

GLENKENS GAZETTE

August/September 2023

ISSUE 137

FREE

Are we facing a crisis in rural education?

The future of education in the Glenkens is in crisis following the withdrawal of fourth year provision at Dalry Secondary School.

Parents and supporters of the school believe the seeds of the crisis were sown in 2016 when, despite strong community and parental opposition, D&G Education Department decided to hire a Glenkens primaries partnership head and amalgamate the management for Dalry Secondary and Castle Douglas High School (CDHS), despite the fact that CDHS is an urban school 16 miles away. The change in management structure from an all-through school (with the Glenkens primaries and Dalry Secondary all under one head teacher who was based at Dalry School) to a structure with a remote secondary head has had serious ramifications. Seven years on, this poorly considered management decision, coupled with a seeming lack of interest in partnership working from the CDHS management team has



The inside cover of the Dalry Secondary School prospectus created by the Parent Council. You can read the full publication online at bit.ly/DalryProspectus or pick up a print copy from the school

lead to this year's S4 class at Dalry being displaced and the head teacher 'strongly advising' parents to send their children to CDHS.

The size of year groups have changed little over the past couple of decades, so why now are Dalry pupils' educational outcomes being so severely curtailed? It does not seem right that, when parents query the limited offering, is it deemed a reasonable answer to state that a full range of subjects is offered at 'partner school' CDHS.

Surely it is not unreasonable to expect a rich and varied curriculum to be offered at Dalry, the catchment high school for the Glenkens? Why are pupils expected to attend an out of catchment school, outwith their community, travelling for potentially up to two hours a day?

These are the questions being asked of the Education Department, with many parents and members of the community still waiting for answers.

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Glenkens Food Month will run throughout September with mouthwatering events across the Glenkens - turn to p7 for more!

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Glenkens CAP Steering Group report

The Glenkens & District Community Action Plan (CAP) was published in 2020, and is owned and kept relevant by the CAP Steering Group, with support on delivery from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT).

The Steering Group has been meeting in its present form for some 18 months now and so felt it was timely to publish an Update Report on the progress of the Community Action Plan to date. The Report also sets out the challenges and opportunities facing delivery of the CAP priorities as they aim for

ever more ambitious delivery. The most pressing challenge is achieving core support to fund the roles that will set us up for success in the future, when the level of wind farm community benefit monies better matches the ambitions set out in the plan.

Fiona Smith, outgoing chair of the CAP Steering Group, said, "The Glenkens and District Community Action Plan sets out the priorities of our communities really clearly. Through the CAP Steering Group and the support of GCAT, we are demonstrating an effective model of delivery within a remote-rural community which we think may be of interest to others. We have therefore shared this report widely and will continue to seek support from regional and national bodies to help us achieve our ambitions."

Highlights from the last two years that have been directly driven by CAP delivery include:

- Creation of the Glenkens Hub website
- Creation of the Glenkens Local Food Network
- Creation of the Glenkens Youth Group
- Creation of the Glenkens Community Spaces Network
- Positive work on the creation of new Community Housing
- Adoption of a Vision for Land Use in the Glenkens (see p15)
- Hosting D&G Citizens Advice Service in the Glenkens
- Creation of new support scheme for local childminders
- Commissioning of a report into the energy efficiency of many of our public buildings.
- Many other projects and capital upgrades and investments.

In the three years since the

Community Action Plan was published, community groups across the Glenkens & District have achieved great things. There is a clearly demonstrable wish to work together, to complement each other rather than to compete. There are skilled and engaged people and great potential in the area. Our community has demonstrated a track record in administering large amounts of money with high standards of transparency, accountability and effective delivery. We should all be very proud of what we have achieved through working together on the Glenkens and District Community Action Plan.

The full report can be found on the Glenkens Hub website (www.glenkens.scot) alongside reports of the meetings of the CAP Steering Group.

New Galloway's future-proof town hall

It was August last year when LING finally took ownership of New Galloway Town Hall on behalf of the community - what a year it has been!

Progress has sometimes felt agonisingly slow. As with most projects you soon realise they are bigger than you first thought, especially when working with historic buildings. Then there is the challenge of working with multiple agencies to get things done so the next step can start.

Dumfries & Galloway Council were as good as their word and addressed the dramatic problem of the dry rot that had spread through the tower end of the building, which took longer than expected with a lot of patience required.

The voices of experience

Our grant-funders, too, have been incredibly supportive. Space makes full acknowledgement a challenge here, but we'll have a detailed acknowledgement board in the hall.

A huge thank

you in the meantime to our major funders: Community Ownership Fund, Blackcraig Wind Farm administered by Foundation Scotland & Glenkens District Trust, Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership and Garfield Weston. We added new funders to our list recently, having gained £44,400 from the Let's Do Net Zero Fund, nearly £50,000 from SOSE, as well as additional funding from the Architectural Heritage Foundation and most recently Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund again, to support an extended contract for our invaluable project officer, Ronnie Bradford.

A shout-out for our volunteers and friends

We'd also like to do a shout out for the many volunteers without whom none of this would be happening, and for those Friends of the Town Hall, who sign up with a £5 a month standing order (or £8 a couple). That steady income stream makes all the difference to keeping us afloat and we are so very grateful that people have stayed with us throughout. We're setting ourselves a new target. We've surpassed our first

target of 50 with just over 60 Friends. Our next target is going to be 75. If you think you could help us to hit that target, please contact Bob (our treasurer) rtdglaister@aol.com

It's all about community wellbeing

By the time you are reading this we'll be close to having the renovation complete. Teams of volunteers have already been going in at weekends to clear and clean and it won't be long until all this will be a distant memory and we'll have a full programme of events and activities going again for our community.

A grand open day event

We're busy planning a grand open day. For up-to-date news on this, check our Facebook page, Local Initiatives in New Galloway, visit www.newgallowaytownhall.com or contact jackie. communityinclusion.LING@gmail.com

One thing we're sure we'll be doing is filling our 'time capsule' ceremonially with the contributions we are collecting. We hope to see you there!

Ann Glaister



SPEN final submission to pylons public inquiry is "greatly offensive"

The public inquiry into Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) Kendoon to Tongland 132kV Reinforcement Project has now been completed by the Scottish Government's Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA).

All hearing/inquiry sessions have been completed and, following closing submissions for all parties, the inquiry has been formally closed. The reporters are currently preparing a report with their findings and recommendations.

However, the SPEN closing submission, which was published on the DPEA website on 4 July, has now been taken down, having been deemed to be "liable to cause offence".

The submission will still be passed onto Scottish ministers to make the final decision on the SPEN proposal but it has caused consternation among those fighting the overland electricity transmission plan.

Galloway Without Pylons (GWP) has been campaigning for the past seven years to persuade SPEN to underground or re-route the section between Glenlee and Tongland that goes straight through the Galloway Forest Park, a popular tourist destination in Dumfries & Galloway.

GWP's Paul Swift said: "We tendered our 20-page final submission on 10 May which is published on the DPEA website. SPEN's 315-page final submission was sent in on 20 June, four weeks late!

"And then this caption appeared on the DPEA website: 'DPEA will not publish comments which in their view may be liable to cause offence. The applicant's closing submissions will still be taken into account by the reporters in their consideration of the proposal and sent to the Energy Consents Unit with their completed report'."

The SPEN submission was written by Ms Ailsa Wilson KC with contributions from Shepherd Wedderburn LLP on behalf of the applicant.

"GWP goes further than the Scottish Government and believes that SPEN's submission has caused great offence," Paul explained. "Their submission is arrogant, dismissive of the

local community, contains false information and makes personal attacks on the characters of the two experts who were employed to represent GWP.

"The local community raised £24,000 to pay for our KC and technical expert so you can imagine how angry GWP members are when they read this unpleasant submission from SPEN.

"Our technical expert was Dr Chris Ford, BA (Hons), MBA, MSc. in Renewable Energy, PHD in Civil & Environmental Engineering. He was absolutely superb at the inquiry and it was obvious from the first time I met him that he is indeed an expert on the 'spatial dimension of energy systems'.

"I am currently working on a report that will highlight those sections of SPEN's submission that attempt to denigrate the evidence of Dr Ford and others. There are many!"

Willie Jackson, of Scotland Against Spin, the campaign group fighting the proliferation of wind farms, said: "SAS will be bringing this up at the next DPEA stakeholders' forum as further evidence of abuse of third parties when taking part in an inquiry. We currently have a petition to the Scottish Parliament which includes

the request of 'appointing an independent advocate to ensure that local participants are not bullied and intimidated during public inquiries'."

A spokesperson for SPEN has said: "Our proposals for the Kendoon to Tongland investment aim to ensure there is a transmission system that's suitable for the 21st Century and has the capacity and capability to support the increase in electricity demand as we transition to greener transport like electric vehicles and more electric heating, all of which supports the country's ambitious targets to achieve Net Zero emissions.

"We have participated fully in the public inquiry process and have provided a balanced response to the issues raised to the Reporter as part of our closing submission."

GWP has maintained that it is not against the upgrade but wants the new line to follow the existing pylons east of Loch Ken or, failing that, to be put underground.

The closing submissions of both GWP and SPEN to the public inquiry can now be read in full on the Galloway Without Pylons website at <http://gallowaywithoutpylons.org/public-inquiry>

Dalry Town Hall celebrates funding success

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

Until recently Dalry Town Hall was held by a historic Trust. However, whilst successful in many ways and for many years, this type of ownership has had restrictions, particularly on the level and sources of funding available. About a year ago a public meeting was held at which

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

Following an energy survey by Business Energy Scotland, application was made for funding to the Scottish Government CARES fund. However, the fund can only provide 80% of the cost and so a second application was made to Blackcraig Windfarm Community Fund 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.

We are thrilled to announce that both applications have been successful and will provide for the following:

- An additional heat pump and radiators to enhance the comfort of users.
- A destratification fan to drive warmed air from the high hall roof back down to the useable space.

- Photovoltaic panels on the external roof to generate electricity from the sun and store in a battery for later use thereby reducing energy from the grid.

- Low energy lighting within the hall to further diminish energy usage.

The project will be underway over the next year and will bring benefits on a permanent basis thereafter.

Hall trustees are very grateful to all funding bodies involved in providing the opportunity to make these improvements possible.

J Reid

Biosphere badge for Cubs

The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere (GASB) has launched a new badge for Scouts and Guides.

Working with the Scout and Guide movement, Jenna Cairns, education lead officer for GSAB, and her team have orchestrated a badge for young people to participate in, with activities suited to all ages.

Five Cub Scouts from the Glenkens Pack headed up to Muirdrochwood to an open day organised by Carsphairn Community Woodland (CCW) and what a fun day was in store. They enjoyed the tree planting, moth identification, learning about the bees that produce Glenkens Honey, pony petting, meeting hedgehogs, looking at bugs and beasties through the microscope, learning about red squirrels and more.

Thank you to Mr McMillan, chairman of CCW, and his team for organising the event and to Jenna for guiding the Cubs through the new lodge and presenting the badges.

Another project the Cubs have been involved in is a local 'time

capsule'. A time capsule is being placed in New Galloway Town Hall and the Cubs have been busy making a booklet to go in it. We started with King Charles III and Queen Camilla's coronation photographs followed by Prince William, Princess Kate and their family visiting a Cub Scout pack down south and helping out – they all wore neckers just like us.

The Cubs collected cuttings of boys' and girls' favourite toys, also biscuit and sweet wrappers that were popular in 2023. Each Cub filled in a sheet entitled A Moment in Time, which was a brief record of their life to date. Hannah gave an item of pottery she had made, and photographs of her pots and a 2023 Spring Fling heading from this year's event booklet. We also added a DVD filmed at our Coronation



Elliot, Leo, Bella, Alba and Freya were all awarded badges

Banquet, where we were joined by parents and our cub scout president, Drew Low. The booklet was finished by a few facts about New Galloway.

The final meeting before the holiday was sailing home-made boats in the New Galloway park burn, which lacked water after the dry spell but the youngsters still had lots of fun. Three large crayfish were found and, not knowing what to do with them, after having a look we returned them to the water.

We hope you all have a lovely summer!

*Heather & Hannah
(Cub Scout Leaders)*

Raising Funds for Alzheimer Scotland

Hair by Jayne in Dalry holds regular fundraising events in the village, and this year they have decided to support Alzheimer Scotland; Scotland's dementia charity.

A coffee afternoon will be held in Dalry Town Hall from 1-4pm on Thursday 4 October.

Jayne says: "All are welcome for tea, coffee and cakes. There will also be a great raffle, and entry by donation. Come along and have some fun at this great event!"

Raffle prizes and baking will be gratefully accepted - please contact Jayne on 07876 397 725 or pop into the salon on Dalry's Main Street.

Help for the lifeboats

Glenkens folk have once again been generous in their support for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

The Glenkens RNLI committee held their annual fundraising coffee morning in May at Dalry Town Hall, raising over £700.

The RNLI does not receive any government funding and is reliant on the generosity of supporters. Many thanks to all who helped and attended.

Nicolette Wise

Dalry arts and crafts fair

Once again we will be hosting a summer arts and crafts event at Dalry Town Hall.

This year it will be held on Sunday 20 August from 11am until 3pm supported by the Pop Up Café for teas/coffees and delicious homemade cakes.

There will be a diverse mix of artists, designers and creative crafters offering beautifully crafted and uniquely executed pieces of work.

We hope to have woodworkers, jewellers, printmakers, artists and textiles designers and makers, both professional and semi-professional.

This time we are offering local craft and art groups the chance to have some exhibition space to showcase their work collectively, which will give visitors and locals alike the opportunity to appreciate the depth of talent on offer in Dumfries & Galloway. If any groups wish to take advantage of this offer please get in touch. There may also be individuals

out there who would like to take the opportunity of showcasing creative talent and expertise and wish to have a presence at the show; it could be an opportunity to network and meet more potential customers/clients.

The entrance fee is by donation and all proceeds from the event will go towards Dalry Town Hall funds, helping to maintain and improve the facilities of this historic building.

To find out more or book a table please contact Lesley Blissett on 07710 525 927.

Lesley Blissett

A Glenkens education

Continued from front page...

In a response to a concern raised by a member of the community, the Education Department stated" ...the Headteacher and the Head of Education wrote to parents...to advise they commence their Senior Phase at their partner school, Castle Douglas High School."

This statement clearly encourages parents to send their children away from Dalry, their catchment school. However, when the head teacher was asked why they don't encourage children at the partner school, CDHS, who would benefit from smaller class sizes and a small-school environment to send their children to Dalry - surely a win-win situation - he responded that the school cannot make that kind of suggestion to parents; where they send their child is down to parental choice.

The senior management team has resisted attempts by the parent council to find a solution. There is the possibility of online learning, used successfully for small class sizes in other remote areas in Scotland, and indeed employed by other schools in Dumfries & Galloway. If cost is a prohibitive factor, the parent council have offered to look at raising the necessary funds.

The options were reduced for this year's S4 group to such a degree that there were no sciences, no geography and no languages (despite a full cohort of teachers in these subjects being available). Currently the only offering for an S4 student wishing to stay is to sit in on S3 classes, and to be "largely be self-motivated to self-study".

And the attempts to degrade the offer at Dalry Secondary go beyond subject choices with £1.25million of capital investment spent on the Castle Douglas High School Estate since 2017 and nothing on the Dalry Secondary Estate.

In 2016, the local community and parents pushed for Dalry Secondary to run to S6 rather than S4, as they could see that running to S4 with the changes to exam years, etc, may become problematic. At the time D&G Education Department refused to consider this; ironically now they advise parents that not running to S6 is a reason for children to move from Dalry to CDHS in order to avoid transition at S4.

Children and parents are of course aware that upon commencing S5, a school transition is a requisite. This progression is, however, a more organic undertaking as numerous students at this point opt for

A Nurturing Environment

St John's Town of Dalry sits in the Glenkens, part of the Stewartry region of Dumfries & Galloway, a group of communities tied together with common values and a strong sense of community spirit.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Here at Dalry Secondary our young people all learn together, supporting each other in a cooperative environment with students forming strong friendships across year groups, as well as often being involved in the Primary School's activities and events. From helping out with coffee mornings to overseeing the technical elements of stage productions, both the younger and older children thrive from these multi-age activities. Students feel a great sense of satisfaction in being involved in such a hands-on way with the school, seeing their skills being of practical value to teachers, younger pupils and the wider community.

OPEN SPACES

The school benefits from the green spaces of its rural setting, where a tableau of wilderness, farmland and forestry roll out as far as the eye can see, creating the unique landscape so much a part of Dalry.

From its elevated position in the village the school has unrivalled views from most classroom windows, with rolling green vistas stretching in every direction. Research has shown that green space visible from the classroom improves concentration and lowers stress, which may explain a little of the calm and happy atmosphere in the school.

A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

As well as the feeling of connection with the outdoors through the school's unique placement in the landscape, a sense of community also permeates the school with pupils and teachers feeling more like one big family than a formal academic setting. Activities and learning opportunities are provided through which the wider community and the school are able to engage, giving pupils a real sense of place and belonging.

WELL ROOTED

With Dalry Secondary being attached to Dalry Primary and ELC Nursery, pupils benefit from an all-through setting where they can be on familiar ground from the age of three until they complete S4 at 16.

Receiving such a secure and nurturing start to their education stands students in good stead, and by the time they reach S4 Dalry's young people are well-rounded individuals ready to stretch themselves that little bit more, both socially and academically, and happily take the next step on their educational journey to Dalry Secondary's partner school, Castle Douglas High. Having worked in partnership regularly with the high school, pupils are familiar with the setting, teachers and fellow pupils, so this is a very natural transition for them.

higher-grade courses and some take the decision leave school altogether, rendering the process more holistic for older students.

The Glenkens is a very rural area of around 500 square miles and with a population of some 3,700. From the northern boundary, in the parish of Carsphairn, to the current school at Dalry is around 17 miles. To travel to school in Castle Douglas would be close to 35 miles, or an hour's drive.

...with £1.25million of capital investment spent on the Castle Douglas High School Estate since 2017 and nothing on the Dalry Secondary Estate.

Dalry school sits in the heart of an area rich in renewable energy and forestry, which makes the lack of sciences all the more difficult to understand. The parent council have engaged with local renewables companies like Vattenfall and Natural Power, who are keen to work with Dalry in order to provide educational opportunities in fields where they could gain local employment. The renewable energy sector alone is growing by 7% a year, expanding demand for a local workforce in these fields. With climate change at the forefront of the global agenda this demand is only going to grow. D&G Education Department, however, has prioritised apprenticeships in Dumfries, forcing children and young people out of the area.

The Glenkens is in the unique regional position of having an increasing population. In order for this trend to continue, and for the health and vitality of our communities, we need to ensure our schools are able to provide high quality education here in the Glenkens.

Dee & Glenkens ward councillor Dougie Campbell, who has been working with the parent council, said: "Following the recent



"The school just feels like one big happy family." S1 pupil

"I can't imagine liking another school more." S3 pupil

"There was great encouragement to be creative and I remember a sense of freedom to be who you were, and a care from the village community, that added greatly to my sense of well-being." Former pupil

decision on S4 education provision in Dalry I think we need to work together to think about what the model for education provision in the Glenkens should look like.

"We need some innovative thinking by the Council's Education Department, in consultation with the Glenkens community, on how we improve rural education and make sure our young people get equal access to the opportunities secondary pupils already have in Castle Douglas and Kirkcudbright. I'll work with the parent council, fellow ward councillors and Education Committee members to ensure that education in the Glenkens is given the attention it is entitled to."

There is currently a consultation on the restructuring of Dumfries & Galloway's schools estate. The communities of the Glenkens would like to ensure we retain education for our children within our community, and ensure that our children are able to become qualified in the fields of employment that are right on our doorstep. We need management of our schools to be returned to the Glenkens. We need a head teacher who is present in our school and invested in the children of the Glenkens.

The communities of the Glenkens have a strong identity, of which we are proud. We have chosen to live and work here for a reason. We chose small schools. We chose rural education. We opted for small class sizes. We want our children to be raised within our own community, forming a lifelong connection and a passion for the area that will ensure that, whatever their future choices, they keep coming back to the place they call home.

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Dalry School Parent Council

Look out for more local consultation coming soon and have your say! You can also follow the Dalry School Parent Council on Facebook to keep up-to-date with what's happening.

Together in the Glenkens



The 'Together in the Glenkens' activity programme is off to a great start.

The programme is designed to support and enhance mental health and wellbeing in the Glenkens district over the coming months. We have nine activities on offer for our Glenkens communities to engage in and enjoy. Our aim is to provide a varied and inclusive programme, which will attract interest and engagement.

Our Art for Wellbeing sessions are being delivered across three different areas of the Glenkens.

We have an exciting programme of dance classes with Sam Rushton touring the Glenkens in four-week blocks with an opportunity to learn ballroom and latin dances in each block. A Christmas social is planned, with a fun competitive element where you

can dance the evening away at a Glenkens Strictly party!

Our highly popular monthly Pub Quiz is back, circulating between the Lochinvar Hotel, the Clachan Inn and the Ken Bridge Hotel; watch our space for dates and details.

We'll have a support group and gentle exercise for new mums coming soon.

Tai Chi sessions run on Wednesday evenings in New Galloway park, moving into the CatStrand if the weather is not suitable, and provide a wonderful opportunity to practice this gentle form of exercise.

We are excited that the Five Kingdoms Brewery is our guest for September's Pie Pint 'n' Patter on the last Friday of the month, with the opportunity to take part in a beer tasting session with our splendid local brewers.

Gentle Exercise for All is taking place in the Smiddy, Balmaclellan, on Wednesday

afternoons, helping to build a gentle practice of low impact exercise into people's lives.

Walking Football is proving popular for the young and not-so-young, taking place over the summer months in New Galloway park on Thursday evenings.

We are delighted to be supporting Breeze Glenkens Cycle Rides, providing an opportunity to enjoy twice-weekly rides around our glorious countryside, on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Please visit <https://letsride.co.uk/groups/glenkens-cycling-group>, as it is essential to book your place through their website.

We are most thankful to the Scottish Government's Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, administered by Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway, which has enabled us to set up our programme of events. For this incredible programme to continue into the future, sessions need to be



supported, so please do join in and support these community activities.

To find out more and to book onto any of our sessions email jo@catstrand.com or call 01644 420 374 or scan the QR code above to go straight to our booking page.

Jo Jackson

See p32 for more TiTG activities

St Margaret's goes online

Churches have often been considered a bit slow with new trends but St Margaret's in New Galloway seems to be the exception that proves the rule!

Newly installed internet connection at the church has opened up many opportunities. There is a much wider range of music provision for services when the organist is absent, and following the purchase of a card reader machine, anyone without cash and wanting to make a donation can now do so easily.

Having internet at the church also allows Dawn Matthew, St Margaret's new priest, to work in the building on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Whenever you see the 'church is open' sign outside, please feel free to pop in to look round, have a quiet moment of reflection, or chat with Dawn.

There is also a new informal service of

morning prayer on Tuesdays at 11am, with refreshments, which is proving popular.

Details of how to join the Wednesday evening online prayer group via Zoom can be found at www.stmargaretsnewgalloway.org

The regular Sunday service is currently being trialled at 5pm to allow Dawn to take services at both St Margaret's and All Saints' Challoch. The time is likely to change before the winter months so please check the website or noticeboards for updates.

Dawn is an experienced teaching assistant and will be helping at both Kells and Dalry primary schools from September, and she has also been busy helping out with the LING food parcel initiative.

In the next *Gazette*, the St Margaret's Guild will report on the tombola they are running at this year's Scottish Alternative Games on Sunday 6 August to raise funds for the Castle Douglas Hospital League of Friends.

Nicolette Wise

Glenkens Youth Group

Thanks to the hard work of Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) in setting up the Glenkens Youth Group, the future of this group is secured for another two years.

The group was a huge success last year, with a range of regular activities as well as holiday excursions offered for free. LING has now passed management of the group to the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT), with continued funding from the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund. A huge "thank you" goes to LING's Mary Smith for all her hard work in initiating this project and making it such a success - here's to the next two years!

From 28 August newly-recruited youth worker Beata will run **Glenkens Youth Group sessions** at the **Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry** from **7-8:30pm every Monday**. Sessions are free and open to young people from P7 to S3 - just drop in. For further information contact catherine@catstrand.com

A September to remember

Glenkens Food Month 2023 gets underway in September with a raft of food-related events across the Glenkens.

Community groups and businesses will celebrate our amazing local food and drink producers, retailers, cafes and restaurants with a month-long programme.

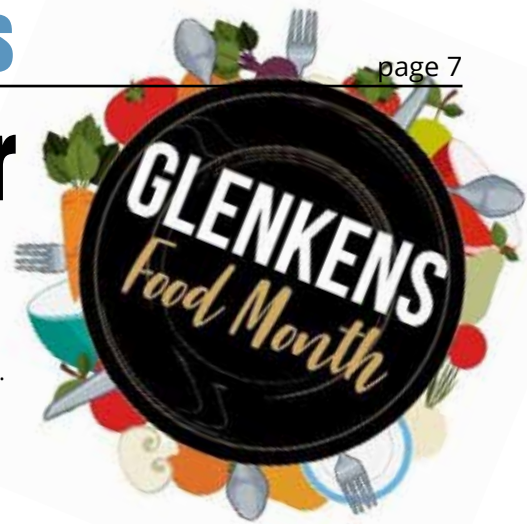


There's something for everyone, from fungal forages to cooking demonstrations, films to community cafes. There are pot luck suppers, hog roasts and sausage sizzles, plant & produce swaps and markets. There will be the usual closing ceilidh in Balmaclellan Village Hall and a 'Festival' in New Galloway Park - a whole day of food and music to celebrate together.

Look out for programmes out and about in August or visit the Glenkens Hub Food Month page at www.glenkens.scot and check out the events calendar or scan the QR code on the right. Remember to book early to avoid disappointment!

Thanks go to all the local organisations involved - as ever, it's a real partnership effort. And thanks of course to New Galloway Community Enterprises for kicking the whole thing off back in 2019; it's great to see it still going strong five years on!

*Jo Jackson,
Together in the Glenkens*



Pictured is Carsphairn's local produce stall from a previous year's Food Month



New report provides road map for Glenkens community spaces

Thanks to funding from the Scottish Government's 'Community Led Vision' fund, administered by D&G Council, eleven community buildings in the Glenkens have received detailed assessments of their energy efficiency upgrade options.

They all now have clear recommendations for the most effective ways for them to improve their energy efficiency and sustainability, summarised in a report produced for the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust by Natural Power Consultants.

Town and village halls and other community spaces play a vital role in the rural population centres of the Glenkens, but due to their age, many of these

buildings are poorly insulated, in some cases using oil boilers which are reaching the end of their operational lifespan, or in others using expensive electric heaters which are not always powerful enough to heat the space to a comfortable level in the midst of winter.

This new report gives an overview of potential improvements for each building, backed up by technical data which can be used by the committees of participating halls to develop bids for grant funding in order to make the halls more sustainable, both environmentally and financially. Recommendations have been made as appropriate in the areas of lighting and energy efficiency improvements, improvements to the building fabric and potential for renewable generation.

The report's authors will present their recommendations at a stakeholder event in the summer, alongside a second

report which considers opportunities to decarbonise and reduce power usage in domestic properties in the Glenkens.

This project was coordinated by Becca Nelson, Glenkens Community Spaces Network facilitator. She commented: "One of the key concerns of Glenkens Community Spaces Network members is rising utility costs, with some members expressing concern that the viability of venues is under threat in light of the price increases. However, grant funding is available to help community buildings become more sustainable. I am delighted that two of the participating venues' committees have already used the assessments to support grant funding bids for feasibility studies. I hope that their bids are successful, and that other participants will be able to use this data to help them to implement capital projects to future-

proof their own community building. We will be looking for opportunities to collaborate when finding contractors to carry out any works as well as sharing successes and potential pitfalls."

The report, titled *Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation in Glenkens Community Buildings*, is available to download from the Reports and Resources Archive of the Glenkens Hub website at www.glenkens.scot/reports-resources-archive

The Glenkens Community Spaces Network provides a forum for the management committees of our village halls, town halls, community centres and other community spaces to come together to share ideas, successes and issues. The Network is a Glenkens Community & Arts Trust project and is funded through 2023-25 by a grant from the Blackcraig Community Benefit Fund.

To find out more visit www.glenkens.scot/glenkens-community-spaces-network

Youth music talent in the Glenkens

The Glenkens communities have been bursting with young talent for decades, and 14-year-old Ella Campbell is the latest example.

Recently she graced the big stage at Scotland's largest youth music festival, YouthBeatz, alongside many other talented young musicians including superstar young talent Torrs.

Ella's performance journey began last year, when she showcased her talents from a cherry-picker at the Scottish Alternative Games in New Galloway and then went on

to enter the Battle of the Bands, held at the CatStrand. The Alternative Games is also where Galloway musician Zoe Bestel first performed with her ukelele, when she was just 14 too - who knew the Games was such a melting pot for youth music talent!

Since then, Ella has been benefiting from mentoring from acclaimed singer-songwriter Sarah Scouten, through funding provided by Dumfries Music Festival and supported by CatStrand Young Creatives.

Ella also volunteers as an Art Ambassador with the CatStrand Young Creatives programme. Supported and mentored by the Young Creatives team, Ella now shares her dance

and music skills with younger children through a drama club and musical theatre sessions. This volunteering work has earned her a Saltire Award.

Last month at YouthBeatz Ella performed some of her own compositions to a rapt audience; she is undoubtedly an artist to watch out for in the coming years - great work Ella!

If you are a young musician who would like support in pursuing your creative career or developing your talent, please contact CatStrand Young Creatives at catherine@catstrand.com - we would love to hear from you and help you on your journey too!

*Catherine Campbell,
Young Creatives Project Lead*



Ella Campbell performing at YouthBeatz, Dumfries

In memory of Tom Leach

Our friend Tom

Tom passed away the other day,
Two heart attacks and a stroke,
Took our friend a lovely bloke,
A special person in every way.

Tom made clocks that hang on many a wall,
Mens Shed CatStrand and many others too,
Notice boards bench seat and log shed so tall,
Always with banter and a leg pull or two.

Many good years our friendship ran,
Ukelele Manshed and art we shared,

He was a very talented man,
He showed compassion and always cared.

When Tom entered our domain,
An air of calmness would sustain,
His humour thoughtfulness and generosity,
A good friend and very good company.

We will never forget you my friend,
Our friendship will live on,
In our memories of happy days gone,
RIP dear friend and fly with the Angels Amen.

by Barry Bryan-Dixon

Dalry Good Neighbours Club

Dalry Good Neighbours had a very good first season and saw a variety of entertainment and activities.

We had Scottish music from Graham Barbour and Pauline Swan; professional singer Kirsty Duncan entertained us with a vast variety of songs from Scottish to jazz, musicals

to opera; we had talks from Galloway to the Himalayas. We have learned about birds and about keeping ourselves safe. We've played board games and bingo and had a beetle drive. We have also got involved with keeping the Glenkens Community Centre ship-shape by helping tidy up outside the front of the centre and plant up a few flowers to welcome visitors.

But one of our greatest achievements was to raise

money for an orphanage in Kenya to help build the children some beds.

Our next programme sees Graham and Pauline return, as well as Kirsty Duncan. We also have a promise from Eddie McGaw to come and update us on his projects in Kenya, and talks from local historian Robert McQuistan. We have author and previous Glenkens resident, Peter Wright, coming to give a talk; Peter was also the initial instigator of raising funds

to turn the old school building into our current community centre building! We will be having games afternoons, bingo and the occasional surprise thrown in too.

The club is open to all. We meet in Glenkens Community Centre on Tuesday afternoons from 2-4pm, and it's £3 per session, with refreshments included. The group will re-start from 5 September and new members will be made most welcome.

Please keep an eye out for our yellow posters which will be going up around the Glenkens with information on the current programme of activities.

Sarah McAdam

A shout-out for the Glenkens Community Transport volunteers

The fantastic team of volunteer drivers at Galloway Community Transport (GCT) provide a vital service for individuals and groups across Galloway.



GCT manager, Jon Betts, and co-ordinator Sue McMinn would like to say a huge "thank you" to the team of drivers whose contribution makes the work of GCT possible.

GCT provides patient transport, rural school bus services, and some regular services, as well as minibus hire for groups and organisations. Occasional excursions also provide opportunities for travel and socialising.

GCT drivers are passionate about their role. One driver said: "It's a privilege to see the enjoyment of young people going to events and activities that, in a big town or city, would be taken for granted. It's a real pleasure."

GCT patient transport drivers generously use their own vehicles to take patients to appointments with their mileage expenses being reimbursed. Doing this, GCT drivers provide not only transport for people who need it most, they are sometimes the only social contact that person may have during the week. 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."

GCT simply would not be able to operate without the amazing contribution made by our dedicated team of volunteer drivers. Driving for GCT can offer the opportunity to visit new places and meet new people, and also the chance to see what some of our local community projects involve. New volunteers are always welcome and much needed.

If anyone would like to be part of the team, GCT would be delighted to hear from you. Please get in touch with Jon or Sue at the CatStrand on gct@catstrand.com or visit www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org for more information.

See p29 for information on GCT regular routes and trips coming up in August and September.

Sue McMinn

GCT volunteer drivers pictured with one of the fleet of minibuses outside the CatStrand © Solway Press Services



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

Intern programme shows range of careers available in the Glenkens

Recent months have included sobering news about young people's opinions of living and working in our region.

More than 50% of young folk questioned for the '10,000 voices' report indicated their plans to leave Dumfries & Galloway, with other surveys revealing that the population of Dumfries & Galloway was already, on average, one of the oldest in Scotland.

Not that we should be trying to prevent our young people from leaving, but we should do a better job of highlighting the roles that can be pursued locally, challenging the

perception that leaving is the only 'successful' option. The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged many of the assumptions we have about what people want from a career and the quality of life, peace and quiet, low crime and healthy lifestyle offered is increasingly being seen as an asset.

The Galloway Glens Scheme has been leading a project called 'Galloway Rural Skills' which was working with local employers to offer paid internship positions. Usually on a six-month basis, these were aiming to provide really high-quality work experience, while also having the spin-off benefits of introducing employers to the concept of Internships and also publicly advertising the variety of jobs available, to sow the seed in people's minds that working in Galloway is an appealing option.

Out of the intern-type positions supported, 11 of the 15 have either been based in the Glenkens or included a strong element of Glenkens work. These roles included supporting the Galloway Fisheries Trust on projects on the Black Water of Dee, through to positions working in forestry or the renewables sector with Drax on the hydro electric scheme and Natural Power and the creative sector with Glenkens



Community & Arts Trust.

The roles have delivered benefits for the candidates and also the hosts, with a number of employers expressing an interest in future schemes. Four of the 11 Glenkens-related Interns have already gone on to longer-term roles with the employer, with others still underway.

From a funding point of view, a six-month Intern position, employed on a full-time, living-wage basis can cost in excess of £12,000 but when it works, it changes the lives of the applicant and the employer to such an extent, it is excellent value for money.

The Galloway Glens Scheme has tried to take every opportunity to publicise these roles, and

stories from the Interns, building the narrative that living and working in Galloway can be a satisfying career. A report giving an overview of the findings of the Intern Programme has been published on our website, and we are just so grateful to everyone that took part in any way in the programme.

It would be brilliant to change the current situation when candidates often have to be coaxed to take a role in Galloway, to that when the Galloway location was seen on the national stage as an advantage. Often we don't need to change a lot, just challenge pre-conceptions...

McNabb Laurie

Galloway Glens Project Leader

Top - Galloway Glens Intern Day, December 2022

Left - Amber Wright, intern with Natural Power

Below left - Dan Pollard, the second Galloway Fisheries Trust intern

Below - Jan Hogarth with Czernin-Kinsky intern Cameron Milne



Carsphairn Community Woodland hosts fun-filled open day

Carsphairn Community Woodland (CCW) held a Forest Wildlife Family Fun Day packed with all kinds of activities.

Just catching the tail end of the spell of hot weather, it was another great turnout, no doubt drawn by the fascinating range of organisations and individuals attending.

Along with the popular woodland games we had local hedgehog expert and CCW board member Alison with one of her rescue hedgehogs, a live beehive demonstration from the Glenkens Honey Company,

some beautiful moths on display by South West Scotland Environment Information Centre (SWSEIC), red squirrel displays from the Gatehouse Squirrel Group, a chance for a closer look at bugs and beasts under Ian Saunders' microscope and a 'pony petting' corner where visitors of all ages were welcome to get up close with a friendly pony. Crafters included Geoff Forrest, who illustrated willow working techniques through working on an amazing bird installation, and Carsphairn Craft Group who were spinning yarn on spinning wheels, looms and also peg looms for weaving.

The Galloway Glens Landscape Scheme was present with some goodies for children and to discuss the latest round of their



tree planting grant. Members of the Glenkens Scouts came along to enjoy the displays and worked hard to earn their Biosphere badges (see article

on page 4 for more on this).

The highlight for many of the younger folk attending was the newly-opened childrens' play area.



CCW horse logging demonstration

Carsphairn Community Woodland is excited to announce that the next event planned at the woodland will be a horse logging demonstration by Teamwork Horselogging on Sunday 13 August from 9.30am to 4pm.

Steffi Schaffler and David Roycroft are professional horse loggers and will demonstrate all aspects of this traditional method of hauling trees.

There will also be a guided walk by Peter Norman, looking at the landscape history

of Muirdrochwood. Peter will guide walkers through a brief look at how the countryside has changed using information from old maps, archaeological finds and clues from the landscape. Wear strong footwear as the walk will include rough ground.

Entry for the day is £5 per head and free for under 16s. Bring a picnic and make sure you dress for the weather.

Numbers are limited so to book your place, and for further details, please email carsphairncw@gmail.com or call 07710 124 255.



Eco Feature

sponsored by



Update from the Glenkens Food Hub

The Glenkens Food Hub is a regular online shopping experience, open every other week for the residents of the Glenkens to access delicious, seasonal, climate and nature friendly food from local producers.

We asked Lesley and Tamsin, who run the Food Hub on behalf of local producers, about current and future plans, and here's what they said:

We are very lucky to have received a second round of funding from the Blackcraig Windfarm Community Fund via Foundation Scotland and the Glenkens & District Trust. This will allow us to develop the project to bring sustainable and ethically produced food from local businesses to local people on a regular basis. The funding has also enabled us to add a marketing and finance person to support our very small, part-time team.

Our recent Council-funded feasibility study asked questions of the local, and wider, D&G community and producers, so

we now have lots of ideas about how we could develop. One factor already implemented is a later collection time so people can pick-up, or we drop-off, after school and work on a Friday, making it more accessible than a lunchtime slot.

A wider range of veg and fruit has been requested, along with poultry, game and fish, so we are looking for more sustainably-grown, responsibly reared and sourced produce - **please let us know if you have ideas where we can find these!** If we can't find them locally, we will initially bring suitable produce in from elsewhere until the market is developed enough to encourage someone locally to start producing what we are selling, at which point we can switch to buy locally instead. **Local hobby growers can also get in touch with us to sell their excess produce through the Hub.**

We want to spread the word far and wide to make sure everyone in the Glenkens knows about us as a surprising amount of people still don't! However, 96% of residents surveyed in the study said they would consider buying from us, which is a huge number and very encouraging.

Everyone is welcome, whether you buy regularly on ethical grounds, because you love the taste of fresh produce, want to support local or just



The Glenkens Food Hub team and producers full of energy and enthusiasm... ready to welcome you to their next Meet the Producer event!

like to dip in for an occasional treat for a special occasion.

Please continue to share Glenkens Food Hub details with your friends and neighbours, and hopefully soon we'll reach a point where we don't need external funding at all. As a "thank you" for spreading the word, we we'll give you and your friend a £5 credit; just ask your friend to mention that you referred them in the 'comments' section at the checkout and you'll both receive a £5 credit towards your next order.

Last, but by no means least, we would like to put a shout-out for more volunteers please! We are a happy bunch and have a good time whilst packing all the lovely produce, and would love to have more people to call on every other Friday between 12pm and 4pm. So if you have a few hours spare, please get in touch with lesley@propagate.org.uk

Each volunteer gets a 10% discount off Glenkens Food Hub orders, with occasional extra goodies too. We are based at the Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry. Volunteering also looks great on a CV, if you're looking to build up your skills!

To find out more about our producers and how the Food Hub online shop works visit <https://openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop> or get in touch with us via lesley@propagate.org.uk 07587 122 151.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **11 August - Biosphere Celebration with Glenkens Food Hub and Way of the Wild**, pizza cookout, Dalry
- **8 September - Meet the Producer Event**, Glenkens Community Centre, 6:30-8pm, part of Glenkens Food Month (see P7)



If you have a glut of seasonal garden veg or fruit which you would like to sell on the Glenkens Food Hub please get in touch - a great way to make a bit of extra cash, and the more hyper local food we have the better!

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

Wheeltech Enigma XS aluminium **adult wheelchair**, **shower/wet room wheelchair**, **portable commode**, large **foam wedge**, small foam wedge, low **wooden step**, small adjustable **wooden stool**. Contact: 01644 460 619

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

3/4 astilbe plants in pots; need some shade. Collection from Darly. Contact: 01644 430 520

WANTED

Outdoor table and chairs. Contact: 07507 704 821

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

Looking after our local pathways

Supported by the Galloway Glens Scheme, Local Initiatives in New Galloway undertook to re-establish and support the maintenance of a number of local pathways.

Primarily these paths are within the New Galloway Golf Club Woods, with a network of paths also on the Garroch Estate.

This initiative, inaugurated by Gerry Cinderby, involves a number of volunteers carrying varied activities involving seasonal work, clearing fallen trees and general path clearance

following storm damage, as well as undertaking specific tasks to repair and maintain the many bridges and boardwalks.

Recent work has involved the installation of a culvert and construction of an alternative entrance to the Golf Club Wood path network and the new link pathway to the core pathway that leads to Loch

Stroan and beyond.

The work is ongoing and new volunteers are always welcome.

If you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to help out, please feel free to contact our on-the-ground coordinator (and LING trustee) David Hardy at david.hardy23@ntlworld.com



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Out and About in the Biosphere

Southwest Scotland has been celebrating a win for people and nature since news was announced at the beginning of July that Galloway and Southern Ayrshire's UNESCO Biosphere status has been revalidated for another ten years.

Confirmation followed several months of a periodic review process in which UNESCO examined the activity that had taken place over the ten years since the region was first awarded its Biosphere designation. Coverage of the status renewal reached national news channels as the new UK Ambassador to UNESCO, Anna Nsubuga, spent her first two days in post touring the Biosphere region, culminating in an official reception at Drumlanrig Castle on 4 July.

St John's Town of Dalry, as a Biosphere Community and site of the GSA Biosphere's proposed eco-office hub, was one of the stops on the Ambassador's tour, which also included representatives from the UK National Commission for UNESCO and international delegates from the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. Andrew Bielinski, RSPB Scotland's Area Manager for the Scottish Lowlands & Southern Uplands, met the group just outside Dalry to explain the background to GCAT's Donald Watson Art Trail, highlighting how Watson's work reflects the decline in birds and other wildlife since the artist was first walking and sketching in the Glenkens.

Conservation, climate awareness and finding strategies to reverse biodiversity loss are priorities for UNESCO Biospheres

all around the world and several bird species including curlew and black grouse are High Focus species in Galloway and Southern Ayrshire.

The delegation also visited Clatteringshaws Loch to hear McNabb Laurie, Team Leader with the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP), speak about its five-year, 35-project programme of 'Biosphere in action': a rich and diverse celebration of local heritage that has

harnessed opportunities to help build a more sustainable economic future for communities in the Ken/Dee catchments. GGLP's 'last hurrah' is underway now with a final few events available to book before the project finishes for good in September.

The announcement that UNESCO status has been renewed was accompanied by confirmation that the request to expand the Biosphere's geographical boundary has been approved. This means the designated area has grown from just over 5,200km² to almost 9,800km², and now includes 12 miles of the marine environment.

The Biosphere has announced two new staff appointments to help deliver projects across this expanded region: Antoine Lemaire, a trained Biosphere Guide known locally as the founder of Alouette Nature Tours, has been appointed as the organisation's new Nature Recovery Officer, while Jake McLaughlan, who joined the Biosphere in summer 2022 in a 12-month

internship post, was successful in applying for the permanent role of Business Engagement Officer.

Both new recruits will be supporting local and land-based enterprise including through the Proud Supporter and Biosphere Certification Mark schemes. These initiatives



aim to embed sustainability in the local economy while providing tangible benefits to businesses of all sizes and sectors. Opportunities the Biosphere provides include learning workshops, networking events, and promotion via social media and destination marketing campaigns. The Biosphere Certification Mark is a trademarked accreditation that permits qualifying business to brand their produce, goods and services with the Biosphere logo, and any business that has signed up as a Biosphere Proud Supporter can apply online at any time. All GSA Biosphere initiatives remain entirely free to join.

The team's calendar of events continues in the Glenkens and beyond through the last weeks of summer. On 11 August the Biosphere will be hosting a village walk and pizza cookout in Dalry in partnership with Way of the Wild, a Biosphere Certification Mark business that works to empower people through activity outdoors. Founder Christy Miles is also a Biosphere Guide and will be leading a walk around Dalry, with a bit of opportunistic foraging along the way. Ingredients for the pizza cookout will be supplied by the Glenkens Food Hub, the hyper-local online shop which connects residents with high quality, sustainable produce. This free event promises to be a wonderful taster (literally) for Glenkens Food Month in September; places can be booked via the Biosphere's Eventbrite page.

More information about the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere is available at www.gsabiosphere.org.uk, or contact the team via info@gsabiosphere.org.uk



Below left - GSAB boundary map. Below right - GSAB ambassadorial visit to the Watson Art Trail

The Optimistic Environmentalist

Reducing your home energy bills - Part Two

Some easy or low cost tips to lower your household bills are:

- **Remember, warm clothes and footwear**, shoe inserts, hot-water bottles and wheat bags are great for personal insulation.
- **Insulate your attic** - eg buy Eko roll (made from recycled glass). Guidance says put it between the joists first and then spread it across them to a depth of 270mm. Building Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) assess up to 400mm - this improves heat loss even more but more than this may not be worth the cost. Fitting it yourself will cost a few hundred pounds; if you haven't the money, maybe you could buy a roll occasionally.
- **Make your own curtains or draft excluders** for yourself or as presents. See if you can get cheap material and things to cut up for stuffing from Dalry charity shop or beyond.
- **Switch to an electricity tariff** gives you cheaper power for part of the day, normally overnight. Immersion heater timers should be installed by an electrician but appliances often have timers. Stand-alone timers are cheap to buy just make sure



they are appropriate for the machine. Then set the timer to come on during the cheap time overnight.

- **Think about when to have your heating system set.** Don't have the heating on when you're out unless you have a heat pump which constantly provides a steady background temperature. Turning your heating down by a degree or two can save you money. Varying your heating and temperature through the week can minimise energy. If you're too hot, turn the heating down rather than just opening the window and letting out the heat you've generated and will pay for.

- **Install thermostats to all your radiators** which turn them off when the room is at the set temperature.
- **You could make foil reflectors for behind radiators.** These can be effective but only on outside walls.
- **Get a jacket to enclose your water tank** - newer water tanks may only be insulated to 25mm. At least 80mm is recommended but buying up to 100mm will reduce heat loss whilst being cost effective.
- **Get an outside water heating bag** which hangs on a tree and warms the water in the sun. You can use this water

for washing hands or having a shower eg after gardening.

- **Use low temperature** and shorter cycles where possible for washing clothes.
- **When buying machines make sure they are energy efficient** (eg washing machines, driers, TVs, mobiles). Be aware that energy ratings have changed recently so that an appliance that was rated A+++ may now be rated B or C.
- **Buy mobiles, computers and other technology which have good battery life.** Some allow batteries to be changed or the device to be repaired. Buying technology that has been available for some time, you can get a fairly up-to-date machine as a good deal. Make the most of second-hand machines or equipment as you don't always need an all-singing-all-dancing piece of kit for your needs.
- **Use kettles for small amounts of heated water.** Whilst a kettle uses a lot of power, it's not on for long. If you run a hot tap, the water has to go round the house which can mean that your boiler has to heat much more water than the small amount you wanted. Boil only what you need at the time so it doesn't go cold and need reheating.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

New round of funding for native tree planting

The South of Scotland Tree Planting project has just announced a new round of funding, with £120,000 available over the next 12 months to enable community groups, farmers and landowners to plant around 15,000 landscape trees across the Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway.

This year the project team are particularly encouraging applications for the planting of riverbank trees in the area. Clumps of trees located alongside rivers and streams can provide much-needed shade for young

salmon and other fish that are susceptible to stress and even death in the higher water temperatures that are resulting from climate change.

Riparian tree-planting and associated tall grassland vegetation, provides habitat for other wildlife such as Otter, Kingfisher and insects such as Butterflies and Dragonflies. Ungrazed river corridors also provide ideal habitat for pollinating insects such as Honey bees and Bumble bees. Overhanging trees help to stabilise river banks and lessen run-off during periods of heavy rain. This in turn reduces the levels of sediment and pollutants entering the river system.

South of Scotland Tree Planting grants are available up to a maximum of £1,000 per



applicant to cover material costs. Further information is available by contacting the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership, which is administering the grants for D&G, on 07469 571806 or emailing Jonathan.Barrett@dumgal.gov.uk



Loch Ken's new seasonal ranger

The Loch Ken Trust has appointed a seasonal ranger to assist senior ranger, Leanne Pump, with patrolling Loch Ken over the peak season.

Annabelle Gurney took up her seasonal ranger role at the beginning of July and is already enjoying patrols around Loch Ken. Annabelle says:

I grew up living close to Loch Lomond with a watersports mad family and spent a great deal of my summer on the waters of Loch Ken whilst visiting my grandparents, who come from the area. Needless to say my affinity with water runs deep and I love the outdoors.



If I'm out for a walk, bike ride or in the garden I like to make a conscious effort to slow down and appreciate nature. I am always taking photographs, asking questions and making notes. The goal of my outdoor explorations is to come back home with more questions than when I left with.

My background is in knitwear design. I studied textile design at the University of Dundee and then worked as a technical

designer for a high-end knitwear factory in the Scottish Borders for four years.

I was responsible for the maintenance and operation of five industrial knitting machines. I made sure production ran smoothly, cleaned the machines regularly and replaced parts when needed. I learned the art of multitasking very well during that time!

However, after a bit of reflection and soul searching during lockdown, I decided to take the plunge and go back to education in order to pursue a career in conservation. With that decision my partner, Dan, and I moved to Dumfries & Galloway just under a year ago. I began working towards a BSc in Wildlife and Conservation Management at the SRUC, Barony Campus last September. I have just completed my first year and loved every moment of it, fully embracing the nature nerd within me.

I also regularly volunteer at the WWT Nature Reserve at Caerlaverock, where I assist with practical conservation tasks and an added bonus I get to build on my basic bird knowledge.

We are very pleased to welcome Annabelle to the team. Leanne and Annabelle will be out and about making sure that Loch Ken is well looked after.

We are grateful to the funders; Blackcraig Windfarm Community Fund and Drax, owners of the Galloway Hydro Scheme, for supporting our Ranger Service.



If you are interested in the work of the Loch Ken Trust and would like to get involved please get in touch lkoffice@protonmail.com



Above and left are Annabelle hard at work, and above she is pictured out on Loch Ken with senior ranger, Leanne Pump

Dalry's Local Place Plan proposal

Local Place Plans are community-led proposals for the development and use of land.

These plans will set out a community's aspirations for its future development and are a new opportunity for communities to be considered in planning decisions. They offer the opportunity for a community-led, collaborative approach to creating great local places. Local Place Plans can support community aspirations on the big challenges for a future Scotland, such as responding to global climate change and tackling inequalities.

Once completed and registered with the planning authority, Place Plans are to be taken into account in the preparation of the wider D&G local development plan, which

informs planning decisions in D&G. While planning decisions are currently made on a case-by-case basis, the Development Plan has already created the underlying presumption for these decisions, so it is crucial that communities get their visions embedded at that stage.

A Local Place Plan for Dalry will incorporate and complement the Glenkens and District Community Action Plan. To any communities of the Glenkens who are considering creating a Local Place Plan, it is worth keeping in mind that in its role as a local anchor organisation, GCAT has a standing offer to all community councils to support them to create Local Place Plans by linking to the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan wherever possible.

Local Place Plans are more than just a plan:

- They can help places define what they

want to be like in the future and help to develop a positive local identity.

- They can support community aspirations.
- They are an opportunity for real, community-based influence.

You are invited...

Look out for Dalry Community Council team at upcoming local events including the Alternative Games, in New Galloway on 6 August, with information and Place Planning activities.

Join us on Wednesday 30 August at Dalry Town Hall for 'Heart of Dalry', where we will explore what we want to include in a Place Plan for Dalry. Two drop-in sessions are available: 2-4pm or 6-8pm. Nibbles and tipples provided - look forward to seeing you there!

Dalry Community Council

Land Use Vision for the Glenkens

The Glenkens & District Community Action Plan Steering Group has adopted the final version of the Vision for Land Use in the Glenkens as an official addendum to the CAP, in recognition of the importance of the issue to our area and the rigorous community engagement process that led to the final vision.

This was sparked by the Social Enterprise Academy's 'Community Learning Programme' about the Regional Land Use Partnership, where the Glenkens was selected as one of five areas nationally to focus on. Their online consultation finished with an in-person stakeholder event attended by national and regional agencies, Scottish Government representatives and local stakeholders, and a working group from the community then created this final vision from the feedback at this and other events.

The final version can be found on the Glenkens Hub and is available for use by any local or regional groups that want to move the vision forward and

need a sound evidence base to do so.

Morag Paterson from Dalry Community Council said, "I'm over the moon that the Land Use vision has been adopted into the CAP. Communities can refer to this Vision in several practical ways - whether engaging with proposals for developments such as forestry proposals and wind farms, writing their Place Plans, developing ambitious projects or making funding applications. If the vision paves the way for an inclusive Glenkens Land Use Forum, all the better"

John Paterson, Chair of the CAP SG, said, "It's really important that the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan is a

living document, responsive to the ongoing concerns of the Glenkens communities, and so I am delighted that this vision is forming the first addendum to it, based on the rigorous community engagement that went into it. I hope the communities find it useful in pursuit of the CAP vision of the Glenkens and district as a connected, resilient and carbon neutral place, where people will want to live, to work, to bring up their families, and to grow old."

Thomas Fisher, director of Community Development Lens, has already referenced the Glenkens vision in a report about land use for the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, illustrating the importance of this document.



Fantastic Forest Festival 2023

Earlier this year Galloway Glens Scheme, working in partnership with artists in residence Leeming + Paterson, co-curated the inaugural Fantastic Forest Festival.

Through the work of a range of amazing partners and volunteers fuelled with enthusiasm and passion (and sometimes cake!), the festival sought to inspire and connect the community with nature and the local landscape whilst exploring an alternative approach to community consultation.

With this in mind, the team designed a series of 15 online and in-person events including walks, workshops, talks, competitions, exhibitions, playful

enthusiastically pulled naturally regenerating Sitka spruce from peat bogs in an attempt to win first prize in the Spruce Plucking World Championships, whilst the younger generation held competitions to design a tree and forest for their futures. Others loved learning about citizen science and how we can all get closer to nature and in doing so contribute to real learning and scientific research. Yet more preferred



and the words gathered together to form a 'word cloud', to help understand how people felt. Ted took these responses and

produced a picture essay entitled 'If you go down to the woods today', exploring some of the issues raised.

It is hoped that the festival will become a regular calendar event in future years, continuing to give the community the chance to better connect with their wooded areas and to better understand the great outdoors more generally.

It is, after all, one of the truly special things about the Glenkens to be cherished and nurtured for everyone.

The Fantastic Forest Team

"We were overwhelmed by the passion and wisdom revealed when you scratch the surface and allow quiet voices to be heard in environments within which they feel comfortable."

activism, adverts, editorial and postcards, to engage people in a variety of ways and encourage as many conversations and interactions as possible.

The events were advertised locally using a variety of media to encourage accessibility to a broad audience.

Event co-ordinator, McNabb Laurie from the Galloway Glens Scheme, noted:

"The events were intentionally varied to try and encourage as many people in the community to get involved. Some

the talks and debates whilst others again simply immersed themselves on artists walks - there was a lot on offer!"

Artist Ted Leeming said: "It was inspiring to hear the varied voices of the community. We were overwhelmed by the passion and wisdom revealed when you scratch the surface and allow quiet voices to be heard in environments within which they feel comfortable."

“Over the period of a month we reached over 6,500 people and engaged with a varied and diverse audience from both the local area, the wider region, and with some of the online events we had a truly global reach. We received over 500 responses to various questions posed about various forest, woodland and other treescape themes relevant to our local area.”

One question that the community was invited to anonymously answer throughout the festival was “What three words describe forestry in Galloway today?” Over 70 responses were received



The extent of biodiversity within conifer plantations is contentious. The industry argues that biodiversity within a plantation is increased over existing land uses. The Woodland Trust, however, states that 'non-native plantations in particular require management to improve their ecological condition'.



Top - word cloud for "What three words describe forestry in Galloway today?"

***Above - enthusiastic participation
in the Spruce Plucking World
Championships***

Left - an image from Ted Leeming's picture essay, 'If you go down to the woods today'

Glenkens youth graffiti project

The Glenkens community is set to benefit from the creativity and efforts of some young New Galloway residents, Elizabeth, Sanna and Ellie, who have successfully secured funding to run a series of graffiti art workshops with an end of project art exhibition.

This talented group, aged 11 and 12, are part of the Art Ambassadors programme at CatStrand Young Creatives. Alongside the wider group, they volunteer their time and skills to feed into and contribute to the Young Creatives'

programme, and we're very proud of them all.

Thanks to this funding from Youth Scotland, Step into the Arts, the Art Ambassadors are now preparing to plan and host a graffiti art workshop for other young people in the Glenkens. They hope to inspire and encourage budding artists to express themselves through this vibrant and expressive art form. The workshops will serve as a platform for participants to unleash their creativity and gain practical experience in graffiti art techniques.

All the Art Ambassadors have also been recognised for their invaluable contributions through Saltire Awards, a prestigious award given to young people who dedicate their time to volunteering. The awards not only acknowledge their efforts but also serve as



Sanna Gilbert, one of the successful applicants, beside some of the art that inspired the application

a testament to their passion and commitment. Great work everyone!

Keep an eye out on our website or social media for

details about the workshop when the dates are confirmed. www.csyoungecreatives.com

Cat Campbell, CatStrand Young Creatives Project Lead



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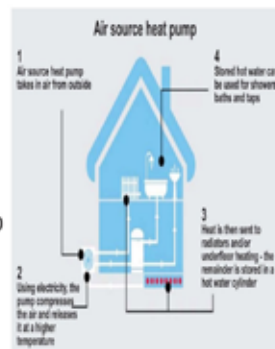
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APPROVED INSTALLER



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*.

Russia's war Against Ukraine was launched in 2014.

Last year it ramped up into a full-scale invasion. It's occupied our TV and print media periodically since then, but to really understand the situation, internet news updates and even newspaper articles are not enough. We need books to get to grips with the historical and cultural context as well as the human reality of the conflict. So here I'll mention a few, both fiction and non-fiction.

Bloodlands, by historian Timothy Snyder, is probably a book that everyone should read, though it isn't pleasant reading. The lands of the title are those between Germany and Russia – including Ukraine – in which, between 1933 and 1945, 14 million people were murdered, and not in battle. The victims were Jews, Poles, Soviet POWs and various others designated enemies by virtue of their race, class or national identity and killed by shooting, gassing or starvation. The figure includes four million Ukrainian peasants deliberately starved to death in the Holodomor.

The perpetrators of these

genocides were either Russian Communists or German Nazis, their systems claiming different ideologies but agreeing on the central notion that humans are either resources to be exploited or threats to be eliminated by the absolutist state.

The Road to Unfreedom by the same author looks at more contemporary threats to democracy and human life, linking the rise of Putin to the rise of 'populists' in the West, focusing on Russia's 2014 occupation of Crimea but touching too on Brexit and the Trump phenomenon.

Next, Jonathan Littell's WW2 novel *The Kindly Ones* won the Prix Goncourt and sold hundreds of thousands of copies in France. In the UK it was hardly noticed, which is a shame because it is surely one of the greatest novels of our century. It covers the Holocaust in Ukraine, the German occupation of the Caucasus, the Battle of Stalingrad, and the fall of Hitler's Berlin. These horrors are seen through the eyes of an SS officer – a highly educated, sensitive, murderous man, both evil and banal, who finally goes mad amidst the apocalypse he's

helped unleash.

Though it's a work of fiction, it's as painful and as powerful to read, and as much a reflection of dark reality, as *Bloodlands*.

Of the non-fiction books about contemporary Russia, I have found Peter Pomerantsev's *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible* and Masha Gessen's *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin* particularly useful.

But Ukrainians, having lived for so long under the shadow of Russian imperialism, culturally as much as militarily, are eager

that we focus on their own rich literary tradition. If you already have some 'Russian' classics, it may be easy to start a Ukrainian collection, because both Gogol and the very great Chekhov were in fact Ukrainians. For more modern writing, I recommend Andrei Kurkov's *Death and the Penguin*, a tragic-comic satire of mafia-ridden post-Soviet Kyiv. And two novels by Serhiy Zhadan – *Mesopotamia*, a portrait of hard-bitten Kharkiv, and *The Orphanage*, a war story set post-2014 – bring us up to date.



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What it means to be a writer

"You're not a real writer" that little voice in my head says - imposter syndrome it's called.

When I first came to the Glenkens, back in 2007, I was amused by the almost standard second question, "what else do you do?" B

it of this, bit of that. 'Gardening' was the straw I most often

clutched for, but writer? Never!

Then, one Guy Fawkes day, at the ripe old age of 61, I awoke with a fully formed piece of fiction, a short story, in my head. I wrote it down; and so the journey began. Obviously, I had written before, articles, reports and even the odd computer manual, but fiction?!

My late wife Betty encouraged and I sought out others in a writers' café, a writers' group and online. I soon came to

realise that most of the people I met were 'well read' (they read a lot of stuff by people now long dead) and they were educated and had been busy writing, reading, critiquing and exchanging views with others for many years. Not to mention the fact that they could quote other writers.

Here was I - a bluffer, left school at fifteen, never heard of the writers they spoke of, didn't read much (still don't) and yet I was moved to write.

I like to write and perhaps my writing is quite different simply because I read little of what others write; I 'plough my own furrow' or 'march to the sound of a different drum' if you like metaphors.

It amuses me to write. And I like to tell tales of people with different lives.

I write, therefore I am a writer. If you feel like it, have a go... you might enjoy it.

Paul Goodwin

Young Tom...

A fiction piece by Paul Goodwin...

In the village where I grew up lives a man called Young Tom. There was also an Old Tom (no relation) but more of him later.

Young Tom moved to the village with his mother at about the time that he started school. How old is he now? Well somewhere between his first shave and his first grey hair. He is a little different. He doesn't have command of words so he cannot tell his tale and I will have to do that for him.

When Young Tom began school, he had a mood board with some important pictures of the words he would need and could point to. The words were written underneath; YES, NO, HAPPY, SAD, HURT, HUNGRY, etc. You get the idea; it is how he communicated

with the world. Over the years he managed to say several of these words and seemed to understand their meaning. His mother dissuaded others from trying to talk to him as it only made him distressed but they waved. He would wave back and sometimes say 'HAPPY'.

Now don't misunderstand - Young Tom was not someone in need of much looking after. His mother taught him to cook and he would sometimes earn a little money from cutting lawns and hedges or cleaning people's cars.

Old Tom had lived alone for as long as anyone could remember and often sat on his 'sitting out bench' in front of his house if the weather was fine. People would often come and sit with him for a chat and he, all the while, would whittle a piece of wood with his penknife. Sometimes making a small animal, aeroplane or car and

he would hand it to whoever was nearby when he finished a piece.

One day, when Young Tom was a young teenager, he came and sat beside Old Tom who merely glanced up and carried on whittling. Old Tom took out a paper bag of boiled sweets, took one himself and left the open bag between them without a word or gesture. Young Tom took a sweet and so a relationship began. In time Old Tom would let the youngster try his hand with the penknife and his skill developed.

Years later, Old Tom (as comes to all of us) began to fail and it was clear he did not have long. He gave instructions to friends. "When I have gone, find Young Tom and just say OLD TOM to him and nothing else". And so it happened, the youngster went to where the old gent lay at rest, laid a hand on him and simply said 'SAD'. The young man took

the penknife which had been placed in Old Tom's hand and placed it in his pocket. Returning home, Young Tom took pencil and paper and handed it to his mother saying simply 'OLD TOM'.

Taking the paper, Young Tom studied it and went to the sitting out bench to begin whittling. After several hours he had finished a beautifully carved piece with the words OLD TOM carved and pierced through. Unlike his other pieces which he gave away, this one he took home. It can now be found laid on the grave of Old Tom.

The sitting out bench? Well that too gained a sign 'Dedicated to Old Tom who donated this space for the benefit of the community. Young Tom can often be seen there, carving his animals, flowers and other things. If you live in the village, one day you may find a carving on your doorstep.

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Galloway Retold is one year old

It's been a whole year since I started Galloway Retold, a series of short YouTube videos about people and places in Galloway history.

And what a year it's been! We've covered everything from Kenmure Castle to James Clerk Maxwell, and along the way there have been plenty of stops for stories of Galloway women, Galloway folklore, Robert the Bruce and much more.

There are currently 58 videos (none more than five minutes long), but I'm still trying to add one a week, so expect more by the time this issue of the Gazette is printed!

It's been quite an education, and quite a lot of fun too. I want to thank everyone in our community for the support and encouragement I've been shown over the

last year – you've all been great.

If you want to know as soon as a new video is published, please do subscribe. You can find a link to the Galloway Retold YouTube channel on the Glenkens Hub website at <https://glenkens.scot/history-and-heritage> and scroll down the page, to the section titled 'watch'.

I also have a wee Facebook group where I post the videos and other things too – please consider joining us. It's not just my stuff – any Galloway pictures, stories, poems and videos are most welcome! You'll find the group on Facebook under the group name Bonnie Galloway.

Here's to another year of Galloway Retold to come!

Angela Miller



Glenkens music past and present

Plans are taking shape for a memorable weekend celebration of Glenkens music-making, past and present.

The celebration kicks off on Friday 6 October when Jo Miller and friends stage a CatStrand concert based on their recently launched album, **'A' the way to Galloway**.

The programme will include local favourites such as Robbie Murray's 'Toon o Dalry' and Logan Paterson's 'Buchts o Knockreoch', along with more recent compositions. Jo (song and fiddle) will be joined by Amy Geddes (fiddle and viola), Wigtownshire singer Robyn Stapleton, Steve Sutcliffe (concertinas) and Neil Sutcliffe (piano, accordion and concertina).

The celebrations continue on Saturday 7, starting with the 2023 conference of the **Glenkens Story history group, Music Making in the Glenkens: Past, Present and Future**. Speakers include Anna Campbell, who will draw on material in the archives of the Carsphairn Heritage Group to share fascinating stories of

musical families in the area.

A national perspective is contributed by ethnologist Christopher Wright, with a discussion of the coverage of Galloway music in the School of Scottish Studies Archive's Tobar an Dualchais (well of heritage)/Kist of Riches collections.

Dr Jo Miller will open the event by giving an overview of the

history of music-making in the Glenkens, drawing on her own ethnographic research into local musical traditions over several decades. Talks will be generously illustrated by live performance and audio-visual material from the archives. The conference concludes with a discussion chaired by historian and singer Dr Lizanne Henderson, on how best to

safeguard Galloway's musical heritage as a resource for the present and the future.

After the conference, the CatStrand will welcome young children and their families for a **Wee Hoolie**, a special hour-and-a-bit of musical fun led by Amy Geddes and Neil Sutcliffe. Expect games, singing, dancing and stories!

On Saturday evening, the action switches to Dalry Town Hall where Brian Edgar will compere a celebration of today's music makers in the Glenkens: **'Gaither room folks an this story I'll tell'**. The programme of local singers and instrumentalists for this community concert is still being put together but already includes CatStrand Singers, Weirly Women and a performance by Wendy Stewart of a new version of her outstanding composition commissioned to celebrate the recent bicentenary of the Ken Bridge.

Full details and tickets can be found in the CatStrand programme or at www.gcat.scot/arts or call 01644 420 374.



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

Searching for Sarah

In early 2022, Grave Encounters - a volunteer research project run by Can You Dig It, the Galloway Glens community archaeology group - revealed fascinating histories behind gravestone names in Kells kirkyard.

Sarah and Sophia Bateson were servants in a family who survived bankruptcy in England to become a wealthy Galloway household.



The inscription on the memorial stone at Kells churchyard reads: 'Erected to the memory of Sophia BATESON a native of Yorkshire who died at Glenlochar House in this county 6th June 1869 aged 86 years,

and is interred in Cross-Michael Churchyard. Also of Sarah BATESON niece of the above who died at Cairn Edward in this Parish 21st March 1895 aged 79 years. Two faithful and beloved servants from youth till death in the family of Tottenham LEE, Esq., of Saint John's Wakefield for many years resident in this county.'

Sarah Bateson (1816?-1895) and her aunt, Sophia Bateson (1783?-1869), were born and grew up in County Durham. Both joined the household of Tottenham Lee, working in service until death. Little documentation of their lives survives, apart from official recordings of birth, marriage, death and wills, and a few fragments that can be gleaned from these. Sophia remained a shadowy figure, but with Sarah, one document revealed surprises, and brought her suddenly to life.

Life with the Lees

Born in 1794, Tottenham Lee was a lawyer, investor and businessman from a wealthy family. His father John Lee was a philanthropist, industrialist, lawyer and entrepreneur, and funded Britain's first public railway.

In 1841 Tottenham was living with his wife Louisa Egremont, a wealthy heiress, and six children in a fine townhouse in Wakefield, Yorkshire, along with Sophia (then 59), Sarah (then 25) and other servants. Following years of constant borrowing from his father-in-law, John Egremont, and Egremont's death in 1841, Tottenham went bankrupt. Fortunately for him, Louisa had an annual income of £400 (about £55k today) and also

inherited a vast fortune, to which Tottenham had free unrestricted access, thanks to the *jus mariti* law.

By 1851, Tottenham's household had moved to Glenlee Park in Galloway; perhaps after Tottenham's bankruptcy shenanigans, they sought a fresh start, far from Wakefield. In 1861 they were living at Overton, near New Galloway, later moving again to Glenlochar Lodge, near Crossmichael.

On 6 January 1869, Sophia died at 86 from influenza at Glenlochar, leaving £222 11s 6d (around £30k today). Niece Sarah was named next of kin, and probably she and her brother John inherited Sophia's money.

In 1871 Sarah was still at Glenlochar, but by 1881, whilst the Lees were listed there, Sarah was now living at Burnfoot Cottage on the Kenmure estate, listed as "head" of household, unmarried and "housekeeper". Tottenham Lee's daughter Jane Crane was now married to John Maitland - son of the Rev James Maitland of Kells and Louisa Bellamy Gordon (niece of Adam Gordon, 8th Viscount of Kenmure), thus heir to Kenmure. Sarah was now 65, so perhaps the cottage was provided for her retirement by the Lees/Maitlands.



Tottenham Lee died in 1888 aged 95, outliving his wife and five of his six children (Jane Maitland lived until 1928). By 1891 Sarah Bateson was living again with the family - this time as "annuitant" (pensioner), with Jane and her husband at Cairn Edward. Curiously, in her will in 1891, Sarah also refers to "Catherine Keir, Sick Nurse... presently residing with me at Crossmichael Village". Did she move there temporarily, due to ill health?

On 21 March 1895, aged 79, Sarah died at Cairn Edward, of "senile decay".

Sarah's family

Sarah's grandparents were Thomas Bateson, a wool weaver, and Sarah Huckans/Huggins. Their children were John Bateson, Sophia Bateson and Thomas Bateson, Sarah's father, an innkeeper, who married Margaret Greenwell in Houghton-le-Spring, Co. Durham on 11 May 1812. Sadly, Sarah's father died in 1819, when Sarah was just three years old and her brother John six years.

Sarah's brother John Bateson became a well-respected bookbinder in Durham. He



married Ann Laws in 1838, and they had 7 children (5 girls, 2 sons).

Sarah's will: revelations and questions

Almost all the information I uncovered about Sarah and Sophia was factual and impersonal. As women servants, virtually nothing was documented of them and their lives. But discovering Sarah's will and testament gave me new family information, and crucially, something of her personality. She - and her passions, feelings and relationships - briefly came alive.

Firstly, Sarah left her money - £146 15s 1d (around £19,729 today) - to her nephew (and executor) Thomas Greenwell and three of her five nieces, Sarah Jane, Ann and Frances. Why did she leave out her other two nieces, Margaret and Ellen? family disagreements? Or simply that she thoughtfully perceived the four named beneficiaries as more needy? Thomas, for example, had a large family to support, while Sarah Jane was working in service.

Then Sarah firmly states: "I exclude and debar the *jus mariti* and all other rights of the husbands of all females taking benefit under these presents". This is such a passionate, clear statement. She evidently wants to make absolutely certain that the inheritance stays with each woman, not going to her husband. What was behind this - discomfort at witnessing employer Tottenham living on his wife's vast inheritance, after failing spectacularly to make his own way? something more personal in her nieces' relationships? or maybe simply that she was a woman of strong principle?

Finally, in the will Sarah states her desire "to be buried in Bamborough Churchyard and I direct my Executor to erect a tombstone over my grave at a cost of ten pounds, said stone to include the names of my Father and mother, Thomas Bateson and Margaret Bateson". Sadly, Sarah's wish was almost certainly never carried out, as there's no record of Sarah's burial in the Bamborough churchyard.

And it's unclear whether the Kells stone is a memorial or actual gravestone. I'm left wondering... where does Sarah Bateson lie?

Sue Taylor

Pictured are the memorial stone in Kells churchyard for Sarah and her aunt Sophia, Glenlochar House and a photograph of Kells Parish Church

Changes at the Glenkens Community Centre

The Scottish Alternative Games are now 46 years old and still going strong!

First held in Parton in 1977, this year will be the 21st time the popular event has been staged in New Galloway.

All the usual events will be taking place including the World Gird 'n' Cleek Championship. Reigning World Champion Elizabeth Spornagel is the youngest champion to date and will be

determined to defend her title.

As well as the Gird 'n' Cleek, the Tractor Pull, Tossin' the Sheaf and Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane events are all free to enter on the day and all ages can compete to win the unique 'medals' and ultimately of course, someone will go home as a World Champion!

The snails are already in training for the Snail Racing and will be lightning quick by August! The Classic Cars will

be rolling up to be judged by the crowd, visitors will have the chance to try their hand at the ancient skill of archery with Threave Bowmen, plus a bar, barbecue and the skirl of the bagpipes – what more could you ask for an afternoon's entertainment.

Come along to New Galloway Park on Sunday 6 August at 2pm. Admission at the gate is £6 for adults and £1 for under 16s with all proceeds going to local charities and good causes.

Changes at the Glenkens Community Centre

The Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, will host an event on Saturday 16 September to share with the community all the exciting things that have been happening.

The long-awaited results from the Community Centre Consultation from February/ March will be shared at the event. Abi, who runs the local organisation Propagate, is supporting us with the redesign of the garden and she will be sharing three garden design ideas taken from the July Garden Design Session and the accompanying survey.

A number of the centre's user

groups will share what they have been doing and how their group positively impacts the community.

Last September an enthusiastic steering group was formed to look into the feasibility of revitalising the centre, and from this a new Management Committee was formed. There is a variety of groups now using the space including newbies like Citizens Advice, Glenkens Food

Hub, Art for All and Yoga for All, as well as old favourites such as the Good Neighbours Club, Dalry Heritage Group and the Clachan Crafters.

We look forward to seeing you at the event! Refreshments will be provided and any donations are welcome. If you would like to help out or find out more please contact Sarah McAdam at minimac01644@gmail.com or 07500 861 041.



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- 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

USEFUL NUMBERS:

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



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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

Lagwyne Hall: Contact lagwynehallsecretary@outlook.com for info, or to book email lagwynehallbooking@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

Bairn Banter: Contact Melissa on bairnbanter@outlook.com or 07979 492 791

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, 6 Aug, 3 Sep, 1 Oct

Carsphairn: 11am, 13 Aug (communion), 10 Sep, 8 Oct

Kells: 11am, 20 Aug, 17 Sep, 15 Oct

Dalry: 11am, 27 Aug, 24 Sep

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

Sundays at 5pm: Holy Communion with Reverend Dawn Matthew. Refreshments available before and after the service.

Tuesdays at 11am: Informal Midweek Service with refreshments and chat.

Wednesdays from 7.30-8pm: Zoom Evening Prayers. Please contact Dawn for the link.

All friends and visitors welcome. For further information, please call Dawn Matthew on 01644 420 431 or visit www.stmargaretsnewgalloway.org



Supporting Mental Health
& Wellbeing through
welcoming activities

Together in the Glenkens Summer Activity Programme

ART FOR WELLBEING - £12.50

incl materials

Muti-media Thursdays / 6.30 - 8.30pm

Corsock Village Hall

From 29th June

Beginners Oil Painting Class

Wednesdays / 10am-12pm

The Smiddy Balmaclellan

from 23rd August

TAI CHI - £7

Wednesdays / 6.30 - 8pm

New Galloway Park

From 5th July

PIE, PINT n' PATTY

£- cost of a pint n' a pie

Last Friday of the month 7.00 - 10.00pm

CatStrand, New Galloway

From 30th June

MINDFULNESS & GENTLE EXERCISE

for New Mums - £7

Thursdays Parton Village Hall

9.30 soft start / 9.45 - 11.15am

From 6th July

GENTLE EXERCISE FOR ALL- £5

Wednesdays / 4 - 5pm

The Smiddy Balmaclellan

From 19th July

DANCE CLASSES - £8

Mondays / 7 - 8.30pm

4 week block - new dance every block

Each block in new location

Contact Jo for details

From 21st August at Mossdale Village Hall

WALKING FOOTBALL - Free

Informal drop in

Thursdays 6.30pm

New Galloway Park

BREEZE CYCLE RIDES - Free

Thank you Breezel!

Various guided rides / Wednesdays &

Saturdays / 9.30am

From 24th June

booking online essential

<https://letsride.co.uk/groups/glenkens-cycling-group>



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Community
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A GCAT Project



GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

email gct@catstrand.com

phone 01644 420374 mobile 07841 512449

August 2023 - September 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

Saturday 2nd September

The Castle Gardens Drumlanrig Castle Garden

With 40 acres of historic gardens to explore, these gardens are both inspiring and relaxing. A stroll through the formal gardens includes mixed shrub and herbaceous borders, a double border of contrasting colours, whilst the 183 meter long Terrace Walk with its tender climbing plants. A restored Victorian Glasshouse, Heather Houses, Rock Garden and much more will keep you interested. Cafe & Shop available. Partially wheelchair accessible. Entry to garden: £8:00 (£7:00 for seniors)

Bus Fare: £10:00

Saturday 30th September

The Botanic Garden Port Logan

Walled garden filled with brilliant autumn colour, while striking trees, bamboos and ferns flourish in the woods. This garden contains plants from around the world and benefits from the warming effects of the Gulf Stream. Café and garden centre. Wheelchair accessible. Entry to gardens: £8:00 (£7:00 for seniors)

Bus Fare: £12:00

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 August/September

AUGUST

Turn to P32 for Together in the Glenkens Aug/Sep activities...

Tue 1, Kids Summer Roadshow; music, sports, crafts, gaming, 1-4pm, New Galloway Park

Sat 5, Kids Summer Roadshow; music, sports, crafts, gaming, 1-4pm, Dalry School

Sun 6, Scottish Alternative Games, 2-6pm, New Galloway

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

Tue 8, D&G Citizens Advice Drop-in, 11am-4pm, CatStrand

Thu 10, Ken Words: Writers' Café, 7pm, CatStrand

Fri 11, Glenkens Food Hub online shop opens (closes Tue 15, delivery Fri 18), openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop

Fri 11, Kids Summer Roadshow; music, sports, crafts, gaming, 6-9pm, Crossmichael School

Fri 11, Biosphere foraging walk & pizza cookout, see p14

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

Sun 13, 9.30am-4pm, CCW Horse Logging Day, see p11

Mon 14, New Galloway & Kells Community Council Meeting, 7-9pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Sat 19, The Bookshop Band visit Bairn Banter, 10am, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Sat 19, The Bookshop Band: High Tea Tunes Special, 3pm, CatStrand

Sat 19, Glenkens Agricultural Show, 9am-5pm, Dalry

Sat 19, Laurieston Flower Show, 2-4pm

Sun 20, Arts & Crafts Fair, 11am-3pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p4

Sun 20, The Bookshop Band: Song Writing Workshop, 11am, The Smiddy, Balmacellan

Sun 20, Clachan Folk Session, 5.30pm, Clachan Inn, Dalry

Mon 21, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council Meeting, 7.30-9pm, Corsock Village Hall

Mon 21 Aug-11 Sep, Strictly Get Dancing, Mossdale Village Hall, see p32

Tue 22, D&G Citizens Advice Drop-in, 11am-4pm

Tue 22, Parton Community Council Meeting, 7-9pm, Parton Village Hall

Wed 23, Dumfries Mobile Fish & Chips, 5.15-11.55pm, New Galloway, find them on

Facebook

Thu 24, Open Stage, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 25, Glenkens Food Hub online shop opens (closes Tue 29, delivery Fri 1 Sep), openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop

Fri 25, Glenkens Book Group, 2-5pm, Dalry Library

Sat 26, Corsock Show, 9.30am-5pm

Sat 26, Soup Saturday, 1-3pm, Mossdale Village Hall

Sat 26, Crossmichael Flower Show, 2-3.30pm

Sun 27, Pub Quiz, 7-9pm, Clachan Inn, Dalry

Mon 28, Carsphairn Community Council Meeting, 7-9pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Mon 28, Balmacellan Community Council Meeting, 7.30-9pm, Balmacellan Village Hall

Wed 30, Dalry Place Plans drop-in sessions, 2-4pm or 6-8pm, see p17

Sat 16, Glenkens Community Centre Open Day, see p25

Sat 16, Carsphairn Community Market; part of Glenkens Food Month, 10am-2pm, Lagwyne Hall, see p25

Sun 17, Pop-up-restaurant by Risto Leino; part of Glenkens Food Month, contact jackie.communityinclusion.LING@gmail.com 07749 249 781

Sun 17, Bottling It: A Busker Production, 3-5pm, CatStrand

Mon 18, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council Meeting, 7.30-9pm, Corsock Village Hall

18 Sep-9 Oct, Strictly Get Dancing, Parton Village Hall, see p32

Tue 19, D&G Citizens Advice Drop-in, 11am-4pm, CatStrand

Wed 20, Balmaghie Community Council Meeting, 7-9pm, Balmaghie Public Hall, Laurieston

Thu 21, Kate Young: Umbelliferæ, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 22, George Egg: Set Menu, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 22, Glenkens Food Hub online shop opens (closes Tue 26, delivery Fri 29), openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop

Mon 25, Carsphairn Community Council Meeting, 7-9pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Mon 25, Balmacellan Community Council Meeting, 7.30-9pm, Balmacellan Village Hall

Tue 26, Parton Community Council Meeting, 7-9pm, Parton Village Hall

Fri 29, Pot Luck Supper, 7pm, New Galloway Town Hall, contact samantha.rushton@hotmail.co.uk or 07544 700 566

Fri 29, Glenkens Book Group, 2-3pm, Dalry Library

Sat 30, Soup Saturday, Mossdale, 1-3pm, Mossdale Village Hall

Sat 30, GCT trip; Port Logan Botanic Garden, see p29

Sat 30, Help I Think I'm A Nationalist! by Seamas Carey, 7.30pm, CatStrand

SEPTEMBER

- Glenkens Food Month -

Friday 1, Song Share, 8-11pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 2, GCT trip; Drumlanrig Castle Gardens, see p29

Sat 2, Loch Ken Wild Swim, 8.30am-4pm, Galloway Activity Centre, www.lochken.co.uk/events/wild-swim

Sun 3, Martin Simpson, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Mon 4, Dalry Community Council Meeting, 7-9pm, Dalry Town Hall

Tue 5, D&G Citizens Advice Service Drop-in, 11am-4pm, CatStrand

Tue 5, Tuesday Afternoon Teas, 2.30-4pm, Balmacellan Village Hall

Fri 8, Glenkens Food Hub online shop opens (closes Tue 12, delivery Fri 15), openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop

Fri 8, Tom Pow & The Galloway Agreement: The Village & The Road, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 9, Glenkens Producers' Market, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 10, Song Workshop with Robyn Stapleton & Jo Miller, 10.30am-4pm, Dalry Town Hall

Mon 11, New Galloway & Kells Community Council Meeting, 7-9pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Wed 13, Crossmichael Community Council Meeting, 7-9pm

Thu 14, Ken Words: Writers' Café, 7pm, CatStrand

Sat 16, Waves Blues Band, 7.30pm, CatStrand

OCTOBER

Thu 4, Fundraising Coffee Afternoon, 1-4pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p4

Fri 6, A' the way to Galloway: Jo Miller and friends, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 7, Music Making in the Glenkens: Past, Present & Future, 10.30am-3.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

REGULAR EVENTS & OPENING TIMES

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; Fri 6-7pm; Sat 10.30am-2.30pm (tea & coffee available on Sat).

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

Yoga, Thu, 6pm, kathyr64@hotmail.co.uk

Glenkens Art Workshop, Thu 2-4pm

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 Monday Morning Social, 10am-12noon, come along for a blether, or bring a board game/cards, etc. Refreshments available. Call 07710 124 255 or email carsphairn.trust@gmail.com

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

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

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

Behind the Scenes, bi-weekly, Mondays 5.30-6pm

Power Yoga, Tue, 9am, kathyr64@hotmail.co.uk

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

Weekly Bus Service to Tesco, Wednesday eve 7pm

Dramarama, (age 6-10), Wed 4-5pm
Up Skills: Musical Theatre, (age 15+), Wed 5-5.30pm

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

Piano Lessons, weekly, term time 4pm - 6.30pm

Dance Steps (age 10-18yrs), Sat monthly, 2-5pm

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

Art Club, (age 11-16yrs), Sat bi-weekly 11.15am-12.30pm

Youth Players Panto rehearsals, (10 yrs plus), weekly, Sun 3- 5.30pm

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Taste of Music, monthly, 10-11am (under 10yrs)

Mini Music Makers, family session, montly 11.45pm - 12.30pm (under 7yrs)

Weekly Ukuele, guitar & keyboard lessons, 12.30-4pm (6-16 yrs)

Musical Misfits, group singing class, bi-weekly, 10.30 - 11.30pm

New Galloway Town Hall

The hall is due to reopen and regular activities will be restarting; for further info email Jackie.communityinclusion.ling@gmail.com call 07749 249 781 or visit the Facebook page @ Local Initiatives in New Galloway

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, £6, currently held at Kitty's, opposite NG Town Hall

Sports Evening - restarts 5 Sept, indoor bowling & table tennis, Tues 7-9pm, New Galloway Scout Hut, contact Ray on 01644 420 438

Tai Chi, Zumba, Martial Arts, Gentle Yoga - new timetable being created, contact Jackie on above details

Glenkens Charity Shop

Opening Times:

Mon, Tue & Thu - 10am-1pm

Wed, Fri & Sat - 10am-4pm

Glenkens Community Centre

Glenkens Youth Group - resumes 28 August, Mon, 7-8.30pm

Glenkens Art For All, Tue 10am-12.30pm, for all abilities, free, no need to book, materials provided along with tea/coffee and biscuits. Contact Sarah on 07921 357563

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

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

Tuesday Parent -Toddler Sessions - restart end Aug, Tue, 10.30-11.30am

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

Bairn Banter's big toddle

As part of Barnardo's flagship fundraising activity, The Big Toddle, the local Carsphairn children's group has been reaching out to help children across the UK by raising money for the charity.

The children and adults of Bairn Banter have enjoyed dressing up as jungle animals and embarking on a sponsored safari-themed

walk through Carsphairn.

The group gathered at Lagwyne Hall before beginning a mini safari tour of the village, with a slight detour in search of jungle animals hidden around Carsphairn school playground. The herd of parents and tots also tested their knowledge with a safari-themed mini quiz. Once back on the guided tour, the children finished their sponsored walk at the community garden, with a well-deserved picnic and a medal of achievement.

Bairn Banter set up a JustGiving page to help raise

the set target of £300.

Melissa Ade (founder of Bairn Banter) comments:

"I am delighted to say that that our little group's efforts have raised a wonderful £376! We have received a wealth of support and lots of very generous donations to the cause. I want to say a huge thank you to all everyone who donated and supported Bairn Banter to carry out this fundraising event and it is warming to know that the money raised will make a big difference to the lives of children further afield."




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OCT/NOV COPY DEADLINE: 5 SEP



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.