of activities for Feb/Mar on page 29, but

just to whet your appetite here is a taste of what's on offer...

A monthly **Spanish Dance** class where you can develop skills while keeping fit learning the flamboyant and fascinating steps associated with Spanish dance.

Breeze **Cycle Rides** for ladies and their children is launching on the last Saturday in March; we are delighted to be collaborating with British Cycling 'Let's Ride' to bring this exciting opportunity to the Glenkens.

Another new introduction to our programme is a **monthly Tea Dance** with music ranging from the 1940s to the 1980s. Our entertainer will provide music and songs to dance to through the decades, so dust off your dancing shoes and get in touch to book your place on the dance floor.

A **monthly Games Night** at the CatStrand starts on Friday 24 February, where the bar will also be open. There will also be indoor boules, board games and card games for friends and families to enjoy, relax and do something different together in a welcoming, warm space. No need to book for this evening of fun social games, just turn up on the night.

Last but not least, coming in before the curtain falls, is our newly-formed Glenkens Community Drama Club. The club has two dramatic

opportunities; firstly, meeting twice monthly in a 'Warm Space' at the CatStrand auditorium to take part in fun drama games and activities and share light refreshments supported by the Co-op. No previous experience is necessary to take part in this informal and friendly club, which is open to all aged 18+.

Then the **Glenkens Community Drama Group** opens its doors to parents and carers with primary school aged children, meeting on the last Sunday of the month at The Smiddy in Balmaclellan. An engaging family atmosphere lends itself to the art of theatre making through fun and informal drama games. This is an ideal opportunity to engage in the important social activity of play and make-believe in a supportive, informal and welcoming environment.

Thank you to all our activity leaders and attendees for their enthusiasm and commitment to help make our events so successful, and thank you as well to our funders, the Big Lottery and the Blackcraig Wind Farm, for supporting our efforts in this.

The Glenkens Food Month partnership have begun planning an exciting feast of events for September 2023 - if you're interested in being involved, or have some ideas, pop along on 6 February to Balmaclellan Village Hall at 6pm or get in touch with Lisa.

For further information on any of the above please get in touch on lisa@catstrand.com or 01644 420 374 - I look forward to hearing from you!

Lisa Ridley, GCAT Connecting in Communities Team Leader

Dalry Good Neighbours Club

Good Neighbours groups have a long history in Dalry; it started as The '73 Club, which went on to become Guid Neighbours, then it faded out and resurfaced in the 90s as the Good Neighbours Club.

In its last incarnation it was a very popular group with people coming from as far afield as Laurieston, Crossmichael, Carsphairn, Balmaclellan and New

Galloway as well as, of course, from Dalry.

The group would like to thank the Glenkens Community Shop for a grant towards the initial rent of the venue for their sessions, which will run at the Glenkens Community Centre on Tuesday afternoons from 2-4pm.

With a varied programme promised over the coming weeks and months, why not come along and join in the fun - have a chat and a cuppa, make new friends and catch up with old ones. Watch out for our yellow posters around the Glenkens advertising the coming programme of events. Have you any suggestions for an afternoon session? We are all ears!

There are possibilities for transport to be provided back to Balmaclellan and New Galloway if needed, as public

transport could be used to get to Dalry by 2pm - just enquire (there would be a small charge for this service).

For more information please contact Sarah on 07500 861 041 or Michelle on 07795 613 148.

Some of the activities happening at the Dalry Good Neighbours Club in February are:

Tuesday 7 - Games Afternoon

Tuesday 14 - Kate Kaye; Memories of Childhood Holidays Spent in Dalry

Tuesday 21 - Eddie McGaw; Talk and DVD on his Missions to Give Aid to Kids in Kenya

Tuesday 28 - Who/What do you think this is? Photo Quiz

There will be tea, coffee, biscuits and chatter every week - hope to see you soon!

Sarah McAdam

Remembering Jamie Blore

Shopkeeper Jamie Blore served the local community for over 32 years before passing unexpectedly at his home in Mossdale on 20 August 2022.

Jamie's journey began in the Midlands, raised by a loving family. Shortly after leaving school, he started work with British Telecom. This led to a formative year working in Norway, a land which he would love for the rest of his days. From here, Jamie took a position as executive engineer in Birmingham Sorting Office for the Royal Mail. It was this part of his story that introduced him to his beloved partner, Annie.

After 25 years' work with the Post Office, Jamie desired a better quality of life. He took voluntary redundancy, which opened the door for Annie and himself to travel north, rooting themselves in the picturesque village of Mossdale in 1989. The village would become their "little piece of heaven", which Jamie would cherish and nourish for the rest of his days.

Jamie, his family, his shop, and his

community; this was his world, one of kindness and kinship. A warm welcome would greet all who met him, whether stopping to buy from the shop or asking directions, he always had time to chat and help. People short on change, or in need, would be comforted by Jamie's reminder they can take what they need, and drop the money off next time.

Jamie went above and beyond, whether keeping people informed about power shortages, sorting out stray cows, lost dogs, broken down cars, the list was endless. To Jamie nothing was too much trouble, just part of the service. For many years, he was an active member of the village hall committee, dedicating his time to nurture and protect one of the village's most important assets.

Anyone passing through Mossdale would be greeted by a smile and a wave, regardless of whether he was cutting grass or blissfully enjoying his paradise.

Jamie leaves behind his beloved partner Annie, and their two children Emma and Dylan. The family thank you for the love and support that continues to bring them much comfort.

Jamie touched many lives and will



be missed dearly. Whether a friend or a stranger, if you were lucky enough to meet him, you will have glimpsed kindness and community in its purest form.

Dylan Blore

In Memory of Clive Brayshaw

**Clive Reginald
Brayshaw MBE:
1943–2022**

Clive Brayshaw, of The Hill, Balmaclellan, died in November last year after a short illness.

A Major in the Royal Artillery, who was awarded an MBE following a difficult tour of Northern Ireland in the 1970s, Clive first lived in Morayshire after retiring from the Army.

After meeting Jane Douglas through their joint involvement with SSAFA, they married in 2000 and settled in the Glenkens.

He had a successful picture framing business and was also much involved in the community, including both the local churches.

Having trained as a Lay Preacher when in Morayshire, he became

a regular reader at St Margaret's New Galloway (Scottish Episcopal Church) and he served for many years on their Vestry, including a stint as Vestry Secretary.

He also attended services at Balmaclellan Kirk and for many years led the Remembrance Sunday commemoration at the Balmaclellan War Memorial.

He had a keen sense of humour (visitors arriving at The Hill are greeted by a sign saying 'Caution – you are now leaving the nanny state') and he and Jane were renowned for their generous hospitality and kindness to friends, neighbours and newcomers to the area.

*taken from the
Eulogy by William Douglas*



Meeting Our Glenkens Councillors

John Denerley, Scottish Conservative & Unionist

Local Councillor John Denerley has said a huge "thank you" to everyone who voted for him in the council elections on 5 May 2022.

Reflecting on his election, John said: "It was a real pleasure getting to meet so many local people over the election campaign, and to understand the issues most important to you. It is a privilege to be the first deaf Conservative Party member elected in the UK using British Sign Language, and I am humbled and grateful to be given the opportunity to serve my local community having lived here for 20 years."

John wants to make positive changes to the local area helping to make

greener and sustainable decisions for future generations. He continues: "I care about the things that make the Dee and Glenkens ward so special and promise to be an active and accessible Councillor for everyone. I will be holding regular surgeries so anyone who wants to meet face-to-face to discuss any local issues can do so easily and I can also be easily contacted at any time by phone or email. If I can ever be of any assistance, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with me using the contact details."

"I believe that we need to bring more jobs to our communities through improved transport infrastructure and better communications. It is time that Dee and Glenkens got the support it deserves from all levels of Government, and I will work hard to ensure we get our fair share of backing which will allow us to prosper."



If you'd like to get in touch with Councillor Denerley please phone 07721 507 134 or email john.denerley@dumgal.gov.uk for an appointment.

New Priest for St Margaret's

The Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, the Right Revd Kevin Pearson, has officially announced the appointment of the Revd Dawn Matthew as joint Priest-in-Charge of St Margaret's New Galloway and All Saints' Challoch.

Dawn and her husband Nick will be moving into the Rectory in New Galloway in early February and, following the Licensing Services on 18th, she will start her public ministry at the end of the month.

Both Vestries are delighted with the news and are looking forward to welcoming Dawn and Nick to their congregations and communities.

Dawn says, "I am very much looking forward to moving to the Glenkens and working with both churches to serve God together in our communities; sharing our faith and loving others as God loves us. With my husband Nick, and our family, we are excited to be moving to Dumfries and Galloway, a part of Scotland that has become very dear to our hearts over the past few years. We have visited many times in our VW Campervan!" Dawn's interests include music, walking, wild swimming and home-baking.

Bishop Kevin says, "We are happy to welcome Dawn into the life of our Diocese after her service to the people of St John the Evangelist, Hinckley, in the Leicester Diocese, where she led



them through the pandemic experience with wisdom, prayerfulness and calm pragmatism. Her experience of community engagement and managing community projects will be of value to us all."

A Tale o' Guid Friday and Ayont

The world premiere of a newly-composed choral work will take place on Easter weekend in Dalry Church.

Geoff Davidson, former BBC singer and London-based musician, has written a Passion recounting the Death of Jesus of Nazareth which relates the story from the arrest in Gethsemane to his death on Calvary. A second part

recounts the resurrection story.

The Glenkens Church Choir will underpin the action with local baritone Robert Lind playing Jesus and, in the second part, Nicola Junor plays Mary Magdalene. Stalwart of Dumfries Musical Theatre Company, Roy Stairmand, speaks the part of the evangelist who tells the story, and Dr Simon Davidson plays Pontius Pilate.

The performance will be on Saturday 8 April at 7.30pm, and is conducted by Geoff Davidson. Geoff describes the

music as dramatic, vivid, emotionally-charged and moving with "big" tunes, with his orchestrations contained in two Yamaha keyboards.

The text is taken from William Lorimer's Scots translations of the gospels which are gutsy, raw and, at times, unbearably sad.

Entrance to this unique event will be free but there will be a collection on exit for the church's charity, the Abbas Rest Orphanage in Malawi.

Geoff Davidson

BUSINESS in the SPOTLIGHT



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My intention with every person who comes to see me for massage is to be side-by-side with you on your unique journey towards personal wellness and health.

My own journey with massage began in October 2001; having experienced historical sports injuries, car crashes and chronic pain for years, I was asking myself how I could recover enough to enjoy life - or was this

painful existence simply my fate?!

To cut a long story short, I decided to look 'outside the box' and this new perspective resulted in me completing a Remedial Massage Course in Bury at The Northern Institute of Massage (a highly-regarded teaching institution). I gained knowledge and hands-on training from renowned professionals and opened my mind and body to a world where meaningful improvements, and sometimes recovery, were possible.

In 2015, after sensing an inner desire to upskill, I went back to The Northern Institute and completed their Advanced Remedial Massage Course.

This experience not only transformed my practice as a Massage Therapist, but it also helped change me as a person. I gained advanced knowledge and techniques from experts at the top of British and Japanese Massage, British Physiotherapy, and Osteopathy. Having honed my professional massage and mobilisation practice, my intention in every session is to better understand your problems and the relevant barriers to healing, and to listen to your personal goals.

I have expanded my toolkit to include professional mobilisation techniques, turning what would be

a deeply relaxing massage into an actively therapeutic experience where more complex injuries and trauma are addressed.

To my mind, moderate to severe pain is not a requirement of massage, nor to the healing process; where there is excess pain there is contraction and mistrust, leading to resistance.

My philosophy is to do no harm and to foster safety and trust where we collaborate on what occurs in every session. I am aware that not everyone who presents for massage can fully heal and recover: each person is unique and some of you are learning to live with chronic or progressive conditions/injuries. What I can promise is that within our therapeutic partnership, we will optimise your capabilities and perhaps even exceed your previous expectations of what your body/mind system can achieve.

As I continue in my professional practice, learning something new every day, I hope to keep helping people from all walks and stages of life to heal and relax. This ability to deeply relax is, for some of us, a neglected skill and a key element in long-term recovery, health, and wellbeing.

*Alongside you,
Blair*

For contact details see below...

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The right sort of housing is crucial to any thriving community, and underpins many of our aspirations for the Glenkens.

Despite the current challenges, there are lots of exciting plans afoot for community housing all across the area - come along to a Housing Forum at 7.30pm on Thursday 9 February at The Smiddy, Balmacellan, to hear about those plans and what other communities have done with new builds and retro-fits.

South of Scotland Community Housing (SoSCH) will be there to report back on the Housing Needs Survey that the Glenkens & District Trust commissioned, and the Pamela Young Trust will be there too. Come along to find out more and share any ideas/thoughts you have!

*Helen Keron,
Executive Manager, GCAT*

Shout-out for Sites

Do you own land or redundant buildings in and around Carsphairn?

If so, South of Scotland Community Housing (SOSCH) would like to hear from you! SOSCH are at present working with Carsphairn Community Council to identify buildings and sites which may be considered suitable to develop community-owned affordable housing for local needs. To assess need and demand for affordable housing in Carsphairn, the Carsphairn Housing Survey is open and will close mid-February. Please follow the link to the survey to complete: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CarsphairnSurvey

If you have buildings or land you may consider would be of interest, then you can leave your contact details on the survey form and SOSCH will be in touch.

If you would like to discuss further, please get in touch with Alison Gordon at SOSCH on alison.sosch@outlook.com or 07743446721. For further information on community-led affordable housing please visit www.sosch.org

HOME WANTED IN THE GLENKENS

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
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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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Technically Homeless

Back in late June, mud oozes up, covering my spangled sandals and sliding between my toes.

Rain pours steadily down on us – my two oldest daughters and me.

Despite the weather, there's excitement in us, bubbling up.

"I really think this might be the place, Mum."

"We could be happy here."

"This is it!"

Their voices ring out, full of expectation. I peek out from under the hood of my rain coat. Looming above us – Queen

Mary's Castle. It's crumbling and roofless, and, coming out of the rain, it looks dark and uninviting.

"What, here??" I'm a bit more of a realist.

"No! Not here, exactly. Just this area."

We've come to Dumfries and Galloway to scout out the schools. Spent the last few days touring all the high schools, all dressed up – hoping the children might find one they want to go to, and we can leave the endless car-park concrete expanse of Aberdeen. And two hours before we drive back up the road, we came to Dalry High School. Note to self – must type in 'St. Johns Town of' before the name Dalry as I almost booked in to see a wee place in Edinburgh. This might become slightly irritating when using Google, but I am willing to overlook it.

They loved Dalry Secondary School. Both did. I was a bit sceptical at first glance but clearly one shouldn't judge a place on the vintage of its pebble dash alone. The headmaster was welcoming and relaxed and spoke about the pros and cons of a small rural school. He showed us round and when we realised it was actually impossible to get lost, my eldest got really excited. All those fears that have haunted the final year of primary school vanished and she was relaxed and interested. I could see she was going to be able to learn here and grow into a strong young person. I could see the teachers were good, and the other children looked curious and shy as

we poked our heads into each classroom in turn.

"Do you have somewhere to live then?" asked the headmaster. Well no not yet, not exactly – my parents live out near Dalbeattie, in the same familiar farmhouse I grew up in and we're going to move in there, just for a few weeks. It's easier to house hunt when you're local, instead of spending hours trawling the internet from Aberdeen. There wasn't a lot online anyway so I figured housing and jobs are done the rural way here – word of mouth and connections. My Dad used to have an office in Dalry – he was

We could buy a nice big campervan and live in it. Except its minus seven degrees outside and we're just not THAT hardy. We could wait for a council house. Except we're eligible for a house with five bedrooms and there isn't one.

the ranger for the Southern Upland Way for years – maybe he knows of some folk I can ask. Anyway, I was confident that we'd find somewhere to live. The writhing flapping problem of finding a good (not terrifying) high school was surely more of a challenge and that had turned out to be quite easily solved.



And so here we are, seven months later. Still looking for a place to live. We still stay in the crumbling farmhouse where I grew up with my parents, whose whole lives have been invaded by four grandchildren, a cat with six kittens and two dogs who chase the resident pet rabbits. All sorts of bad things have happened to the MUD situation in the yard now that there are four cars

manoeuvring daily. We have spent our time phoning estate agents, farmers, land owners, writing to people and responding to tip offs – "it's a bit of a long shot but..."

And the answer is always "no". No housing. Nothing to rent. Doesn't meet the government standards. Your family is JUST TOO BIG. It's not that I feel unwelcome – people are friendly and good and seem to want us to stay. There just isn't anywhere. Carsphairn School is mothballed, and no children can swoop in and save it. Because they'd effectively be homeless. I was told about a wee

place – it's for sale though, not to rent. It's not too expensive. I think £365,000 was the asking price but it's been about for a while so they might take less...

Well. If I only had a couple

of pennies to rub together. Or maybe a few hundred thousand pounds. Or a flat to sell, in London. But I don't. I've got an SVQ in health and social care and my partner is a gardener but flashing those papers doesn't get you a mortgage anymore. We both have work so that's something. We could pay rent on a place – quite easily. If there was one.

We could squeeze into that tiny little place in New Galloway, except they don't take dogs (who'd get a dog!?). We could buy a nice big campervan and live in it. Except its minus seven degrees outside and we're just not THAT hardy. We could wait for a council house. Except we're eligible for a house with five bedrooms and there isn't one. Anything under five bedrooms would be overcrowding because of the ages and genders of the children (I'm told). I thought gender was a thing of the past anyway. I'm told by the Stewartry Homeless Officer that rental properties are like pigeon's eye teeth.

So herewith a plea to someone – I don't even know who. The first minister? A local councillor perhaps. Or a secret stash of

cash. Or a small organisation or idea for generating change. Please build some houses. Affordable. To rent. Or renovate something, anything. A barn, a shack, a hovel. And please change the laws back, so landlords can rent their properties again. We could really do with a home. And we would really like to live in the Glenkens. And we're not the only ones...

Harriet Whitty



Out and About in the Biosphere

Continued from front page...

The Biosphere is committed to keeping the local community involved in the office design and development as it continues through the year and will be hosting a drop-in session on Wednesday 8 February at Dalry, with the opportunity to view potential architectural designs, speak to the Biosphere's director and officers about the project, and meet representatives from the partners involved.

The land at Underhill area is already used by local dog walkers and children for light recreation but the Biosphere team would like to know more about how locals currently use that space. What are your ideas on how it could be used in the future? How can we celebrate the associations between people and nature? How can we use the UNESCO Biosphere designation to help champion St John's Town of Dalry?

The village has been a designated 'Biosphere Community' since 2019 and already offers so much to visitors looking for a place to stop and explore, including Mulloch and Waterside hills, the Watson Bird Trails and the Southern Upland Way. The Biosphere and project partners are examining how to use Underhill's incredible views across the Glenkens to the Rhinns of Kells (in the core of the Biosphere) to reflect the relationship between people and the land.

Work on access to the office's outdoor space, and the interpretation within, will be led by the Edinburgh-based company Bright; their recent projects include the Rhins of Galloway Coastal Path, the Great Tapestry of Scotland, and public engagement for our neighbouring UNESCO Biosphere at Dublin Bay.

The Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere was awarded £1.9 million in funding by South of Scotland Enterprise in 2020 to support the next five years of operations, a relationship that continues in the office project. The planning application for the development at Underhill will be submitted to Dumfries & Galloway Council in the spring, with activity



to commence on the ground soon afterwards if permission is approved.

The Biosphere is partnering with St John's Town of Dalry Community Council to ensure consultation on the office project continues to be as accessible as possible to local people, who are invited to get in touch with either organisation at any time with queries or concerns. Public consultation will be facilitated both in-person and online in the weeks and months ahead, beginning with a drop-in session on 8th February from 2pm onwards in Dalry Town Hall. All residents are warmly invited to attend.

Morag Paterson, on behalf of the Community Council, says: "We are looking forward to working with the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

as they bring their plans forward to create a headquarters in the centre of Dalry. Having the offices of a UNESCO organisation in our village should be a real boost, both for locals and visitors to the area."

Ed Forrest, the Biosphere's director, says: "Our Partnership Board, officers and I are delighted to be moving forward with our new eco-office in the Biosphere's 10th anniversary year. It's an exciting time for our region as sustainability comes to the fore in public policy, private enterprise, and tourism initiatives such as Scotland's UNESCO Trail. It's also an incredibly challenging time, in terms of land use, economic wellbeing, and keeping our communities connected and our heritage alive. We sincerely hope

the Biosphere's presence in St John's Town of Dalry will provide active, tangible support in all these areas for many, many years to come."

More information about Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere is available at www.gsabiosphere.org.uk

For any queries about the office development or public engagement process, please contact the Biosphere via info@gsabiosphere.org.uk or the Community Council via sjtdalrycc@gmail.com

Pictured: Left- the area covered by the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. Top - the Biosphere team.



Thinking Differently About Our Forests

In a world of consultations, feedback deadlines and community engagement, trees can sometimes be seen as a bewildering topic.

The Fantastic Forest Festival is a chance to approach the question of tree cover from new perspectives. How do we interact with trees, what benefits do they give us, what are the more intangible connections we have with our woodlands?

The festival consists of 11 public events, supported by a Leeming & Paterson Artist's Residency and a strand of school-based activities. These combine to give an opportunity for people of all interests and ages a chance to think differently about trees, forests and woodlands in Galloway.

The events include the chance to hear from tree champions, such as the author Guy Shrubsole who will be talking on 15 February about his search for the Lost Rainforests of Britain. Separately, Peter Norman from South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre and Malcolm Hadow from the Biosphere both have events that explore the recording and identification of local indicator species – trees and more – helping attendees increase their tree knowledge and contribute their findings to the wildlife records.

The Glenkens premiere of *Riverwoods: An Untold Story* in the Catstrand on 8 February is a chance to watch this award winning and highly acclaimed film telling the story of Atlantic

Salmon and the complex relationship between fish and forest. This will be followed by a panel discussion from experts and enthusiasts about the main themes in the film, with a chance to put your questions to the panel.

On the 24 February, Dalry Town Hall hosts an event called 'Imagining our Future Woodlands' which seeks to push further on the question of what we need from Galloway's future woodlands. This event is led by GCAT's 'Watson Bird' project and will bring together a range of local and national experts to consider our local issues in the context of national policy.

Throughout the festival, Leeming & Paterson will be leading an Artists' residency, exploring creative ways of engaging widely on the topic of woodlands in Galloway, outside the normal engagement channels. This includes two artist-led walks on 28 January and 26 February. Aside from these events, look out for postcards and opportunities to input across the Glenkens and surrounding area.



I am excited by what is in store. It feels like a chance to remind ourselves why we like trees and the range of services and benefits they provide. Galloway is playing a very important part in the national land use and commercial planting discussions. I hope one outcome of the festival is that a wider range of

people engage in this discussion and we all feel able to have a say on the future for trees in Galloway.

The events are being organised by a wide range of partners, see poster on the next page for details. To find more information and to book your tickets, search www.eventbrite.co.uk for 'Galloway Glens'.

See you there...

McNabb Laurie



Fantastic Forest Festival

IMAGINING OUR FUTURE WOODLANDS

A RANGE OF PARTNERS ARE COMING TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE FORESTS AND WOODLANDS OF GALLOWAY. HOW CAN WE BETTER UNDERSTAND AND ENGAGE WITH THE TREES IN OUR LANDSCAPE - THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE!

27 January	Launch of Festival & Exhibition in CatStrand	Launching the festival and an exhibition of work by Donald Watson & Leeming & Paterson which will be on display at the Catstrand for the coming month. 7.00pm @ Catstrand, no tickets required. Drinks & nibbles upon arrival.
28 January	Can't See the Woods for the Trees	A friendly gathering with creative conversations and artist talks from Leeming & Paterson, exploring our woodland habitats. 10am-1pm @ Balmaclellan Smiddy. See Eventbrite for full info + book ticket.
04 February	The Biosphere's Most Wanted	Learn about the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere's Most Wanted Project which aims to use citizen science to record local rarities using our phones, followed by a step-by-step tutorial and demonstration on how to use the iNaturalist app. 10.00-11.30 @ Dalry Town Hall, tickets via Eventbrite
08 February	Riverwoods: Do fish really grow on trees...	After watching the critically acclaimed and award-winning film together, an expert panel will discuss and answer any questions. 7.30pm film starts @ Catstrand, tickets via Eventbrite.
11 February	Investigating Galloway's Native Woodland	An introduction to the native woods of Galloway for anyone who would like to get involved in their conservation, whether through recording their wildlife, researching their history or campaigning for their protection. Presented by Peter Norman from SWSEIC. 10am-12noon, followed by a walk. Tickets via eventbrite.
15 February	The Lost Rainforests of Britain	Guy Shrubsole, author of 'Lost Rainforests of Britain' talks about his recent work and why the word 'rainforest' matters. 7.30pm, Online event, tickets via Eventbrite.
18 February	'Spruce Plucking' World Championships	If Spruce self-seeds in the wrong place, could it be plucked? A fun opportunity to get out onto the hillside, irrespective of the weather. See channels for more info. Starting 2pm, See Galloway Glens channels channels for more info and how to take part!
22 February	National Trust for Scotland: 'Treetastic' at Threave Nature Reserve	A day celebrating Trees on the Threave Nature Reserve, home to the Threave Landscape Restoration Project. Winter Tree ID workshop, creative tree crafts, tree folklore and storytelling, a tree trail, and tree planting. 10am-3.30pm. £3.50 per person, booking via 'Threave Garden and Estate' on eventbrite.
22 February	The Future of Woodlands in Dumfries & Galloway	How has Southern Scotland's tree cover changed through history, why our woodlands were originally established and how this is changing. 7.30pm, Hybrid event – in Balmaclellan Smiddy or Online, tickets via Eventbrite.
24 February	Imagining our Future Woodlands	Join us for conversations with a variety of different voices and communities of interest – local and national - as we consider Galloway's future woodland interests and ambitions. 10.30-3pm @ Dalry Town Hall, tickets via Eventbrite.
26 February	A Walk in the Woods	An artist-led, immersive walk in the woodlands with Leeming & Paterson, with a chance to look back at the activity of the festival. 10am-1pm, tickets via Eventbrite.

ALL TICKETS FOUND ON **EVENTBRITE.CO.UK** BY SEARCHING '**GALLOWAY GLENS**', UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

A partnership initiative, including:



Leeming & Paterson



Fantastic Forest Festival

EXPRESS YOURSELF & BE PART OF THE FESTIVAL

The Fantastic Forest Festival is an event for everyone and we would really like to hear from as many people, of all ages, as possible. Every idea is important to us and we would love to hear your voice. Let's make a noise!

TAKING PART IS EASY

Simply let us know, in words and pictures, your thoughts in the space above. The following prompts may help but anything goes

- ✿ *Imagine your perfect future Forest – for nature, climate and people*
- ✿ *How do different types of woodland, or individual trees, make you feel?*

EXPRESS YOURSELF - Individual words, poems, statements, pictures, paintings, graffiti ...anything goes. Go wild. Use your imagination!!! Everything you think of is valid and all thoughts will be completely anonymous.

Our artists in residence, Ted Leeming and Morag Paterson, will use these responses to inspire their final artistic outcomes.

Simply take a photo of this page on your phone including your ideas and email them to fantasticforests@gmail.com

If you prefer to submit your original ideas, please feel free to use a blank sheet of paper and submit it to the boxes we have located in shops and community buildings throughout the Glenkens.

Feedback Sought on Castlemaddy Forest Plan

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) is looking for feedback on its proposed ten-year plans for the forests it looks after in the area south of Carsphairn.

As part of a regular forest management process, FLS is revising the Castlemaddy Land Management Plan (LMP), which covers an area of 2,826 hectares and includes Carminnows, Dundough, Marscalloch and Polmaddy forests.

The long-term vision for the area features a mix of actions that include maintaining sustainable timber production, restoring ancient woodland, managing of the historic environment and conserving biodiversity and water quality.

Carol Finch, FLS Forest Planner, said:

"This is a great opportunity for local people to come along and speak to us about our outline plans for these forests but also for us to get some feedback.

"There are a lot of competing demands on forestry and balancing all of the factors involved is quite a complex process.

"We usually find that local people are always interested to know what is happening in their local forests and it's always good to get their insight and comments on the things that are important to them.

"Hopefully, everyone who has an interest will be able to make it to one of the two 'drop in' events in February and share their thoughts."

The drop-in sessions are booked for **Carsphairn Village Hall on Wednesday**



8 February from 2pm to 8pm, and **Dalry Village Hall on Friday 10 February** from 2pm to 8pm.

Anyone who is unable to attend can look through the documents online and either send any comments or queries to the email address provided, or can complete the survey on the page.



Forestry and
Land Scotland

Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

Tell us about it

We are reviewing the Forest Plan for **Castlemaddie** and we want to know what you think.

What's special about this place?
How do **you** use it?
What do **you** think of our plans?

Please come along to our public drop in



Forestry and
Land Scotland

Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

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We are reviewing the Forest Plan for **Castlemaddie** and we want to know what you think.

What's special about this place?
How do **you** use it?
What do **you** think of our plans?

Please come along to our public drop in



**Wednesday 8th February
2023, 2pm to 6pm
Lagwyne Village Hall
Carsphairn**



forestryandland.gov.scot

**Friday 10th February 2023,
2pm to 6pm
Dalry Village Hall
Dalry**



forestryandland.gov.scot

Carsphairn Community Woodland Look Back on 2022

Thinking back over our first operational year at the community woodland, it has certainly been action packed!

A little over a year ago we commenced work, firstly felling the diseased larch and created a site for the yard and shed. Stone was then laid and the shed went up in March thanks to funding from South of Scotland Enterprise. We took on staff, Andy and Phoenix, who have proved to be a great asset, running the woodfuel enterprise, alongside the many tasks they undertake in the woodland.

The wonderful wildlife hide funded partly by Galloway Glens Scheme (thanks for all your input!) was completed and has been a big hit with everyone.

We have held a number of open days, well supported and showcasing a range of

rural craft workers, various walks and talks and have even managed to fit in a willow weaving workshop and beginners' woodwork classes. More to follow in 2023!

Many thanks to everyone who has supported us; it's been a great year and there are further exciting developments afoot to look forward to in 2023... watch this space and see you all at Muirdrochwood soon!

If you would like to know more or have any suggestions, including workshops you would like to see take place at the community woodland, please email: carsphairncw@gmail.com

To order firewood, details are in the ad below.

The CCW Team



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Eco Feature

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ReConnect Festival

Solutions to Climate Anxiety

ReConnect is a 4-day festival of film, discussion and nature-based workshops, seeking responses and solutions to climate anxiety.

The festival will take place from 2-5 March, and the full programme is available at www.gcat.scot

The 2021 census reported that 75% of adults in Britain feel worried about the impact of climate change. 84% of young people worldwide are concerned about climate change, with over 50% navigating feelings of sadness, anxiety, powerlessness, anger, helplessness or guilt.

These are natural, rational responses to the climate crisis. But they can impact our everyday lives and overwhelm us to a point of inaction, causing us to withdraw from the climate movement during a vital time.

ReConnect Festival aims to address these increasing feelings of climate grief and anxiety, empowering audiences with resilience and a sense of agency in response to the climate crisis. We're particularly interested in exploring the connections between nature connectivity, arts engagement, and personal wellbeing.

We believe a deeper connection with the arts and nature can ground and energise us, strengthening

our sense of self, community and place. This is vital to our personal wellbeing and, in turn, our ability to engage with the climate movement effectively. Thus, at the heart of the festival is a focus on restoring and nurturing connections – to others, to nature, and to ourselves – through a programme of film screenings, discussions and creative nature-based workshops.

The Programme

I hope this can be a really valuable and nurturing weekend for people of all generations, but particularly the young people who are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

We have a really exciting programme planned, with three special film screenings that will allow us to connect with the stories of those on the frontline of the climate crisis. We aim to provide audiences with the tools and space to process their emotional responses to climate change, instilling them with a sense

of agency, empowerment and resilience.

We have joined with Crichton Carbon Centre, Propagate and 2050 Climate Group to bring together a range of post-screening activities including a 'Letters to the Earth' workshop, discussions and a panel of local young climate leaders.

I hope this can be a really valuable and nurturing weekend for people of all generations, but particularly

the young people who are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

Complementing the film programme, we'll have creative nature-based workshops that will encourage us to tap into our imaginations

and reconnect with our natural environment through art.

As a way of encapsulating the spirit of ReConnect we'll be closing the festival with an open mic night, themed around nature, climate change and eco-anxiety. We encourage anyone to come along who has a piece of music, poetry or storytelling which explores their relationship with any of these themes. It's an opportunity to really connect with our creative spirits as a way of navigating our feelings around the climate crisis within a loving, connected environment that will have grown throughout the weekend.

*Phoebe Watt,
CatStrand Visual Arts,
Live Events and Creative
Learning Intern*

Phoebe's internship at GCAT is supported by the Galloway Glens Scheme and The Holyrood Trust.



Glenkens Freecycle

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

FREE

Several dozen willow stems, average length 6ft, ready for planting. Ideal for creating willow fedges, arbors and garden features. **Steel garden bench**, 1.4metres long, requires painting. Contact: 01644 420 267

Office chair, typical style with wheels and various adjustments. Maroon seat and back. **Television/Hifi Table**, 5 Glass shelves with black upright stands.

Approx 110(l) x 45(w) x 75(h)cm. Shelves can be removed. In very good conditions. Contact: Ted on 07887 736 887

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

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

WANTED

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

Chest freezer. Contact: Tony on 07507 704 821

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

Battle of The Bands

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What a year it has been for the Loch Ken Trust!

Our Annual General Meeting was held in November, and it was great to reflect on all our achievements throughout 2022.

The launch of the Loch Ken Plan in May 2022 was a key event for the Trust. The Plan is based around the United Nations Global Goals, and if you haven't had a chance to read it yet you can download online at www.lochken.org.uk/lochkenplan



The Visitor Management and Infrastructure Plan were also major developments.

As one of the first community-led ranger services in Scotland we have ensured that Loch Ken has been better cared for. Our rangers Ken Scott and Leanne Pump have worked hard patrolling the loch and building relationships with loch users and landowners.

Ken Scott retired at the end of October and we would like to thank him for all his great work. Ranger Leanne is continuing with reduced patrols over the winter.

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

This year funding allowed us to hold several events including Climate-Ready Ken, Dark Skies, Leave no Trace and Ranger Cookout.

Funding also allowed loch side, ranger-led education sessions for all the local primary schools which were very well received.

Another highlight of the year was the completion of our defibrillator project. The Loch Ken Trust together with Awards for All have now installed six external defibrillators in heated boxes around the loch.

In September this year we embarked on our environmental baseline assessment study which will include ongoing scientific monitoring for the Loch Ken Trust and the wider community. The studies will also guide the work of the Loch Ken Ranger Service to protect, restore and improve our environment. Watch this space for exciting events and projects scheduled for next year!

2022 also saw the Trust take part in many volunteering projects including helping with the Ken Bridge bicentenary preparations and helping out with a local primary school project.

Lots of training and development has taken place, including a site visit to Loch Lomond to seek advice from an established ranger service.

We have hosted several college and university visits to our beautiful Loch Ken and promoted responsible use of the countryside.

Chairperson Mungo Bryson said: "We are very proud of all that the Loch Ken Trust has achieved in the community over the course of the year, and we would like to thank all our friends and members for their continued support."



Our AGM minutes, chairperson's report and finalised accounts can be viewed at www.lochken.org.uk

We would love YOU to join us! Membership is free and details can be found at www.lochken.org.uk/membership

Pictured: Left - Barney from the Loch Ken Trust with Lisa Simonaitis and the new defibrillator which has been installed at the Forrest Estate. Top - Loch Ken from a kayak (taken by Ken Scott). Below - former Loch Ken Trust Ranger, Ken Scott, running a workshop for local school children.

The Loch Ken Trust Team



The Optimistic Environmentalist

How the Sea Helps Us Breathe: Marine Photosynthesizers

Oxygen makes up 21% of Earth's atmosphere.

Scientists estimate that 50-80% of the oxygen production on Earth comes from the ocean.

The majority of the produced oxygen is from oceanic plankton - drifting plants, algae, and some bacteria that can photosynthesize i.e. they use carbon dioxide, water and energy from the sun to make food for themselves, releasing oxygen in the process. They're invisible to the naked eye, but produce more oxygen than the largest redwoods.

Land plants start appearing in the fossil record 470 million years ago, before dinosaurs, but the ocean was producing oxygen for billions of years before that. The oldest known fossil is from a marine cyanobacterium, a tiny blue-green photosynthesizer that was releasing oxygen 3.5 billion years ago.

Today, another cyanobacterium, *Prochlorococcus*, is the smallest photosynthetic organism on Earth and is the most abundant. It is estimated to be responsible for producing 20%

of the oxygen in the atmosphere. One in every five breaths you take, you owe to *Prochlorococcus* - a higher percentage than all of the tropical rainforests combined.

Amazingly, scientists only discovered this super-abundant photosynthesizer in 1988! Under a microscope, you can peer inside this filamentous red algae. The thin, hair-like filaments are only one cell wide. The pigment phycoerythrin, makes the red colour, and along with green chlorophyll, allows the algae to undergo photosynthesis.



Most marine photosynthesizers have to live in the "photic zone" - the layer at the top of the ocean that is illuminated by sunlight to a depth of about 200 meters (656 ft) below the surface. It's difficult to put a depth limit on it, though, because photosynthesizers keep taking photosynthesis down farther than we thought possible. 886 ft below the ocean's surface, you would barely be able to see light, but a type of red

algae, *Corallinales*, photosynthesizes down there. The red colour of *Corallinales* comes from a pigment which enables it to absorb blue and green light, just about the only light that filters down there.

Calculating the exact percentage of oxygen produced in the ocean is difficult because the amounts are constantly changing. Scientists can use satellite imagery to track marine photosynthesizers. They measure the chlorophyll so estimating the amount of photosynthesis occurring, but this cannot tell the whole story. The amount of plankton changes seasonally and in response to changes in the water's nutrient load, temperature, and other factors.

Studies have shown that the amount of oxygen in specific locations varies with time of day and with the tides.

It's important to remember that although the ocean produces at least 50% of the oxygen on Earth, roughly the same amount is consumed by marine life. As on land, marine animals use oxygen to breathe, and both plants and animals use oxygen for cellular respiration. Oxygen

is also consumed when dead plants and animals decay in the ocean. This is particularly problematic when algal blooms die and the decomposition process uses oxygen faster than it can be replenished. This can create areas of extremely low oxygen concentrations (hypoxia), often called dead zones, because the oxygen levels are too low to support most marine life.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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Dalry School Basketball Team

Dalry Secondary School basketball team was thrilled with the level of community support they received.

The team would like to thank Natural Power Consultants Ltd, the Galloway Glens Scheme and Terry from Lion Removals for their offers of funding. Members are very excited about choosing their kits and hopefully in the next edition of the Gazette they will have arrived and there will be a photo of the team.

Above right is a table showing the Junior League positions - the letters along the top stand for Games Played, Wins, Losses, Points (for wins), Points For (scored in game), Points Against (scored in game) and Points Difference (between points scored and conceded in game).

Liam Fleming, PE Teacher & Coach

Team	GP	W	L	PTS	PF	PA	Diff +/-
Dalry Secondary	2	2	0	4	56	25	+31
Dumfries High School	2	1	1	2	44	42	+2
Kirkcudbright Academy	1	1	0	2	19	9	+10
Castle Douglas HS	3	0	3	6	26	79	-53
Dumfries Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Results

Dumfries HS 16
Dalry Secondary 32

vs
vs

Dalry Secondary 34 (@CDHS)
Castle Douglas 9 (@CDHS)

Upcoming

DS vs KA (@CDHS)
DA vs DS

Experimenting with Light and Colour

Children in Primary 5-7 at Kells Primary School took part in a STEM workshop in which they had a great time investigating light and colour.

The children experimented with red, blue and yellow torches. They enjoyed creating secret messages using colour and were challenged to use several

mirrors to bounce light in six different directions.

Margaret Heuchan



Sewing for Fun



Students from Dalry Secondary have been learning new skills and developing their fine motor skills.

Sewing has taught them about patience in a subtle but very effective way.

Their new skills can also be put to use to help them mend clothes and become more conscious consumers in the future. They can also put their new skills to use to create unique handmade gifts.

Everyone becomes a winner as sewing encourages mindfulness and reduces stress and anxiety.

Pictured are some of the creative uses pupils turned their new sewing skills to.



New Faces at Glenkens Youth Group

LING are pleased to welcome Sarah Kirk as our new Youth Activity and Development Worker, and Ben Wells as Youth Work Assistant for our Glenkens Youth sessions and trips.

Sarah takes over from Olivia Donald, who is heading off to have her first baby – Olivia's done a fantastic job establishing a popular weekly youth meet-up session in the Glenkens for young people aged 11 and over, and delivered a great range of free trips and activities during sessions and in the holidays.

The Glenkens Youth posts are funded until May this year by Blackcraig Windfarm Community Fund administered by Glenkens and District Trust and

Foundation Scotland, with additional funding from the D&G Council Stewartry Area Committee.

Glenkens Youth started in response to needs identified by Glenkens young people and our aim is to see it develop into an independent, long-term youth service for our area – **if you'd like to be involved, let us know!**

Mary, Chair, Local Initiatives in New Galloway (youthwork.ling@gmail.com)

CatStrand Youth Players' Panto Success

*"A triumph!" -
'Exceptionally good,
better than most
professional pantos."*

*"What a night, the best
one yet!"*

*"The cast were all
great and the show was
hilarious."*

*"Fantastic fun, can't
wait for 2023!"*

These were just some of the comments written by audience members as they left the latest CatStrand panto, *Sinbad Sails Again* by Paul Reakes.

The show played to three packed houses in December and was thoroughly enjoyed by the audiences and the cast alike. The brand new script by our favourite panto author was definitely one of his best yet and the cast had great fun rehearsing it from September onwards.

Now firmly established as a mainstay of the CatStrand arts programme, this was the twelfth annual panto and its popularity was underlined by the fact that tickets were largely sold out several weeks beforehand.

The story started one year after Aladdin's marriage to Princess Jasmine but everything wasn't quite turning out to be "happy ever after," particularly after a disguised Captain Crossbones and his henchmen steal the magic lamp! Aladdin recruits Sinbad the Sailor to chase down the pirates and retrieve the lamp and the adventure begins!

A superb rendition of *A Whole New World* by Aladdin (Fiona Edgar) and Jasmine (Ella Campbell) provided a

perfect opening to the show and set the scene for what was still to come. Captain Crossbones (James Wallace) and his sidekicks Sam (Naomi McCreath) and the hapless Percy (Stanley Harfield) were subjected to lots of boos as they carried out their skullduggery but also provided lots of comedy too, not least when Crossbones led a hilarious and energetic performance of the song *Jump*.

Megan Oliver played Sinbad with great aplomb and ably helped by Zara (Lorne Johnston) and Molly the Monkey, cutely played by Rosie Spornagel, they tracked the baddies down to a remote desert island. With the magic lamp now back in the possession of the evil Abanazar (Laura Edington), they managed to save the day and retrieve it with the assistance of islander Aloa (Sanna Gilbert) and the local knowledge of a friendly Gorilla (Izak Entwistle). Once they were able to finally rub the lamp and summon the Genie (also played in fine style by Izak Entwistle), everything could be sorted out and once again everyone would live happily ever after!

Of course, a panto wouldn't be a panto without a dame, as the song says "there is nothing like a dame" and there certainly is nothing like a dame played by Ruby Harfield! She really made Semolina Sinbad larger than life and together with her son Ali Sinbad (Dante Newbery) they led the comedy scenes with great skill to the constant delight of the audience. Their hilarious take on *I Want to Break Free*, with Ali in the Freddie Mercury role will live long in the memory.

A production such as this takes a huge amount of work behind the scenes too and the new Behind the Scenes Crew, led by Cat Campbell, worked hard for several months making props and scenery and their clever creations definitely helped to set the various scenes throughout, none more so than the giant Sea Serpent's head which appeared in a cloud of smoke to herald the end of Act One!

The songs, music and sound effects are



always a major part of any panto and this year more than ever and that was all down to the skill of Simon Davidson as Musical Director. The costumes are a key component too and Sue Lindsay worked hard to pull together the wardrobe of over 30 costumes for the show.

The show was directed by Brian Edgar who praised the cast for their skill and commitment and thanked everyone for their hard work in bringing the show to the stage and the audiences for their incredible support once again.

The CatStrand Players now move on to the Festival Season and hope to emulate the unprecedented success of last year when we took two plays to the Western Finals with the Youth entry making it all the way to the Scottish Final. This year we have three plays in rehearsal for the festival, two in the Youth Section and one in the Open Festival. The youth plays are – *Rabbit* by David Foxton (directed by Cat Campbell) and *Tell Me Another Story, Sing Me a Song* by Jean Lenox Toddie (directed by James Wallace) and the Open entry is *Feeding the Ducks* by Michael Park (directed by Brian Edgar). The plays will be staged at the Stewartry District Festival at The Fullarton in Castle Douglas over the weekend of 2-4 March and then will be staged at CatStrand on Friday 10 March.

Fun With the Cub Scouts

The Glenkens Scout Group has been delighted to receive a cheque for £320 as a donation from the Carsphairn Community Trust's Christmas Fayre.

Steve Cowley, treasurer of the Trust, popped into our Pack meeting on a very cold night to give us the cheque. Carsphairn hall was beautifully decorated, and the place was humming.

Stalls laden with gift ideas. A real feeling of community spirit. Thank you again for your kindness.

The Cub Scouts visited the CatStrand Youth Players panto *Sinbad Sails Again* (see page 21). Absolutely fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Well done to everyone involved!

At the end of November the Cubs decorated clay tiles

with sgraffito (a technique of cutting/scraping through the thin layer of white slip into which the clay has been dipped to reveal the darker clay behind) designs which were fired and brought back in time for them to give as Christmas gifts (pictured).

Heather & Hannah



Glenkens Producers' Market



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

- 11th February & 11th March -

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POP IN FOR A CHAT AND A BROWSE

Boosting biodiversity, businesses and community benefits

With 14 turbines, Quantans Hill Wind Farm will add around 90MW to Dumfries and Galloway's home-grown electricity capacity, as well as battery storage. As a Vattenfall project, this major investment has also been designed to deliver tangible economic, biodiversity and community benefits to the local area around Carsphairn and across South West Scotland. The planning application identifies potential for:

Protecting habitats and improving biodiversity

- Extensive habitat improvement measures – **net gain for biodiversity**
- **New native broadleaf trees** to be planted and 145ha heathland restored
- **Peatland restoration** – enough to cover 190 football pitches
- Carbon emission saving of around **4 million tonnes**



Enhanced outdoor access and protecting heritage

- **15km of new sign-posted, accessible tracks** through restored habitats
- Visitor sign-posting and additional pathways created
- **Improved access to** and understanding of **important WW2 crash site** and other features of historical interest

A major green investment in local communities

- Building on our approach at South Kyle Wind Farm, maximising **local jobs and supplier opportunities**
- New **apprenticeships** to be created
- Estimated £7million boost to local economy
- Up to **£16million community benefits package** with flexible, community-led approach



The Planning Application for Quantans Hill Wind Farm is being submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit imminently. To view and respond to the Planning Application please visit www.energyconsents.scot where you will also find confirmation of the period in which responses may be submitted (likely to be until late March).*

You can also find out more about Vattenfall's proposals at: www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill

Data from Quantans Hill Environmental Impact Assessment Report (2022), Natural Power et al; and Vattenfall. Images top & bottom from Lee Williams for Vattenfall's Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm in South Wales.

*Details correct at time of going to print 19.01.2023

Photo of the Issue



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

This issue's winner is Robin Hood with a view over Loch Ken taken from his garden.



Robin wins £10 voucher redeemable at the new Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Co premises at the Old School on Brooke St, Dumfries.

Company owner and competition judge, Hannah Gould, said: "We are very excited to now have a cafe in Dumfries! We're open Tuesday till Saturday from 11am to 5pm with 7pm closing on Thursdays and Fridays. We serve all homemade goodies - traybakes, brownies, salads, burgers and of course mac 'n' cheese. Every Thursday we do all-you-can-eat mac 'n' cheese too. We are based in the Old School with lots of other lovely, independent small businesses. So come see us!"

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



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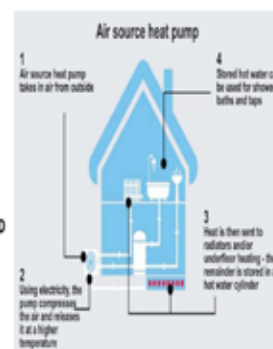
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From the Bookroom

In 'From the Bookroom' Glenkens-based author, Robin Yassin-Kassab, will take readers 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*.

I pretended to read James Joyce's *Ulysses* when I was a student.

I know this from my old copy of the book, in which one-word notes qualified by question marks (like 'Homeric parallel?'), in my youthful, spidery handwriting, are placed seemingly randomly against the text.

But I didn't really read this famously difficult book, not in full. I didn't have time. And most of us will never have time, because now we are attuned to immediate gratification, addicted to the dopamine hit. Our thoughts come more rapidly than ever, but are reduced in range as a result.

"Ulysses" was written before sound bites and tweets, and reading it is the task at least of a slow Galloway springtime. It's one of the rare books you could actually survive on if shipwrecked on a desert island.

It refers to, mimics, satirizes, or converses

with so many other texts that it feels like the Ur-text or Original Book from which all others proceed. Almost all the tools and tricks of the contemporary novel were worked out first here. But where most novels will exploit one unusual method, "Ulysses" uses many. Each chapter is a different kind of experiment; each therefore stands in itself as a novel – in the literal sense of 'novelty' and 'innovation'.

This is what makes the book difficult. The reader can't relax for a moment. Just when he thinks he's worked out what the book is doing, it decides to do something else.

It's a babbling fool of a book. It is literary LSD, very seriously mind-expanding. But there is method in its madness. There's a plot, and relatable characters. Believe it or not, there's a great sense of humour too. All this is accessible to most people if they take the time, and follow the following advice:

First, don't try so hard to understand. Which is certainly easier said than done. We've been trained since school to extract information from text, to reduce each paragraph into a summary as we go. If we can't easily do this, we feel lost.

But think of this analogy. In a bar you hear bits of several nearby conversations as well as the conversation you and your friends are having, and you hear the voice in your head, the inner commentary, judging, regretting, remembering, worrying. The words you hear spark associations with other words. There's the song playing on



the stereo, plus the song now playing in your head that it reminds you of.

You don't need to understand everything to fully experience and enjoy this scene.

Second, read the text aloud. Listen to it. Enjoy its music.

We don't refuse to listen to jazz because we can't follow the storyline. Likewise, we don't give up on Picasso or Rembrandt because we're not sure of their positions on Irish politics.

Third, laugh. This often follows naturally from reading it aloud.

If you heed these pointers you'll eventually find that, as when learning a language, at a certain point it becomes much easier. Next you'll be grappling with "Finnegans Wake"...

Robin Yassin-Kassab

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Kenmure Castle: Witness to Galloway's History

Kenmure Castle, the most famous of the Glenkens castles, stands just south of New Galloway and has been touched by much of Scottish history.

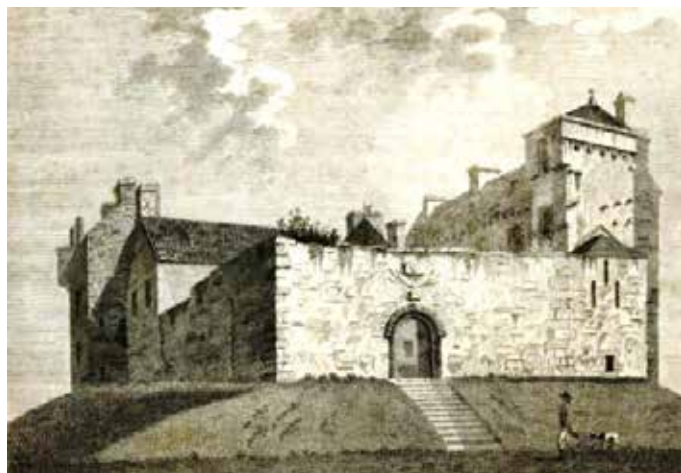
It was a Balliol stronghold in the wars of independence and was a refuge for Mary Queen of Scots on her flight from Scotland and was sacked by her enemies. It was sacked again by Cromwell for supporting the Royal cause and after the Jacobite uprising the 6th Viscount Kenmure was beheaded in the Tower of London for backing the rebels. Robert Burns predictably was a guest - on his way to Kirkcudbright.

On Sunday 26 February The Glenkens Story local history group will present an afternoon of talks at the CatStrand

on the castle and the people in its history. Janet Brennan-Ingils, castle historian and author, restorer of Barholm Castle and former chair of the Scottish Castles Association, will speak on the history of Kenmure.

For much of its history the castle has been held by the Gordon family. Major General (retd) James Gordon, the present owner, will give a personal account of the Gordon family's close links to the castle's eventful history.

Completing the afternoon's programme, local place names expert Michael Ansell



Kenmure Castle in the 18th century by Francis Grose, died 1790

will discuss the origin of the name 'Kenmure' which looks straightforward - the muir of the Ken - but all may not be as it seems.

Air Crashes Near the Glenkens

Regular readers of the *Gazette* will know that I wrote a series of articles* on Air Crashes in the Glenkens.

As these were well received, I thought readers might be interested in a few nearby air crashes, mostly in the Stewartry.

I will begin with one of the saddest tales, from Dundrennan. On 18 July 1944 a Bristol Beaufighter (serial JL 893) crashed on a house in the village killing the crew of two; Sgt Pilot E M Young and Navigator Flight Sergeant H A Wiles. Also killed were four of the Hamilton family in the house; parents James and Georgina along with children Henry and Agnes. The sole survivor was daughter Georgina (known as Ina) who was badly injured. There are stories of the sound of the aircraft circling, presumably looking for somewhere to land, before the crash.

Until 2010, there was no memorial to this tragedy when one was at last unveiled beside the parish church. Daughter Ina attended the unveiling on the 66th anniversary of the tragedy. In the photograph, Ina (then Wood) is the lady in the blue jacket, the lady beside her is Jean Brown who was the driving force behind getting the memorial erected (see photo).

Near Loch Skerrow or, more accurately, in the woodland to the West of the site of

the Little Water of Fleet Viaduct, stands a crude mortared cairn surrounded by twisted remnants of an air crash.

I had heard rumours of the crash site but very little was known. In August 2008, together with Bob Peace, a fellow member of Galloway Mountain Rescue Team, we visited the site to photograph it and record the exact position.

Research over several months, assisted by members of Dumfries & Galloway Aviation Museum, determined that this was the site of a crash of an RAF Typhoon serial JR 439 on 18 March 1944. Canadian Pilot Kenneth Osborne Mitchell of 440 Squadron was killed in the crash at just twenty-two years of age and he is buried in Ayr cemetery. At the time, 440 Squadron were based at Prestwick and in training prior to moving down to Kent to combat the V1 flying bombs.

The story of the crash site is that it was only discovered when local workers were called to investigate a power outage in the area caused by the aircraft crashing into cables; and the story of the cairn is that the pilot's parents had requested

some form of memorial at the crash site. Efforts to contact the family in 2008/09 were unsuccessful. It should be noted that, in 2008, there was nothing at the site to show what had happened there, or when; just the cairn and wreckage.

I decided that the memorial should remain anonymous no longer and, in fine weather on 18 March 2009 (the 65th anniversary of the crash), with a small group, I revisited the cairn and placed a plaque on it giving details of the crash and the pilot who died. Present on the day were members from the Dumfries & Galloway Aviation Museum and my late wife, Betty. The plaque also bears the phrase 'until the day break, and shadows flee away' which is the same as his parents chose to have inscribed on his gravestone (bottom right photo).

Please note that removal of any item from a military crash site would be a criminal offence.

To be continued...

Paul Goodwin

* Issues 89, 95, 100 and 112



GLENKENS PLACE NAMES

In commemoration of the near completion of John Paterson's splendid new house at Barskeoch, I intend to look at some place-names recorded on the *Plan of the Enclosures of Earlstoun and Barskeoch belonging to John Newal Esq.*

This map was drawn by James Gregg in 1779 and is available on the National Library of Scotland website.

This plan has been discussed several times previously in seminars organised by the Dumfries Archival Mapping Project (DAMP). It is a remarkable map in its detail, showing a well laid out estate, already largely enclosed and improved. Previous discussions have tended to focus on the details of the estate layout of parks and woodlands (a fair bit of which is now of course under Earlstoun Loch). Therefore I want to focus on some of the unremarked Gaelic origin place-names on the plan to consider what the names meant and where they are located in the modern landscape.

To understand the layout of the plan one has to remember that the main road from Dalry to Ayr passed well to the west of the existing A713. It is still clearly visible on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" to the mile map published in 1853 and although it is less clear on aerial survey photography it can still be followed.

Starting at the south, the old road to Ayr can be picked up where it leaves the modern A762 just south of Craiggubble Wood. This wood is so named from a conspicuous rock face there and stands for Gaelic *Creag na gCapall* - 'crag of the horses'.

Moving north two hills are marked on Gregg's plan just south of the lands of Earlstoun and Barskeoch. One is named as Terhastan and this seems to be what is now known locally as The Fairy Knowe. Terhastan would appear to be Gaelic *Tòrr Ùisdein*, for 'Wee Hughie's hill'.

The other hill marked in the same

area would seem to be a spur off what is now Waterside Hill. This is shown as Knockengig which is possibly for Gaelic *Cnoc na Dìge* - 'Hill of the ditch'. However it may be that Knockengig was actually the earlier name for the Fairy Knowe. There is a Gaelic word *dìgh*, one meaning of which is 'fairy knowe' so *Cnoc na Dìghe* - 'hill of the fairy mound' - is a possibility.

The Gregg map shows that there was a pool in the River Ken at the foot of the Fairy Knowe called the Dalreoch Pool. This is now subsumed under the hydro loch but it was in the river just north of where the Earlstoun Burn used to enter the River Ken. In pre-hydro days the area to the north of the Earlstoun Burn and to the east of the Ken was shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1853 as being formed of three large flat enclosures, evidently some of the best land on the estate. Going by the name of the contiguous pool (Dalreoch), this flat riverside area was called in Gaelic *An Dail Riabhach* - 'The Brindled Holm'. It is now completely under the waters of Earlstoun Loch.



The south part of Gregg's 1769 plan of Earlstoun & Barskeoch showing Knockengig and Tarhastan.

An Dail Riabhach is one of several Gaelic dail 'holm' names in the Glenkens, from south to north Dalarran, Dalry, Dalreoch, Dalbonniton, Daltallochan, Dalshangan and Dalquhairn.

Breoch Park was a large wooded enclosure on the east side of the River Ken opposite Barskeoch farmhouse. Again it is now under-water. The name most likely derives from Gaelic *Am Bruach* - 'bank of a river'.

West of Barskeoch was what used to be a separate farm of Cavan. This is situated between Barskeoch and Hannaston. This will be derived from Gaelic *cabhan* - 'a hollow, cavity, shallow

valley'. This is the same word as in County Cavan, Ireland.

Barskeoch itself is one of two *bàrr* place-names on the property of Mr Newal. *Bàrr* means 'the top of anything' often applied to a minor hill-top of no great elevation, especially in Galloway and Argyll. In the case of Barskeoch the derivation will be Gaelic *Am Bàrr Sgitheach* - 'the hawthorn hill'.

The other *bàrr* name is shown on the map as Barchuck. This is shown on the OS 1st edition 6" map of 1853 as Barchock. This is an interesting place-name and probably represents Gaelic *Bàrr Seabhaige* 'hawk hill-top', perhaps (according to Dwelly's Dictionary) specifically referring to the Peregrine Falcon. The Gaelic word *seabhag* is in fact a borrowing into Gaelic of the English word 'hawk'.

Between Barchuck and the River Ken is marked as the Pulharrow Park on Gregg's plan. This is from the Polharrow Burn which joins the Ken close to the north end of the park. Polharrow is probably to be derived from Gaelic *Poll na h-Airbhe* - 'burn of the boundary or wall' - perhaps referring to the Deil's Dyke which I suggest formed the eastern boundary of the royal hunting Forest of Buchan.

There is a pool in the Ken where it runs along the Pulharrow Park. This is marked on Gregg's plan as The Lin. *Linne* is the Gaelic word for a pool so this could have been a Gaelic coining however the word was borrowed into Scots so it may have been named in that language. In Scots the meaning could sometimes be a pool or the waterfall above a pool. The hillock on the east side of the river at The Lin was called Lin Know by Gregg and Craig Linn on the OS map of 1853. Lin Know is Scots whereas Craig Lin could be

Gaelic *Creag na Linne* - 'rock of the pool' - which describes it exactly.

To finish it is interesting to note a new place-name has been created near the north part of Gregg's estate plan when a new house was recently built on part of the lands of Barskeoch Farm. This is Inverharrow, a pleasing name in character with the place-names surrounding it and conveying the correct meaning (all be it in anglicised spelling) for its location: *Inbhir na h-Airbhe* - 'the mouth of the (poll) Harrow'.

Perhaps John's new house should be called *Am Bàrr Sgitheach*? Just a thought...

Michael Ansell

WINDY STANDARD REPOWERING PLANS SUBMITTED

Fred. Olsen Renewables has applied to the Scottish Government for permission to repower Windy Standard Wind Farm, north east of Carsphairn.

The plans would see the removal of 36 turbines and eight wind turbines up to 200m to tip erected in their place.

We would like to thank everyone that has taken part in the public consultation and encourage them to visit the website www.windystandardwindfarm.co.uk

to view the application documents and learn more about how to have their say.

Windy Standard Wind Farm was one of the first to be built in Scotland in the 1990s. We are committed to continuing this legacy and to ensuring that the project delivers for the economy and for communities locally – as well as helping to address wider issues such as wind turbine blade recycling.

The repowering proposals bring forward a raft of opportunities, including:

- Delivering over £7m in community benefit funding
- Supporting students at Dumfries and Galloway College



- Re-using the turbine blades locally - creating bus shelters, bike racks or even a playpark!

Anyone with questions on the plans is encouraged to get in touch with the team by emailing communities@fredolsen.com or calling 07435 763 900.

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Connecting in Communities

February 2023/ March 2023

Activity Programme

Pudding Fan Club FREE EVENT

Monday 13th Feb Honey Valentine | 6.30pm - 8.30pm
 Monday 27th March Ukraine Easter Bread | 6.30pm - 8.30pm
 CatStrand Café
 Contact & booking details see below

Photography in Focus

Tuesday 7th & 21st Feb / 14th & 28th March
 10am -12pm
 The Smiddy, Balmaclellan plus 'out in the field'
 Contact: Ian Biggar: ianbiggar@btinternet.com 07799 372052
 Visit: <https://gcat.scot> Click on CiC Activity Programme

Glenkens & District Community Drama Group FREE EVENT

Tuesdays - February 7th / February 21st / 7th March / 21st
 March | 7pm - 9pm The CatStrand, New Galloway
 7th March's venue The Smiddy Balmaclellan
Family Drama Group on Sunday 26th February / 26th March
 2pm-3.30pm at The Smiddy Balmaclellan
 Contact & booking details see below

Menopause Really Matters

Monday 13th Feb & 13th March | 7pm - 8pm
 The Smiddy, Balmaclellan.
 Donations to 'The Menopause Charity.org'
 Contact: Lesley Atkins: lesley@thenourishingspace.co.uk
 07587 122151 Visit <https://gcat.scot> Click on CiC Activity Programme

Art For Wellbeing

Every Tuesdays
Dalry Town Hall,
Kirkpatrick Durham Village Hall
Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn
 Contact for dates times booking details see below

Glenkens Ukes (Ukuele Workshops)

Every Wednesday | 6.30pm-8pm
 The Smiddy, Balmaclellan - £3.00
 Contact: Brian Jones - brian@brianjones.co.uk 07760 884113
 Visit <https://gcat.scot> Click on CiC Activity Programme

Café & Bar Open Night

Saturday 25th March | 7pm - 9pm
 Bar and Café Open for drinks and Light Snacks
BRING FRIENDS MEET FRIENDS, MAKE FRIENDS
 Contact & booking details see below

ARTistry - Life Drawing Classes

Thursdays | 10am-12.30pm
 The Smiddy, Balmaclellan - £7.50
 Contact & booking details: Leto Seferiades
 letosef@gmail.com
 07763 235888 Visit <https://gcat.scot> Click on CiC Activity Programme

Boccia Club Indoor Boules FREE EVENT

Wednesday 8th Feb & 8th March | 2 pm-3pm
 Catstrand FREE
 Contact & booking details see below

Rat Pack Tea Dance

Friday 17th February | 7.30pm-8.30pm Dalry - £3.50
 Friday 31st March | 7.30pm - 8.30pm Catstrand - £3.50
 Contact & booking details see below

Glenkens Pub Quiz Nights

Sunday 26th Feb | 7.30pm The Clachan Inn Dalry
 Thursday 23rd March | 7.30pm The Ken Bridge Hotel
 Teams of 4/6 - £1 per person: Takings go to charity
 Contact & booking details see below

The CiC Games Night FREE EVENT

Friday Feb 24th, March 24th | 7pm-9pm
 The CatStrand, New Galloway
 Indoor boules, & board games
 Bar Open
 Contact & booking details see below

Spanish Dance Classes FREE EVENT

Saturday 25th March | 10.30am -11.30am
 10.30am - 11.30am
 CatStrand, New Galloway
 Contact & booking details see below

Breeze Cycle Rides for Females FREE EVENT

Saturday 25th March | Time TBC
 Meet at St John's Town of Dalry Car Park
 Registration essential on www.letsride.co.uk
 Contact & booking details see below

No Logo Productions Presents: Make-Up

SAFE SPACE CAFÉ
 Saturday 25th February 7pm -
 CatStrand, New Galloway, Bar Open
 Contact & booking details see below

All bookings through email: jo@catstrand.com or call 01644 420374 or
 Visit <https://gcat.scot> Click on CiC Activity Programme

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

Dalry's Entry for the Turner Prize...?

(to be sung to the tune of Away in a Manger)

In Midtown's Location,
At the top of Dalry,
There's an art installation,
That catches the eye.

It started as a pothole,
Then workmen in turn,
Broke through to the culvert,
That channels the burn.

The buses edge round it,
The lorries squeeze past,
There's a fence that surrounds it,
And the hole's now quite vast.

So D&G Council,
Send men every day,
Who nod their heads sagely,
Then go on their way.

I view it each morning,
Outside my front door,
I don't think they'll fix it,
Till May '24.

Now people in aircraft,
Look down from the sky,
At our art installation,
Down here in Dalry.

by Sue Wiseman



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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9cm w x 13cm h, £108

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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 - 5 Feb, 5 Mar
Carsphairn: 11am - 12 Feb, 12 Mar
Kells: 11am - 19 Feb, 19 Mar
Dalry: 11am - 26 Feb, 26 Mar

For further information email Rev Mark Smith at mark.smith@churchofscotland.org.uk

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

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

Sundays: 10.30am Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments

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

February 2023 - March 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 FEBRUARY FOR ADULT LEARNERS

BIKE FAMILIARISATION, SHORT LOCAL JOURNEYS AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING WORKSHOPS

LEVEL 1:

SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY 10:00-11:00

LEVEL 2:

SATURDAY 18th FEBRUARY 10:00-11:30

LEVEL 3:

SATURDAY 25th FEBRUARY 10:00-11:30

ALL SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE CAR PARK IN NEW GALLOWAY

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

We would like to thank Glen Murray, who has now retired from his role of GCT Manager, for all his hard work over the last several years, and wish him all the best in his retirement!

GCT is now managed by Jon Betts, with support from the GCT Administrator, Sue McMinn

Keeping Our Homes Secure

A local resident has been in touch to voice concern about the first burglary in Dalry for some time.

In December a house in Dalry was broken into. The burglars went in through the back, breaking the glass conservatory doors and then glass patio doors. It happened around 5pm. The resident thinks they must have disturbed the burglars. They had gone through drawers in the bedroom but nothing was missing.

"If you have a predictable routine, try to vary this so you don't become vulnerable," said the resident. "Perhaps just check in on your neighbours, and keep an eye on their homes and if there is any strange activity. I just wanted to let villagers know to be vigilant over

winter, ensuring curtains are closed when lights are on, etc."

Community Police Constable, Chloe Ellis, said: "Thankfully house break-ins are very uncommon in this area. It is of note that the two house break-ins we had within the Stewartry of late did not occur through the night. As such, it is important that everyone is vigilant for any suspicious or unknown vehicle or persons in the area, day or night."

To find tips on keeping your home secure visit www.scotland.police.uk or, if you have any concerns or questions stop in and chat to Chloe - she's at Dalry Police Station when the police car is parked outside. Alternatively, you can call the Castle Douglas Police Office on 01786 289 070 or 101 for non-emergencies.

Glenkens Community Spaces

The Glenkens Asset Network - now called Glenkens Community Spaces - held its first meeting in Balmaclellan Village Hall on 23 January, which was a resounding success.

The Asset Network arose from the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan, which highlighted how important all our community spaces are.

The voluntary committees do a fantastic job of looking after them, and this Network is designed to help them in that work. Becca Nelson, in the new role of Network Facilitator, has one day a week to support them and their priorities over the next two years, thanks to windfarm funding.

If you missed the meeting but would like to know more, contact Becca on becca.glenkens.anf@gmail.com



EST. 2007

Catstrand

WINTER PROGRAMME

FARA

FRI 17 FEB 7:30PM



NO LOGO PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS:

MAKE-UP

SAT 25 FEB 7:00PM



LIZABETT RUSSO

WED 1 MAR 7:30PM



HANNAH RARITY

TUE 7 MAR 7:30PM





RECONNECT FESTIVAL:

Solutions for Climate Anxiety
Films, Workshops & Discussions
THURS 2 MAR - SUN 5 MAR

CLACHAN INN FOLK SESSIONS

SUN 26 MAR 5:00PM

High St, New Galloway 01644 420 374 GCAT.SCOT






WHAT'S ON February/March

JANUARY

Sat 28, Samson Sounds, 7.30pm, CatStrand

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

FEBRUARY

See p29 for Feb/Mar CiC events listings

27 Jan-26 Feb, Fantastic Forest Festival, see p12

Wed 1, Dalry Film Club: Elvis (12), 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 3, CatStrand Burns Supper, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Mon 6, Glenkens Food Month 2023 Ideas Session, 6pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall, see p4

Tue 7, Dalry Good Neighbours Club: Games Afternoon, 2-4pm, Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, see p4

Wed 8, Biosphere Office Plans drop-in session, 2pm onwards, Dalry Town Hall, see p10

Wed 8, Forestry & Land Scotland: Castlemaddy Forest Plan drop-in session, 2-8pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, see p14

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

Thu 9, Glenkens Housing Forum, 7.30pm, The Smiddy, Balmaclellan, see p8

Fri 10, Forestry & Land Scotland: Castlemaddy Forest Plan drop-in session, 2-8pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p14

Sat 11, Glenkens Producers Market, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 11, GCT Bike Workshop Level 1, see p32

Tue 14, Dalry Good Neighbours Club: Kate Kaye; Memories of Childhood Holidays Spent in Dalry, 2-4pm, Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, see p4

Wed 15, Dalry Film Club: Top Gun - Maverick (12), 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 17, Fara, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 18, GCT Bike Workshop Level 2, see p32

Tue 21, Dalry Good Neighbours Club: Eddie McGaw; Talk and DVD on his Missions to Give Aid to Kids in Kenya, 2-4pm, Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, see p4

Fri 24, Games Night, CatStrand **Fri 24 - Sun 26**, UpSkills: Filmmakers, 10-5pm, The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Sat 25, GCT Bike Workshop Level 3, see p32

Sat 25, Community Café, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 25, NoLogoProductions Presents: Make-Up, 7pm, CatStrand

Sun 26, The Glenkens Story - Kenmure Castle: Witness to Galloway's History 2-4pm, CatStrand

Mon 27, Find Out About Childminding drop-in, 4-6pm, creche facilities available, The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Tue 28, Dalry Good Neighbours Club: Who/What do you think this is? Photo Quiz, 2-4pm, Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, see p4

Tue 28, Battle of the Bands closing date for applications, see p16

MARCH

Wed 1, Lizabett Russo, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 1, Dalry Film Club: Grow Your Own (12), 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 2, ReConnect Festival: The Ants and the Grasshopper + Young Leaders Panel, 7pm, CatStrand

Fri 3, ReConnect Festival: All That Breathes + Letters to the Earth Workshop, 7pm, CatStrand

Sat 4, ReConnect Festival: 'Re-imagining Landscapes' Painting Workshop, 2-4.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 4, ReConnect Festival: Gather + Discussion with Propagate, 7pm, CatStrand

Sat 5, ReConnect Festival: Bundle Dyeing and Hapa-Zome, 10-1pm, CatStrand Cafe

Sun 5, ReConnect Festival: Open Mic Night, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Tue 7, Hannah Rarity, 7.30pm, CatStrand

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

Sat 11, Glenkens Producers Market, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Wed 15, Dalry Film Club: Phantom of the Open, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 17, Dark Sky Jazz: Euan Stevenson and Konrad Wiszniewski, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 18, Dark Sky Jazz: Nimbus Sextet, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 18, Community Café, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 19, Dark Sky Jazz: Matt Carmichael & Fergus McCreadie, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 26, Clachan Folk Sessions, 5-7pm, The Clachan Inn, Dalry

APRIL

Sat 1, Battle of the Bands, CatStrand, see p16

CATSTRAND CAFÉ & SHOP WINTER HOURS

Once again we'd like to thank all of our customers for their support over 2022 - our shop and café had a very busy year and we appreciate the support very much.

Please note that we are currently operating our **winter hours** and are open **Tuesday to Saturday (inclusive), 11am-4pm**. The café will be serving teas, coffees and home baking throughout the day and lunch will be available from 11.30am-2.30pm.

The café and shop will be closed on Sundays and Mondays with regular classes and events already arranged for those days still going ahead as normal; however, please note that café facilities will generally not be available. We will return to seven-day opening from Sunday 19 March.

The CatStrand Team

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

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan:

Digital Art, (age 11+), Tue 4.30-5.30

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 5-8), Mon (during term time), 3.45-4.30pm

Margaret Morris Movement: Youth Grade (age 8-15), Mon (during term time), 4.30-5.30pm

Young Art Ambassadors (age 11+), Mon bi-weekly, 4.30-5.30pm

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

Newton Stewart Bus Service to Tesco, Wednesday evenings

Dramarama, (age 6-10), Wed 4.30-5.15pm

Up Skills: 3D Animation, (age 15+), Wed 6-8pm

Young Writers Cafe, (age 12+), Wed 6-7.30pm, monthly

A Chance to Dance, (age 12+), Thu bi-weekly, 5.30-7pm

VAN: Peer Review Sessions, (age 16+), 7-9pm, monthly

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

Art Explorers, (age under 10), Sat bi-weekly 10-11am

Sat Art Club, (age 10-15), Sat bi-weekly 11.15am-12.30pm

Creative Portfolio Development, (Age 15+), Sat monthly

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

New Galloway Town Hall:

Due to work on the building please confirm activities are running on 07749 249 781 or newgallowaytownhall@gmail.com

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

Glenkens Youth Activity Group, ages 11+, Mon 7-8.30pm, Dalry School Gym Hall, contact youthwork.ling@gmail.com or 07719 708 668

LING Lunches, Tue, 12.30-2pm. currently held at Kitty's, opposite NG Town Hall, **currently suspended due to a burst pipe** - contact communityinclusion.LING@gmail.com

Sports Evenings, indoor bowling & table tennis, Tues 7-9pm, New Galloway Scout Hut, contact Ray on 01644 420 438

Tai Chi, 10.30-11.30am, **suspended**, contact gentletaichigroup@gmail.com

Zumba, Wed 7-8pm, **suspended**, contact samantha.rushton@hotmail.co.uk - booking essential

Martial Arts, Thur 5.30-6.30pm (beginners & tots) & 7-9pm (age 6+), **suspended**, 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

Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry:

Dalry Good Neighbours Club, Tue, 2-4pm, contact Michelle on 07795 613 148

Schools Out, Wed 3-4.30pm, kids & parents after-school social club, contact Michele on 07940 313445

Clachan Crafters, Thu 2-4pm, contact Sarah on 07500 861 041

Yoga For All, Fr 9.15-10.15am, contact Amy on 07733 111 466

Friendship Group, Sat (excluding Glenkens Producers Market days), 10-11.30am, contact Anne on 01644 430 052

Table Tennis/Badminton, available to hire by arrangement, contact Sarah on 07500 861 041

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:

Cosy Corner, Tue, 1-5pm, Crossmichael Church Hall, contact Anne on 07889 016 963

Crossmichael Heritage Centre, 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

Snooker/Indoor Bowls, contact Gary 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

Glenkens Gazette Delivered to Outlying Homes



If you live in an outlying property in the Glenkens, you may have met our new friendly delivery driver, Gary Eddington, as he popped a *Gazette* through your mailbox.

Soon Gary will have the *Glenkens Gazette* logo visible on his pick-up, so you will be sure to recognise him when he's out and about.

We are thrilled that we have secured funding through Fred Olsen Renewables and the Galloway Glens Scheme to deliver copies of the *Gazette* door-to-door to the outlying areas of the Glenkens.

The push for this came from the response we had during Covid, when we received grant funding from various sources to have the publication delivered door-to-door to every household through Royal Mail. What we found to be the main

benefit of this was that households out of the villages, who may not otherwise pick up a *Gazette*, or even be aware of it, were able to feel connected to the wider community, find out what was going on, etc.

Also in these more trying times, it is invaluable to have a regular, trusted someone pop by and say "hi" every few weeks, who can potentially signpost people to helpful resources if they are struggling with rural isolation, heating their home, or anything else that might be more pronounced when living in a rural situation.

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@ernespieplants

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March special offer
Gift vouchers available

30 min Back neck and shoulders massage
A relaxing massage treatment helping to relieve muscular tension & headaches. A perfect pampering treat for Mothers day.

£20 with Discount code - LOVE MUM

Tarnia Hrynczyszyn, 3a Church St, Castle Douglas, DG7 1AT
Phone/Whatsapp: 07410 623408
email: glenkenssportsmassage@gmail.com
Mobile appointments available within the Glenkens area

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

APR/MAY COPY DEADLINE: 5 MAR



Editing & Design:
sarah.ade@gmail.com

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.