

Dalry School Raise £1,000 for Earthquake Relief

Pupils, staff, parents and friends of Dalry Primary and Secondary Schools have raised close to £1,000 to support children affected by the recent earthquake in the Middle East.

The money raised at the schools' fund raising day will be sent to 'Mary's Meals' earthquake appeal. The charity already works in Syria providing meals for children. Following the earthquake their partner organisation there has been able to respond quickly in the provision of food aid. It costs £19.15 to feed a child for a whole school year.

"A huge thank you to everyone who supported this event," says Sue St Joseph, one of the teachers who organised the



event. "We had a fantastic day! As well as raising funds for the earthquake appeal, it was great to be able to have a community event in school again after so long. So good to see you all; so good to have the primary and secondary pupils working together; but best of all, so good to see the young people enjoying themselves whilst raising funds for such a good cause."

Members of the community browse fundraising stalls manned by pupils in fancy dress

If you would like to contribute, donations can be handed in or posted to the school at Kirkland Street, Dalry DG7 3UX. Cheques should be made payable to 'Dalry School'.

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Help Carsphairn Heritage Centre Celebrate 30 Years

Get in touch to be included in the "30 for 30" exhibition...

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Glenkens Hub: New Site for News

This April sees the launch of the brand new Glenkens Hub website.

As the *Gazette's* online and up-to-the-minute sister publication, the Hub offers events listings, between-issue news articles, a community noticeboard, local business directory, useful information such as shop opening times,

amenities and visitor attractions, details of groups and organisations and more. But this is still a work in progress and what we really need is your help. We need you to visit the Hub and have a look around - tell us what you think. Have we covered everything? Is it easy to navigate? Do you have any suggestions?

Please visit www.glenkens.scot and contact Hub editor, Gail, with your views at glenkenshub@hotmail.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!
The Glenkens Gazette Team

Knockengorloch Festival's 25th Anniversary

Knockengorloch in Carsphairn is Scotland's longest running greenfield festival.

This year it celebrates 25 years, featuring an array of amazing acts from across Scotland and the world as well as some very special initiatives to celebrate its quarter of a century birthday!

Taking place from 25-28 May the festival's 25th year will feature an enhanced line-up, welcoming back acts from its very first event in 1998 - alongside exciting new artists from Scotland, the UK and beyond.

Acts include the 11-piece French dub collaboration Zentone (High Tone + Zenzile), Scottish trad pioneers Old Blind Dogs, the energetic and infectious Cut Capers, Malian powerhouse Rokia Kone and Glasgow's international superstars Mungo's Hi Fi.

The site comprises eight venues, family activity areas and camping sites, all set amongst the Carsphairn hills.

As well as the enhanced line-up, with more names to be announced, Knockengorloch is

delighted to announce a brand new commission.

The Real Merlin Project is a Knockengorloch commission to create new music inspired by the truth behind the myth of the character Merlin.

According to mythology, 'Myrddin' was a poet to a Welsh king. In the year 573, at a battle near Carlisle, the

talking to the birds, the beasts, his apple tree and his little pig. In the twelfth century this character was recast and more commonly known as Merlin, King Arthur's wizard.

The music creation, featuring vocals in four languages, Northumbrian pipes, harp, guitar, percussion and piano will take place online, with



king was killed and Myrddin went mad. In his madness, he acquired the gift of prophecy and lived as a wild man in the Southern Scotland Forest,

musicians gathering twice in Corsock for in-person rehearsals. The piece will be performed live for the first time at Knockengorloch

Festival, as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations, before touring the UK and Ireland in July and September.

In the coming months Knockengorloch will be announcing a new community-led food growing venue and further special events.

A new transport initiative, kindly supported by Dumfries & Galloway Major Events Strategy Fund, will provide a regular shuttle bus service from Carsphairn to the site, to relieve the amount of traffic travelling to the festival.

The event is expected to sell out this year but tickets are currently available. For those who can prove residence in Carsphairn, Dalry, New Galloway or Balmacellan, **locally priced tickets are available to buy over the counter at Carsphairn shop.**

This year vehicle tickets must also be bought in advance to gain entry to the site.

The festival asks all locals where possible to leave their cars behind and catch the shuttle bus in from Carsphairn.

For further information visit www.knockengorloch.org.uk

Can You Help Carsphairn SWI?

Many of you will have seen the wall hanging in Lagwyne Hall in Carsphairn.

It represents a rich part of Carsphairn's heritage in needle work and was created by women of the area together. Annikki Lindsay co-ordinated the piece to commemorate Carsphairn Scottish Women's Institute's 60th Anniversary in 1997. Its thirty five panels were done individually then brought together by Annikki to

form the wall hanging you now see. We have been looking into the people and the stories behind each panel. By talking to people we have been able to identify a number of the panels and establish their creator. However, there are still panels which we are yet to learn about.

The purpose of this gathering of information is to put together a short pamphlet to accompany the wall hanging which reminds us now and in the future of the people and stories behind the panels.



If you can tell us anything about one or more of the numbered panels, please get in touch by emailing carsphairnswi@gmail.com or phoning Christine on 01644 460 577.

Christine Whipp

Pictured is the hanging with each panel numbered for easy identification

Citizens Advice Glenkens Drop-ins



Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service will be holding drop-ins across the Glenkens on a fortnightly basis.

Initially these will be **every other Tuesday** at the **CatStrand, New Galloway**, 10am till 4pm, from **Tuesday 4th April**.

"We can offer help with benefits, employment, housing, debt, energy, consumer and more," says outreach advisor Fiona.

There will also be outreach sessions at **Castle Douglas Citizens Advice Bureau**, 3 St Andrew Street, on **Wednesdays** from 10am to 12.30pm and 1pm to 4pm for appointments and a drop-in service, and **Fridays** from 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4pm for appointments only. To arrange an appointment at any of these Castle Douglas sessions please call 0300 303 4321 or email info@dagcas.org

Plant and Bake Sale Fundraiser

This year's Plant and Bake Sale at St Margaret's, New Galloway, will be held on Saturday 29 April.

All proceeds from the sale will be for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance who assist the Scottish Ambulance Service

with emergency medical services through the provision of helicopter ambulances.

Teas, lots of homebaking and a large selection of plants – herbaceous, annuals, vegetable and salad seedlings – will be available from 10am to 12 noon.

Glenkens Cub Scouts

The Glenkens Cub Scouts celebrated Burns Night with a table laden with Scottish food.

The Cubs were challenged to entertain the Leaders with either a Scottish poem, song or instrument and we were not disappointed.

Freya played the recorder and recited a poem titled *Street Talk*. Danny also played the recorder and recited *The Hen's Lament*. Elliot played the guitar. Bella had a poem – *My Wee Doggie*. Caitlin sang *Galloway Hills* and had a lovely poem called *My Cuddy*. Leo gave us a tune on the mouth organ and recited *My Wee Rid Motor*. To finish off, a parent read a story called *Clan Mingan*.

The Cubs would like to say a huge "congratulations" to Cub Leader Bagheera on being awarded Maker of the Year at the UK Heritage Crafts Awards. The Glenkens Cub Scout pack are very proud of your achievements – well done!



[Bagheera - Hannah McAndrew - is a local potter and you can read more about her award on page 22.]

Pictured is a card which the Cubs all signed to congratulate Bagheera.

Heather

Galloway Glens: How Did We Do?

The Galloway Glens Scheme has been supporting a whole range of projects up and down the Ken/Dee Valley over the last five years, trying to 'connect people to our heritage' while boosting the local economy and supporting sustainable communities.

How did we do? All feedback - positive and negative - is welcomed as we aim to compile the results of the scheme and look to build on this for future initiatives.

We are running a short public **survey** and one lucky person who completes the survey will **win a £50 delicatessen voucher**. Please do complete it - www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/R3XGV36 - the deadline for completion is Friday 28 April.

Thank you,
McNabb Laurie,
Galloway Glens Team Leader



Glenkens Community Shop Needs You!

The Glenkens Community Shop opened nearly eleven years ago, and is flourishing.

So much so that we need a few more volunteers!

Over this time the Community Shop has given out nearly £70,000, helping to support many groups and individuals who play such a vital role in our Glenkens community.

We can only open, with anything approaching our pre-Covid availability, with more volunteers. Even if you can offer one three-hour session a month that would be really helpful. We're an exceptionally friendly group.

We welcome volunteers of all

ages and this could be a perfect opportunity to gain some practical experience for school leavers and provide references where required. Shifts are three hours long, and usually involve biscuits. New volunteers are always paired with those with experience, and we usually have at least two people on at any one time.

If you're interested just pop into the shop for a chat with current volunteers and pick up an application form. Or you can phone 07904 678 599 to find out more or to leave an email address and we will email an application form to you.

All of us volunteers really enjoy our time in the shop – it's a great way to meet people and serve the community and also support some of the incredibly

varied groups and projects in the Glenkens.

At our funding allocation meeting on 29 of November 2022 we were able to disburse funding totalling £6,905 to the following individual and group applicants:

Sean Campion, Balmacellan Village Hall Trust, New Galloway Junior Golf Club, Miriam Stevenson, Caitlin Constantine, Spalding Bowling Club, Friends of Dalry School, Dalry Friendship Group, The Glenkens Choir, LING, Dalry Community Group, Loch Ken Trust, Mossdale Painters, Dalry Good Neighbours Club, Glenkens Community Centre Management Committee

Grant distribution happens twice annually and we welcome applications for the next round of funding. The closing

date for this is 31 May 2023 and application forms will be available in the shop or by phoning 07904 678 599. Grants are for sums of up to £500, and applicants should be either interest groups based in the Glenkens or individuals with projects which will benefit the Glenkens community.

*Hope to see you soon,
The Glenkens Community Shop
Volunteer Team*

Community Shop Opening Times

Mon, Tue & Thu
10am-1pm

Wed, Fri & Sat:
10am-4pm

Glenkens & District Trust Seeks Trustees

The Glenkens & District Trust (GDT) is looking for new trustees to support its work distributing Community Benefit Funds.

GDT distribute funds to support groups in the Community Council areas of Balmaghie, Balmacellan, Carsphairn, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael and District, St Johns Town of Dalry, Dunscore, Glencairn, New Galloway & Kells Parish and Parton.

Since 2019 145 grants have been awarded to community groups across the area of benefit.

This is a rewarding volunteer role that will help shape the direction of GDT as it continues to ensure that funds coming into the area have the greatest possible impact, both now and in the future.

When asked about his reasons for volunteering, Matthew Sheddon, an Independent Trustee, said "GDT appealed to me because I get to see and enable many exciting community projects, transforming community benefit monies into opportunities to generate long-term prosperity."

GDT wants the Trustee group to be diverse and inclusive and are keen to have people from across the area of benefit represented. They are particularly interested in hearing from people with a background in finance or community development, and people of working age, but anyone who is passionate about giving their time to serve the community and engage actively with GDT's purposes is sure to thrive in the role.

To find out more, request a copy of the Trustee recruitment pack or to arrange an informal chat about the role with a current Trustee, please contact Chris at info@glenkenstrust.org.uk



GLENKENS & DISTRICT TRUST

VOLUNTEER AND HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT

GDT is looking for Trustees to support its work on funding and enabling community development in the Glenkens and surrounding area.

GDT wants to make a real difference, and are looking for people who share that passion for their community. If you can spare a few hours a month to be involved please get in contact.

FIND OUT MORE

info@glenkenstrust.org.uk glenkenstrust.org.uk
facebook.com/glenkenstrust 01557 814 927

GLENKENS & DISTRICT TRUST SCIO SCO42489

Houston, We Have Lift In!

New Galloway Town Hall at long last can boast a state-of-the-art lift, bringing us up to date with a newer, more accessible world.

Ronnie Bradford, Local Initiatives In New Galloway (LING) project officer, can vouch for having actually ridden up and down in it. The rest of us will have to wait a little longer, but it is such an exciting milestone to have reached. As Ronnie put it when he talked to a packed house at our AGM, so far we have been taking things apart in the Town Hall. Now we are beginning to put things back together – but better than before.

There is so much activity, but many delays, and we are behind schedule. We're

working on an assumption of opening up in May with a series of community events, culminating in a Ceilidh. In June, we have a wonderful offer from Geoff Davidson to stage a fund raising concert for us. This will be an event not to be missed.

At Glynne Shackleton's suggestion, we're going to be placing a time capsule in the building and the children at Kells Primary have already produced some writing for us for us to include.

Suggestions of other things to include in a time capsule are very welcome, so please put on your thinking caps, and write us a poem, find an old photograph, or have a rummage. We'd love to include a wide range of interesting and unexpected mementos to be re-discovered many years hence.

Ann Glaister



Connecting Communities

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

You can see the full April/ May programme on page 32, on www.gcat.scot and on our social media channels.

There are lots of new activities to try – if you fancy your hand at dancing there's **The Rat Pack Tea Dance** on 14 April and a new **Spanish Dance Class** on 22 April. Or if you're a mum with kids in tow, how about getting out and about with **Breeze Cycle Rides** on 29 April?

Our CiC games activities now

include the ever-popular CiC **Games Night** at the CatStrand (where the bar will be open), the **Boccia Club** (indoor boules) and the Glenkens and District **Community Drama Group** is now up and running. **Family Drama** takes place on the last Sunday of the month at the Smiddy, and **Menopause**



Really Matters is a welcoming support group that has an informative guest speaker each month.

Or come along to the **Pudding Fan Club** at the CatStrand on 24 April where the wonderful Mr Pook and his team will be demonstrating vegan and veggie puds.

Our Glenkens **Pub Quiz Nights** are proving very popular - they often sell out now, so do book in advance for a fun social evening.

As well as our regular programme we are busy planning the **Glenkens Food Month**, for which the theme this year is celebrating 'Foods for All' - get in touch to get involved!

We are supporting the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) to recruit potential childminders in the area (see p7 for more info).

We were thrilled to hear we received funding from Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway from their Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund for a year's worth of community activities in the area. We are recruiting for a Community Activities Officer so if this is

Dancers enjoying a previous Tea Dance in Dalry Town Hall

something you might like to apply for, you can find the job ad on the back page or visit www.gcat.scot/jobs

The more behind-the-scenes work of CiC lies in supporting volunteers and volunteer organisations. This area is now headed by volunteer extraordinaire Martin Warnock, so for any ideas, thoughts or to volunteer your time please contact him on martin@catstrand.com

Finally, my work on the Glenkens and District consultation report is at an end and I will be feeding back my findings at an event later in April – date still to be confirmed.

I'd like to give a heartfelt "thank you" to our funders for their continued support of Connecting in Communities - the Blackcraig Wind Farm through Foundation Scotland and the Glenkens & District Trust and the National Lottery - you've been instrumental in enabling CiC to be the success it is today.

You can find the full CiC programme of activities for April/May on page 32, or for further information email jo@catstrand.com, call 01644 420 374 or visit www.gcat.scot/cic-learning-and-wellbeing-workshop-programme

Lisa Ridley, Connecting in Communities Project Lead

Energy Efficiency Report Commissioned

The aim of making community buildings in the Glenkens more sustainable has taken a step forward.

This is thanks to a grant awarded to Glenkens Communities & Arts Trust from the Scottish Government's 'Community Led Vision' fund to carry out energy efficiency assessments on 11 community halls in the area.

Engineers from Natural Power Consultants visited the buildings in early March to meet with representatives of the management committees alongside Glenkens Community Spaces Network Facilitator, Becca Nelson, who has been coordinating the project.

As well as giving advice on the day, the NPC engineers will create a report for each

building, detailing the best ways to improve the efficiency of the buildings and giving all the technical rationale behind it. There will also be similar work done on some typical houses in the area, to advise homeowners/landlords.

Findings will be presented at a public event in late April. It is expected that the report will provide all the technical detail required when community venues then apply for capital funding to implement the suggestions. By assessing so many buildings at the same time, it also presents the opportunity to approach contractors collectively in order to make the work more attractive and perhaps more economical.

This work on energy efficiency fits well with the aims of the Glenkens Community Spaces Network, a group created, thanks to funding from the Blackcraig wind farm, in order to support the management



Natural Power engineers with members of Mossdale Village Hall management committee after completing energy assessment

committees of community venues in the Glenkens by finding ways in which to work together to reduce costs and duplication of effort.

Becca commented: "Our meetings allow the opportunity for Management Committee members to share successes and discuss issues, and it's been great to see the beginnings of a support network springing up. I hope that this new report will also take some of the load off them and help them make the step change in capital improvements in energy efficiency."

If you are involved with running a community venue and have not yet heard from me yet, please do get in touch - becca.glenkens.anf@gmail.com) - to find out more. The next Network meeting will be Tuesday 23 May. Hope to see you there!

*Becca Nelson,
Glenkens Community Spaces
Network Facilitator*

Glenkens Producers' Market



2nd Saturday Monthly
Dalry Town Hall, 10am-1pm
- 8th April & 13th May -

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INFORMATION

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SATURDAY 8.30am - 5pm

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CREAM O GALLOWAY

GALLOWAY LODGE PRESERVES

IRVINGS BAKERY

SCOTTISH GALLOWAY PASTA

GLENKENS HONEY COMPANY

POP IN FOR A CHAT AND A BROWSE

What's Happening at the Men's Shed

It is with a heavy heart that the Men's Shed has accepted the resignation of founder, Brian Jones from the committee.

Brian has recently taken retirement from the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust and as a result has found himself busier than he has ever been! We are pleased that he will remain as a member but he will be sorely missed on the management committee.

The Shed membership has been hit since Covid and the committee have taken steps to attract new people.

The first step has been to extend our opening hours to include the first and third Saturday mornings in the

month for those who work. We have also arranged with the Glenkens Art Workshop to support the group through hosting their weekly meetings at the Shed on a Thursday afternoon - any budding artists are welcome to come along!

Our 'social secretary', Walter, is investigating social outings for all interested members and their partners. More details to follow on our Facebook page and website - you can find us on Facebook @ The Glenkens Men's Shed or at www.glenkens-mens-shed.org.uk

The Shed is currently in negotiation with the Pamela Young Trust for the renovation of some benches in Dalry Park. If anyone is interested in this community

project, please get in touch.

We have applied for a grant from Age Scotland to upgrade our pillar drill, purchase a router table and some stools.

We also have a replacement milling machine which means our metal working room is being used much more frequently. We have been given the use of Bill Wiseman's portable forge, and he is hoping to hold a demonstration session in the coming months.

Why not pop along to the Shed for a visit? We're situated behind the old Smiddy in Balmaclellan. Enjoy a tea/coffee and a biscuit put the world to rights and see what goes on - we'd love to see you!

*Tom Leach, Secretary
Glenkens Men's Shed*

Men's Shed Opening Times

MONDAY

9.30am - 12.30pm

WEDNESDAY

9.30am - 12.30pm

Wood Carving

2-4pm

Come along and work on any project you want - our resident expert Bill is on hand with advice

THURSDAY

Art Group

2-4pm

Work on your own creation in any medium in a friendly environment

FRIDAY

9.30am - 12.30pm

SATURDAY

9am - 12noon

Local Childminding Training Extended

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) is embarking on the second phase of a major campaign to recruit new registered childminders in the Glenkens.

The special campaign is kindly supported by Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund, Foundation Scotland and Glenkens & District Trust.

If you are looking to get back into work, or are thinking of a starting a rewarding new career, please visit www.childminding.org/childminder-recruitment to find out more about becoming a professional childminder and the personalised support package we can put in place to help.

Leanne Paton



Forum Reveals Scale of Glenkens Housing Needs

Some 40 people attended the Glenkens Housing Forum in early February to hear the results of the 2022 Housing Needs Survey and the options for housing in the Glenkens.

The event at the Balmaclellan Smiddy, hosted by the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust and supported by the Glenkens District Trust, included a presentation from South of Scotland Community Housing (SoSCH)

on recent innovations in rural housing.

The Glenkens Housing Needs and Demands Assessment (HNDA) was carried out between

November 2021 and March 2022. Despite Covid restrictions on public events, 146 responses were received from a population of 3,000 - a return of some 5%. The report included a survey of local employers and a review of housing association waiting lists.

A number of those replying (27%) said their current housing didn't meet their needs,

principally because of heating costs, lack of space and the poor condition of the buildings. Insecurity of tenure was also mentioned.

Other key findings revealed that half of those responding knew of someone leaving a household through lack of suitable accommodation. Two in five believed they would be in need of new housing in the next five years, and, in an interesting insight into work patterns, two thirds had need for a workspace at home. This could include yard or shed spaces as well as home offices.

The HNDA concluded there was a need for housing that is

The availability of housing in the Glenkens is extremely limited and is affecting the sustainability of communities.

affordable, fuel efficient and low cost to run, whether re-developing existing properties or new build. The availability of housing in the Glenkens is extremely limited and is affecting the sustainability of communities.

The challenges for the Glenkens, like all rural D&G communities, includes the shortage of housing with affordable running costs for rent or purchase.



This is exacerbated by the post-Covid surge in demand for second homes, a shrinking private rental market and the unintended consequences of energy efficiency legislation and its impact on the rental sector.

Alan Smith, spoke on behalf of the Pamela Young Trust (PYT) which owns 22 properties in the Glenkens which are available for rent to anyone with a Glenkens connection. There is currently a waiting list of 27*.

In a typical year, few, if any, houses become available as PYT tenants tend to stay very long-term. As properties become vacant

energy efficiency measures are installed but this can be difficult and expensive in older traditional properties. The PYT has several ideas at the feasibility study stage including erecting three homes on a brownfield site purchased in Balmaclellan and the potential development of former hydro houses at Glenlee, currently owned by SPEN.

Mike Staples, chief executive

of SoSCH, gave an inspirational presentation of what has been achieved in other communities in creating high-quality community housing by repurposing old buildings or creating new-builds. This includes imaginative re-use of derelict land or buildings such as hotels and even an old police station.

It became clear that there are many sources of advice available. There are also funding sources for developments which meet all the criteria expected of a modern energy efficient project. But the other ingredients include time - three years appeared to be the minimum time scale and five years more typical between idea and the key in the door - and there have to be people with time, expertise and energy locally to foster the initiative and then engage with other agencies, experts and funders.

A full report of the event is available on the new Glenkens Hub website at www.glenkens.scot or for more information contact Mike Staples of South of Scotland Community Housing at mike.sosch@outlook.com

* by the time of going to press the figure had risen to 29.




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Evictions in the Glenkens

Four weeks before the Glenkens Housing Forum reported on the scale of the local crisis (see opposite page) the urgency of the issue was highlighted by eviction notices being served on a group of nine local residents.

The tenants, occupying five houses and flats at the Kenmure Steadings, south of New Galloway, were phoned by the landlord's agent on Friday 13 January and told they would shortly receive eviction notices the following week. Letters giving notice of eight or twelve weeks were subsequently issued though some of the tenants are questioning the process used. The Scottish Government, shortly afterwards, extended

the current embargo on most categories of evictions until the end of October, giving the tenants more time to consider options.

The tenants had had no indication that the landlord, Major General (ret'd) Jamie Gordon, had been planning to sell the properties. Some of the tenants had just completed improvements at their own expense and with the landlord's approval. Major General Gordon told the *Galloway News* that he had "...not taken the decision lightly." He went on to say "...the raft of legislation and standards the Scottish Government has brought in means it is becoming too difficult and expensive for me to provide the standard of accommodation as required by law."

New Galloway and Kells Community Council, on behalf of the tenants, arranged a Zoom meeting with the landlord. At the

council's February meeting, attended by the tenants and numerous supporters from the community, it was reported the the landlord had agreed to consider any proposals for a community purchase of the property but had made clear he wanted a quick sale.

In the course of a discussion among councillors and public at the meeting, the tenants were advised to move quickly to seek expert advice and wider support for their case from politicians and relevant organisations.

On 13 March the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust facilitated a meeting of tenants and local groups and experts to discuss further action. It was reported that the youngest three members of the nine had decided to leave the area since they saw no potential options in the short term. The remaining six led by Steve Petch and Andy Fletcher have pursued numerous sources of



information and are working to identify some organisation which could act as a vehicle for a purchasing initiative.

Steve Petch subsequently approached local MSP Finlay Carson for support. Mr Carson has written to the landlord expressing the hope that a community buy-out could be arranged. The Community Council has written to the landlord seeking an indication of the price he would be asking for the properties. No replies have been received at the time of going to press.



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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Eviction Rap

No warning in the morning: a teatime call
 Nothing to prepare us for imminent fall
 No "sit down love" no "brace yourself pet"
 No "didn't see this one coming, I'll bet"

No "regret to inform you" no "sorry for your plight"
 Entire neighbourhood evicted? Wait, this can't be right?
 Encroaching numbness, stunned disbelief
 Moments of anger dissolving in grief

Suffocating panic, anxiety soaring
 Where once we had lives, we have instead tears pouring
 Chaos, uncertainty, and nowhere to go
 Not in this economy, and housing crisis woe

To find ourselves homeless? Utterly shocking
 Letting agent smug, condescending and mocking
 Unlucky for some? Isn't that what they say?
 But Friday the 13th? Could have picked a better day?

Look not for compassion: it's not theirs to give
 Indifferent to the hell in which they've forced us to live
 These are our homes: our hearts reside here
 Our tiny community united in fear

Mercilessly mercenary, how can this be?
 Expendable, pocket-money commodities are we?
 Money talks for sure, but listen: we scream
 Circumstances dire, heartbreaking and obscene

Too heartsick to eat, too frantic to sleep
 If only we could find a way: our homes to keep?

This poem was written by one of the evicted tenants shortly after receiving the phone message

St Margaret's New Priest Settles In

The Reverend Dawn Matthew and her husband Nick, together with their family, have now settled into the Rectory in New Galloway.

Dawn says; "Although we've only been here a few weeks, we're already beginning to feel like part of this wonderful community and we look forward to playing our part in that welcome and community spirit in the times to come".

As well as St Margaret's, Dawn will also be ministering to All Saints' Challock and a joint and viable service plan is being considered by all concerned. In order for Dawn to be present in both churches every Sunday, there will be some changes in service times, initially on a trial basis.

After Easter, it is advisable to check www.stmargaretsnewgalloway.org or the noticeboard outside the church, for up-to-date information.

Another service offering being considered is a midweek gathering on Wednesday mornings. This would be an informal and simple shared group. If anyone would be interested in joining or finding out more, please call Dawn on 01644 420431.

The Licensing Service for Dawn took place recently with the Right Revd Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, officiating. The service

included the presentation of symbols of ministry to Dawn by members of the congregation and community. And after the service, the St Margaret's Guild hosted a tea party enjoyed by all in attendance.



New Locum Minister for Glenkens Churches

Most folk will be aware that the Glenkens Churches (Dalry, New Galloway, Balmaclellan and Carsphairn) have not had a full-time Minister due to retirement since August 2022.

Whenever possible within the Church of Scotland, at the request of the sessions and congregations, a Locum is appointed during the Vacancy to help ensure there are regular Sunday services, do pastoral cover – which includes such events as funerals, weddings and baptisms – school services and any other relevant event which requires the presence of 'The Meenister'.

Those who have been able to attend any of the churches since the first Sunday of Advent, 27 November 2022, will have already seen that the position of Locum has been 'filled', by me. 'Me' being Rev Pam Bellis – an OLM (Ordained Local Minister) within the Church of Scotland, who moved to

Kirkcudbright in October 2021.

Since arriving in the post, I have been trying to find my way about the Charge, and get to know different people on my travels. Taking regular services, up to and including Christmas ones which included all the local schools attending the church for the first time since before the dreaded pandemic, as well as, sadly funerals of local folk.

Those who have already met me have as likely met my sidekick – Aria, an eight-year-old black Labrador. She enjoys being in the car, and in church when logistics allow. As those who have already met her, well you know she loves meeting folk.

I have 'done' ministry in a number of guises for more years than I care to think about – both in Scotland and England – ranging from formal church services to different chaplaincies – including hospitals, schools and since November 2021 as one of the Veterans Chaplains in Scotland. VCS finally came live then (as with so much, the pandemic delayed its start-up) – and I was one of the initial 12 deployed – currently 18 of us – throughout Scotland. An initiative started

by padres who had seen active service and now fully endorsed by the MOD, various main stream churches, the Scottish Government and various relevant charities.

Things being as they are within the churches, and I'm referring here not just to the Church of Scotland (Scotland's national church) but other denominations, there seems to be not enough full-time Ministers to fill all the current vacancies. This means that someone filling a 'temporary' role such as I am cannot say – 'oh, as the Locum I will only be here a few months' – it's very much a case of the future of the Glenkens Charge being in God's hands.

In the meantime, I will continue doing Sunday services, and other pastoral services as required, be they in one of the four churches, or visiting homes and schools. In the immediate future this means of course Easter, for we are currently travelling through Lent. This year we will be able to be present at all four churches over the Easter weekend, one way or another – you can find service times in the Church section on page 31.



Your Minister may have retired but the work of the church continues. As Christians we are not promised an easy life – but as Christians we know we have been promised Eternal Life.

I hope and pray, as we move through these changing times, while the cogs of the church turn to a position where the congregations are able to 'Call' a new minister for the Parish, that I will get to meet more of you along the way, journeying to build up Christ's church where we live, work and pray.

Rev Pam Bellis,
07751 379 249,

pam@bellisconsultancy.co.uk

The Adventures of Kenside Polo

Kenside Polo is a Kpedigree English goat born and bred in the Glenkens, and she's gained quite a name for herself over the past year.

"Polo was used as part of the publicity advertising the 2022 Royal Highland Show and to launch their new app," says Polo's owner, Irene McCreath, from Polquhanity Farm outside Carsphairn.

Polo won the Sharpeyed Salver, presented by the breed society (English Goat Breeders Association) for the most points gained at shows in 2022.

"We had a pretty good year with the shows, both live and online. Our big lad, Zorro, was Best Male and reserve overall in the EGBA National Show too."

Pictured is Polo in front of Edinburgh Castle. Next issue we'll see what else Polo visited on her big day out in Edinburgh...it sounds like quite an adventure!



New Faces for LING

LING is delighted to welcome two new recruits - Jackie Wells and Zoe Thomas.

Jackie will be our new Community Inclusion Worker, taking over from Angie Bradford. Angie is still very kindly helping out occasionally, but has been head-hunted to work more hours in Dalry School.

Jackie has launched straight into her role with great enthusiasm. Some of you will know her already from Balmacellan shop. She is working with us as we ready ourselves for re-opening the Town Hall as soon as possible and in the meantime is re-

establishing LING Lunches as a first priority. We are very pleased indeed to be able to have her with us.

She will be working closely with and supporting Zoe Thomas, who takes up the role of Community Hub Host, as we start up a 'warm hub' session using Kitty's as our initial venue until the Town Hall becomes available.

Again, we are delighted to have Zoe, who applied for the post, having worked as a volunteer at LING Lunches. Many thanks to those others who enquired about or applied for the positions and we'll hope to be keeping in touch.

Pictured below are Jackie Wells (left) and Zoe Thomas (right).



Gazette Deliveries



If you live rurally in the Glenkens, you may well have met Gary Edington, our Gazette delivery driver. Thanks to funding from Fred Olsen Renewables and the Galloway Glens Scheme, we are able to deliver to Gazettes to outlying households across the area. So if you see him, say "hi"!

First Lamb of 2023



First lamb of the year born in Carsphairn parish was at Polquhanity Farm on 22 February 2023, photo taken by Billy McCreath of Polquhanity Farm, Carsphairn.

In Pursuit of a Land Use Vision

Back in October 2022, the Glenkens was selected to take part in a Community Learning Programme (CLP) around Land Use, sponsored by the South of Scotland Enterprises (SOSE) as part of the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership.

The Community Learning Programme was delivered by the Social Enterprise Academy to the Glenkens and three other regions across Scotland, and aimed to help each community understand their Vision for land use in the area and to make sure that all voices were heard in the process.

It started with two nationwide

webinars, which provided great inspiration about what communities across Scotland are doing in the way of land use, and then continued in each region with six online sessions aimed at understanding the local issues and teasing out a Vision for the area. They were open to all, and about 30 people took part for the Glenkens series.

This then culminated in an event at the end of January for all CLP participants, Community Council representatives, representatives of national agencies, the Biosphere, SOSE and the Scottish Government Land Use team.

The visitors to the area were given a tour of the land use changes currently happening in the Glenkens, and then the groups came together to review the draft Vision and work up local, regional and national

Recommendations for what they saw as necessary to make the Vision a reality. It was a most constructive and positive session, well facilitated by the Social Enterprise Academy and hosted at the CatStrand by GCAT.

The next steps are to finalise the Vision and Recommendations based on feedback from this event. This will be done by a small Working Group and the final Vision and Recommendations will be published in the next Gazette. It is hoped that the final version of the Vision will be adopted by the Glenkens and district Community Action Plan Steering Group as a useful addendum to



Attendees at the Land Use evening event at the CatStrand

the Community Action Plan.

You can find the final-draft Vision and Recommendations on the new Glenkens Hub website www.glenkenshub.co.uk under Resources.

Feedback, until the middle of April, is most welcome - email helen@catstrand.com

*Helen Keron,
Executive Manager, GCAT*

Funding Appeal by Pylon Opponents

Galloway Without Pylons (GWP) is a local action group set up to "protect our beautiful part of Dumfries and Galloway from being blighted by 118 giant pylons over 32.5 kilometres, running between Glenlee and Tongland".

Here is an update from Paul Swift, Chair of GWP:

This pylon line, proposed by Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) - who are owned by the Spanish energy conglomerate Iberdrola - cuts through the Galloway Forest Park close to major tourist attractions such as the Queensway Crossing, Raiders Road, Loch Stroan, Otter Pool, Red Kite Trail, Kennick Burn (and the ancient beech avenue), the Bennan, Slogarie and Laurieston Forests and Barstobrick.

Dumfries & Galloway Council objected to their planning application so the application

went to a public inquiry. The Public Inquiry, which lasted for six weeks, ended on 30 November and was a mammoth undertaking for everyone concerned. Our two legal experts were brilliant and worked incredibly hard in preparation for the Inquiry, during the Inquiry and since, preparing their final submissions to the Scottish Government. We agreed on a fee of £10,000 for both but, owing to circumstances out of their control, they did a lot more work and we have paid them £15,000 to date. One of the reasons for the extra workload was that Dumfries & Galloway Council, who objected to the application which triggered the Public Inquiry, withdrew seven days before the Inquiry started. This created more work for everyone else.



Just to put how reasonable our experts' charges are it into context, the Council's legal bill just for preparing for the Inquiry was almost £70,000.

GWP was originally tasked to submit their final submission by 9 January 2023 but the Scottish Government, since the Inquiry finished on 30 November, has published four major reports and has stated "Parties are invited to provide comments on how, if at all, this document affects their case to the inquiry and its relevance to this proposal".

The publications are (a) National Policy Framework 4, (b) Scottish Government Onshore Wind Policy Statement 2022, (c) Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan and (d) Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045.

Our two experts, especially our planning/power generation consultant, will now have to do a great deal more work. The amount of work was illustrated when SPEN's legal team asked for a seven-week extension stating they wouldn't be able to complete the work in time. This has been agreed and the completion date is now 13 April.

The 'David vs Goliath' analogy has just increased but, with your help, we can complete the last part of the process which will give us a good chance of success.

If you feel strongly about ensuring local voices are heard in order to preserve this unique corner of Galloway for future generations, please consider helping our cause with a donation. It will be very much appreciated by GWP, the local communities and tourists who enjoy visiting our beautiful area.

To donate visit <https://gofund.me/c1a7653d> or pay directly to Galloway Without Pylons, Bank of Scotland, 80-22-60, 23761760

Stroanpatrick Restoration Project

My parents bought the old schoolhouse at Stroanfreggan in the 1960s, when the school closed.

They lived there during their retirement and four generations of our family have come regularly for holidays, gatherings and a quiet place to rest, walk or work. Land use and the local community have changed enormously over the past sixty years. Farms in the area that used to rear sheep and some cattle are now given over to forestry and more recently wind turbines, but Stroanpatrick, the farm surrounding the schoolhouse on all sides is still a sheep farm, with the Southern Upland Way running through it.

The news that Stroanpatrick might be sold for commercial forestry reached us while the whole family was assembled

for birthday celebrations last summer, so we put our heads together to think how we might save it. But why did we think it needed 'saving'? For what alternative land use? And how does one 'save' 585 hectares of rough sheep grazing? Could we find a buyer who shared our vision of how the land could be used? If forestry companies were interested then we probably needed to act fast, so we wrote a proposal and have contacted a number of potential buyers.

Stroanpatrick was last sold in 2004 for under £900 per hectare. The current price for rough grazing land is three times higher than this, but forest land is about ten times higher. International investors are interested in buying land in Scotland as a safe asset with a good return on investment and are also interested in services (eg carbon offsetting) that the land may provide.

What would be lost and who are the losers if land use changes? Land value depends on what it produces (agricultural products, timber), the services that it provides (eg storage and flow of water and carbon) and its amenity (wildlife, biodiversity, landscape value, open space for walking) and heritage (eg monuments, archaeology). Owners earn money from the produce (private goods) and from the increase in asset value, but the services, amenity and heritage are mainly public goods (ie we all benefit).

Change in use (eg from rough grazing to forestry) can increase



the land value enormously, but such private gain may be at the expense of public loss. Owners decide how their property is used and public loss is not generally compensated, although some damage to public goods is regulated (eg drainage should not cause flooding, water resources, carbon emissions from deep peat and historically or archaeologically sensitive areas should be protected).

How does this all affect our aims for Stroanpatrick and why hasn't it been snapped up by a forestry company over the last six months, while we try to find a buyer? The two neighbouring forestry businesses have been advised that less than 20% of the area could be planted with conifers, because of peat and sensitive archaeological areas. What about a wind farm? Two applications (Longburn) have been rejected, most recently in May 2019, on the grounds of adverse impacts on the landscape, historical heritage and visual amenity.

The Reporter wrote that her rejection "highlights the value of conserving any remaining areas of less modified open land

which have remained unaffected by commercial forestry."

There are three notable aspects to this judgement: 1) it is based on the value of public goods 2) it implicitly rejects a change of land use to commercial forestry and 3) there is no similar process for judging loss of public goods in relation to commercial forestry.

Our vision for 'saving' Stroanpatrick is based on sustainable stewardship of the natural assets of the land for the benefit of the owners, the local community and the enhancement of biodiversity, carbon stocks, amenity and our common heritage. It is not unreasonable to use the term 'saving', because most of these would be at risk from commercial afforestation.

You are welcome to read our proposal, which includes contact details, at <http://u.pc.cd/KN4otalK>

Keith Brander

Above - Looking north across Stroanpatrick

Left - Stroanpatrick ridge



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Trees, Trees and More Trees...

Through the Eyes of a Tree Surgeon

It's remarkable when you look around at the fine array of amazing tree species that we have in Galloway.

From ancient oaks to towering firs and pines, the different layers of trees in our woodlands, the under storey and the canopy working together to shelter the land and its inhabitants. For centuries the woodlands have been worked and managed, the cutters felling the trees, horses extracting the timber and it being sent to the local sawmills, a valuable resource for the local area.

Taking care of trees in our stunningly beautiful Galloway lands has always been an honour and a joy, not to say hard work. That rewarding feeling of a good day's slog in the woods or swinging around on a rope with a chainsaw is as much pleasure as it is work.

I particularly like this time of year in the woods as it's still cool, a good place to sweat, laugh and generally be. It's a chance to catch nature's moments first hand, something that seems to be in decline.

When working in the countryside or town, it is always good practice to check for any protection orders on individual trees and to get permission

for tree work in a conservation area. Dumfries & Galloway has 36 of the latter.

We must always be environmentally considerate when working with trees: after all trees are an essential part of our eco system, a habitat for wildlife and our actions will have an impact on that.

With that in mind, we always carry out environmental tree work operations sensitively. As well as good health and safety and best practice ways of working, we try to be as safe, light-footed and as efficient as possible.

It never ceases to amaze me how many enormous, exotic, and giant trees there are dotted around Galloway, and quite often in gardens large and small. Sometimes close to buildings, these old-school beauties stand high up in the winds and often have sturdy buttress roots above ground to brace the trunk against the prevailing wind forces. If these trees are growing on stony ground they can sometimes be shallow rooted and susceptible to movement. This can potentially be spotted by observing around the base of the tree after strong winds for signs of ground disturbance. Remember that trees grow slowly and spend many years building up these defences, so

are unlikely to blow over in the next storm. Observing that storm Arwen came in from a northerly direction and not from our usual westerly weather pattern, was a possible factor in the downing of so many trees that just weren't ready and prepared for it.

Other things to keep an eye out for are fungus or fruiting bodies on the tree and signs of dieback and disease.

It's true to say that trees have been under attack in recent years. *phytophthora ramorum*, a fungus that kills larch trees as well as others and ash dieback disease have certainly helped to change the local landscape so far.

Always consider the impact of removing a tree as once it's gone, it's gone. In some cases this is the only option, but often there are other options available that are suited to certain trees. This could be a reduction or a pollard, be it a little or a lot.

Tree work was always traditionally carried out during

autumn and winter for various different reasons and that's why being environmentally sensitive when carrying out tree work operations is even more necessary during nesting bird season or even best delayed until the back end.

Richard Kirsch,
Glenkens Tree Surgeons



Richard working on trees in the Garroch Walled Garden

All Change for Loch Ken Boat Registration



The new season is nearly upon us and, due to changes in circumstances, the Loch Ken Trust have put new arrangements in place for the Boat Registration Scheme on Loch Ken.

The Boat Registration Scheme will now operate from the Loch Ken Holiday Park, Parton, next to the public slipway. Please call 01644 470 282 or email office@lochkenholidaypark.co.uk to arrange to register your boat. All craft with an engine of any type, including electric outboards, MUST be registered before being taken on to Loch Ken.

Proof of valid insurance must be shown for all boats with engines over 6hp.

Full details of annual/daily fees, and the rules and regulations can be found at www.lochken.org.uk

The Loch Ken Trust would like to thank Martin Smee and the Loch Ken Marina for running the scheme for the last three years.

The Loch Ken Trust Team

Learning to Love Loch Ken

Educating our future generations on how to care for and protect our environment has always been a top priority for the Loch Ken Trust (LKT).

It is vitally important to us that children are equipped with the knowledge to enjoy our beautiful environment responsibly and enjoy all that nature and the outdoors has to offer. In February the first of this year's environmental education sessions was held at the Galloway Activity Centre.

Activities were designed by students from Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) in collaboration with Loch Ken Ranger, Leanne Pump. The students are currently working on a wildlife and conservation course which aims to provide them with real-life experience of working with communities and managing natural heritage.

The sessions were given the thumbs up by the Primary 5 and 6 children from Crossmichael Primary, who were the first to take part. The fun and engaging activities included scavenger hunts, squirrel den building, mini ecosystems and food webs. The weather was perfect for the school kids

to enjoy a day of outdoor learning and fun in stunning surroundings, with tasty packed lunches provided by the Thistle Inn, Crossmichael.

Ely Blyth, Teaching Instructor at SRUC Barony Campus, said; "This has been a fantastic opportunity for our students to gain skills in education, resource development and working with communities, in a genuine, real-life setting. The students have produced some amazing sessions and have really enjoyed the chance to work with the Loch Ken Trust and Crossmichael School. We got very lucky with the weather and the students delivered sessions on responsible camping, wildlife around the loch and the ethics behind land use in fun and engaging ways. Overall, a brilliant day!"

None of this would have been possible without funding received through Inspiring Scotland from the Scottish Government's Rural and Island Communities Idea Into Action Fund.

Thanks also to a generous donation from Drax Group, the owners of the Galloway Hydro Scheme, that will enable us to roll out



delivery of these activities to local schools in the summer term.

Drax Group Head of Community, Shona King, said: "We're proud to help fund the Loch Ken Trust's valuable work which promotes our shared values of protecting the natural environment and providing educational opportunities. It's so important that children and young people can access areas of natural beauty in order to learn about biodiversity and ecosystems, hopefully sparking a future interest in conservation."

If you are interested in the work of the Loch Ken Trust why not join us? Full details on our website www.lochken.org.uk

*Lindsay Stewart,
LKT Support Officer*



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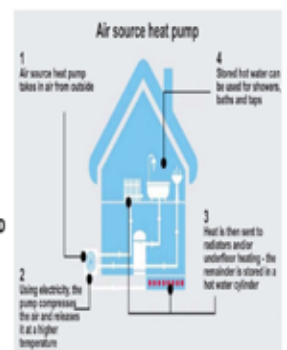
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What is Rewilding?

With the loss of habitat being a major factor in the decline of biodiversity, particularly in rural areas, the concept of rewilding is quite a progressive approach to conservation.

A key element is that people can incorporate this on a personal level, which can make a difference to local ecosystems. Rewilding is a conservation approach that involves restoring and protecting natural habitats and wildlife to their original state, allowing ecosystems to function without human intervention. The goal of rewilding is to bring back biodiversity, improve ecosystem health, and support the survival of threatened or endangered species.

Rewilding often involves reintroducing native species that have been lost or extirpated from a particular area, such as large predators like wolves or lynxes. This can help restore natural ecological processes and improve the overall health and resilience of the ecosystem. Rewilding can also involve the restoration of natural processes like fire or flooding, which can create habitats for a variety of species.

Rewilding can be controversial, as it can sometimes conflict with human interests such as agriculture, forestry, and rural development. However, many conservationists and scientists see rewilding as a crucial tool for restoring degraded ecosystems and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Beavers play a vital role in ecosystem functioning by creating and maintaining



European beaver gnawing leaves in the water © Galloway Wildlife Conservation Trust

wetlands, providing critical habitats for various plant and animal species. Wetlands also act as natural water filters, helping to improve water quality and reduce the impact of flooding.

By reintroducing beavers to areas where they have been lost, we can help restore ecosystem functioning and improve biodiversity. Additionally, beavers can provide substantial economic benefits through ecotourism, recreation and valuable ecosystem services such as flood control.

Overall, the European beaver is an important species for rewilding efforts and can help to

restore degraded ecosystems, improve biodiversity, and provide essential ecosystem services.

Food for thought for the Glenkens perhaps?

John Denerley

John runs the Galloway Wildlife Conservation Trust and can be contacted at conservation@gallowaywildlife.org.uk

The Fantastic Forest Festival Shone a Light on Woodlands in the Glenkens

The first ever Fantastic Forest Festival took place in February, with the woodlands of the Glenkens taking centre stage in many of the 12 festival events.

This included artist-led walks, presentations and the first Spruce Plucking World Championships! Hundreds of attendees took part across the whole suite of events, all with the aim of better engaging with, understanding and appreciating our woodlands.

Within ongoing and vital discussion about planting proposals, national targets and consultations, the festival

provided an opportunity for people to celebrate our trees, forestry and woodlands in all their forms. Whether it was searching for rainforests or discussing our future timber needs, the festival tried to have something that appealed to all.

Outputs from the festival include the artist residency which was underway, content for an upcoming edition of the *Geographer* magazine, an exhibition of the school pupils' tree drawings and also discussion with the Scottish Parliament about presenting the findings to a relevant committee.

The whole festival came about only thanks to the simply brilliant enthusiasm of partners, particularly Leeming



+ Paterson, the Watson Bird Project, South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre and the Crichton Carbon Centre. I am grateful to them all, and also to everyone that attended an event.

McNabb Laurie

Winning photograph of the Fantastic Forest Festival photo competition, taken by Diane Schofield

Glenkens Freecycle

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

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Acoustic guitar, (doesn't have to be free). Contact: 07727 127 997

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

Researching Community Heat Networks

Local company Natural Power Consultants Ltd, who are based at Forrest Estate, outside Dalry, were recently commissioned to look into the feasibility of a community heat network for the Crichton Estate.

The focus was to provide heat via low carbon sources and connect to the nearby local NHS campus, Dumfries & Galloway College, local housing and various private mixed-use enterprises surrounding the estate.

A number of low carbon sources of heat accessible to the estate were assessed, including capturing heat from the Dumfries Basin Aquifer, a local, shallow source of groundwater that has high potential to provide quality

heating to the proposed network.

Is a community heat network something which could be looked into for our Glenkens communities?

In the Doon Valley, research is being done into demonstrating whether it would be feasible to convert excess wind energy into useable stored heat in old coal mine shafts.

Currently a huge amount of wind energy is wasted as the National Grid can't utilise it but it still gets paid for through curtailment payments. This lost energy equates to GW-hours of heat that could potentially be stored and distributed directly to local heat networks.

With the rising cost of living, especially for heating our homes, perhaps small-scale community heat networks for our villages are a potential worth investigating for an affordable future. Sarah Ade

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Turning Ideas into Action

Delivering the Loch Ken Plan is all about turning the Loch Ken Trust's ideas into practical action on the ground (or water!).

Our Baseline Ecosystem Assessment project involves really getting to know, in detail, what state our natural environment is in right now. Once we

know where we stand, we can start to develop projects to restore and enhance our ecosystem.

We see ourselves as guardians of Loch Ken, so we want to be able to say that the loch's ecosystem is actually improving, thanks to our hard work.

The Loch Ken Ranger Service, which

is at the heart of our community engagement, relies on the support of funders and partners to bring our projects to life.

Below you can see how we are working co-operatively with partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors to progress our Baseline Ecosystem Assessment.



Staff and students on the Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) Wildlife & Conservation Management course will be working with the Loch Ken Ranger Service to develop and design engaging outdoor activity sessions. These sessions will help us engage and enthuse our community to gather scientific data on the state of our ecosystem.

Cath Seeds, Senior Lecturer at SRUC's Barony Campus, said: *"We are absolutely delighted to be involved with this project. Over the last few years we have built a great partnership with the Loch Ken Trust. It is a brilliant project for our students to be involved in."*



Drax plc are the current owners of the Galloway Hydro Scheme which runs the length of the Ken-Dee river valley, with Loch Ken at its heart.

Since our Scottish Government funding only covers the design and development of the activity sessions, Drax stepped in to fund the delivery. Thanks to the Drax funding, we will deliver a session to each of our local schools this summer.

Drax Group Head of Community, Shona King, said: *"We're proud to help fund the Loch Ken Trust's valuable work which promotes our shared values of protecting the natural environment and providing educational opportunities."*

INSPIRING SCOTLAND

None of this exciting work could happen without the support of our funders.
The work highlighted here is supported through Inspiring Scotland by the Scottish Government Rural and Island Communities Ideas into Action Fund



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Galloway Fisheries Trust is a well established, local environmental charity carrying out conservation, education, research and fisheries management work across the region.

They will be holding 'citizen science' sessions to gather data on the state of the fish stocks in Loch Ken.



How and where we spend our money really matters. Part of our funding is to purchase waterproofs, to ensure that visiting school groups always have suitable clothing for outdoor activities.

We are buying them from Tarff Agricultural Merchants; a local business, which is also a co-operative. Tarff was actually the first agricultural co-op in Scotland, when it was formed in 1903. Buying from small local firms, helps keep money in the local economy.



The Optimistic Environmentalist

Why We and the Planet Need Whales

Whales behave in ways that humans understand and value.

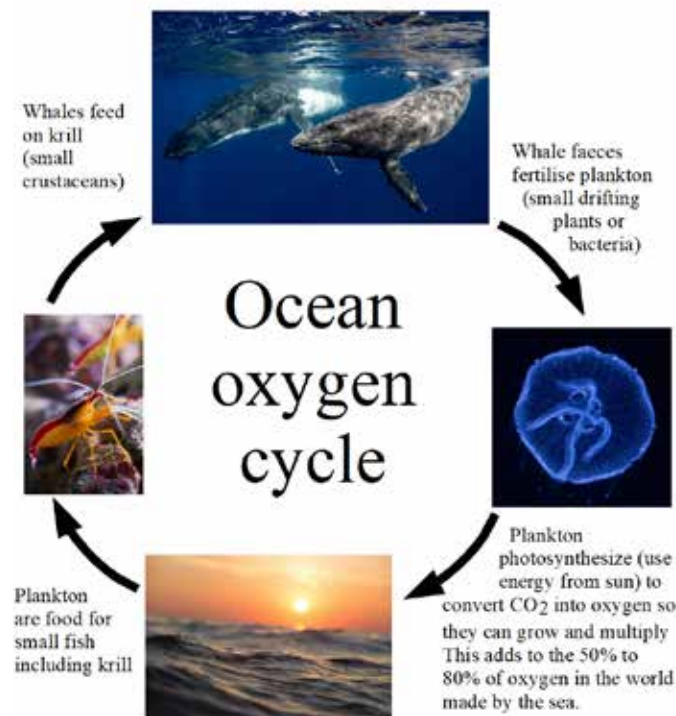
Whales are impressive mammals, having superb physical agility, speed and intelligence, with a brain twice that of ours. They have many traits that are relatable to by humans such as being sociable and live in families (pods), looking after their offspring and help with each others' young, practising cooperative feeding, they communicate in their own language - via grunts and a variety of songs that are particular to given pods that can be heard across oceans - helping them keep in touch with each other and find pod members eg their young.

Whales swim for thousands of miles, visiting different parts of the world throughout the year. They may meet up with other pods in certain areas, where they use songs, body language, splashing, jumping and individualised fin markings to track each other down.

Whales are good for the sea

Through their contribution to nutrient circulation, whales improve the sea, bringing nutrients from deep in the ocean to the top when alive and adding to the nutrients on the seabed when they die.

Studies have shown that numbers of whales, krill and plankton rely on each other; since the moratorium on commercial whaling, populations of all three have increased simultaneously - when scientists fertilised plankton, krill and whale numbers also increased.



Difficulties faced by whales

Scientists have found that whales are not disturbed by natural noises like underwater earthquakes, ignoring and working around them.

However, they find unnatural noises frightening such as those made by ships, air guns used to look for gas and oil and human building, eg laying cables, windfarms. These sounds make communicating and navigating difficult or impossible for whales.

Increasingly, crowded seas make it hard for whales to navigate safely. They are regularly hit by ships, which have grown in size and number. Ships often don't see the whale or are too big to manoeuvre out of the way quickly. Like land

animals with human vehicles, whales don't realise they have to move and are confused by the artificial noise. They also don't understand our 'sea lane' layouts!

There has been a loss of habitat due to massive shipping increases, gas and oil drilling, wind and wave structure, harbours, etc.

There has been a loss of food - for example, plankton and krill numbers are falling significantly due to changes in the sea (see below).

The acidity of the sea is rising through chemical and oil leaks, explosions, accidental spills from ships and manufacturing, or planned releases into the water courses. This kills food for the whales and builds up

in their bodies. Chemicals are transferred from mothers' bodies to their foetuses through the womb and in the milk when breastfeeding. This is a contribution to increased mortality; female killer whales did live to their 80s, males to their 60s, but now are dying in their 20s. This is their prime breeding age, thus affecting future numbers of healthy births.

Plastic pollution - discarded from land, by ships, etc - cuts into, tangles around and can grow into parts of the whale. Smaller bits of plastic, including plastic that has been ground up by the sea, builds up in the whales' bodies, clogging their veins, arteries, and vital organs.

What can we do?

Reduce our use of oil and diesel.

Buy less plastic including less packaging, cosmetics and cuddly toys with plastic beads in them.

Buy local products so that items are not moved around the world as much.

Always recycle - don't drop litter and clear beaches up.

Join organisations that help to clean up or reduce negative impacts in the sea, help the affected animals and work with governments and agencies to improve their work eg RSPB, WWF, World Animal Protection, Greenpeace, Sea Shepherd, Friends of the Earth.

Write to companies to ask them to use shipping which use modern technology that reduces noise, petrol and diesel and discard less waste.

Write to MSPs/MPs to ask them to improve legislation regarding companies, shipping, etc. responsibilities and standards.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan





THE GALLOWAY GLENS SCHEME – OUR APPROACH

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

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

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



Dalry School Basketball Team Continues Its Winning Streak

In February Dalry Secondary Basketball team played away at Dumfries Academy.

The team won 41-7 after two quarters. Dumfries picked up some injuries so the Dalry team agreed to cut the competitive fixture short and continue with a friendly game, with Dumfries fielding some senior players in their squad.

In a much tighter game, Dumfries opened up an early 10-0 lead, after which Dalry switched to a zone defence, shutting Dumfries out for

the rest of the game and scoring 12 points in a row. Dalry won the fixture 12-10 in what was another excellent performance from the boys.

Keep your eyes peeled for the results of the Regional Finals held at Dalbeattie - will Dalry continue their winning streak?

*Liam Fleming,
Coach*

The Dalry team in their brand new kits, sponsored by Dalry-based company Natural Power



Dalry Primary Update

Children in Dalry Primary have been busy this term.

We had a 'Health in Winter session' at the Galloway Activity Centre, which included climbing and archery. On the day the children also had opportunity to be on the loch in canoes and to cook lunch, learning about air miles and food sustainability. Thank you to the Galloway Glens Scheme for supporting this.

We had a whole school trip to the Science Centre in Glasgow along with Kells Primary, also kindly funded by the Galloway Glens Scheme.

In school we have been having some STEM sessions. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The children were set challenges and have to design, build and present their findings to the rest of the children.

Finally, our Primary 7 children have been learning cycling skills through a Bikeability course. This has been running since the February break and it's wonderful to see how their skills and confidence have increased.

Paul Scrimshaw



Carsphairn Primary

To satisfy the demand for education at Carsphairn school, Carsphairn CC believe the school should be re-opened and the mothballing halted.

Travel times for some children in the Carsphairn catchment area to the proposed alternative at Dalry school involve unacceptably long travel times, as long as one hour depending on how far north of the village the child lives. Furthermore, children are not supervised on the school bus, a further unacceptable situation for young children travelling on their own on the bus to Dalry school.

Some of the points made in the consultation for Carsphairn school closure were inaccurate, and ignored both some of the clauses in the Education Act 2010 and the statutory guidance for the closure of rural schools.

The Education and Learning committee meet on 28 March to consider the results of the consultation and we hope they will come to the right decision to re-open the school to support the sustainability of the community, and not mothball it for a further two years as recommended by the Education and Learning Directorate.

The ongoing plan for affordable housing will bring young families to the area whose children require, and have a right to, schooling in their local community. *Carsphairn Community Council*

Hannah McAndrew Wins Heritage Craft Award

Corsock-based slipware potter, Hannah McAndrew, has won the prestigious UK Maker of the Year Award at the UK Heritage Crafts Awards.

The award is sponsored by the Marsh Charitable Trust and winners were announced at a prestigious winners' reception at the House of Lords.

The result of the award and a £1,000 cash prize was revealed at the ceremony, opened by Heritage Crafts' co-chair Jay Blades MBE.

After serving an apprenticeship with Dumfriesshire slipware potter, Jason Shackleton, Hannah has been running her own workshop since 2003. She

draws influence from the ancient British folk heritage of country pottery, whose makers demonstrated extraordinary, intuitive skill, a high benchmark to which she aspires.

Her 'This is England' charger was accepted into the permanent collection of Centre of Ceramic Art at York Art Gallery, in 2021. This piece, made as a response to the racist abuse during the Euro 2020 football tournament, raised £9,000 for FareShare UK and was featured on the national news.

At this year's Heritage Craft awards Hannah saw off competition from fellow finalists hat maker Rachel Frost and lettercutter Fergus Wessel.

Hannah McAndrew and husband Douglas Fitch with Jay Blade (centre), CoChair of Heritage Crafts (and presenter of TV programme 'The Repair Shop')



Let the Battle Commence...

We're looking forward to an evening brimming with exciting new talent at the CatStrand Young Creatives' Battle of the Bands.

This will be an opportunity for emerging young local

musicians under the age of 25 to perform at the CatStrand, with the winning acts going on to perform at Knockengoroch Festival in May.

Come along and support local young musicians!

Book your tickets now at www.csyoungcreatives.com/whats-on

Bands battling will be...

- Deodand -
- High Priestess -
- Jodie Rae -
- Benjamin -
- Haynes -
- Ella Campbell -
- Rhelm -



Artful Migration Artists-in-Residence

Glenkens-based artists Ted Leeming and Morag Paterson have been given a residency to study the nightjar, one of Scotland's most unusual birds.

The project will enable the artists to spend time on site at Lochar Mosses and explore this elusive species, which appears to be thriving in the region.

The residency, funded by Moving Souls Dance and Creative Scotland, is the third in a programme of three residencies which have been developed by Upland and Moving Souls Dance since 2017. Each residency has offered artists a unique insight into the migratory birds of Dumfries & Galloway through partnership working with local nature reserves and the opportunity to create new, high-quality artworks in

response for public display.

Little is known of the nightjar's migratory journey, which provides an opportunity for new research with the project partners, Forestry and Land Scotland and RSPB Scotland. The nightjar has secretive behaviour and an almost supernatural reputation, being only visible at night.

Morag and Ted said: "Nightjars are a fascinating species and the source of many myths - their Latin name translates as 'milkier of goats'. In folklore, people believed that nightjars fed on the milk of nanny goats, probably due to their nocturnal proximity to livestock. The birds make an annual migration from Africa to Scotland and back, and we're looking forward to delving more into this route and some of the stopover points."



Ravens by Leeming + Paterson

The residency will culminate in the creation of new work to be exhibited in October 2023. For more information on project please visit www.weareupland.com/projects

Success at the Stewartry Drama Festival

After a brilliant three-night Stewartry Drama Festival, CatStrand Players are polishing up eight

trophies and celebrating after finishing 1st and 3rd in the Youth Festival and 2nd in the Open Festival.



After this roaring success, the CatStrand Players went on to represent the Stewartry District at the Western Final in Dunoon with their winning plays where *Rabbit* placed second in the Youth category and won the trophy for 'Best Stage Presentation' in the Western



Division youth final.

A massive congratulations to all our young actors who did so well!

We look forward to returning to Dunoon on 17 March, and hope to be able to report more good news then.

Catherine Campbell

Above - Youth Players directors Brian Edgar, Catherine Campbell and James Wallace with this year's Drama Festival trophies.
Left - more wins at the Western Final in Dunoon.

Carsphairn Family Film Screening

In February there was a successful family film screening by Carsphairn 'Young Deciders' in the village hall.

Carsphairn 'Young Deciders' is a group of volunteers who

formed to help coordinate the planning of activities and events for school-aged children and young people in the parish, funded by Foundation Scotland.

Following some casual meetings, the young people of Carsphairn chose to run a series of movie afternoons as a preferred avenue to spend the funds provided. In April 2022 a screening of *Encanto* was put on at the Lagwyne Hall, which was a huge success. Following on from this the group arranged another movie matinee in February 2023.

There was a great turnout of all ages, engaging the people of Carsphairn village and the wider community through this inclusive, intergenerational event.

The movie chosen was Disney's *Strange World* and was screened

by Driftwood Cinema, who hire and operate cinematic equipment in the area.

With a plentiful supply of free popcorn and juice provided for the kids plus tea/coffee and biscuits for the grown-ups, the afternoon was fun for all the family.

Thanks go to Driftwood Cinema, the dedicated volunteers of the Carsphairn Community Council and local children's group Bairn Banter, who all helped organise and oversee the afternoon's activities.



Galloway Violin Studio String Workshop

The Galloway Violin Studio hosted its first workshop in three years on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 February.

The event was held in Parton and organised by local violin/viola teacher and director of the Galloway Violin Studio, Cate Howard.

Guest teachers were Margaret

Parkin, a Suzuki violin/viola teacher from Oxford and Ellen Martin, a Suzuki cello teacher from Ayr. Together with Cate, they delivered a wonderful two days of music-making to over 20 young string players from Dumfries and Galloway, Ayr, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Participants received individual masterclasses and on Saturday morning, they took part in a group class and Chamber Orchestra in Parton Village Hall.

The group class played Suzuki violin repertoire and the Chamber Orchestra played an extract from *The Snowman* by Howard Blake and the Canzonetta from Mendelssohn's *String Quartet Op 12*. This music was challenging, but also inspiring for the young musicians.



Above - a group class held in Parton Village Hall

Left - one-to-one teaching in a masterclass with Margaret



The standard of playing achieved in such a short period of time was amazing and a credit to both students and teachers. The atmosphere in the village hall was friendly and supportive and many commented on the warm sense of community.

Many thanks to Parton Village Hall Committee and to Barfil Charitable Trust and Co-op for their generous donations without which the event would

not have been possible.

If you are interested in finding out more about violin lessons at the Galloway Violin Studio, please contact Cate Howard at chowardsasc@gmail.com

Gillian Hodson



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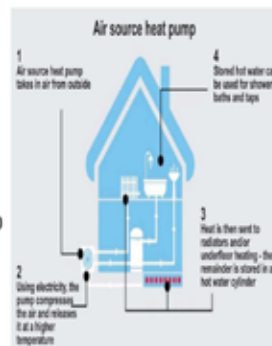
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Juliet Wood : Nimbus Sextet
Matt Carmichael & Fergus McCreadie



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PATRICK MONAHAN – CLASSY

SAT 22 APR 7:30PM



KIKI DEE & CARMELO LUGGERI: THE LONG RIDE HOME TOUR

MON 24 APR 7:30PM



LULO RHEINHARDT & YULIYA LONSKAYA

SUN 14 MAY 7:30PM



Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust

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From the Bookroom

In 'From the Bookroom' Glenkens-based author, Robin Yassin-Kassab, takes 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*.

In the last issue I wrote about *Ulysses* – a particularly difficult book which requires time and an attitude shift to make easy.

So this time I'll talk about writing which, though of the highest literary quality, makes easy reading almost from first glance.

That is: the short stories of George Saunders – in four collections so far.

The stories divide roughly into two types. The first could be called suburban sci-fi, or surreal comic horror, almost in the genre (to switch media) of *Black Mirror* or *Squid Game*.

Their protagonists are trapped inside simulations. They might have had their memories wiped so as to better perform their corporate task. They might work in a strip bar or some other controlled 'entertainment'

environment. The title story of the collection, *Civilwarland in Bad Decline*, for instance, is set in a historical theme park (Civilwarland) in which desperate employees are plagued by unruly ghosts.

Ghoul is set in a sprawling network of underground theme parks, an enclosed world in which 'monitors' blow whistles to summon the costume-wearing, role-playing staff to kick to death other staff who have broken the rules. The most serious infringement is to say aloud that no customers have ever visited the attraction, and never will. Everybody knows this truth, everybody must nevertheless continue in role.

It's a metaphorical sketch of the human condition. It's also, indirectly, very political, a dark satire of increasingly authoritarian times. (Interestingly, the only story of his I don't much like – *Love Letter* – is the only one which is obviously, straightforwardly, literally political – although I do agree with its politics.)

So those are the first type. The second type are less fantastical, though still weird. Instead of sci-fi, they use a brutal realism of emotional dysfunction. *Mother's Day*, for instance, skewers the self-deception, cruel parenting, and desperation of two unloved egos. Two women who were shared, and neglected, by one man, now deceased. The writing is devastatingly honest in its character analysis but somehow also gentle and compassionate. The reader empathises with these egos – and sometimes the egos even manage self-transcendence. *Mother's Day* ends in one woman's death, when she is able to slough off her troublesome self, and move on to new things.



This conclusion feels somewhat Buddhist (as does the title of Saunders' Booker Prize-winning novel *Lincoln in the Bardo*, which I haven't yet read) and that's probably because Saunders is himself a practising Buddhist. In interviews he talks of his meditative approach to writing, arriving at the desk without any preconceptions or purposive agenda, but listening to each line, allowing the story to develop itself.

The stories which develop themselves through the medium of George Saunders are very funny, and at the same time deadly serious. They are inventive and profound, but also compulsive. Each line pulls you irresistibly to the next, to new surprises, tragedies or jokes. The words slip into you and accumulate as irresistibly as the progress of spring, the greening of the hills, and the coming-to-leaf of our Galloway trees.

Robin Yassin-Kassab

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Carsphairn Heritage Centre - 30 for 30

Help us celebrate 30 years of the Carsphairn Heritage Centre.

The Carsphairn Heritage Initiative is putting together a

new "30 for 30" exhibition to celebrate the end of Carsphairn Heritage Centre's 30th year, and we need your help to nominate items for the exhibition.

We're looking for items that mean something to members of the community, no matter

how humble or grand the item. It might be a photograph of a place, a letter, a postcard, or artefact which interests you, or just a random item which makes you smile. There are plenty to choose from, 3258 to be precise!

If you'd like to help, it's simple:

- 1) Use the QR code or go to carsphairn.org/CarsphairnArchive
- 2) Browse the Online Inventory, use the search function or have a look through the Collections and Exhibitions for ideas.
- 3) Let us know which item you've chosen; every item has a unique code (identifier) or copy the link to its page.
- 4) Tell us why you've chosen it;

Pen and ink drawing of Carsphairn Heritage Centre by local artist, Robin Ade



a sentence or two will do but feel free to write more if you wish.

5) Email your nomination to us with your name at: carsphairnhi.archive@gmail.com

We hope you will enjoy browsing the archive and selecting something amazing.

The items will be assembled into an exhibition for the **Heritage Centre's Easter Open Weekend on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 April** and will be available online in perpetuity from April.

Gail Challis

The Amazing Story of Galloway's Vanishing Horse

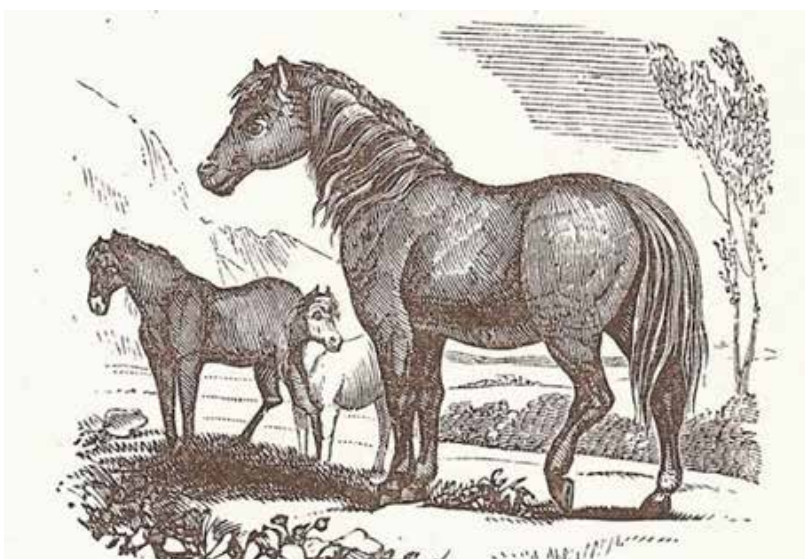
The Galloway garron or Nag was a famous breed of Galloway horse, now extinct but with a unique international legacy.

This remarkable breed, recorded by Defoe and Shakespeare, was held in the highest regard across the country and beyond but it appears to have vanished without trace.

Dr Miriam Bibby is an archaeologist, historian and journalist with a specialist interest in the history and archaeology of the horse and its relationship with humans. She has been researching Galloway's unique breed of horse, what it was like, what happened to it, and its impact on the equine world.

She will share her findings with *The Glenkens Story* in her talk, 'The Galloway Nag: Galloway's Gift to the World' at the CatStrand at 2pm on Sunday 23 July.

Tickets, at £10 (U26 £4), are available from www.gcat.scot or call the CatStrand on 01644 420 374.



Sadly no one thought to paint the Galloway Nag and it was extinct by the time of photography arrived. The only readily available image is from a book on agriculture by William Youatt which matches some of the contemporary descriptions.

The Nature of the Games We Play (part 2)

Continued seasonal recollections of boyhood outdoor activities...

Winter, of course, was punctuated and in some ways dominated by the Christmas and New Year festivals, though I believe that celebration of the former has grown, whilst the latter has diminished, in south west Scotland since I was a boy.

Like today, as Christmas approached, house decorations began to appear, especially multicoloured paper bells, chains and more elaborate concertina items as wall hangings, often with big illuminated rose pink stars between windows and curtains or cream-coloured blinds (Venetian blinds came later).

Nature provided holly and ivy, which some had in addition to a tree (mostly synthetic), but life was largely lived indoors in wet and stormy weather, as it is today.

However, frost and, joy-of-joys, snow, encouraged an outdoor exodus of the young. Frost alone was more common and the longer it prevailed the more celebrated it became, with ever lengthening forays into the countryside in search of pristine ice for breaking and other play.

Icicles were a delight and so refreshing, even to those who normally turned up their noses at drinking water without Creamola Foam, Sunfresh, Tree Top, Ribena or other squash additives to the tumbler. In extreme winters with prolonged frosts the burns and lochs froze over and, of course, encouraged more dangerous pursuits, and many a good day was curtailed by going through the ice and over the wellies.

The first snow saw snowmen appearing everywhere; snow women were always scarcer and more transient. Snowball fights were everywhere, while the gloaming saw wee groups gathering to make mischief by snowballing windows to encourage rage and, with luck, a chase.

I recall a certain street etiquette sparing older folk, recently-bereaved or otherwise stricken households from this unkindness. The irascible and taciturn were most often targeted as reliable sport, though sometimes several houses in the same street were struck at once, just for the extra kick. Perhaps surprisingly, I don't ever remember a window being broken and no lasting harm was done, however annoying it must have been for grow-ups.

However, the communal climaxes of prolonged snow and ice in the mining schemes were slides and sledging. The

former could be just a few yards long in back gardens, on pavements (!) and untreated roads, whilst serious sledging was undertaken on the grassy slopes of playgrounds, fields and banks. There was often a mild competitive edge to sliding, with the more fleet-footed vying to out-do each other for style and distance, although ice, like water, can be a great leveller and poise and elegance were oft found where least expected. Some, like myself, led with the left foot, others with the right, but most had great fun, regardless of their method, shape or size.

I always felt for these magnificent creatures, which had come so far upstream only to be caught, killed and eaten...

Home-made sledges, some with runners fashioned at the pithead, were quite common, as were bread boards procured from shops' back yards. These came in two sizes, the longer ones carrying several young sledgers, although three generations were often involved in the fun, breath turning to mist in the cold. Together with dogs running loose and barking for joy, the whole comprised a winter scene like some Bruegel painting. Remember chilblains?

*The sun had clos'd the winter-day,
The Curlers quat their roaring play,
And hunger'd Maukin taen her way [hare]
To kail-yards green,
While faithless snaws ilk step betray
Whare she has been.*

Burns: The Vision



Beyond my village the scene was more Farquharson RSA, with sheep turning round to gauge how frightened to be at one's approach. It was always a joy to discover and follow animal and bird tracks in the snow, though of course the

latter often disappeared as abruptly and mysteriously as they had come. No great skill was acquired in this, but we soon got to know hares, stoats and, my personal favourite, the long, linear single track of the fox or Tod Lowry as they were sometimes called by the 'aul anes'. Of course, snow is a rarity in these parts now, and seldom lasts for long even when it does lie.

From memory, spring rarely came early and March was often very cold and windy. However, longer days encouraged early evening activity outdoors to the increasingly confident songs of skittery

felties (mistle thrush), mavis (song thrush) and blackies (blackbirds). Willow and

hazel catkins were cut for mothers' spring vases, while April weekends allowed more time for gathering posies of primroses from the wooded banks and violets from the fields. How perfectly beautiful they looked in a shallow dish

on the kitchen table or window

ledge; delicate blue violets surrounded by pale yellow primroses - and how welcomed they were, too.

Many older boys and indeed men were keen fishers of trout and could increasingly be seen along the burns as the season progressed. In my youth, both salmon and sea trout also had spring runs, entering the Nith from the Solway and heading up into headwaters in east Ayrshire.

Afton Water, a tributary at New Cumnock, was favoured by both fish and some became highly skilled in various (illegal) methods of catching these, including at times with the rod. I always felt for these magnificent creatures, which had come so far upstream only to be caught, killed and eaten, but tradition dies hard and some families had hard times.

It was about this time that stanks and ponds were visited to collect frog spawn and even a few newts, which were all kept and fed in old sinks and such like in back gardens. One soon learned to give them wee bits of mince (protein) for the taddies to become frogs, otherwise they simply became monstrous taddies with no hint of frog about them.

Sprouting hawthorn buds, so-called bread and cheese, were eaten in some parts of the country, but never in mine, and while once or twice I came upon the hidden tapping of birch sap for wine-making by continentals, this was generally unusual. In more recent years on an Estonian island, I was given a glass to try but was rather disappointed despite giving it every chance to impress.

Continued over the page...

Continued from previous page...

Wild spring nourishment included pignuts – we called them grun (ground) nuts. Spring flowers on old pasture often included these conspicuous cream-coloured umbellifers, indicating the presence of the nutty prize below. These were usually consumed without proper washing beyond a quick ditch on the fresh green sward, but they didn't seem to do us any harm, though I now wonder how much of their earthy flavour was imparted by soil.

Finally, we come to the excitement of the bird nesting season, a great highlight of the boyhood calendar, as indeed it still is for me. Improvements in agriculture, especially draining and silage, were fast reducing the numbers of breeding peases (lapwings) around my village, but the early spring collecting of eggs for the plate was still practised extensively in the mining communities.

Peasie eggs are simply delicious, scrambled or in omelettes, and though now understandably protected by law, I have fond memories of eating them. Gull eggs were sometimes collected for baking, but never in our house, though I do remember an occasional whaup (curlew) egg or two reaching the kitchen table. In more recent times egg collecting rightly became an abhorrent and socially

unacceptable practice, and indeed as an employee of the RSPB part of my job in early years was to assist the police in detecting and prosecuting rare-bird egg-thieves.

While I never knew any serious collectors, like many schoolboys I kept a modest egg collection and each spring over several years had great fun adding to this. Only one egg from a clutch was taken (serious collectors usually took entire clutches and indeed often multiple clutches of the same species). I soon grew out of the habit and indeed now wonder that I could have taken any.

However, like very many ornithologists of my own and earlier generations, there is no doubt that my deep interest in and love of birds was stimulated at an early age by bird nesting in spring, and to this day I still marvel at the unique beauty of birds' eggs, but always in their rightful place, the nest. Guilt, hypocrisy, regret and embarrassment are never easy sentiments to deal with, however trivial their origin may seem to some.

Whilst not excusing myself

nor wishing to be excused for boyhood taking of eggs, I do appreciate my current seasonal connections with the natural world – the real world – and recognise the importance of bird nesting in spring in nurturing this from an early age. I don't feel alone in this, but I do realise how privileged some of us are in having these lifelong connections with nature.

"Nature's gifts to all are free" - Burns

Chris Rollie,
Dalry



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Kirkcudbright and Dumfries*

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



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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

Write to:

107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

Phone: 01556 504991

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

Twitter: [fincarson](https://twitter.com/fincarson)

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

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

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Job Vacancies

Natural Power has three **home-based positions** open at the moment – **Senior Ornithologist** (closing date 7 Apr), **Construction Project Manager** (closing date 7 Apr) and **Senior Ecological Modeller** (closing date 6 Apr). For information on these jobs visit www.naturalpower.com/uk/careers

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust has a vacancy for a **Community Activities Officer** - see back page



Inclusivity Training Sessions

Thurs-Fri 20-21st April (venue tbc)



Are you a practitioner/ group / workshop leader or small venue and want to find out about making your service and sessions more accessible to people to people with a range of additional needs

This may be the training for you and its FREE.

Thursday we will cover:

Hearing and visual impairments (Aids/ Devices and Apps);

Creating accessible documents/ formats;

Easy read

Talk from a local venue on getting

Accessibly right.

Friday we will cover supporting people:

with Mental Health issues;

Autism Spectrum Disorders;

People who identify as LGBTQ;

An opportunity to discuss scenarios, strategies and best practice.

The days will be a mix of information sessions and workshops, and are being led by experts in the field– from Visibility Scotland, The Hard of Hearing group, to Dumfries and Galloway's Chief Educational Psychologist and their Autism lead, LGBTQ and practical advice from The Cample_Line venue and their journey.

If you would like to come along please express your interest by email to catherine@dgvoice.co.uk or calling/ texting 07897 876181.

We are limited to 40 places. Thank you.

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gov.scot

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

FOR APPOINTMENTS AT BOTH SURGERIES
OR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

01556 502263

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OAKWELL ROAD
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GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

*The Surgery
High Street
New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

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 Sarah McAdam on minimac01644@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 mcnabb.laurie@dumgal.gov.uk

If you would like to add your community organisation to this list please get in touch with the Gazette - contact details are on the back page.

GLENKENS CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday Services

Balmaclellan: 11am - 2 Apr, 7 May, 4 Jun

Carsphairn: 11am - 9 Apr (Easter Sunday), 14 May

Kells: 11am - 16 Apr (Communion), 30 Apr, 21 May

Dalry: 11am - 23 Apr, 28 May (Communion)

Special Services (other than noted already above):
 Fri 7 April - **Good Friday** service 7.30pm Kells church.
 Sat 8 April - **Performance of The Passion** (A Tale o' Guid Friday), 7.30pm, Dalry Church. Sun 9 Apr, **Dawn Service & Breakfast**, 7.30am, Balmaclellan War Memorial & Village Hall.

For further information contact Rev Pam Bellis on 07751 379 249 or pam@bellisconsultancy.co.uk

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Palm Sunday: 10.30am Sung Eucharist, Canon Barry Gilbert presiding

Easter Day: 10.30am Sung Eucharist, Revd Dawn Matthew presiding

All friends and visitors welcome.

After Easter, the Sunday service times are likely to change so please check website or noticeboard outside the church.

For further information, please call Dawn Matthew on 01644 420 431 or visit www.stmargaretsnewgalloway.org



Connecting in Communities April 2023/ May 2023 Activity Programme

Pudding Fan Club FREE EVENT

Monday 24th April : Vegan & Veggie Puds with Mr Pook |
Monday 29th May : Healthy Desserts
7pm - 8.30pm
CatStrand Café
Contact & booking details see below

Photography in Focus

Tuesday 11th & 25th April / 9th & 23rd May
10am - 12pm
The Smiddy, Balmaclellan plus 'out in the field' - £6
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—4th & 18th April / 2nd, 16th & 30th May
Family Drama Group on Sunday 30th April / 28th May
2pm-3.30pm at The Smiddy Balmaclellan
Contact & booking details see below

Menopause Really Matters with Guest Speakers

Monday 3rd April & 1st May | 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

Glenkens Ukes (Ukulele Workshops)

Wednesday—5th & 19th April / 3rd & 17th May
6.30pm-8pm
The Smiddy, Balmaclellan - £3.00
Contact: Brian Jones - briantjones@gmail.com 07760 884113
Visit <https://gcat.scot> Click on CiC Activity Programme

The CiC Games Night FREE EVENT

Friday 28th April & 26th May | 7pm
The CatStrand, New Galloway
Indoor boules, & board games
Bar Open
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/cic-learning-and-wellbeing-workshop-programme/>

Boccia Club Indoor Boules FREE EVENT

Wednesday 5th April | 10th May | 2 pm-3pm
Catstrand FREE
Contact & booking details see below

Rat Pack Tea Dance

Friday 14th April | 7.30pm - 9.30pm Dalry - £3.50
Friday 19th May | 7.30pm - 9.30pm Catstrand - £3.50
Bar open
Contact & booking details see below

Glenkens Pub Quiz Nights

Sunday 16th April | 7.00pm for 7.30pm start
The Clachan Inn Dalry
Thursday 18th May | 7.00pm for 7.30pm start
The Ken Bridge Hotel
Teams of 4/6 - £1 per person: Takings go to charity
Contact & booking details see below

Spanish Dance Classes FREE EVENT

Saturday 22nd April
10.30am - 11.30am
CatStrand, New Galloway
Saturday 20th May
10.30am - 11.30am
The Smiddy, Balmaclellan
Contact & booking details see below

Breeze Cycle Rides for Females FREE EVENT

Saturday 29th April & 27th May | Time TBC
Meet at St John's Town of Dalry Car Park
Registration essential on www.letsride.co.uk
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





GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

email gct@catstrand.com

phone 01644 420374 mobile 07841 512449

April 2023 - May 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 gctjon@catstrand.com

GCT EXCURSIONS

Glasgow Shopping and Culture Saturday 6 May 2023

Visit this exciting City to enjoy a day shopping or visiting the museums and galleries. Drop offs at Bothwell Street and Silverburn Shopping Centre.

Gardens of Excellence: Corsock House Sunday 28th May 2023

Corsock House garden includes an amazing variety of designed landscapes, from a strictly formal walled garden, through richly planted woodlands full of different vistas.

For more info on both these trips, please visit our website at:

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org/excursions

or email: gct@catstrand.com for updates

Drivers Needed

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

MINIBUS DRIVING

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

PATIENT TRANSPORT

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

Interested?

Email gct@catstrand.com or phone 07841 512449

WHAT'S ON

April/May

APRIL

See p32 for CiC April/May events

Sat 1, Battle of the Bands, 7.30pm, CatStrand, see p23

Tue 4, Citizens Advice Drop-in, 10am-4pm, CatStrand

Wed 5, Dalry Film Club: The Lost King, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 7 - Tue 11, Glenkens Food Hub Open for Orders, openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop

Sat 8, Happiness Collectors, 11am & 12.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 8, Mike & Ruthy of The Mammals, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 8, Bairn Banter's Easter Egg Hunt, 10am, Carsphairn School Playground, see p7

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

Sat 8, A Tale o' Guid Friday and Ayont, 7.30pm, Dalry Church, admission free, donations Abbas Read Orphanage, Malawi.

Sat 8 & Sun 9, Carsphairn Heritage Centre's Easter Open Weekend, see p26

Tue 11, Vanishing Point Unplugged presents SPIN!, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Tue 13, Ken Words Writers Cafe, 1pm, CatStrand

Sat 15, Mambo Jambo and Alan McClure, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Tue 18, Citizens Advice Drop-in, 10am-4pm, CatStrand

Thu 20, Open Stage with Alan McClure, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 20 & Fri 21, DG Voice Inclusivity Training Sessions, venue tbc, see p29

Fri 21-Tue 25, Glenkens Food Hub Open for Orders, openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop

Sat 22, Patrick Monahan: Classy, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Mon 24, Kiki Dee & Carmelo Luggeri: The Long Ride Home Tour, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 26, Dalry Film Club: Mrs Harris Goes to Paris, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 29, Dalry Police Station Drop-in, 11am-12.30pm

Sat 29, Plant & Bake Sale, 10am-12noon, St Margarets Church, New Galloway, see p3

MAY

Tue 2, Citizens Advice Drop-in, 10am-4pm, CatStrand

Fri 5 to Tue 9, Glenkens Food Hub Open for Orders, openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop

Sat 6, GCT Bus Trip: Glasgow, see p30

Sat 6 - Mon 8, Carsphairn Coronation Weekend

Thu 11, Ken Words Writers Cafe, 7pm, CatStrand

Sat 13, Glenkens Producers Market, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 14, Lulo Rheinhardt & Yuliya Lonskaya, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Tue 16, Citizens Advice Drop-in, 10am-4pm, CatStrand

Wed 17, Dalry Film Club: The Courier, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 19 - Tue 23, Glenkens Food Hub Open for Orders, openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop

Sun 21, Vri, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Tue 23, Glenkens Community Spaces Network meeting, see p6

Thu 25 - Sun 28, Knockengoroch Festival, Knockengoroch Farm, Carsphairn, see p2

Sun 28, GCT Bus Trip: Corsock House, see p30

JUNE

Sat 24, SongWave Choir Summer Concerts, 3pm, Dalry Town Hall

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

The Men's Shed, Balmaclellan

Opening Times:

Monday, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Wednesday, 9.30am - 12.30pm, Wood Carving, 2-4pm

Thursday, Art Group, 2-4pm

Friday, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Saturday, 9am - 12noon

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

Citizens Advice Drop-ins, every other Tue from 4th April, 10am-4pm

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, 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 Charity Shop

Opening Times:

Mon, Tue & Thu - 10am-1pm

Wed, Fri & Sat - 10am-4pm

Glenkens Community Centre

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

Main St, Dalry, Tel: 01644 430 234

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

Library Opening Times:

Tue, 2-5pm, for books and other walk-in
Fri, 11.30am-12.30pm for NEC Bus Pass and Blue Badge appointments and PCs, and 1-4.30pm for books and other walk-in services:

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

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

Join the Glenkens Walkers

My name is Jackie, and I originally had the idea for of creating a walking group to help me get to know the area better and meet new people.

I'll be walking from the Catstrand each Wednesday morning, and it would be great to have some company. If you've got a route in mind I'd happy to tag along - I don't mind what the walk is like; muddy, off-road, on road or around town.

I love using the AllTrails app. It has both a free and premium option and is great for plotting your walks and looking for walks in the area. A walk I went on

recently was the Mossdale Kite Trail, which is a 2.5 mile circular route.

AllTrails says: "...This trail is great for birding, hiking, and walking, and it's unlikely you'll encounter many other people while exploring.

"The route starts off along a wide gravel path before turning right and into open farmland. There may be loose cows in this area so care should be taken. Then it's through a gate and the path narrows to a very overgrown trail.

"There's a lovely spot by the loch for a snack and to take a few minutes to chill."

I pretty much agree with the write up from AllTrail. As far as it being a challenging walk,

as an overweight, unfitish 40-something I didn't find it especially hilly or long but I guess I'd say the challenge is the terrain at times.

There is a car park at the start of the walk with room for maybe 10 cars

Hope to see you at the CatStrand next Wednesday at 9.30am for some more exploring!

Visit the Glenkens Walkers Facebook page for routes and photos of our walks. Jackie

Jackie has just been recruited as LING's new community inclusion worker - see page 11 for more on this.

Mossdale Kite Trail as viewed on the AllTrails app



KNOCKENGORROCH 2023
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& many more names still to be announced.

www.knockengoroch.org.uk/tickets

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust **Job Opportunity**

GCAT Community Activities Officer

Do you love working with people in the Glenkens and bringing them together?

GCAT is looking for an Activities Officer to put on a range of activities in the community that will bring us all together. This is a one-year fixed-term Employee contract with GCAT at 28 hours per week.

Details:

Full job description, how to apply and Ts & Cs on - www.gcat.scot/jobs

For more information email Lisa Ridley - lisa@catstrand.com

Closing date: 16/04/2023 - Start date 01/06/23

Funded by TSDG/ GCAT employee role

'Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund'

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
JUN/JUL COPY DEADLINE: 5 MAY

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.



Editing & Design:
sarah.ade@gmail.com