

GLENKENS GAZETTE

June/July 2023

ISSUE 136

FREE

World record price for Glenkens Galloway bull

A Corsock farming family have set a world record for the price of a Galloway bull.

The Finlays, from Blackcraig, Corsock, secured a world record price of 26,000 guineas for Blackcraig Dyker - born and bred on their Corsock farm from home-bred stock.

According to farmer John Finlay the average price of a good Galloway bull is between 4,000 and 10,000 guineas. (A

guinea is used in livestock sales and is equivalent to £1.05, or a pound and a shilling).

Two years ago the Finlays secured a world record price for a Galloway cow - Blackcraig Fay - who sold for 12,500 guineas.

The record prices reflect the growing



popularity of the Galloway breed as a meat producer and a friend of the environment.

Left to right - John, Ann, Iain, Katy and daughter Isla with their record-breaking bull, Blackcraig Dyker

Continued on P6 - why Galloways are great for the land

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Turn to pages 18-19 for our Glenkens Volunteer Week centre spread!

Bairn Banter

joins
The Big Toddle

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Music world mourns Nicola Black

Dumfries & Galloway is mourning the sad loss of one of its best loved musicians, Nicola Black, who died suddenly on 25 March.

Nicola was well known throughout the region and beyond and was an extremely talented musician, singer, songwriter, teacher and a great supporter of the performing arts in general throughout the country.

More than 400 people processed through her home village of Kirkpatrick Durham to attend her funeral service. Hundreds more from across the world watched the service online.

Many more tributes to her have flowed in from all over the world since her sudden death and this overwhelming support has been a great comfort to her husband Blackie and the family.

She was best known in the Glenkens as a performer, workshop leader and audience member at CatStrand and was also the much loved leader of the CatStrand Singers and host of Open Stage events.

Nicola was also a great advocate for spoken and sung Scots language and over the past year she released the albums *Squatter o' Bairnsangs* with her band and *Singing the Galloway Glens* with the CatStrand Singers. ...see P17



A Glenkens Land Use Vision

...see page 7



A weekend of musical history

...pages 25 & 28

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

Spring fundraising at St Margaret's



The St Margaret's Guild is delighted to report on a series of successful fundraising events.

A project to help traumatised children in Ukraine has now been completed. Sufficient funds were raised to put together 50 Play Therapy kits which are now on their way to Ukraine. Guild member Sarah Watson, a trained and experienced Play Therapist, explained: "Each kit contains specific items with a therapeutic value, they're not just toys. They are packed in easily transportable bags with an explanation in Ukrainian as to

how to use the kits, and a card with a signed message letting them know that someone is thinking of them and holding them in mind." The Guild is grateful to all who contributed and helped with this worthwhile project.

During March, the Guild once again held several Lent Lunches. Hosts welcomed many friends from the Church of Scotland, as well as the St Margaret's congregation, for soup and rolls, followed by cheese and biscuits, and coffee or tea. The lunches are enjoyable social occasions but through donations also raise funds for a variety of good causes. This year over £850 was raised for JDRF (Junior Diabetes Research Foundation), Scottish

Autism and MOOL: Dumfries & Galloway Refugee Action.

Lastly, the St Margaret's annual Plant & Bake Sale took place on Saturday 29 April. Luckily the weather held for what was a very busy morning with sales of many plants, vegetable seedlings and annuals; two tables laden with delicious home-baking and many folk were able to stay and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake. Bumper profits of £602 have now gone to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. SCAA responds, on average, to two time-critical emergency callouts every day and with no government funding, they rely on fundraising and donations to fuel their life-saving flights.

Egg-cellent Easter fun

Local Glenkens Bairn Banter, along with Carsphairn Heritage Centre, organised an egg-cellent fun-filled weekend of free Easter-themed activities.

Children of all ages from across the Glenkens gathered in eager anticipation for an Easter egg

hunt in Carsphairn Primary School playground. Once all the eggs had been found, the fun continued with a children's egg and spoon race followed by a very competitive adults' race!

Having built up quite an appetite, the group moved on to Lagwyne Hall for hot cross buns, fruit, teas/coffees and other refreshments provided by Bairn Banter volunteers.

Alongside Easter eggs provided by Bairn Banter, South Kyle windfarm also donated chocolate eggs for the children

to enjoy.

After the wholesome refuel, families then visited the wonderful and educational exhibition that was displayed at Carsphairn Heritage Centre. Children were able to enjoy egg decorating while learning about some traditional dyeing methods from times gone by; different flowers, beetroot and even onion skins were common ways of making



Children decorating Easter eggs at Carsphairn Heritage Centre

colourful Easter eggs before the times of modern paints and felt-tip pens!

Melissa Ade

Dalry Town Hall celebrates funding success

Dalry Town Hall is pleased to announce success in obtaining two awards for energy improvement.

Until recently the hall was held by a historic trust. However, this type of ownership has restrictions, particularly on the level and sources of funding available.

About a year ago a public meeting resulted in a vote for a transfer to a charity

structure, namely to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). As was outlined at the meeting the first aim of the new body under a board of trustees would be to seek improvements in the hall's use of energy.

Following an energy survey by Business Energy Scotland, application was made through Local Energy Scotland for funding to the Scottish Government CARES fund. However, the fund can only provide 80%

of the needed cost and so a second application was made to Blackcraig Windfarm Community Fund through Foundation Scotland for the remainder.

Importantly, the measures identified sit well in line with the Community Action Plan developed by the Glenkens District Trust - so both funding sources are mutually supportive.

The hall is now thrilled to announce that both applications have been successful and will provide

an additional heat pump and radiators to enhance the comfort of users, a destratification fan to drive warmed air from the high ceiling back down, photovoltaic panels on the roof and battery storage, and low energy lighting within the hall to further reduce energy usage.

The project will be underway over the next year. Hall trustees are very grateful to all funding bodies involved in providing the opportunity to make these improvements possible.

J Reid

Glenkens coronation celebrations

Carsphairn Community Council organised a Coronation Garden Party for Carsphairn residents.

A delicious buffet, tea, coffee and soft drinks from Carsphairn Tea Rooms kept everybody fueled up and we all enjoyed being entertained by the Kilmarnock Concert Brass.

Everyone had a great time, especially the children.

The weather, in spite of a dubious forecast, turned out very well with lots of sunshine that was enjoyed by everyone.



New Galloway held a picnic in the park to celebrate the King's coronation.

The event was a great success with over 30 volunteers helping out - a true community event; thank you to all who helped make this such a great day.

The weather was kind to us; all week we watched the Met Office and thankfully this time around it was wrong!

We had wonderful cake and pasties, which went down a storm. Then there was our cake competition - we had some great entries. The skill our bakers and decorators have is quite incredible, it must have been a difficult decision for the judges.

Of course, we mustn't forget the generous donation of cakes from the Dalry Coronation Screening event - we sold the cakes to raise funds for a Ukrainian charity.

The pet show was well received; I did note there were no ducks this year! Then there was the raffle, with great prizes and even better callers.

Special thanks go to Reverend Dawn Matthew and the volunteers of St Margaret's who provided tea, coffee and face painting too.

We also had representation from Propagate and the Biosphere team helping to make the day great.

*Thanks everyone
Jackie Wells*

Parton Village Hall organised a picnic and games to celebrate the coronation of Charles III.

During the event we took the opportunity to capture a community photograph and for a bit of fun many people took the opportunity to dress up taking inspiration from some photographs of the village from the coronation of Edward VII in 1902.



Dalry Community Council put on a free event celebrating King Charles' Coronation and bringing residents together to watch history in the making.

Dalry Town Hall was the venue, displaying the live screening with their amazing surround sound. Every seat was taken with free tea, coffee and cake being enjoyed. Lots of red, white and blue outfits were worn, matching the wonderful bunting around the hall with thanks to the kids from Kells and Dalry primary.

One resident said:

"It was so lovely on Saturday in the town hall. What a lovely thing to do."

We shared the weekend celebrations with New Galloway, sharing posters, cakes and the primary schools bunting!

Our thanks go to all those who volunteered their time with special thanks to the Dalry Community Cafe team - Vicki, Fiona and Linda who did their magic running the kitchen.



One door closes, another opens...

Very sadly and after seven years of excellent work, Glenkens Community & Arts Trust's 'Connecting in Communities' (CiC) project has come to an end.

We remain most grateful to the National Lottery Communities Fund, the People's Postcode Trust, the Galloway Glens and the Glenkens and District Community Fund, administered by Foundation Scotland, for their support of this project over the years – it has made a big difference to many people's lives. I hope Brian, Chris, Fiona, Lisa and Jo are very proud of

what they achieved through it – not least of course the Glenkens Men's Shed, which continues to thrive.

The good news is that we can continue to offer some activities in the community through our new 'Together in the Glenkens' project, funded by the Scottish Government through Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway to support health and wellbeing in the area. Jo from the CiC team was successful in the open application process for overseeing this, and so you will see more of her big plans for this year-long project shortly.

Our other CiC members, however, have left for pastures new. After a very busy 11 months with us, including supporting the Ken Bridge 200

celebrations and Glenkens Food Month 2022, Project Lead Lisa Ridley has published her final report into Community Engagement in the Glenkens and has now started a great new job at Mossburn Community Farm. Fiona Limbrey left as well in April for an excellent role as an FLS Ranger, and we wish them both the very best and hope to see them out and about around the Glenkens still – perhaps participating in some of our Together in the Glenkens activities!



Jo Jackson, formerly of CiC, now overseeing the Together in the Glenkens project

*Helen Keron,
GCAT Executive Manager*

Glenkens Cub Scouts

The bowling club has been sharing our hall while New Galloway Town Hall is being renovated.

Rory suggested the Cubs might like to give bowling a try, so Rory and Davy kindly came along to show them what to do. What a fun time the youngsters had – the Cubs thoroughly enjoyed the game. Thank you both!

We had two very special visitors recently, pet lambs brought in by Elliot and Cole. Elliot's lamb was two weeks old and Cole's lamb was 10 days old. They were well behaved and so adorable.

The Cubs were challenged to creating an Easter egg theme. My goodness what thought and presentation went into the competition. We were blown away with all the creations. Some of the themes were an underwater scene with dolphins, and octopus and sharks; Captain America; bird house, Pokemon; egg-streme sports; Minions and a farm scene, to name just a few. Well done Cubs!

On 3 May we had a celebration banquet for King Charles III and Queen Camilla's coronation. The Cubs invited their parents and our district president, Drew Low. A special Scouting coronation badge was presented to each Cub.

To raise funds for the group, the Cubs are planning a table-top sale at the Alternative Games in August. If you have any bric-a-brac, toys, games, jigsaws, unwanted gifts, baking, jams, tablet, etc please hand them in to Heather or bring them to the Scout Hall between 6.15 and 7.30pm on a Wednesday evening (until the end of June).

*Heather and Hannah,
Cub Scout Leaders*



Top - a packed table at the coronation banquet. Elliot (left) and Cole (right) proudly show their lambs to the rest of the group



Spring round funding awards

Glenkens & District Trust, working in partnership with Foundation Scotland, is delighted to announce a further seven awards in its spring round, with a total sum of £158,966 awarded.

Every funding round has its own flavour, and in this one we saw strong representation of two of the key priorities from the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan, an Asset Rich Community and an Economically Flourishing Community. Balmaclellan, Dalry and Kirkpatrick Durham communities all received awards to support improvements in their facilities which will in turn also help make these spaces more sustainable, either through energy efficiency measures or by improving the facilities on offer, helping the halls attract users and income to maintain these key community assets. The GDT Trustees were delighted to see all of the applicants making positive reference to participation in the Glenkens Community Spaces Network and expressing a desire to share knowledge and expertise to support this work.

This approach is encouraged: our community benefits from groups working

constructively together. If you are involved in your hall then you can contact the Glenkens Community Spaces Network coordinator on becca.glenkens.anf@gmail.com

The other strong theme coming forward in this round related to enterprising community organisations, notably significant awards to some of our well-known local social enterprises as well as several awards supporting the maintenance of local jobs and job opportunities, meaning more than ten paid roles will be supported by Trust funding in this round.

New Galloway Community Shop received £30,000 over three years to retain local employment opportunities and support the sustainability of the shop; and the Glenkens Food Hub, run by Propagate Community Interest Company received £23,975 to support the continued delivery of the popular local food hub in the Glenkens area while the service redevelops its business model and expands its area of operation to increase access to the Hub, participating producers and its overall sustainability.

Other supported projects involving paid roles included £22,333 awarded to Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) Ltd to enable young people's activities for the next two years. GDT had previously funded this popular and successful initiative through Local Initiatives in New Galloway, which worked closely with GCAT who run a complementary programme

called Young Creatives. Based on this experience, LING and GCAT agreed that GCAT would now take over both strands of youth work going forward. The provision of youth activity was highlighted in the Community Action Plan as a priority and this latest award helps GCAT build on the good work done to date.

The Loch Ken Ranger Service has gone from strength to strength and become recognised as a valuable service across the area. GDT provided some initial funding two years ago which enabled the Loch Ken Trust to test this service. GDT has now made its most significant award to date - £60,000 over three years to the Loch Ken Trust for the ranger service, which will provide stability and certainty of funding provision for this key local initiative.

Finally, the Education and Training Fund is proving to be a helpful source of support for local residents - it was set up in autumn last year to provide bursaries supporting local people to access education and training opportunities, and which was felt by trustees to be particularly relevant during the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Since August seventeen individuals have accessed grants amounting to just over £21,000. A further allocation of £20,000 has been made to this Fund in order to make this support available to people on an ongoing basis.

Congratulations to all the successful applicants. For more information on the fund visit www.glenkenstrust.org.uk

Fiona Smith, Chair, GDT

Considering the future of Parton Kirk

Parton Community Council has commissioned two reports looking at options for the future of Parton Kirk and considerations for creating a centre celebrating the links of the village and kirk to the scientist James Clerk Maxwell.

One report looks at the context for the centre within the local area whilst the other looks at the potential financial viability of the centre.

Both reports are available to read on the Glenkens hub at:

<https://glenkens.scot/reports-resources-archive/parton-kirk-reports>

We hope that these are useful for the community to understand the opportunities and challenges for the kirk and would welcome feedback.

Tom Marshall



World records for Corsock cattle

Continued from front page...

John Finlay explains what makes the family farm at Blackcraig special.

"My grandfather started our Galloway herd at Blackcraig, 80 or 90 years ago. Around 10 years ago we bought the neighbouring Corse Farm, where my son Iain and his family now live. This allowed us to grow our own silage, and to increase the herd from 30 to 150 cattle. And we run blackface sheep too."

The family also farm Scottish blackface sheep and have enjoyed success in the ring here also with their top price being a tup which sold for £36,000.

When asked if he has plans for expanding the farm in the future, John is quick to say that the family are happy with what they've got. "If you get bigger you have to hire someone and its justifying them financially," says John. "Blackface sheep and Galloway cattle are easy care, easy calving and easy lambing, not needing too much staff. It's just family that works on our farm – my son Iain and I full time, and my wife Ann and my son's wife Katy sometimes too. Occasionally we'll hire someone part-time, but most often it's just us."

Changes in land use across

the area, especially in the Glenkens, is something at the forefront of everyone's minds at the moment. For upland farmers, this issue is of real concern.

"I'm not against planting trees, just now all of a sudden we're getting to the stage where we're just about overdoing it. Once land is put to trees, you'll never put it back to farming. We're getting shorter on food, and it's a shame taking so much land out of production for food."

"We used to have black grouse, but now we're completely surrounded by trees and we don't have

them anymore. It would be better if we could have it so people plant small parts of their farm, rather than whole blocks of ground. You can plant ground and use it as a shelter belt – we've got small parts on Blackcraig."

"The 'be all and end all' of it is that, from a financial point of view, you're a lot better off planning trees than farming it – planting trees as an investment as it's so grant-aided. If you graze breeds like blackface sheep and Galloway cattle, it helps keep things in balance, supports native trees and wildlife, and our peaty ground stores carbon too."

Bairn Banter joins The Big Toddle

Carsphairn's popular 'stay and play' children's group, Bairn Banter, is stepping out and joining Barnardo's flagship fundraiser, The Big Toddle.

The group is hosting a sponsored 'toddle' with a safari theme around the village of Carsphairn.

"All ages are welcome to join us on this roar-some adventure!" says Bairn Banter organiser, Melissa Ade. She continues: "Our goal is for as many people to come along

for this sponsored walk and help raise donations to reach our fundraising target of £300, which would make a huge difference to the children supported through the Barnardo's charity."

If you would like to participate get in touch at bairnbanter@outlook.com or 07979 492 791

for either an individual or a family sponsorship form.

The walk will begin at Carsphairn's Lagwyne Hall at 10am on Saturday 17. Children and adults are encouraged to dress up as any animal that they wish.

To donate visit Bairn Banter's Just Giving or Facebook pages online.

Get ready for the Great Corsock Show

Planning is now underway for the Great Corsock Show on Saturday 26 August.

With all of the classic produce and craft categories, open to all, the day also includes a barbecue, a café, tombola, raffle and a range of fun activities for all ages.

The full programme and list of categories are available for collection from the porch of

the Corsock Hall, from local shops or online at the Corsock Village Hall website (<https://corsockhall.wixsite.com/home>). The judge's challenge this year is to make four cupcakes with the theme 'seasons' and the show also includes the return of a couple of categories from previous years.

McNabb Laurie, a member of the Show committee added: "The rumours are true: Lemon Curd is back on the Great Corsock Show programme. Come mid-July, I suspect you

will struggle to buy lemons anywhere west of Eaglesfield.

"From potatoes to needlework, and from scones to homemade alcoholic drinks, we have it all. Do look out for a copy of the leaflet or pick one up from the porch of the village

hall when you are next passing through, and we hope to see you in Corsock on the last weekend of August."



Creating a Land Use Vision for the Glenkens



Land use in the Glenkens and district - whether forestry, farming, wind farms, housing or business - has been on many people's minds for some time now.

You may remember our *Gazette* feature on local land use this time last year. Since then, the speed of change to our landscapes seems to have accelerated at an ever-increasing pace, so when the Glenkens were selected as a focus area for the South of Scotland 'Regional Land Use Partnership' pilot project, the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust was pleased to help facilitate community discussions around the topic.

Led by the Social Enterprise Academy, a series of webinar and open online discussion events culminated in a Glenkens event in late January that sought feedback on a draft 'Vision for Land Use in the Glenkens' and some associated recommendations for action.

It was a great evening with lots of constructive conversations between some of the many people who value our land.

Since then a working group has refined the feedback from that evening into a final draft Vision that can be condensed into one vital concept - that everyone who takes value from our land returns it.

Huge thanks must go to everyone on the working group who have given up so much of their time and knowledge to get us to this point, particularly Morag Paterson of Communities for Diverse Forestry.

We see this Vision in action every day in the Glenkens,

...that everyone who takes value from our land returns value to it.

whether by well-managed forestry, sustainable farm management or the projects funded by wind farm community benefit payments - but we also see land use changes that affect us all but don't add value to our local communities. This



Vision and the associated recommendations are intended as the first step to creating a balance in Glenkens land use where all voices are heard, respected and valued.

This is the final stage of

review by the working group, and we will then have a Final Vision that we hope will be adopted as an addendum to the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan.

We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to have a read through the draft Vision and get in touch with your comments - positive thoughts as well as constructive criticism!

Thanks again to all who have contributed to this process so far, and we hope that the majority of you will see your concerns and views reflected here. I look forward to hearing from you!

*Helen Keron,
GCAT Executive Manager*

How clean is our water?

The Loch Ken Trust (LKT) has received funding from Inspiring Scotland to commission a water quality study on Loch Ken.

The study, which is the first of its kind ever to be carried out on the loch, is being undertaken by Galloway Fisheries Trust.

LKT's Barney Fryer said: "Throughout this year we are working on our Baseline Ecosystem Assessment Project, trying to find out the state of the Loch Ken ecosystem right now. This will help us figure out how we can start to restore and enhance our natural environment. It's fantastic to see people from the

community coming out to get involved. We will have loads more events over the year. Keep an eye out for more information on our website at www.lochken.org.uk"

A community water sampling event was held at the Ken Bridge. Alyx Rhodes and Emilie Wardhaugh from Galloway Fisheries Trust demonstrated the water sampling process.

They also explained the differences in two samples they had collected from opposite sides of the Loch, and what the aquatic invertebrate communities can tell us about the quality of the water.

Alyx said: "Invertebrate communities can reflect the quality of water due to the different tolerances to different



Community water sampling session held by Galloway Fisheries Trust to demonstrate the water sampling process.

conditions, from the samples collected it is already clear that there is a difference between the East and West sides"

A full report will be published when the data has been collected and analysed. Please look out for details at www.lochken.org.uk

The Optimistic Environmentalist

Reducing your home energy bills - Part One

This is part of a series of articles giving you ideas on how to reduce your bills.

In light of climate change, it concentrates on electricity usage, but some of the quick tips can still be helpful to other users. Whatever your ideology is though, there is no doubt that using renewable resources will ultimately cut your costs.

Think about your home, business or community building and what you do there. Heat loss estimates vary but the figures below are a guide for an uninsulated building. Consider:

floors – up to 25% heat loss
walls – up to 35% heat loss
attics – seals around hatches
roof – up to 25% heat loss
windows & doors – up to 15% heat loss
pipes – what are the above made from ie do they keep heat in, what insulation do they have, etc

How to make your electricity system most efficient or cheap, and how can you generate power? How do you make the most of your heat and how do you generate it?

These articles start you looking with some ideas about techniques and technology that could help. For an in-depth survey of your building, you can ask the Energy Saving Trust (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) which advises households, businesses and owners of community buildings. They provide free advice on how to improve the building's insulation, damp reduction, energy consumption and energy generation and how to get grants or loans towards the work. They may ask for photographs or other information from you to improve their advice. They give you a detailed report for you to consider later.

Some technology I have mentioned are not part of their remit but give you ideas about

the amazing opportunities there are out there. It is not an exhaustive list though. Don't assume you have to change everything all at once. Think about what you do, when and how, so you know what changes will have the biggest impact. Little changes can reduce bills, leaving you time to save up for bigger ones.

The articles to follow have sections on 'Tips that can be done easily or cheaply', 'Large or more long-term tips' and 'Generating Income'. The first section, which we'll cover here in Part One, is extremely important - 'Insulation'.

Insulation

Insulation is the most important thing that you could do for your home or building - there is no point generating heat if it escapes before you can reap the benefits. Thus, take time to think about this from top to bottom of your home or building. The cheapest or easiest insulation ranges from

draught excluders put under or around doors, draught excluder strip, heavy curtains with liners for doors and windows and brushes under front and back doors and on letter boxes. Make sure you buy new or second-hand curtains that you can wash, as many are dry-clean only (bad for the environment and bad for your pocket). Quick, cheap or long-term work includes replace leaky areas like windows and doors, or filling in holes or walls, floors, etc. Other more expensive or long-term work which has a big impact ranges from insulating your loft, your walls and above or below your floors – just be certain to deal with any damp problems first.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

In the photograph below, the difference between insulated and uninsulated roofs can be clearly seen - escaping heat (and thus money) through a roof is seen visually by melted snow.



Supporting our garden birds

It's the height of the nesting season and few things are more rewarding than watching our garden birds building nests and feeding their young, and then seeing the fledglings start to fly.

Sadly, since we started recording our garden birds with the British Trust for Ornithology nearly fifteen years ago, we've seen significant declines,

sometimes total disappearances, in many once common species. With wild habitats under increasing threat our gardens are more vital refuges than ever before. Trees, hedges, brushwood, hidden corners around sheds and outhouses can all be nesting sanctuaries for beleaguered garden birds.

This makes springtime the season for a truce, and not the time for cutting hedges or clearing quiet pockets of undergrowth, where hedgehogs may also be rearing their young. Cutting hedges in the spring

exposes hidden nests to predators and sunlight. Most gardeners know this, but sometimes powerful hedge cutters or heavy trimmers drown out the birdsong. It's disruptive for all the birds, who mark out their territories with song, and catastrophic when their nests are only inches from a loudly rotating blade.

Our garden birds are in dire need of all the sanctuary they can get. Can I just put in a plea on their behalf to hold off these vital habitats at least until the nesting season is over?

Margaret Elphinstone

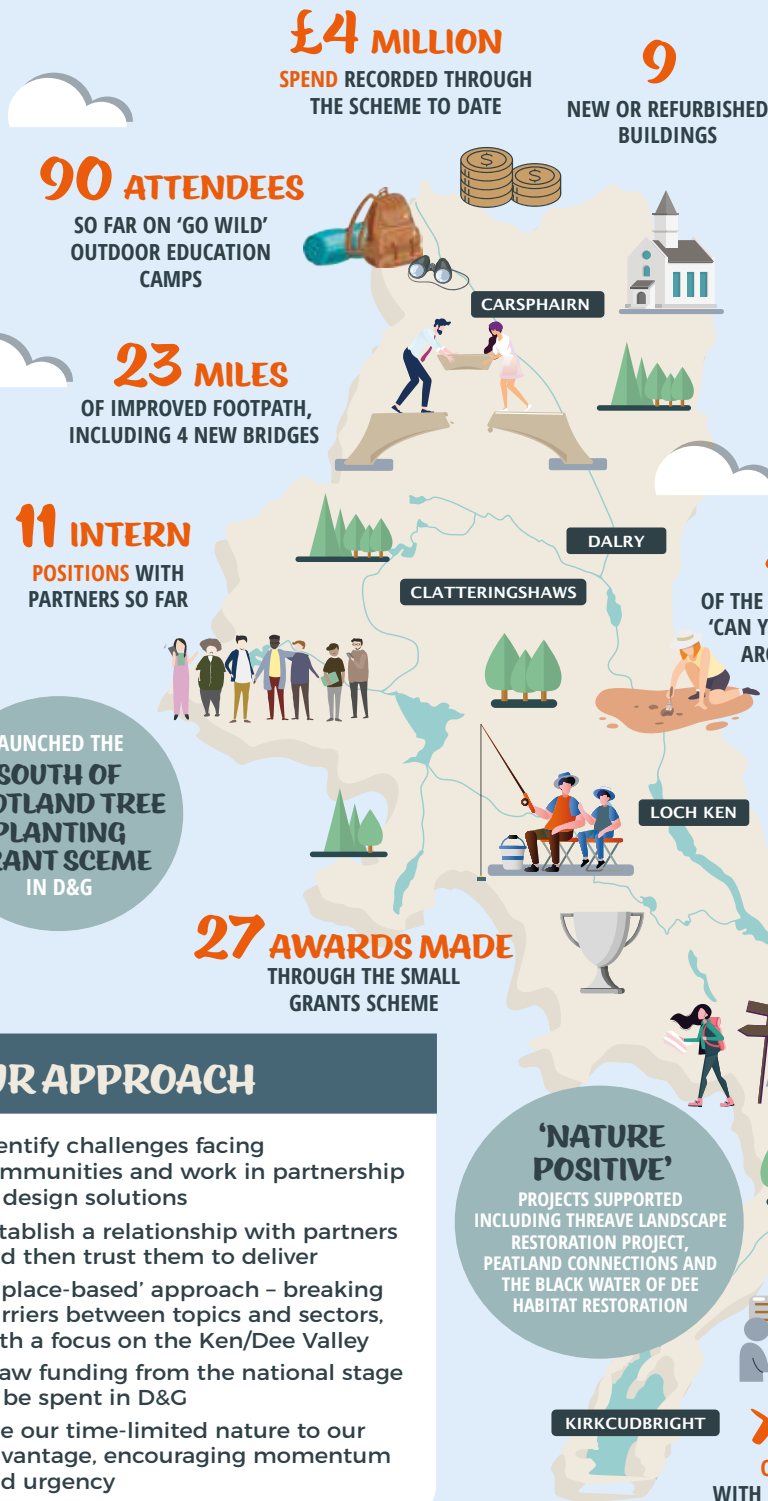


THE GALLOWAY GLENS SCHEME – OUR APPROACH

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...



OUR APPROACH

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

OVERSEEN BY A PARTNERSHIP BOARD CONSISTING OF:

PRIMARY FUNDER:



Keep up to date with our latest news:



WWW.GALLOWAYGLENS.ORG



What makes the Glenkens special to you?

Being one of the newer Loch Ken Trust (LKT) board members I thought it would be good to find out what my fellow Trustees like about the Glenkens.

In light of this, the Trust decided that we'll use our sponsored page over the next few issues of the *Gazette* to give each of our trustees the opportunity to tell us what makes the Glenkens special to them.

Making me go first wasn't quite what I had in mind though, but somebody has to start, so here I go!

When I crest the hill coming south on the A713 and get my first sight of Screel way off in the distance I know at that moment that I've come home. It doesn't matter how long I've been away, even if it's only been five minutes, seeing this beautiful and special corner of Galloway always makes me feel the same: I am home.

I've been marching about this area for more than 35 years and have seen more places worth telling you about than you have time to spare. I do particularly like Cairn Edward;

it's just such a great name for a hill. But one of the most special things to me is the stretch of the River Dee at Crossmichael. This is where I first learned properly about boats and boating and also loads of local history from the old boys and worthies of the village.

Together this has given me a passion for being on the water and for protecting its heritage, which extends to keeping people right on what it should be called. Living in a house called Deevue gives me strong opinions on this - call the water down here Loch Ken and village pride will lead to a long and in-depth chat on why you are wrong. Still, whatever it is called this is home and where my heart is.

Ed Hex



Below - from above Glenlochar looking north across the Dee to Crossmichael, Balmaghie and on to the beautiful Galloway Hills (with Galloway's three Cairns marked). Middle - looking back to Crossmichael across the Kirkland Loop bay on the River Dee. Left - Winter by the water at Crossmichael.



Managing our future woodlands

Watson Birds and the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership jointly held an excellent workshop in February in Dalry Town Hall.

Some three dozen folk attended representing many interests – community, environment, farming, forestry and landscape. The purpose was to look forward collectively at what changes were needed to improve the role of woodlands and forests. We set ourselves two questions:

- 1) How do we positively balance the needs of the differing land use interests in redesigning existing forests/woodlands and planning new ones?
- 2) What practical recommendations would you make that could help deliver this?

We agreed the need to move from confrontation to dialogue and from consultation to engagement of all parties – central government and its agencies, local councils, the industry and communities of interest nationally, regionally and locally.

The headlines from the day's discussions were:

- More trees in all forms are part of our global future. The issue is not just more commercial forestry, but also more individual trees and woods planted with the full range of native species. Dense

Sitka spruce plantations are past and superannuated says forest industry specialist and wants the industry to accept this in practice.

- More sensitive approaches to planting and management of woodlands and forests are urgently needed, with a greater variety of species and a greater variety in the layout of planting, and more environmental and community sensitive management of woodlands and forests. The forestry and timber industry needs to be less defensive and make greater effort in recognising the issues that others are concerned about it and address them in a positive manner.
- Greater recognition that landscape, scenery, beauty and amenity is needed in decisions about planting and management of trees, woods and forests as these issues are important for people and for communities.
- Decision makers should actively increase greater engagement of all communities as part of active dialogue locally and nationally. The emphasis must be on meaningful engagement not just on consultation about planting proposals but throughout the cycle of decision making on woods and forests management.
- Scottish Government should develop a more innovative regime for forest and woodland expansion and management with new and novel funding as well as moving out of silos of thinking and action in defending traditional sectors to more integrated policy and action.

- Trees should be built into future farming. This requires a regime change in government and attitude change within the farming community. Among the suggestions for consideration were: divert government grant aid from commercial tree planting to provide income stream for farmers for investment in trees; use a public interest test to stimulate on-farm tree planting similar to that for biodiversity in the National Planning Framework; rebalance planting grant to 50/50 conifer/broadleaf; bring forestry down the hill, therefore creating woodland opportunities on farms for better animal and human health and business.

- Education about trees, woods and forests at secondary and tertiary levels needs new approach to recognise need for integration into the environmental systems context, including a new curriculum at National 5 and Higher to embrace this. At further education level, need greater focus on skills offers and apprenticeship schemes.

- Opportunity for state-owned Galloway Forest Park to better reflect the wishes of Scotland's people, by starting a 30 year transition away from being an 80% spruce forest, to being a more diverse forest with majority native woodlands and broadleaves.

Many other points were made in discussion and can be found summarised on www.rogercrofts.net

Roger Crofts



Pictured above left is land owned by Duchrae Estates, Dalry, that was up until recently actively used for grazing sheep. The plea not to plant the hills with Sitka spruce in this image (which was taken for the Gazette's Land Use Focus in the June/July 2022 issue) illustrates poignantly the sentiment of the local community that there was insufficient engagement with regard to this, and many other, local plantations.

Above right is a photograph of the same land taken this spring, planted with Sitka spruce and lost for a lifetime to anything but commercial forestry. This transformation starkly illustrates the speed of change in Glenkens land use - many new plantations of blanket forestry have appeared across our area over the the last 12 months, significantly reducing open moorland and altering potential for existing and future land use. The cumulative effect of this process on biodiversity, peatlands, tourism and local livelihoods is unknown, highlighting the imperative for discussions on land use in the Glenkens to be had now.

Eco Feature

A regenerative revolution in farming

sponsored by



Knowledge-sharing between farmers is well evidenced to support learning, through peer to peer support – the opportunity to share what works, and what doesn't.

This is the approach taken by the Regenerative Farming Network in South West Scotland. Led by farmers, for farmers, the RegenFarm Network (as it's known to its members) is an informal group for anyone with an interest in knowing more about regenerative farming.

For some farmers this comes after years of reading and researching, and trying out some 'different' things; others are completely new to regenerative farming and just sticking their toe in the water. Abi Mordin is a market gardener based near Balmaclellan. She's part of the sustainable food collective Propagate, and is the group organiser. She describes the RegenFarm Network as "an open door for anyone curious about sustainable and regenerative agriculture".

What do we mean by regenerative? The RegenFarm network tries to present information and ideas around building healthy living soils, high nature value farming, holistic management and grazing systems, reducing inputs through biological and integrated management, and other topics of interest.

Further involvement can include attending monthly Farm Walks and other meet-ups including film screenings and socials. Dig a bit deeper and you can join the Soil Health Group. This smaller group consists of around 20 farmers who share access to the SoilMentor platform – a space to log results from hands-on soil testing, such as infiltration rates and earthworm counts. The Soil Health Group also has a WhatsApp, and a weekly Zoom call – often with invited experts who provide short presentations and join the conversation.

The Soil Health Group is also actively participating in Scotland-wide networks to engage with MSPs and Policy Makers developing the new Scottish Agriculture Bill.



Contented mob-grazed cattle at Laurieston Hall

Huw Connick, a farm and land manager working across South West Scotland, joined the Soil Health Group about a year ago. He says: "Every now and then people or groups of people come into your life at the right time. When I joined the Soil Health Group just about a year ago it came at the good time for me. As someone who works professionally in land(s) management, the group, and individuals within it, have stimulated my thinking, encouraged me by their examples, challenged me to keep thinking differently and expanded my mind and

"an open door for anyone curious about sustainable and regenerative agriculture"

knowledge base – all in a safe and non-judgmental environment.

"A lot of the people in the group practice what they talk about and don't just talk about it - there is engrained passion to regenerate land and not do harm."

One of the best ways to engage with the RegenFarm Network is through attending one of their Farm Walks. These are often on members' farms – folk keen to get input and feedback from others into their ideas while also sharing what they have learnt. That the discussions, the walks and the members are all locally based is seen as being important to group members.

Recent walks have included Baile Curraich near Dalbeattie where the group looked at grazing systems and nature-based solutions. Upcoming walks include Lochill near Crossmichael, where the emphasis will be on farmland birds.

Irene McCreath farms near Carsphairn. She points out that "even though we have a diverse range within the group, eg from shore level to hill tops, things still have a similarity which makes one person's results and findings more relevant and relatable. For some of us it is lack of mains water and how to try and manage both grass AND access to water. For others it's dealing with the sheer amount of rainfall in this

area. All of it is useful and encouraging."

The RegenFarm Network is free to join, and open to all types of farmers and food producers. Members include beef cattle, sheep and dairy farmers, as well as market gardeners. More information and a sign-up link is available via the website at www.dgsustainablefoodpartnership.org/regenerative-farming-network – this includes access to an ever-growing resource library, podcast recordings featuring voices of some members, and more on the Soil Health Group. New members are welcome at any time.

Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by
natural power

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

FREE

Double/threequarter bed, dressing table, wee chair and two wee tables. Contact: Dorothy on 07760 824 342

2 office chairs, both with castors, one red fabric without arms and one black faux leather with. Contact: Ted on 07887 736 887

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

WANTED

Single bed and mattress. Contact: Anita on 07547 301 321

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

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

Chest freezer. Contact: Tony on 07507 704 821

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

The Upper Urr Environment Trust

Last year saw the Upper Urr Environment Trust (UUET) get some exciting projects off the ground.



Back in November we installed some temperature loggers in the Urr using Blackcraig/GDT microgrant money and calling on the expertise of Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT). The loggers will help monitor the increasing water temperature associated with climate change and tie in with the wider Marine Scotland survey which covers many Scottish rivers.

We also applied for a grant from Inspiring Scotland which was successful! The main aim was to carry out some riparian planting (planting trees next to the river), but also to have a wildflower area near Corsock and start a website for UUET.

March saw us get 680 native trees in the ground with thanks

to a supportive landowner, lots of volunteers who braved the rain and with the help of GFT. These will shade the river whilst enhancing the habitat in and out the river.

We completed the small wildflower area with help of some local families - hopefully we can share photos of the area when it's in bloom in the next *Gazette* (or look out for them if you're driving through Corsock) along with our latest activities and details of our new website. We should also be hosting a river survey day which are always



Left - tree planting in March. Above - families enjoy creating the new wildflower area on the way into Corsock village.

great fun and generate some really interesting results so watch this space! *Joe Seed*

Birds, bees and butterflies

A small group of bird, bee and butterfly enthusiasts in Dalry gained funding through the Dalry Community Council Microgrants to purchase around 360 wildflower plants.

We have planted these in three plots around the village. Our aim is to promote biodiversity through creating food for pollinators such as

bees and butterflies, as well as other insects. The three areas are in the Dalry Library garden, by Dalry Secondary School car park and near the school sign and the grassy corner of Kirkland street and A713.

We have informed the council so they don't cut those areas and leave them to grow, and we welcome anyone to help look after the areas, add seeds or plants or just enjoy their beauty.

We have chosen small areas initially to see if wildflower planting will work in our



community as it can be unsightly to some and more difficult to maintain than grass.

If anyone wishes to know more about our project or would like to help contact Michele Owen m.kennedy46@hotmail.co.uk

Michele Owen

Dalry Secondary basketball team crowned regional champions

Dalry Secondary School's basketball team has been crowned the new regional champions after defeating Dumfries High in the finals.

The team consists of three S3 and five S2 players - Jamie and Joe McIvor, Charlie Moore, James Ade-MacRae, Alex Smith, Joel Lamb, Karol McDonald and Oscar Benson. Their win is made even more impressive when you consider that Dumfries High has a school roll around 20 times greater.

Team coach and PE teacher, Liam Fleming, said: "The boys played brilliantly the whole way through - they were in a league of five teams, won every league game played and then the Final. In the winning game, the score was 44-43; a member of staff who has been involved in the regional game for a while saying it was the best Junior Final they had ever seen!



"Over the past 18 months, after having some interest in the sport outside school recreationally, and after having done it in PE, a group of pupils become highly invested in it and play every break and lunch as well as attending the Basketball Wider Achievement Group on a Wednesday

afternoon. Of the eight players in this year's Junior Squad, seven play with Ayr team Ayr Storm.

"I'm not sure if Dalry has ever won a Regional Competition in a team sport before and when you consider the size of the school compared to others, the boys have done incredibly well."

Dalry School basketball team celebrate their victory - pictured, left to right, are Alex Smith, Karol McDonald, Oscar Benson, James Ade-MacRae, Jamie McIvor, Joe McIvor, Charlie Moore and Joel Lamb

Glenkens schools football success



Dalry and Kells primaries' football teams took part in this year's Paul Jones Tournament at the Threave Rovers football ground in Castle Douglas.

Both teams played brilliantly, with the Kells team taking home the tournament's Teamwork trophy.

As with Dalry Secondary's basketball win (above), the results are all the more impressive considering that



other Stewartry schools can field three teams of P7 pupils.

Our wee Glenkens schools should be very proud of their sporting achievements - well done to everyone involved!!

Education on tour - the Bud Bus

In March, Poppy Scotland's travelling museum came to Dalry to give both the Secondary and Primary school a tour.

It was in the form of a huge bus. We saw how the inner workings of Lady Haig's Poppy Factory worked and how it makes its poppies. We also saw how the charity helps people involved in the armed forces (past or present) by supporting them in mental health, housing, employment and mobility.

Dalry Secondary school itself raised £2,225 for the 1918 centenary of WW1 in 2018/19 so we were eager to see how the new factory was getting on and hope to get our invitation soon to get a tour of the factory and see our school name on the plaque.

In the factory 50 million poppies, 10,000 wreaths, 60,000 Remembrance symbols and 40,000 stem poppies, among other remembrance items, are

made per year. The process of the assembly is done by hand which students got a taste of on a smaller scale by being able to assemble their own.

The museum also had displays including a wreath found well preserved in a loft in a church in Ayrshire in a box hidden by sunlight which stopped it from losing colour, a faded framed poppy bunch with an excerpt of 'In Flanders Field' saying:

Take up our quarrel with the foe,

To you from failing hands we throw the torch;

be yours to hold it high.

*If ye break faith with us who die;
we shall not sleep,
Though poppies grow In Flanders fields.*

This was signed with Lady Haig's own signature and a death penny which was given to the family of a recently deceased relative that died in the war.

We also learned there were different poppies from different



Pupils from Dalry Secondary S2 class outside the Bud Bus

countries. For example, the poppy in France is blue like a cornflower and the poppy from Belgium is in the form of a daisy.

There were pictures on the wall of Lady Haig and others which were interactive - like Harry Potter ones at Hogwarts - and told us more of the History of the Poppy and lots of other interactive things to listen to.

Poppy Scotland annually raises over £3.5 million for people in Scotland who are part of the armed forces community - those still serving, veterans and their families.

Eli Stevenson, S2

News from Kells Primary School

Hector McCulloch, who is in Primary 7 at Kells, has continuously raised funds over the years for the Hands Up

Foundation which provides support for children in war-torn Syria.

Recently he handed out Smartie tubes to all the

children in Kells Primary to collect change, and has raised over £100. Well done Hector and the children at Kells Primary!

Children in the Primary 5,6,7 class chose three books each

to add to our school library. When they arrived everyone was very happy - Ellie says "it is so exciting!" Baillie says "it's great to have new books which we chose!"

*Happy reading!
Margaret Heuchan*



The Adventures of Kenside Polo

We were first contacted by Erin at Represent PR firm just over a year ago, on behalf of The Royal Highland Show for their marketing campaign for 2022.

They were looking for a friendly goat and handler to "bring the countryside to the city" in the form of a goat having a day out in Edinburgh. We thought, why not, could be a bit of fun and with Billy's experience in TV and film work, we were sure we could deal with any requests they had.

So on Tuesday 31 May we set off for Edinburgh with Polo in the trailer aiming to be at Queen's Drive near Holyrood Palace around 6pm. We arrived

sort of on time but failed to properly negotiate the one way system and had to drive back around a second time. Once parked up, we met the photographer and the ladies from Represent and spent the next couple of hours walking around parts of Edinburgh with a goat. Polo crossed and recrossed the road on a zebra crossing at the foot of Arthur's Seat, causing more than one head to turn with passing motorists and pedestrians – lots of camera phones were out also taking pictures as folk just couldn't quite believe their eyes. She posed in front of the Scottish Parliament, took a stroll round to Holyrood Palace and keeked through the gates. Such a good girl, quite a lot of this was done off the lead, just by voice commands. Once the photographer was happy with these two locations, Polo was

loaded back into the trailer and we drove further into the centre of the city to get the pictures at Edinburgh Castle. This is the point where I was very glad Billy was driving as,



Polo and Irene in front of the Scottish Parliament, and below by Arthur's Seat

following the PR ladies, ended up having to turn around in a very tight street when we found the road they wanted to use was closed due to the up-coming Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Safely unloaded once more, the photographer took many more pictures of Polo from lots of different angles, lying on the floor for the one seen in the last edition of the Gazette. The ladies had brought along a variety of props including a selection of 2022 rosettes and Polo got to wear a first prize one. Sadly when she went to The Royal Highland Show a few weeks later, she didn't win a red rosette. But her picture was in and on lots of their publicity material, including the

catalogues, the show maps, on big posters around the show field and in the press in the run up to the Show advertising both the show and the new RHS app so she was probably the most recognisable goat there. We have kept the copy of The Scottish Farmer newspaper with her on the front cover as it may never happen again.

*Irene McCreath,
Polquhanity Farm, Carsphairn*



Medal for service to brass banding

A joint concert by Kilmarnock Concert Brass and the cooperation band at the Howard Centre in Kilmarnock on Saturday 20 May was the setting for the presentation of a brass banding long service award by the Scottish Brass Band Association (SBBA) to Carsphairn resident Kath Martin.

Kath is celebrating over 50 years in banding, having joined the Rochdale Metropolitan Youth Band in 1971, firstly on baritone and then euphonium.

Subsequent spells with Middleton Band in Greater Manchester and the Lancashire Fusiliers Band were followed by membership of Irwell Forge Band in Bury, Lancashire, Goodshaw Band in Rossendale and neighbouring Haslingden & Helmshore Band.

On moving to Dumfries & Galloway in 2008, she signed up with Dunaskin Doon Band on cornet and tenor horn and also played with Dumfries Town Band before joining Kilmarnock Concert Brass in 2018 where she has played cornet, horn and now baritone.



Kath Martin was presented her life membership medal by SBBA secretary Tom Allan

Remembering Nicola Black

Continued from front page...

Nicola was born in Edinburgh but spent her early years in Shetland where her early musical memories were made.

By the time she was at school she had moved with the family to Kirkcudbrightshire where she spent the rest of her life. Her early ambition to be a nurse was hampered by ill health and she had to reluctantly give up after a few years as a student nurse. However, nursing's loss was music's gain and she was able to devote more time to developing her incredible musical talent.

Members of the CatStrand Singers collated all of their individual tributes together, some of their messages follow:

"Nicola shone a powerful light for music and friendship, all of us were very fortunate to know her."

"Like many others, I was convinced I couldn't sing but Nicola was so encouraging and patient - next thing I knew I was singing in Icelandic and Gaelic."

"You will be in every song because of how you gave song back to me. Your belief, your strength, your courage all meant so much to me. Shine on."

"Sixty five years of thinking I couldn't sing but you showed me I had a voice."

The heartfelt reaction to Nicola's untimely death only serves to underline how much she meant to so many people and she will be sorely missed by her family and her many friends.

However, the legacy that she has left is truly amazing and ensures that she will live long in the memories of those who were lucky enough to know her. As another tribute said, "It has been a privilege to know you Nicola. Thank you



for all the years of singing together, for your encouragement, your songs and the joy you gave us."

Brian Edgar, CatStrand



I always loved the beauty of the fact that Nicola White and Andrew Black fell in love and got married. It's so perfect - storybook perfect.

And, to me, they were a storybook couple, so dedicated to each other. And Nicola was a storybook character - larger than life. Which I think is why her death has shocked people so deeply - she was so very alive; it seems impossible that she suddenly isn't.

Her incredible passion for life and love of music gave Nicola a unique fire that seemed

to draw people to her. She was admirably tolerant and accepting of people others often found difficult, or who were on the margins for one reason or another. She made people feel heard and supported, and was also able to deal with almost any situation that arose through her positive outlook and 'gift of the gab'.

Her can-do attitude - and, of course, Blackie at her side, supporting her always in fulfilling her dreams - enabled her to lead such an active, full life, even as she became less mobile and her health deteriorated. Most of us able-bodied folk with less mettle would think twice before

heading to a festival for late nights and chaos, or taking a caravanning trip. But Nicola took it all in her stride.

She was a beacon - a shining light that radiated out, touching hearts and minds all over Galloway, Scotland and beyond. Her wonderful sense of humour and ability to laugh at life, and herself, and make the very most of each moment is what stays with me. And I hope it helps me to enjoy every moment too, as I think for so many of us time goes by and we don't really inhabit our 'now'. For me, at least, I'll try to take a leaf out of Nicola's book and seize the day. Who knows how long we've got... *Sarah Ade*

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1-7
JUNE

GAZETTEpeople

page 18

THANK YOU VO

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

The Glenkens Food Hub would like to thank all their volunteers – without you we wouldn't be able to get delicious, locally-produced food out to residents.

If you would like to get involved we'd love to have you!

Lesley Atkins

GLENKENS GAZETTE

The Gazette would like to say a huge "thank you" to the many

volunteers who
publication who

Thanks go to our
our proof readers,
help distribute cop

THE GLENKENS HUB

The Glenkens Hub has been live for less than two months, but already we're had so many contributions from volunteers.

You've
and ac
amazin
Thank
it with



There is absolutely no way we could do any of the things we're doing without the willing help of so many people.

Sometimes it's help with moving chairs, or it might be helping with LING Lunches, tidying up in the Town hall, putting up or taking down a gazebo or two, baking cakes for a fund-raising event, helping out with admin or book-keeping tasks, a bit of clearing up and cleaning. The options are endless

and the age range of helpers is wide.

It's the range of willingness that's so lovely, from people who are happy to say, "just ask, any time, and I'll help if I can" to others who will make a commitment to a particular task and will turn up reliably to carry it out.

It's the community that makes things happen. LING only exists at all because so many people are part of everything we do. We could not be more grateful for all the help and support given so readily by so many. It's truly amazing. A very big thank you to everyone who lends a hand so willingly.

Ann Glaister

Across the Glenkens many of the core organisations that support our communities are run by, or have help from, volunteers.

Our Community Councils - the official voice of our communities - are run by dedicated teams of volunteers.

In our schools, staff often go above and beyond their paid roles in order to provide opportunities for young people and support the community, such for the fundraising afternoon held by Dalry School for the Syrian earthquake appeal.

Organisations such as the Glenkens & District Trust have a Board of dedicated volunteers working away in the background to ensure our communities receive the funding they are entitled to in a fair and proper manner.

The list goes on... So, if you have even a little time to spare, why not support your community and volunteer? It would be very much appreciated!

Bairn Banter would like to thank all of the parent volunteers and families that make our ongoing Saturday morning sessions so much fun!

Melissa Ade



Carsphairn Heritage Initiative Trustees would like to thank...

- our dedicated team of transcribers for making the Archive accessible to everyone
- our wonderful stewards for ensuring we can have the Heritage Centre open as much as possible
- our fantastic members who have an interest in Carsphairn's heritage and all the work we do

CHI Board



Afantastic team of drivers at Galloway Community Transport (GCT) has been helping to provide vital transport for individuals and groups in the Glenkens and beyond since 2001.

Starting life as Glenkens Transport Initiative, GCT has evolved to meet the transport needs in the Glenkens and beyond over the last 22 years. GCT now provides patient transport, rural school bus services, and regular services to Newton Stewart and Castle Douglas for shopping. It can also provide minibus hire for schools,

young peoples' organisations and special interest groups, as well as put on excursions, which provide opportunities for travel and socialising. All of this enables members of our community to enjoy activities and events which people with access to much better public transport links might take for granted.

GCT now has three minibuses, with two of these being wheelchair accessible, and an electric car. Excitingly, the team are awaiting delivery of a 16-seater fully accessible electric bus in June! This will help GCT to do its bit for the environment, as well as ensuring that GCT continues to have a fleet of safe and reliable vehicles.

Stephen Bullock, a GCT driver of many years, explained why he feels the driving he does makes a difference: "Driving for

GCT is both a pleasure and a responsibility. A pleasure because the minibuses provide a service to the community which gives much pleasure to passengers both old and young. A responsibility because we carry the most valuable cargo; people. It enables us as drivers to use our driving skills, which is something I enjoy."

GCT Patient Transport Service drivers generously use their own vehicles to take patients to appointments and their mileage expenses are reimbursed.

One patient said recently: "The service is an absolute lifesaver, and the conversation and laughter we have on the way make it a lovely journey."

Beverley McLean, a driver for the GCT Patient Transport Service said, "As a new driver, it has been enjoyable and rewarding. Our patients really appreciate

the service and support the drivers provide, especially when their circumstances are difficult. Being a patient's driver means so much more to them than simply transport and is certainly a positive experience for both of us."

GCT simply would not be able to operate without the amazing contribution made by our dedicated team of volunteer drivers. We'd like to use Volunteers' Week to thank them one and all. And if you're thinking you'd like to be part of that team, please get in touch with Jon, GCT manager, at the CatStrand by phone, in person, or via the website: gallowaycommunitytransport.org. All training can be given if you're the sort of person who enjoys helping other people.

Please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you! *Jon and Sue, GCT*

LUNTEERS!

o have made the
at it is today.

reless Steering Group,
the volunteers who
ies of the Gazette, those

who helped with the creation of the new
Glenkens Hub website, our contributors
(without whom we'd have no content!), our
advertisers, sponsors and funders, GCAT for
all the support and of course our readers -
thank you all!

Sarah Ade

told us about events, passed on news stories
added notices to the board, as well as sharing some
g photos for the Hub gallery.

s to everyone who has contributed; we couldn't do
out you all!

Gail Challis

You can find
contact details for many
local groups and organisations on
page 31, or visit the Glenkens Hub
at www.glenkens.scot - the Community
Directory in the Local Resources
section - or scan this QR code.



Where would our little shop be
without our wonderful band of
volunteers who are willing, often at
short notice, to drop everything and
help out.

Our growing list of volunteers is testament
to our success, and the article in the last
Gazette brought a number of new faces for
which we're very grateful.

Helen Crowther, Glenkens Community Shop, Dalry

Congratulations Crossmichael Community - YOU now own the Memorial Hall!

After more than two years of planning,
preparation and unavoidable delays
Crossmichael Community Trust (CCT) and
the Memorial Hall Committee have finally
managed to get the deal sealed. On 25 April
the building changed hands with the hall
committee passing ownership to the CCT.

We would like to thank the current hall

committee and all their predecessors for the
last 70 years who have looked after and cared
for the hall so that we can carry on using and
enjoying it today. With the purchase of the hall
by the CCT only one thing has changed: it is no
longer owned FOR the community, it is now
owned BY the community.

To recognise this amazing achievement
we are organising an official hand-over
ceremony. We would really like as many
people to come along as possible and we

will advertise and let everyone know the
date as soon as it is set. There are also lots
of improvements to be made to the hall and
CCT would very much appreciate everyone's
thoughts, ideas and help to make this happen.
If you have any suggestions or skills to share
please let the Trust know.

Thank you so much to all the volunteers on
both sides who worked so hard to make this
happen.

Ed Hex, Chair, Crossmichael Community Trust

Behind every successful organisation there is an extraordinary volunteer team.

Thank you to the team of
volunteers at Balmacellan Hall
who have helped to transform
the hall and organised the many
events held at the Hall over
the past year. Thank you for
your professionalism, timely
assistance, and exceptional
organisation skills - we couldn't
have done this without you.

At the same time we have had

to say good bye to two of our
volunteers, good luck and a
massive thank you goes to John
and Michelle who are moving on
to pastures new.

Please contact us via the
Balmacellan Village Hall
Facebook page if you would like
join our team of volunteers or
to get involved helping at the
village hall. Your help would be
greatly appreciated even if you
only have a little time to spare or
can only help on an *ad hoc* basis.

Julia Higgins

Dalry Town Hall is one of the wonderful rural assets of our community, the maintaining and running of which happens thanks to the organisation, teamwork and commitment of a small band of dedicated volunteers.

The committee wish to
offer a BIG "thank you" to
all those who have been
involved in organising

regular events such as the
Producers Market and Film
Nights, and particularly
this last year the new
Community Café initiative,
to name but a few.

We are always looking for
new recruits to join us.
There is no age restriction,
as was highlighted by the
young Royals George,
Louis and Charlotte who
got involved with their
local Scouts group on the
Big Help Out day over the
Coronation weekend.

Lesley Blissett

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

Thank you to all our volunteers! At GCAT but also all round the Glenkens.

I know for a fact that GCAT
couldn't work without its
volunteer stewards, bar staff,
receptionists, gardeners, drivers,
coordinators and Board and sub-
committee members - so as we
celebrate Volunteers Week 2023,

I wanted to say a big thank you to
you all. We very much appreciate
all your hard work on our behalf.
Also to the GCAT staff who all do
a fair amount of volunteering for
us in their nominal free time!

But I also know that across the
Glenkens, probably more than
300 people routinely volunteer
their time, whether on boards
or to run groups, to keep an eye
on their neighbours or to our
keep public spaces smart. That's
at least 10% of our population,
and is a big part of why this area
is such a great place to live, work
and play - so thank you all! More
power to your elbow!

Helen Keron

As Glenkens Community Spaces facilitator I would like to highlight the fantastic work carried out by the management committees of all of our town and village halls and community centres.

They put in many hours of work
behind the scenes to ensure that the
communities across the Glenkens
have access to local venues for
events, celebrations, social clubs,

sports activities and various clubs
and classes.

Many of our management
committees would be delighted
to welcome in new volunteers to
get involved - and volunteering is
a great way to meet new people,
learn new skills, and give back to
the community. If you would like to
find out more, contact details for all
our community spaces can be found
on the Glenkens Hub Community
Directory.

Becca Nelson

CatStrand Young Creatives

CatStrand Young Creatives has been awarded funding for an exciting new music-making project, Young Music Makers.

The project is part of the Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative (YMI), administered by Creative Scotland.

Young Music Makers is a year-long project that offers good value private and group music lessons in ukulele, guitar, piano and keyboard. We will also be running music 'taster' workshops for families, singing and vocal lessons, and musical

technology workshops.

Young Music Makers goes beyond just music lessons as now we can also offer young local musicians the opportunity to develop their skills and kickstart their musical career through mentoring, group workshops, performances and collaborative projects. We believe that building a community of young musicians is essential for their growth and success.

As part of the Young Music Makers project, we have been joined by 22-year-old Morgan Love, who will be working with Cat Campbell, the Young Creatives programme lead, to deliver the project.

Cat says: "We are absolutely thrilled to welcome our new music intern Morgan, who

will be a valued member of the Young Creatives team in running the music school and various other exciting projects we have planned throughout the year.

"Our mission to provide exceptional musical experiences to children and young people in the Glenkens and beyond has been made possible through this generous funding from YMI Creative Scotland and the Hollywood Trust, and we can't wait to see the positive impact this programme will have on the community."

As well as the launch of the new music project CatStrand Young Creatives has several other projects running, including the Young Critics programme, Young Writers Café, Dance Steps and regular drama clubs,



CatStrand's Youth Arts Coordinator, Cat Campbell (left) with music intern Morgan Love

musical theatre, dance classes and art clubs for children and young people aged between five and 26. For full details, see www.csyoungecreatives.com

Battle of the Bands showcases youth music talent

At the end of April CatStrand Young Creatives hosted an exciting Battle of the Bands event, in collaboration with Knockengoroch festival.

Fourteen young musicians competed for the prize of a 40-minute slot at this year's Knockengoroch festival, which will be the event's 25th anniversary.

The evening attracted young musicians from all over Dumfries & Galloway and proved to be a resounding success, with a sell-out crowd in attendance and many of the young performers enjoying their first-ever live performance experience.

The event was testament to the incredible musical talent and diversity within the region and showcased the passion and

creativity of our young people.

Knockengoroch festival organisers had a difficult time selecting two winning acts as each performer brought something unique and special to the stage. Ultimately, Castle Douglas High School band Rhelm and singer-songwriter Jodie Rae were successful in securing their spots at the festival in May, while plans are currently being made to work with three other young musicians as part of the CatStrand Young Music Makers project to help them develop their careers as musicians (see article above).

Cat Campbell, CatStrand Young Creatives programme lead, said: "Congratulations to all of the participating performers and look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in the music industry. We could not be prouder of the incredible talent on display at this event and we were thrilled to be able to provide these young performers with a platform to

showcase their skills.

"The success of this event is evidence of the important role that music can play in bringing communities together and in supporting the development of young people. We hope that this event will inspire more young people to pursue their passion for music.

"Thanks as ever to the Hollywood Trust for their support of this and all our CatStrand Young Creatives activities."

So if you went to Knockengoroch festival, we hope you enjoyed the



performances of the talented Rhelm and Jodie Rae!

Winning acts at the Battle of the Bands, Jodie Rae (top) and Rhelm

Another prestigious award for local photographer Duncan McNaught

Local photographer Duncan McNaught has landed another prestigious national award, taking first place in the Botanical category in the Scottish Nature Photography Awards 2022.

His photograph titled *Autumn Beech* took first prize, with two more of his images being shortlisted; *Dew Drops on Crane Fly* in the Scottish Wildlife Portrait category and *Wood Anemone* in the Scottish Botanical category.

Duncan said: "I'm blessed where I live to be surrounded by trees and, when I took the winning shot, I'd ventured out early one morning into the grounds of Kenmure Castle, outside New Galloway. A light mist had formed overnight creating the most moody scene in front of me, and some of the beech trees had hung onto their golden leaves - it was these and the soft light that drew me to take the photograph. I feel it shows the sense of calm I experienced that morning, with no-one around; just me and my camera, which I love to do often. I am absolutely thrilled



to have taken first place, as well as to have two short-listed photographs."

To see more of Duncan's work you can visit his Facebook page @DMcNaughtPhotography or he has generously allowed the Glenkens Hub to provide his photographs in our Gallery section for local not-for-profit use at www.glenkens.scot/glenkens-gallery



Above - Duncan's winning entry, 'Autumn Beech'; below left - 'Dew Drops on Crane Fly'; right - 'Wood Anemone'



Record season for CatStrand Players

CatStrand Players are taking a well earned break after a record breaking festival season, although occasional meetings through the summer might be necessary to polish the ten trophies that adorn the cabinet!

Our two plays in the Youth Festival won five trophies between them at the Stewartry District with 'Rabbit' going on to the Western Divisional Final in Dunoon where it was placed second and also won the trophy for best stage presentation, narrowly missing out on a second consecutive appearance at the Scottish Final. We wish Kirkintilloch Youth Players all the best in the final at Nairn in June.

In the Open Festival, 'Feeding the Ducks' won three trophies at the Stewartry and also

progressed to Dunoon where it was up against very strong competition and gained very high marks but wasn't placed in the top three.

Everyone involved in the plays this year had a great time and enjoyed performing at The Fullarton, CatStrand and at The Queen's Hall in Dunoon and we look forward to defending all of our trophies next year and hopefully progressing to the Western Finals for the eighth time and maybe even making it to the Scottish Final again.

The next performance dates

for your diary will be 8, 9 and 10 December for the annual CatStrand Panto - look out for further announcements soon! Rehearsals will start on Sunday 3 September at CatStrand and there will be limited spaces available for new members.

The 'Behind the Scenes' crew will also be starting to plan the scenery and props around then too so if you would rather be backstage then please watch out for further info on the CatStrand Young Creatives website.

Brian Edgar

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*.

The most frequent guest to my bookroom is Aarni – whose name is the name of a guardian spirit in Finnish folklore, and who was born on the summer solstice. Today she's helping to write this piece.

Aarni – of the Hidden Road and Dalry school – is a very fitting visitor because she is a bookworm extraordinaire. "I enjoy reading," she says, "because it gives me an escape and I can ignore everything else. It also makes you more clever and increases your vocabulary. And the bookroom is very cosy. It's the perfect place to read. That's why I like reading in my bed – because it's so cosy."

Sometimes we use the bookroom as a study zone. Topics we've touched on

include the ancient Sumerian civilization, places like Pakistan, Turkey and Zanzibar, the Syrian Revolution, the Second World War, Buddhism and meditation. We've talked about language families and the history of languages – why it is, for example, that in English we use Anglo-Saxon words like pig, sheep and cow to refer to animals but French words like pork, mutton and beef to refer to meat.

We've also done a great deal of art together, both abstract and representational, using pencil, crayons, pens and paint. Under the influence of our friend and mentor Paul of Manchester (father of Aarni's close friends Ruby and Rafah), we've used clay to make sculptures of animals and people.

As for reading – Aarni's favourite is Harry Potter, which she usually listens to on audio-books. But in the bookroom her tastes are expanding.

She and her brother Unti love

the tales of Noggin the Nog and his evil uncle Nogbad the Bad – the best of which, we agree, is *The Ice Dragon*. And we've read Charles Kingsley's classic Victorian children's story *The Water Babies*.

We've enjoyed stories suitable for both children and adults, like *The Godson*, a religious fable by Leo Tolstoy, and some of the fairy tales of Hermann Hesse.

Aarni has also successfully grappled with more difficult texts usually considered to suit only adults. These include the poem *Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll, which is crammed full of neologisms, and *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner* by Coleridge. Together we read the easy summary version of *Macbeth* in *Tales from a Grandfather* by Sir Walter Scott (a book, strangely enough, which once belonged to my grandfather), but we read the witches' famous 'double double toil and trouble' speech

in Shakespeare's original. Aarni read Donald Barthelme's short story *Some of us had been Threatening our Friend Colby* – a hilarious exercise in irony – with no trouble at all. She also read a section of Joyce's *Ulysses*, and confirmed that she'd understood the style by writing her own stream of consciousness passage, which contained a duck and Harry Potter.

I've already mentioned Aarni in two essays published in a journal which looks like a book (*The Critical Muslim*). But she doesn't know the people who read that, and wants to be locally famous. So here she is in the *Glenkens Gazette*.



£1,000 raised at Passion premier

The world premiere of Geoff Davidson's *The Passion* was performed at Dalry Church on Easter Saturday.

A capacity audience of over 150 people enjoyed a dramatic performance in Scots of the new choral work from the Glenkens Parish Choir with church members taking the spoken roles of Pontius Pilate, the high priest Caiaphas and choir members reading Peter, Judas and 'Doubting' Thomas.

Robert Lind's beautiful baritone

complemented the role of Jesus with impressive authority and there were high points of emotion as the Christ was bereft of accompaniment at his death but triumphant in his victory following the resurrection.

Nicola Junor used her beautiful soprano to highlight responses to the various events and, as Mary Magdalene, brought her stunning interpretative power to a gripping climax as she met Jesus in the Garden at the entrance to the tomb. The power and tension of the trial before Pilate was clearly defined and the anger of the baying mob

brought magnificently to life.

The performance was underpinned with conviction and clarity by Roy Stairmand as the Evangelist who was completely at home in the Scottish language used to relate the tragic events. The final uplifting choruses to each part were gloriously delivered by the Glenkens choir, punching well above their usual weight and treating us to a concert that will live long in the memory.

Financial donations from the audience amounted to a few pounds short of £1,000 and this will be sent to the Abba's Rest Orphanage in Malawi. *Geoff Davidson*

Summer of love with SongWave

Audiences in the Stewartry are in for a treat as SongWave Community Choir brings an eclectic mix of songs depicting love in all its glory to the region.

Titled "Love is....: Songs of Love, Loss and Hope", the concert will include music from classic 1950s doo-wop to haunting ballads from the Georgian Caucasus and Croatian barbershop.

The choir will explore love's many dimensions, including its beauty, heartbreak and hope. They will also perform a range of Scots and Gaelic folk songs.

Led by the talented Kate Howard, the choir promises

to deliver a captivating and heart-warming experience with their joyful *a cappella* performances.

"We're thrilled to bring Songs of Love to our Summer Concerts in the Stewartry," said the choir's chairperson Jo Gallant. "The choir has been working hard to prepare for these concerts, and we're excited to share our passion for music with the local community."

SongWave will be performing at Dalry Town Hall on Saturday 24 June at 4pm, with tickets



available through CatStrand. There will also be concerts at Kirkpatrick Durham Village Hall on Friday 23 June at 7pm, and Gatehouse of Fleet Parish Church on Sunday 25 June, as part of the Big Lit Festival.

Tickets are £8, which includes refreshments, and there are concessions available.

To find out more or book tickets please visit www.songwavechoir.org.uk



t: 01292 550954

m: 07766 978568

e: rj.mcculloch@aol.co.uk

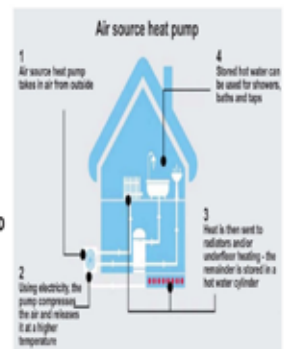
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**SUN 4 JUN 3:00PM,
DALRY TOWN HALL**

Concert with Jo Miller & friends.



ROSS AINSLIE, ALI HUTTON & JENN BUTTERWORTH

THU 8 JUN 7:30PM

Modern Scottish folk at its mightiest!



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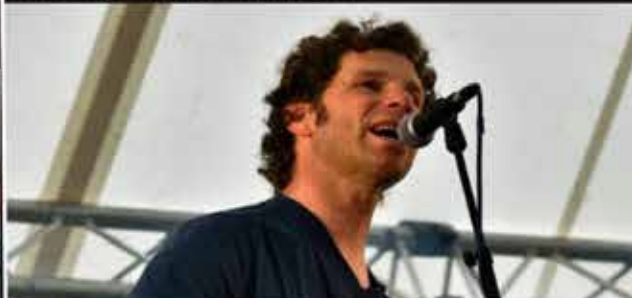


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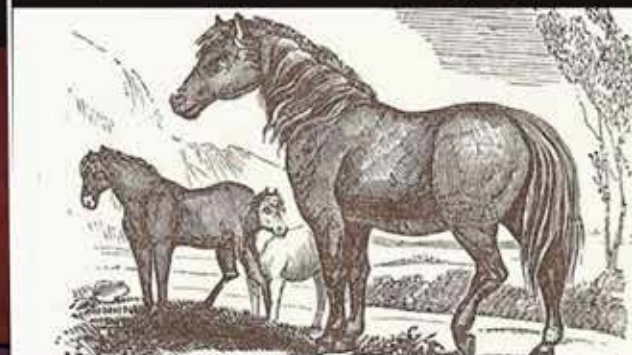
A fun packed evening of varied live performances.



THE GLENKENS STORY: THE GALLOWAY NAG

SUN 23 JUL 2:00PM

A famous breed of Galloway horse, now extinct, but with a unique international legacy.



MARTIN SIMPSON

SUN 3 SEP 7:30PM

One of England's most revered folk performers.



A' the way to Galloway

On Sunday 4 June at 3pm there will be a concert in Dalry Town Hall to launch a new album of local traditional songs and tunes by local musician, Jo Miller - *A' the Way to Galloway*.

The musicians are Jo Miller (song and fiddle) and Amy Geddes (fiddle and viola), both originally from Dalry, along with Wigtownshire singer Robyn Stapleton and Jo's husband, Steve Sutcliffe (concertinas) and son Neil Sutcliffe (piano, accordion and concertina).

You will hear older repertoire such as William Nicholson's *Braes of Galloway* - thought to be the source of the well-known *Galloway Hills* - along

with more recent compositions such as Robbie Murray's *Toon o Dalry*, and *Buchta o Knockreoch* by Logan Paterson of New Galloway.

Jo has been researching the music of the Glenkens since the 1980s. She says: "I'm delighted to be sharing these songs and tunes, which all have a personal association for me. This music has thrived in intimate environments like homes, rural schools and small halls, and the musical arrangements and performances on the album recreate that intimacy. The album also includes the spoken word, birdsong and singing for dancing - an aural landscape which not only evokes the former life of the Glenkens and its people, but also points toward its lively music culture in the present."

All are welcome for this special concert. There will be



opportunities to participate, CDs for sale and refreshments on hand!

Tickets are £5 (£2 concession) from CatStrand (visit their website at www.gcat.scot or call 01644 420 374). This event is supported by Creative Scotland.

Pictured left to right are Neil Sutcliffe, Amy Geddes, Jo Miller, Robyn Stapleton and Steve Sutcliffe

Project Unspoken

This July, Leticia Sanchez and Anders Rigg will be bringing Project Unspoken to the CatStrand.

During the week, their team of international guests tell a story of dance and music, one that bonds the artforms in a journey of exploration and connection.

Project Unspoken opens up the communication that exists between dance and music, drawing out its essence to create pieces of performance that are in part improvisation, part choreography.

This method of working is one that Leticia and Anders have been developing for the last few years. The importance of communication between people and cultures is more important now than ever. They believe that this

work helps towards achieving this goal.

This CatStrand residency is the culmination of this phase of the project and will feature both a public workshop (Mon 17 July) and performance of the work (Sat 22 July). The workshop is open level and the artists encourage both musicians and dancers of any experience to join. Tickets are available at the CatStrand or on www.gcat.scot

Wendy Niblock



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Join Us for Soup Saturdays 1-3pm



Come along and enjoy fresh homemade soup, a dessert and a hot drink all for £5.



Did you know that you can enjoy a gentle walk from the Village Hall to Ströan or Mossdale Lochs?

Not to mention a warm and a natter. Starting on the 25th of February and then the last Saturday in the month throughout the year.



An extraordinary family tale

There are many stories about the link between Dumfriesshire and the Caribbean, and about Robert Burns becoming a tax collector.

These are brought to life in the posthumous publication of *Hall Windows* by Lindsay Crofts which allows the story to be accessible to all.

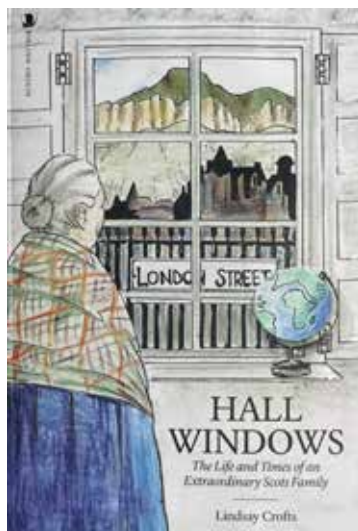
Narration is by Helen Hall, the spinster daughter of Alexander Hall and Ann Burn, timber merchants in Fisherrow in East Lothian. Helen lived in a flat in London Street in Edinburgh's New Town where she reminisces about the extended families and all of those who married into it, and others who came to benefit from their

contact with them.

Opening a window into each member of the family's life, Lindsay Crofts has created a family history with a difference. No wonder the subtitle of the book is 'The Life and Times of an Extraordinary Scots Family'.

Lindsay Crofts and her husband Roger bought a home in St John's Town of Dalry 15 years ago and have greatly enjoyed time spent there, making so many friends and hopefully contributing to the area especially through the Watson Birds project.

Sadly, Lindsay died in March 2021 after a long battle with secondary breast cancer.



Hall Windows is available on payment of a donation of at least £10 to the charity Mary's Meals - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RogerCrofts and copies can be obtained from Roger Crofts on 07803 595267 or roger.dodin@btinternet.com



Donald Watson exhibition moves to CatStrand

The permanent Watson Birds exhibition has moved from The Smiddy, in Balmaclellan, to the CatStrand.

It is now located at the end of the corridor, to the right as you head towards the CatStrand cafe.

The current focus is on Donald Watson's depiction of forestry, along with the display of his authored books and some of the books he illustrated, his painting table, easel and his tweed jacket.



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

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



For more information or to download an application form, please go to www.pamelayoungtrust.co.uk, or telephone Peter Matthews of A B & A Matthews on 01671 404100.

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POP IN FOR A CHAT AND A BROWSE

The Galloway garron in Galloway place-names

The Glenkens Story is hosting a talk by Dr Miriam Bibby on the famous 'Galloway nag', or garron, on Sunday 23 July at the CatStrand.

Miriam will discuss what is known of the history of this local horse and what became of it. The horse was, of course, ubiquitous until quite recently as the main power source on farms. I thought it would be interesting to have a look around the Glenkens for any evidence of place-names incorporating references to it. Near Dalry we have Craiggubble Wood on the south-east slope of Waterside Hill. This is derived from Gaelic *Creag a' Chapail* - 'rock of the mare, colt, or horse broken to the bit'. In Old Gaelic *capall* refers more frequently to a draught horse as opposed to the word *ech*, now *each* - a saddle-horse, chariot-horse'.

Both *each* and *capall* are obvious cognates of Latin *equus* and *caballus*. There are several rocky crags on Waterside Hill which could refer to the *capall* in question.

Another Glenkens *capall* place-name is Knowe Happle, a small hill just north-west of Loch Stroan; *Loch na Sroine* - 'loch of the nose' - referring to Stroan Hill. Knowe will be a translation of *cnoc* so the whole is *Cnoc a' Chapail* - 'hill of the mare'.

This is the same specific as found in the place-name Glenhapple in the Cree Valley, from *Gleann a' Chapail* - 'valley of the mare' - and the nearby Kirhobble; *Ceathramh a' Chapail* - 'the quarterland of the horse'.

Sometimes a landscape feature could be named through a vague resemblance to the shape of an animal. Such might be the case in respect of the Fallincherrie Scar, a steep gairy on Craigtarson; *A' Chreag Tarsuinn* - 'the athwart crag' - a western spur from the summit

of Corserine; *A' Chroisrinn* - 'the cross point'. Fallincherrie could represent *Faill an t-Searraich* - 'precipice of the foal'. The young horse in question might be a large rock which is noticeable on the otherwise smooth hillside below the gairy and above the modern forestry edge.

The term *each* does not seem to be present in place-names in the Glenkens, so we must be content with draught-horses and foals and leave the show ponies to others. Each does occur quite frequently in Galloway, often in the anglicised form Auchness; *each-innis* - 'horse-meadow'.

The other element that features in local place-names referring to horses is *gearran* - 'a gelding' - hence the Scots term garron. In Scots the meaning is a 'small, sturdy horse, used especially for rough hill work, an old worn-out horse'. *Gearran* is formed from the verb *gear* - 'to cut' - and this word provides the Gaelic name for February, *An Gearran*



**Auchindrane Sawmill:
a descendent of the
Galloway Garron at work?**

- 'the cutting' - a time when the animals would be gelded.

Gearran is found in the place-name Balgerran; *Baile Gearrain* - 'horse farm' - north-east of Crossmichael. Possibly this was a farm that specialised in the breeding of the Galloway nag. Maxwell mentions in *Place-Names of Galloway* (p15-16) that Balgerran was the site of the Kelton horse fair. *Michael Ansell*



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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)
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The musical history of the Glenkens

The Glenkens Story's annual history conference tackles a completely different subject this autumn when it addresses the musical history of the Glenkens and provides an excuse for a hectic weekend of music making.

The day-long conference at CatStrand on Saturday 7

October - Music-Making in the Glenkens: Past, Present and Future - will include an overview by Jo Miller drawing on her extensive research into local musical traditions.

Christopher Wright will discuss Galloway music in the School of Scottish Studies Sound Archive, and the relative lack of representation. Anna Campbell will delve into the archives of the Carsphairn Heritage Group, unearthing stories of some of the musical families in the area.

Presentations will be illustrated by live and recorded music, video and pictures. The day will conclude with an open discussion involving speakers and audience, chaired by historian and singer Lizanne Henderson, addressing not only the preservation of our musical tradition but how it can thrive and develop.

Later on the Saturday afternoon visiting musicians will combine with CatStrand Young Creatives to provide a 'Wee Hoolie' of

songs, stories and dancing for families and younger children.

The day will be buttressed by two landmark concerts. At CatStrand on Friday 6 October Jo Miller and friends will present 'A' the Way to Galloway (see article on p25). On the Saturday night there will be a gathering in Dalry Town Hall compered by Brian Edgar - 'Gaither roon folks an this story I'll tell' - celebrating the rich variety of music-making still flourishing in the Glenkens and neighbourhood.

Mike Brown

From Brockloch to South Carolina

In the later medieval period, many of the remote farms in the Upper Glenkens were tenanted by members of *Clann Mhic a' Mhaoilein* - The MacMillans.

A number of MacMillans still live in the Glenkens and surrounding areas but almost all the farms have passed into other hands or succumbed to commercial forestry. A wheen of the MacMillans must have emigrated as well and the story of the return to Galloway - from South Carolina, in the USA - of the descendants of one line is given here.

Firstly, to consider the origin of the clan. In *West Highlands Notes and Queries* (2015, no 28, p 4-14) Ronnie Black discusses the name MacMillan. He explains that at the surname's root is *maol*, earlier *máel* ('bald, tonsured'). In forms like *maol*, *maolan* and *maoilean*, the word became a noun - 'a baldy, a monk'. It is also what lies behind the English form MacMillan: *Mac a' Mhaolain*, *Mac a' Mhaoilein* ('the Son of the Monk'). Black points out that: "As monasticism was widespread in the middle ages, we would expect any or all of these names to appear spontaneously in different parts of Scotland without there being any necessary genealogical connection between them, and such is indeed the case".

This has not stopped theories of the connection of the Glenkens

MacMillans with other parts of the former *Gàidhealtachd* - origins from the Loch Tay and Knapdale areas being favourite. Be that as it may, Robert MacMillan was born at Brockloch, north of Carsphairn (*Am Broclach* - 'the badger warren'), in 1756. He took a lease on Palgowan (*Pol Gobhainn* - 'the smith's burn') in the valley of the Water of Minnoch from where his son, Thomas, emigrated in 1820 to Camden, West Virginia, USA.

Descendents of Thomas determined to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his emigration by walking from Palgowan to Brockloch to mark the occasion, but were stymied by the Covid outbreak in 2020.

Undeterred, on 28 April 2023, Mike Saxton set off on a route which entailed crossing the two largest mountain ranges in the Galloway Highlands - The Awful Hand of the Merrick and the Rhinns of Kells.

He climbed the slope of Benyellary (*Beinn an Lohaire* - 'mountain of the eagle') to the summit of The Merrick (*Am Beinn Mheurach* - 'the fingered mountain'), down past Loch Enoch (*Loch an Aonaich* - 'loch of the mountain plateau). From there he descended the valley of the Pulskaig (*Pol Sgitheige* - 'hawthorn burn') between Mullwharchar (*Maol Fhearchar* - 'Farquhar's bald hill') and the ridge of Craignairny (*Creag na h-Airne* - 'rock of the blackthorn'), Dungeon Hill (*An Daingean* - 'the fastness') and Brishie (*Am*



Briseadh - 'the broken place).

Mike then had to negotiate the dense Sitka plantations north of Backhill of the Bush before gaining the heights of Craigtarsan (*A' Chreag Tarsuinn* - 'athwart crag') and then zig zagged up to the summit of Corserine (*A' Chroisrinn* - 'the cross point'). From there he proceeded up Carlin's Cairn and over Meaul (*Am Meall* - 'the lump') before camping for the night beside the lochan on the approach to the summit of The Bow.

The skies cleared to leave a starry first half of the night but morning dawned in dense fog with visibility less than 70 metres. This led Mike astray and, instead of continuing to the Corran of Portmark (*An Corran* - 'the crescent') and thence to Brockloch via Black Craig, he followed an ATV track and ended up on the shore of Loch Doon (*Loch an Duin* - 'loch of the castle' or *Loch a' Bhealaich* - 'loch of the pass').

Eventually, Mike came across a forestry track that led him back over the ridge to finally arrive at the home of his family's



Top - sunset at Mike's campsite on the slopes of The Bow. Above - Sarah, May and Mike (left to right) looking content after arriving at Brockloch

ancestors at 11am the following day.

Mike did the walk solo but he was accompanied on his trip by his wife May and daughter Sarah. Congratulations are due to him for what was quite an epic hike! He mentioned that he found the worst part being the infamous Galloway purple moor-grass tussocks and intervening potholes. It is as well he did the walk before midgie season in a month or so!

Michael Ansell



Your Feedback Matters

As part of our new programme of activities commencing in July we are considering running one of the following exercise activities

Ticketed TRANSPORT will be available

Come along as part of a welcoming group to try out new activities together

1. GYM & SWIM

Newton Stewart Wednesday 5pm or Sunday 2pm-3pm - Swim £4.70 Gym £6.90

2. GYM CLASSES Castle Douglas

Thursday 6pm-7pm for all / Mondays 10.30am - 11.30am over 50's
10 sessions @ £8 or £10 per drop in

3. GYM & SWIM Kirkcudbright

Wednesdays 5pm-6pm - Swim £5 Gym £5

Please could you send an email or call
01644 420374 by June 9th to let us know which
activity, in principle, you would like to join.
email: jo@catstrand.com

Thank you



Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust



Freelance

Job Opportunities

Would you like to lead a Community Based Activity?
Do you have qualifications or experience in delivering :

- All ability Art classes
- All ability Dance classes
- All ability Tai Chi classes
- All ability Exercise classes

We are currently looking for enthusiastic, inclusive Practitioners to deliver a year -long programme of activities across the Glenkens.

If you would like to find out more or register your interest in these positions, please contact jo@catstrand.com or call 01644 420374 by June 9th 5pm
Thank you



Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust

AN UPDATE FROM WINDY STANDARD



Fred. Olsen Renewables submitted the application to the Scottish Government earlier this year for permission to repower Windy Standard Wind Farm, northeast of Carsphairn.

We are pleased with the response so far. We have received feedback, which is broadly positive, from our statutory consultees such as Historic Environment Scotland and NatureScot, amongst others, and hope that the final comments will come in soon.

We really appreciate the comments from local residents too. If you haven't yet done so, you can still have your say on the plans.

Visit our website www.windystandardwindfarm.com for further information on how you can have your say, or go straight to the Scottish Government portal www.energyconsents.scot and search for application reference number - ECU00003324.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with the team - we are happy to help! You can email us at communities@fredolsen.com or call 07435 763 900.

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

Job Vacancies

Up-to-date job and volunteering opportunities can be found online at the Glenkens Hub on www.glenkens.scot

Freelance Group Leaders (art, dance, tai-chi, exercise), see p29

Carer Vacancy (part time), Carsphairn area. 2 hours per morning (ideally 8-10am), 3 to 4 mornings a week. Contact : 07870 935 480 - visit glenkens.scot/jobs-and-volunteering/carers-vacancy-part-time for further info.

Glenkens Youth Group Deliverer. Freelance 2-year contract with GCAT to support and develop the Glenkens Youth Group for S1-S5s. 7 hours per week, including Monday evenings. For full job details and how to apply visit www.gcat.scot/jobs.

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

Gordon McAdam

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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: Tom - 07835821976

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 ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS

Glenkens Community Shop: Helen Crowther on 0790 467 8599 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 info@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 Ben Ade at carsphairnhi@gmail.com

Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP): Contact McNabb Laurie at mcnabb.laurie@dumgal.gov.uk

Glenkens Food Hub: Contact Lesley Atkins on lesley@propagate.org.uk or 07587 122 151

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 - 4 Jun, 2 Jul (communion), 6 Aug

Carsphairn: 11am - 11 Jun, 9 Jul, 13 Aug (communion)

Kells: 11am - 18 Jun, 16 Jul, 13 Aug (communion)

Dalry: 11am - 25 Jun, 23 Jul, 30 Jul

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

Weekly Services:

Sun, 5pm: Holy Communion - Revd Dawn Matthew. Refreshments available before and after the service.

New Additional Services:

Tue, 11am: Informal Midweek Service with refreshments and chat.

Wed, 7.30-8pm: Zoom Evening Prayers. Please contact Dawn for the link.

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

Forestry and
Land ScotlandCoilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

This forest and you - tell us about it

We are reviewing the **Land Management Plan** for
Castlemaddy

and we want to know what **you** think.

What's special to **you** about this place?

How do **you** use it?

What do **you** think of our plans?

Come and have your say at our community walk.

Tuesday 6th June, 5.30-7.30pm - Polmaddy Walk

Meet at Polmaddy car park for a walk along the Pack Road

Thursday 8th June, 5.30-7.30pm - Dundegh Walk

Meet at Dundegh car park for a walk round Dundegh Wood

Tel: 0300 067 6900

Email: enquiries.south@forestryandland.gov.scot



forestryandland.gov.scot



GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

email gct@catstrand.com

phone 01644 420374 mobile 07841 512449

June 2023 - July 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

Discounted eBike hire available to local residents:

£5:00 per day

£15:00 per weekend (Fri-Mon)

£20:00 per week (Mon-Fri)

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

email gctjon@catstrand.com

GCT EXCURSIONS

Sunday 25th June

The Grand Estate Garden Penrith & Dalemain House and Garden, Cumbria

We spend the late morning, and take lunch, in the delightful market town of Penrith. After lunch we take the short journey to Dalemain House and Garden. An artists plantswoman's garden, with knot garden, historic orchard, herbaceous borders, terraces and semi-wildflower gardens. Woodland walks. Café available.
Entry to gardens: £10:50 (£8:50 for seniors)

Bus Fare: £15:00

Sunday 30th July

The Natural Gardens Moffatt & Craigieburn and Waterside Gardens

We take a leisurely drive to the scenic town of Moffatt, where an early lunch can be purchased from the many eateries. We then travel to Craigieburn Garden, a beautiful and varied plant lovers garden in a natural setting. A short walk then takes us to Waterside Garden, a plantsman's delight and home to woods, riverside walks and 3 acres of floral planting. Refreshments available in Village Hall.
Entry to gardens: £8:00

Bus Fare: £15:00

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

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org/excursions

Drivers Needed

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

MINIBUS DRIVING

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

PATIENT TRANSPORT

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

Interested?

Email gct@catstrand.com or phone 07841 512449

WHAT'S ON June/July

JUNE

Sun 4, A' the Way to Galloway, 3pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p25

Tue 6, 5.30-7.30pm, Polmaddy Walk: The Pack Road, see p32

Thu 8, Ken Words: Writers' Café, 7pm, CatStrand

Thu 8, Ross Ainslie, Ali Hutton & Jenn Butterworth, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 8, 5.30-7.30pm, Dundough Walk: Dundough Wood, see p32

Sun 11, Forest Wildlife Family Fun Day, 11am-3pm, Carsphairn Community Woodland, Muirdrochwood Forest

Wed 14, Dalry Film Club: The Outfit 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 17, Midsummer Ceilidh With

Whirligig, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 17, Bairn Banter's Big Toddle, 10am, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, p6

Sat 17, Glenkens Producers Market, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Glenkens Land Use Vison - visit the Glenkens Hub at www.gcat.scot/land-use or scan the QR code on p19. Please feed back any comments to helen@catstrand.com by **19 June**

Thu 22, Open Stage, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 23, Songwave Choir, 7pm, Kirkpatrick Durham Village Hall

Sat 24, SongWave Choir, 4pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 25, GCT Bus Trip: The Grand Estate Garden, Cumbria, see p33

Submit Glenkens Food Month events by 30 June, see 36 (back page)

JULY

Fri 7, Blue Giant Orkestar, 7.30pm, CatStrand

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

Thu 13, Ken Words: Writers' Café, 7pm, CatStrand

Mon 17, Project Unspoken Workshop, 4-7pm, CatStrand, see p25

Sat 22, Sanchez Rigg: Project Unspoken, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 23, The Glenkens Story : The Galloway Nag, CatStrand, see p27

Sun 30, GCT Bus Trip: The Natural Gardens, Moffat, see p33

For more events & activities visit the Glenkens Hub at www.glenkens.scot/calendar



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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 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, 10am-4pm

Weekly Bus Service to Tesco, Wednesday eve 7pm

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

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

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

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 Community 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

School's 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

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

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

Soup Saturdays, Mossdale Village Hall, last Sat each month, 1-3pm

Celebrating local food and drink

It's already time to start looking forward to Food Month 2023!

This will be our fourth annual celebration of our local food and drink producers and all things food related, after New Galloway Community Enterprises kicked it off way back in 2019. But this year we'll be doing things a little differently; we're going to trial using the new Glenkens Hub website to coordinate the month - which means its over to you...

If you - as a community organisation, local business or even individual - would like to put on a food-related event in the Glenkens this September you can add

it into the new planning calendar and take advantage of all of the Food Month publicity for free!

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) has applied for funding to cover a printed programme and all activities uploaded onto the calendar by 30 June will be included in this.

In addition, GCAT can manage any ticketed events through its CatStrand booking system (entry money will be returned to you of course!), and you can use the Food Month logo for any publicity.

So if you'd like to be a part of this great community event, get your thinking hats on and your event details into the Food Month calendar by scanning the QR code here.



Both the calendar and the printed programme will go live in early July.

If you have any questions please email jo@catstrand.com or call 01644 420 374.

Jo Jackson



NEW GALLOWAY PARK

THE SCOTTISH ALTERNATIVE GAMES 2023

FEATURING: THE GIRD 'N' CLEEK WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP - SNAIL RACING - TRACTOR PULL - TOSSIN' THE SHEAF - HURLIN' THE CURLIN' STANE - TUG O' WAR - CLASSIC CAR SHOW - PIPE BAND - BAR - BARBECUE ...AND MUCH MORE!

SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST

2PM

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Citizens £4/ £1 Child

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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

AUG/SEPT COPY DEADLINE: 5 JULY



Editing & Design:
sarah.ade@gmail.com

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