

GLENKENS GAZETTE

October/November 2023

ISSUE 138

FREE

Youngest reigning world champion keeps her title

Despite a generally wet August, for once the Scottish Alternative Games managed to choose a sunny Sunday afternoon for the 46th running of the popular event.

A good crowd gathered to watch and to take part in the quirky events on offer. Reigning Gird 'n' Cleek World Champion, Elizabeth Spernagel, was determined to hold on to her title for a second year and looked to be in great form as she breezed through the heats to claim her slot in the Grand Final.

The line-up in the Final looked to be a tougher test though, with several experienced gird 'n' cleekers lining up to try and grab the title.



Gird 'n' Cleek World Champion Elizabeth Spernagel (centre) with dad Ralph who finished in 2nd Place (right) and Alice McIntosh who took 3rd Place (left) © Ian Biggar

However, Elizabeth hit the front early in the first lap and just managed to hold on to cross the finish line with her Dad, Ralph, rapidly closing the gap down the home straight.

Alice McIntosh finished in third

place, having first taken part in the competition when she was at primary school. Alice's Dad, Rob, finished in fifth place, so all-in-all a bit of a family affair in the big Final this year...

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Fun and feasting in the Glenkens

At time of writing we're just over half way through September – and half way through our fifth Glenkens Food Month!

This year has been another hugely successful collaboration between local groups, organisations and businesses.

The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust played a core

role, engaging the Glenkens Hub so groups could submit event details as well as pulling together the printed programme, and all ticketed events were hosted on the CatStrand booking system.

Some highlights have included the ever-popular Fungal Forage, led by extremely knowledgeable local forager Emma Gibson. We decided to use Food Month to premiere our new film, *Rooted: Growing a Local Food Ecosystem*. This profiles farmers



and growers, local routes to market and community food projects across D&G. *Rooted* screened at CatStrand to a sold-out audience, followed by an extremely interesting discussion led by the people featured in the film.

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GALLOWAY GLENS
Landscape Partnership

Farewell to the Galloway Glens Scheme!

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Glenkens Food Month 2023

Continued from front page...

Other fantastic events of the month included a campfire cook-out with Loch Ken Trust, the Family Food & Fun Day in New Galloway Park, and a very tasty Healthy Cooking on a Budget at the Glenkens Community Centre with Lesley from Nourishing Space.

The pop-up Risto's Restaurant in New Galloway Town Hall was a great success – a three-course menu was offered, using lots of local ingredients.

The final event will be the Hog Roast at Balmaclellan Village Hall – locally sourced organic pork from Low Auldgirth (one of our Glenkens Food Hub

producers) will be the main feature.

Thanks go to the Dumfries & Galloway Regionwide Communities Fund for their support of this important community event. With full bellies and much anticipation, roll on Glenkens Food Month 2024!

Abi, Propagate



Participants assessing their finds at the Fungal Forage

Biosphere fun in the Glenkens

Warming up for September's Glenkens Food Month, the Biosphere partnered with outdoor educator Christy Miles and the Glenkens Food Hub team for a unique afternoon that combined local heritage, sustainable foraging, and an *al fresco* pizza feast.

Local growers may have participated in one of this summer's learning journeys in which residents of the Machars and the Glenkens visited each other's garden-based projects. The GSA Biosphere hosted a broader, international version with a delegation from Sweden's Nedre Dalälven region who arrived for a four-day tour. Nedre Dalälven is another of the 748 sites globally that have been designated as UNESCO

Biospheres in recognition of their special landscape, wildlife and cultural assets. Sweden and the UK each have seven Biospheres within their territory, and Nedre Dalälven shares many of the same priorities as Galloway and Southern Ayrshire: both are research areas for sustainable farming and fisheries, and both are leading initiatives to support sustainability in tourism.

With the longest and warmest days of 2023 now behind us it's a great time to look for new hobbies to keep alive our connection with the great outdoors. Many local activity providers are accredited through the Biosphere Certification Mark and within easy reach of the Glenkens.

Galloway Cycling offers guided tours and itineraries for all abilities, whether you'd like to try a gentle roll around the lanes or some serious gravel climbs.

Loch Ken Activity Centre is best known for water-based fun but also offers biking including guided night rides.

Mark Williams of Galloway Wild Foods runs scheduled and

bespoke foraging trips and has a website packed with instructional webinars, ID tips and recipe ideas.

Open Water Swimming Instructor, Sarah Redman of Swim the Lochs, offers year-round group and wellness events as well as private instruction.

Elizabeth Tindal is a Biosphere Guide and Dark Sky Ranger, with autumn/winter the optimum time to experience Galloway's Gold-Tier Dark Sky Park (plus the firepit with hot chocolate and marshmallows that Elizabeth provides!).

Way of the Wild will take you on a forest or mountain adventure – that wonderful combination of excitement, immersion, and learning new skills.

And for those who are looking for something a little different, why not try a writing retreat with



The Biosphere's outdoor pizza feast was run as part of Glenkens Food Month (see above article)

Write Southwest Scotland, led by Biosphere-certified author Anstey Harris.

Find out more about the Biosphere and the local projects, organisations and initiatives it supports by following #gsabiosphere on social media, visit www.gsabiosphere.org.uk or contact info@gsabiosphere.org.uk

Tamara Fulcher




New Galloway Golf Club

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Major step towards decarbonisation for Galloway Community Transport

Galloway Community Transport (GCT) has received a massive boost in its ongoing aim of decarbonising its fleet in the shape of a 16-seater eMinibus.

This vehicle is brand new and has been funded by the Energy Savings Trust's Plugged in Communities fund, which supports community transport initiatives in adding carbon neutral vehicles to their fleet.

The new eMinibus joins the existing GCT eCar, which is currently doing sterling work on the daily Mossdale to Kells

school run. Between them, they will make a big reduction to the carbon emissions of GCT as it carries on its work of providing rural transport for us all.

GCT also has three diesel minibuses, all available to hire by community and private member groups. It also runs an invaluable Patient Transport Service, thanks to

the dedication of its volunteer drivers.

GCT are always looking for new volunteers, either to drive their own cars or the minibuses, so if you fancy getting behind the wheel contact Jon or Sue to find out more at gct@catstrand.com or 07841 512 449.

*Helen Keron,
GCAT Executive Manager*

The Loch Ken Dragon Boats

Dragon Boats on Loch Ken are a group who row out on the loch every Sunday from April to October (weather permitting).

A dragon boat is a type of boat in a traditional Chinese design, typically decorated to resemble a dragon, propelled with paddles by a large crew and

often used for racing.

The Loch Ken session starts at 9.30am and continues to midday, and is held at the Galloway Activity Centre. Anyone over age 12 is welcome, and the cost is £2 for under 18s and £5 for adults.

For further information contact Joyce at pflssw@gmail.com or 0751 431 7578.

See below for the Dragon Boats fundraising event...



dragon boats on loch ken



PARTY NIGHT
Balmaclellan Village Hall
Saturday 25th November
7.30pm to 11pm
BYOB Supper & Raffle

Tickets
£20
pflssw@gmail.com
07514317578



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Glenkens Cub Scouts update

A huge thank you to all those who supported the Cub Scout stall at the Alternative Games, either by donating or purchasing goods.

A special mention must go to Agnes, who has made the most delicious tablet which was snapped up very quickly. Thanks also go to Jenny, who gave us the beautiful handmade coloured glassware which was sentimental to her. We raised a total of £155.60 for our group – the best ever yet...

The Games were enjoyed by

everyone – happy, smiling faces all round. Thank you to the organisers for yet another fabulous day.

Cubs started up again on 6 September, and runs from 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Scout Hall in New Galloway. We continue to appeal for adults to become Beaver Leaders to start a Colony, working with children aged six to eight years, or Scout Leaders, working with 10 ½ to 14 year olds.

For further information, please get in touch with Hannah at mcandrew.hannah@yahoo.co.uk or 07789 735 398

*Yours in Scouting,
Heather and Hannah*

Christmas coffee morning



St Margaret's Guild and Glenkens Churches Guild are holding their annual Christmas coffee morning on Wednesday 6 December.

The fundraising event will be held in New Galloway Town Hall from 10.30am to 12noon. In addition to coffee, shortbread and mince pies there will be a stall with baking and gifts, a raffle and a lucky dip.

The Gazette is part of a brand new collaborative journalism project

The *Glenkens Gazette* is one of eighteen independent local and hyperlocal news publications serving urban and rural communities across Scotland who have joined forces to create *The Scottish Beacon*, a new national publication.

The Scottish Beacon news website is the first collaborative journalism outlet of its kind in the country. The aim is to strengthen the independent community-based media sector and bring stories from Scotland's communities to a wider audience.

The website spotlights articles on topics including community empowerment, social equality, local democracy and the environment – from Shetland in the north to Dumfries and Galloway in the south.

When researching the creation of our Glenkens Hub website, the *Gazette* team reached out to Rhiannon Davies, editor of the Glasgow-based community publication, *Greater Govanhill*, which also had an active 'hub' style website. Rhiannon agreed to design and create our Glenkens Hub site, and through this partnership we became aware of her newest venture, *The Scottish Beacon*, which was at that time just in its conceptual stages.

Seeing the potential of the project, the *Gazette* decided to get on board - and now we are a part of this exciting new project.

The benefit to each publication involved in the project is through the ability to draw correlations and access

information from other communities across the country. The *Gazette* covers many hyperlocal topics of import to our local communities, but these may often also be issues mirrored in other communities across the country. *The Scottish Beacon* enables communication between community news platforms, giving the potential to link up and see a bigger picture and have a stronger voice. The publications involved all have different structures and models. Some are non-profit, some are limited companies, some are sole traders. Some of the publications

are only in print, others digital, and many are both. All are independently-owned and produce original journalism in the public interest, firmly rooted in serving the communities in which they are based.

Other publications involved in the project include *The Bellman*, *Broughton Spurtle*, *C&B News*, *Clydesider*, *Crail Matters*, *The Edinburgh Reporter*, *Forres Local*, *The Illeach*, *Greater Govanhill*, *The Hawick Paper*, *Inverclyde Now*, *The Lochside Press*, *Midlothian View*, *Migrant Women Press*, *The Orkney News* and *Shetland News*. However, with many more independent publications out there, it is expected that membership numbers will continue to grow following the launch.

The Scottish Beacon network holds regular meetings, sharing resources and skills and working together to identify collaborative investigations. Together we hope to re-invigorate local public interest



THE SCOTTISH BEACON

made by the corporate publishers to local news which mean that too often journalists working in distant newsrooms are reporting on communities they are not familiar with. It's wild that just three publishers own the vast majority of local news publications, while big tech has hoovered up much of the traditional revenues streams.

"But I keep meeting these dedicated journalists – paid and voluntary – who provide a vital local service. They're not doing it for the money, but because they care about their communities and because these stories matter.

"By collaborating on stories, and digging into national topics at a local level, we hope to amplify stories that too often go unheard, holding power to account and strengthening community voices."

The publication will generate revenue through a mix of different income streams including membership

fees, partnerships, advertising and grant funding. It will use the engaged membership platform Beabee to involve readers in stories and determine future projects.

To find out more visit www.scottishbeacon.com and if you want to support independent media in Scotland, and get the best quality journalism from Scotland's communities straight to your inbox, you can sign up to the newsletter, or become a member, and you can also follow the Scottish Beacon on social media.

"By collaborating on stories, and digging into national topics at a local level, we hope to amplify stories that too often go unheard, holding power to account and strengthening community voices."

news and overcome common challenges such as long-term sustainability. Many independent publications currently run on shoestring budgets, some with no income at all. The aim is to strengthen the sector, generating income and raising awareness of the value that good local journalism can bring to a community.

Project founder, Rhiannon Davies, said: "I truly believe that the future of journalism is collaborative. I developed the idea for this project after being inspired by similar established collaboratives in the US.

"There have been so many brutal cuts

The end of BBC Radio 4 long wave radio

BBC Radio 4 will cease being broadcast on long wave next year.

The exact date has not been announced, but probably soon after the end of March 2024.

Those of us who live in the Glenkens will know of the poor reception locally of radio in all its forms: DAB, FM and medium wave. Often the only reception you will be able to get indoors is 'good old' Radio 4.

So with Radio 4 long wave leaving, what other options are out there in areas like ours where the other radio channels can't be picked up?

You can listen to radio on your TV - either Freeview or Satellite - or you can listen on your

mobile phone (but that could cost money, depending on your contract).

Probably the best option is to listen via the internet but you will need to have a broadband connection (WiFi). You can listen on your computer or tablet, on an internet radio or on a smart speaker.

If you don't already have the internet in your home, and you receive Pension Credit, Universal Credit or one of the other entitlements, you should qualify for a cheaper 'social tariff'. This would be quite a bit cheaper than the normal rates at only around £12 per month. Couple that to a 'smart' speaker (priced from around £25 and upwards) and you have access to literally thousands of radio stations.



More information about radio can be found in my previous article (Technology Explained: Radio), published in issue 117 of the *Glenkens Gazette*.

All previous issues of the *Gazette* are available online as an archive at on the Glenkens Hub at www.glenkens.scot

Paul Goodwin

Carsphairn community market

Carsphairn Community Council and local children's group Bairn Banter held a community market in Lagwyne Hall on Saturday 16 September as part of Glenkens Food Month.

Visitors from near and far gathered in the hall to sample a selection of local produce such as jams, chutneys and preserves, fresh fruit/vegetables, handmade cards and crafts, and even handmade carpets.

There were also fundraising stalls and a presentation from the Glenkens Food Hub. A delicious selection of home baking was on offer, washed down with hot and cold beverages at the pop-up café in the hall's lounge area.

While adults shopped, children revelled in the fun and free activities offered by Bairn Banter, the popular stay-and-play children's group which runs every Saturday in Carsphairn's Lagwyne Hall. Funds raised at the market went to help support the ongoing running costs of the group, as well as annual events such as the kids halloween party on 28 October.

Founder of Bairn Banter,

Melissa Ade, said: "We are very lucky to have such a supportive community here in Carsphairn, with many generous residents contributing to our fundraising table and producing a wonderful spread to sell in aid of the group. The proceeds from the sales table and refreshments totalled a fabulous £151.01. On behalf of Bairn Banter, I want to say a big thank you to everyone involved!"



Galloway Glens booklet collection

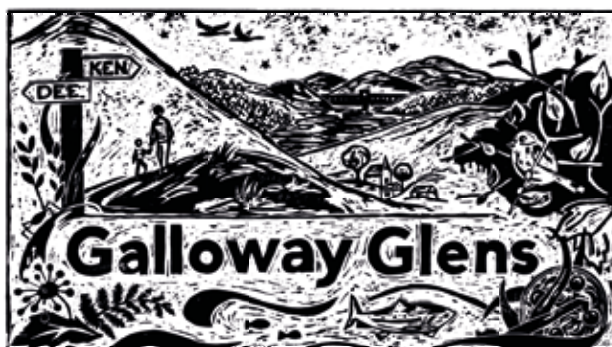
The Galloway Glens Scheme included the creation of six booklets, supporting some of the projects and initiatives undertaken during the project.

These booklets have now been distributed to local libraries and outlets, as well as to project partners, and are also available to read and download online on the Glenkens Hub at www.glenkens.scot/reports-resources-archive/galloway-glenks-booklets

The six booklets are:

- Glenkens Place-names: A window on our past
- Last Flights: A history of plane crashes in the Glenkens
- Ken Words: An anthology of writings
- Upper Gairloch: Investigations of a deserted settlement on the Raiders Road
- Little Hill Wood: Excavations of a prehistoric enclosure on the Threave Estate
- Barhill Wood, Kirkcudbright: Investigations in a historic woodland

The booklets were designed by Martha Schofield Design and edited by Sarah Ade from the *Glenkens Gazette*.



Glenkens Place-Names

A Window on our Past

The creation of this series of booklets was made possible thanks to the funders of the Galloway Glens Scheme.

particularly the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Drax, owners of the Galloway Hydro Scheme.

Autumn at St Margaret's

A good start to autumn
as we celebrated our
Harvest Festival at the end
of September.

With lots of abundant produce decorating the church, nobody could be left in any doubt as to what we were celebrating! However, as we remembered that not everyone is able to enjoy a good harvest, we were thankful to be able to make donations to local Foodbanks and Community Cupboards.

The decision to open the church when possible during the week has been well-received, and has increased awareness that we are here for one another and for our community. Dawn is thankful for the many conversations this has brought about, and for the gifts people have shared with us. She says; “an important part of our faith is prayer, and I’d like to encourage you to continue sharing your prayer requests. We would be pleased to pray for you, about anything and everything – both joys and sorrows.”

Remembrance Sunday is to be held on 12 November this year. Rev Pam Bellis will start with the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial just before 11am, and will continue over the road at St



***Beautiful harvest loaf
made by Carrie Winger -
can you spot the mouse?***

Margaret's where the service will be taken by both Pam and Dawn.

Now that the nights are drawing in our Sunday service time is reverting from the afternoon to 10.30am, with coffee/tea following the service. On Sunday 5 November we will be celebrating All Saints' Day and, within our morning service of Holy Communion, we will be spending time in reflection for those we love and have lost. There will be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved-one. All are welcome.

Looking ahead to Advent and Christmas celebrations, please keep your eyes open for details about our Advent and Christmas services. There will be carols and music galore, and definitely something for all ages!

Nicolette Wise

Gazette subscription

Do you have friends and family who don't live nearby but would love to know what's going on in the Glenkens on a regular basis?

Why not gift them a subscription to the *Glenkens Gazette*! The annual cost for a UK subscription is £45 and an international subscription is £72.50 (both prices include postage).

Please let us know if this is something you would be interested in by emailing glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk or calling 07727 127 997, as currently we're trying out this idea on a trial basis.



Afghan carpet charity fundraiser



Glenkens-based charity, the Afghan Schools Trust, has a number of handmade Afghan carpets for

sale at local fairs and markets as a fundraiser for their schools in Afghanistan. Trustees Robin Ade and Tony Long recently ran a stall at the Carsphairn Community Market where people could come along to see the carpets in person and buy. This was really well received and a number of

carpets were sold, generating much-needed funds.

The Trust's work enables the education of Afghan children, particularly in rural areas, through supporting the development of schools as well as necessary health and infrastructure needs for young people and their families. They have a focus on educating girls, and also fund a Women's Centre which offers higher education.

The Trust will have a stall at the CatStrand Shopping

Night on Saturday 2 December from 6-9pm and Corsock Craft Fair on Sunday 3 December from 11am-3pm.

For further information, or to arrange a visit to buy a carpet, please get in touch with Tony on antarthur@protonmail.com or 07507 704 821.

Pictured are Tony and Robin selling carpets at the Carsphairn Community Market along with some examples of carpets for sale.



Launch of the new Glenkens & District Community Fund

As longer term readers will be aware, the Glenkens & District Trust was established in 2011 to resource and enable community development in the Glenkens and surrounding communities using wind farm community benefit monies.

To date GDT has used funds provided from Blackcraig Wind Farm to support the local community, committing more than one million pounds to a range of initiatives including grants for community groups, education

and training bursaries, and commissioning research to help develop projects which will deliver against community priorities outlined in the local Community Action Plan.

Now that more money is becoming available through agreements made with the Greencoat Windy Rig windfarm, the Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd and others to come, it's time the fund arrangements got a new identity to reflect this 'pooled' approach - the Glenkens & District Community Fund.

The newly branded fund will continue to provide a single, consistent application process and set of Fund priorities which keeps it simple for applicants and easily identifiable for the Glenkens and District community, regardless of the source of funds.

Fiona Smith, Chair of the Fund said: "We are delighted to be able to announce the launch of the Glenkens & District Community Fund. We thank all of the fund donors who are contributing to this new arrangement, both the windfarm owners and community partners at the Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund. As the number of donors to our communities increases our aim is to continue to steward funds to a high standard, while keeping it simple for applicants"

For applicants, all the application forms, the fund priorities and the cycle of spring and autumn deadlines will remain the same as they were with the Blackcraig fund, and GDT continues to work in partnership with Foundation Scotland to administer the arrangements.



The first application deadline to the new Glenkens & District Community Fund will be 19 March 2024.

For further information please check <https://tinyurl.com/GandDCF> or get in touch with Suzy at foundationscotland.org.uk

Castle Douglas Rotary Club Go Wild!

This summer, the Galloway Glens Scheme led three 'Go Wild!' Outdoor Education Camps.

A total of 26 children took part, with a camp in Kirkcudbright, Castle Douglas and in the Glenkens at the Garroch Estate.

The week-long camps gave participants a once-in-a-lifetime experience of going wild in our beautiful countryside, giving the skills and confidence to enjoy the Galloway outdoors. The Castle Douglas Rotary Club supported this initiative, contributing towards the costs of the celebration event and John Muir Trust Awards ceremony at the Galloway Activity Centre in September.



This was a great example of how the Rotary club can support a wide range of projects. With the culmination of the Galloway Glens scheme this September, the Castle Douglas Rotary Club want to highlight that they will continue to support this type of

worthwhile project.

With the Club's track record of supporting the schools in the area, we would like to invite interested residents to join us to find out more about what we do at a set menu two-course dinner event on 26 October

from 6pm at the Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry.

The evening will include a not-to-be-missed local speaker and a short presentation to share a bit more about the Rotary Club - what can do, have done, want to do and dispel a few myths!

Please come along, join us and meet the team for a £20 evening out with a free glass of wine. For further information or to book at ticket contact Cliff on 07768 981 952 asap as numbers are limited.

Pictured is the Glenkens Go Wild! event held at the Garroch Estate, Dalry, which was also supported by the D&G Council's Regionwide Communities Fund

New Galloway Town Hall grand reopening

So far, we have been re-opening quietly, almost surreptitiously, letting people in a few at a time to sneak a peek.

Some activities are already underway, including our ever-popular LING Lunches, which have transitioned from Kitty's Tearoom back to the Town Hall. We're incredibly grateful to Sylvia for having let us use her lovely space for all these months, but at the same time delighted to be able to welcome people back into the community's own premises again.

Glenkens Food Month saw the Town Hall hosting its first pop-up restaurant event with local chef Risto Leino providing a mouthwatering three-course meal - good local food with a Finnish twist! Our two restaurant sittings quickly sold out, so we're hoping to put more of these on the calendar - Risto is already envisioning a smorgasbord for next time! Many thanks to Fleet Fish, Henderson butchers, Niko's restaurant and the Glenkens Gardeners for their generous support.

But our most important news is that on Saturday 21 October we'll be having our formal grand opening event, which we have titled 'A Time and a Place'. This will be an afternoon concert with a difference; the Catstrand Singers will be bringing us songs from the Glenkens, reminding us what a special place this is, with rousing choruses perfect for the audience to

participate. We'll be joined by pupils from Kells Primary and the Cubs who will help place items in the Town Hall Time Capsule - there'll be a bit of show-and-tell exploring the writings, photographs, mementos, special edition memorabilia and other small but historic artefacts which are going to be sealed behind a hidden partition in the refurbished Town Hall. The Cubs have already presented us with a scrapbook reflecting their experiences of living, learning, playing and exploring in the Glenkens, and Kells pupils have been hard at work on their time capsule contributions too. We think that hearing from local young people on the day will be a great way to focus our thoughts on the future of the Glenkens, even as we come together to celebrate our special heritage and shared past.

The 'A Time and a Place' grand reopening event is for all ages and we do hope you

can join us between 2.30pm and 4.30pm on Saturday 21 October as the doors of New Galloway Town Hall open properly, and for good. Tickets are free but essential for admittance on the day. They can be booked at <https://tinyurl.com/4kay6epj>. If you are unable to book online, please contact us on 07749 249781; leave a message with your name and how many tickets you want and we'll get back to you.

See the What's On and Regular Events sections on pages 38-39 for details of upcoming events and activities in New Galloway Town Hall.

The sell-out pop-up restaurant Food Month Event held in the newly-refurbished lesser dining hall of New Galloway Town Hall, and an example of the fabulous food on offer; a fab fruit bowl with local soft fruit and edible flowers



Together in the Glenkens

The Together in The Glenkens activity programme has got off to a wonderful start, with a wide variety of sessions on offer.

Our aim is for everyone in the Glenkens communities and beyond to have the opportunity to access life affirming activities which will enhance their mental health and wellbeing.

We want to provide an accessible and supportive network of activities which everyone is welcome to. So, here's a quick update of what we've been up to since June. New participants are of course welcome any time to any activity.

Tai Chi in New Galloway Park has enjoyed some delightful outdoor evenings, developing their understanding and enjoyment of the movements and philosophy of Tai Chi. This activity will be moving to New Galloway Town Hall from October, Mondays 6.30-8pm; further info can be found on the blue poster below.

Art for Wellbeing in Corsock have produced some lovely pieces of multi-media art and the group is looking forward to exploring their creative skills further throughout the autumn and winter months. The class meets at the Village Hall in Corsock, on Thursdays from 6.30-8.30pm.

Gentle Exercise provides a place of stillness and reflection, as well as building a routine of gentle chair yoga. "The class is really helping me, I am feeling the benefits and look forward to and enjoy the weekly session," said one new attendee. This class is held on Wednesdays at The Smiddy, Balmaclellan, from 4-5pm.

Art for Wellbeing in Balmaclellan allows you to start using oils to create your own pieces of art. The classes are full of tips and techniques that are invaluable in building an understanding of this diverse and satisfying artistic medium. Sessions run on Wednesdays at The Smiddy, Balmaclellan, from 10am-12pm.

Strictly Get Dancing is already proving immensely popular! Sam Rushton's happy and relaxed style of teaching results in all the participants learning and mastering a variety of Latin and Ballroom steps each session ... music and steps all in sync is a joy to see and experience. One participant said: "Loved that! Smiled all evening - thank you!" Classes run in four-weekly blocks, with a Christmas Social Dance planned for 18 December. Sessions are on Mondays at 7pm, rotating between Mossdale, Parton and Kirkpatrick Durham village halls.

Together in the Glenkens is also planning a twice-monthly **Gym & Swim** package, starting on 11 October. This will involve transport departing from New Galloway, with various pick-up locations en-route, and heading to Kirkcudbright Swimming Pool on Wednesday mornings and The Merrick Leisure Centre in Newton Stewart on Wednesday evenings. A super chance to build a regular exercise routine while sharing the journey and experience with others - contact Jo to find out more.

Our **Patchwork Workshop** also launches in October, where skills can be learned and enhanced to turn scraps



Supporting Mental Health & Wellbeing through welcoming activities

of textiles in to hand sewn items such as tote bags, cushion covers and Christmas decorations. These classes run on Thursdays at 1pm in Crossmichael Church Hall from the 17 October.

All the activities provide an opportunity to invite a new interest or exercise into your world, while meeting and making new friends and developing or polishing skills that we hope will have a feel-good effect on peoples' lives. Come along to any or all of them!

Together in the Glenkens is funded by the Scottish Government's Community Health and Wellbeing Fund, administered through Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway.

For more information, including prices and discount options, please get in touch with jo@catstrand.com, call the CatStrand on 01644 420 374, or visit www.gcat.scot/cic-learning-and-wellbeing-workshop-programme or scan the QR code below.



A full house at the Clachan Inn for the TiTG Pub Quiz (see below for details)

ART FOR WELLBEING MULTI-MEDIA

THURSDAYS 6.30 - 8.30pm
CORSOCK VILLAGE HALL
DOF 20W
A weekly class for Glenkens residents looking for fun, relaxed and creative art sessions, right in the heart of our beautiful region!
£12.50 per session
£45 per 4 week block
£70 per 6 week block
Cost includes all materials



TAI CHI

WEDNESDAYS 6.30-8.00pm
New Galloway Park / CatStrand
Indoor venue in New Galloway TBC
From Oct 3rd TUESDAYS 6.30 - 7.30pm
New Galloway Town Hall
£7 per session
£26 per 4 week block
£40 per 6 week block
Tea and healthy snack included



GENTLE EXERCISE FOR ALL

WEDNESDAYS 4-5pm
Starting from 19th July
THE SMIDDY BALMACLELLAN
A series of gentle exercises, to enhance Wellbeing and Resilience
£5 per session
£18 per 4 week block



ART FOR WELLBEING PAINTING WITH OILS

WEDNESDAYS 10.00-12.00pm
starting 23rd August
THE SMIDDY BALMACLELLAN
Master painting with oils tutored by Contemporary Painter Catherine Corfield
£12.50 per week all materials included
Block booking - £48 for 4 weeks



GYM & SWIM PACKAGE

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS
Kirkcudbright Swimming Pool - departing CatStrand 9am
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
Merrick Leisure Centre
Newton Stewart - departing CatStrand 5.30pm
Kbt Swim & Gym: £8.50 / £7.50 plus transport
Kbt Swim or Gym: £5 / £4 plus transport
Merrick Sauna, Spa, Gym & Swim: £8.60
£4.30 cones plus transport
Merrick Gym or Swim
Swim: £4.70/£2.30 cones plus transport
Gym: £6.90 / £3.50 cones plus transport



PIE, PINT n' PATTY at the CATSTRAND

LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 7.00pm - 10.00pm
CATSTRAND
August 25th Optional Gin Tasting
Talk - CE
Five Kingdoms Beer Tasting Session
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Serving "Pie and a Pint" at CatStrand's Bar
Just drop in for some Patter, Screenings & Informative Talks.
Pies available until 8pm



TITG PUB QUIZ

SUNDAY 27th August
7.00 for 7.30 pm start
Clachan Inn, Dalry
£1 per person
SUNDAY 29th October
7.00 for 7.30 pm start
Ken Bridge Hotel
£1 per person

STRICTLY GET DANCING with Sam Rushton

MONDAYS starting August 21st
7.00pm - 8.30pm
Venues: MOSSDALE, PARTON & KIRKPATRICK DURHAM VILLAGE HALLS
Learn a new Ballroom and Latin Dance, every 4 weeks!
No need to bring a partner
No dance experience necessary - all welcome
£8 drop-in
£28 for a 4 week block



PATCHWORK WORKSHOP

THURSDAYS 1 - 3.00pm
starting 12th October
Crossmichael Church Hall
Learn hand stitching patchwork with a skilled tutor, turn your scraps of fabric into creative items, such as tote bags, decorations for Christmas, cushion covers and gifts
£6.50
£24 per 4 week block



Our children's voices



A meeting was held by the Education Department at Dalry Secondary School for parents and pupils, and children were asked their views on how to move forward with the current small class sizes.

But in a formal meeting setting such as that, young people, understandably, find it very difficult to speak up.

So with mounting pressure from school management for the children in small class cohorts to move out of catchment to Castle Douglas High School, we wanted to offer a space in the *Gazette* for Dalry Secondary pupils to have their voices heard.

"In my personal experience in Dalry small classes are a very effective way of learning as the student will have more confidence to share their views, opinions and questions with their peers and teachers."

"Dalry is an absolutely essential school to have in this area otherwise the school kids would need to travel to CD which is further away and I think I speak for a lot of people when I say it has a less positive social atmosphere."

"A lot of my friends have gone

there and suffered from bullying and ostracization, which I can safely say are not an issue at a friendly school like Dalry. Socially it's a very good environment since it's such a small school we all know each other and are friends."

"I honestly just wish that people would care for the school and put more money and effort into it as they do other schools."

"I moved from a small school in Aberdeen and it was great to join Dalry Secondary School."

"I didn't feel confident enough to go to a really big school. Dalry builds my confidence and gives me a chance to get to know the teachers and make friends with some of them. I also made friends with all the girls in S2. They are LOADS of good company."

"Seeing everyone leave recently was really sad because in just one week the school shrank so much in size. And lots of people were going to really big schools. I feel loyal to Dalry. I will refuse to leave"

"You know everyone at the school. I like that the teachers know everyone."

"You get opportunities that other schools don't. I don't like the fact that the S4s are now in with the S1 class. Sometimes the school is too quiet."

"I think Dalry is great."

"It could do with a couple more students. My friend and I are the only girls in S1. People are dropping out like stones. But I really like Dalry because it's small enough that I know everyone's names, I never get lost and I know all the teachers and their personalities."

"Dalry Secondary School to me means everything."

"It is easy to access, it's very friendly because I know everyone. There's not too many people. I get panicky and nervous around too many people."

"With not too many pupils at

Dalry Secondary, teachers have more time for each pupil 1:1. I feel more confident at Dalry with smaller numbers. I would like to see the MUGA re-open for the children to use in school time."

"Dalry school is my catchment area school."

"I wouldn't choose to go to any other school. Dalry makes me feel happy, safe. The teachers are very supportive, friendly, easy to approach and always with a listening ear."

"We are a close knit group of friends at school, from S1-S4, and even have communication with Nursery to P7. We are so lucky to be a through school. I like the small classes in secondary and I feel more confident talking in front of my class when it's small numbers."

"The teachers are always available to help with our work, support us when we are struggling. We have a big playing field, I would like to be able to make use of the field for sports get-togethers with other local schools."

"The school is good because its not crowded."

Photograph of pupils outside Dalry Secondary by Jim McEwan, Galloway News



MATTHEW PAJO

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Citizens advice Glenkens outreach



Dumfries & Galloway Citizens Advice Service (D&GCAS) now have a regular outreach service at two venues in the Glenkens.

Funded by the Blackcraig Windfarm fund, the clinics are held fortnightly on a Monday at the Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, and fortnightly on a Tuesday at CatStrand, New Galloway.

Fiona Norbury, the clinic's generalist advisor, is on hand from 10am to 4pm to give advice on a range of topics such as housing, debt, benefits, employment and much more. No appointments are necessary and the service is free, confidential, impartial and independent.

Fiona said: "Please feel free to drop in to any of the available clinics, or if you can't make it and need advice you can call the Dumfries office on 0300 303 4321 and ask to leave a message for the Glenkens advisor, who will return your call. Or you can visit the D&GCAS website at www.dagcas.org".



The outreach project's Generalist Advisor, Fiona Norbury, at a Glenkens Community Centre outreach session

Bluebell wood clean-up

My Mum and I were extremely saddened to discover, on our walk at the bluebell woods by the New Galloway golf course back in August, that someone had thrown a number of half-empty paint pots around the entrance to the woods.

The paint was strewn and splattered all over the wall, ground and trees with the pots left lying in and around puddles of the paint.

The main reason I wanted to put this story in the *Gazette* is to say how grateful we are for our wonderful community, who rallied around and swiftly mobilised a clean-up operation. Special thanks go to Andrew Frew and Tim Curtis, who cleared up what they could of the mess before it could cause too much harm to plants/animals, and reported it to the police.

I can't imagine who would do this but thankfully we live in a community that takes pride in our beautiful surroundings and will always come together when needed.

Emma Curtis



News from Dalry Community Council

We want to share more of what St Johns Town of Dalry Community Council is involved in and introduce ourselves to old and new residents.

We have nine members with different areas of interest, all supporting the good of the community of Dalry and the parish. We work closely with other Community Councils in the Glenkens and Stewartry area, coming together as one voice when needed and focusing on Dalry daily.

Current Members include Michele Owen (Chair), Jenna Cains (Vice Chair), Morag Paterson (Secretary), Gerald Bell (Treasurer), Alex McCrae, Graham West, Gary Blissett, Linda Halsall and Maureen Biggar.

We welcome the residents of Dalry to attend any of the Community Council meetings. They occur on the first Monday of the month in Dalry Town Hall at 7pm. If you can give a couple of hours a month to support your village however you feel you can, that would be fantastic. There may be skills, knowledge or experiences we can utilise, and of course, you get

the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping yourself and others in a place we are all proud of.

Engagement and listening to residents in Dalry is something we would like to develop. We would love to hear your views on how we can engage and communicate with all residents and help share news and events with you all. All thoughts and ideas are welcome.

Paid support opportunity:

We are looking into an honorarium position to assist us in dealing with emails, minutes and public notices. We will officially notify residents of this role shortly; in the meantime, if you are interested, please drop us a line at the email address below.



We are always looking for additional members to share the tasks and achievements. We wish to ensure the best future for our village, community, and landscape, and with your help, we can achieve more.

For more info or to contact us please email sjtdalrycc@gmail.com

See more on local governance, committees and community councils over the page...

Local governance and our communities...

In this edition of the Gazette we will be looking at local governance and how the groups and committees across the Glenkens function, continuing with more on this topic in the December/January edition.

Why I chose to join a community council...

When I moved to Dalry in 2021 I was keen to get to know the community I was now a part of; its history and the different activities and events that make up life in the village. Through speaking to a number of people I found out about the community council and attended my first meeting (just to be nosey!) as a spectator. Through the many varied discussions going on about the village and surrounding areas I was inspired by the diverse experience, knowledge and interests of the members and the subjects they discussed to become a fully fledged member, joining officially by the next meeting.

Over the next two years, I continued to attend community council meetings where we discussed topics such as forestry, the health and wellbeing of the community, renewable energy and the Glenkens District Trust, as well as more fun tasks such as

coordinating Christmas trees and Jubilee celebrations. Through these meetings I have been able to not only get involved with some really worthwhile projects (such as the Community Health and Wellbeing survey) but also to get to know my fellow community councillors and the people of Dalry who give their time and effort to make this the place in which we live today.

The Community Council, at its heart, is there to support the people who live in and around Dalry and being part of this team, whether through investigating complaints from local residents, acting as a sounding board for ideas or by working with our elected councillors to explore new initiatives for the village and the Glenkens, I hope I can contribute towards a positive difference for the community.

I would really encourage anyone who, like me, enjoys being a part of our community to get in touch as there are lots of ways we can make a difference, with projects ranging from organising litter picking volunteers to

more complex issues such as the Glenkens education provision, there really is something for every interest and schedule.

Being a part of the Community Council ensures our community has a voice, and that we can give support and time to the things that are important to us in keeping Dalry a fantastic place to call home. With this as the goal, it is safe to say that I truly enjoy working with the Community Council and hope that, if not already, I get to meet more of the people in and around the village and help them in any way I can.

Michele Owen



In praise of committees

Being on a committee, a Board, a Steering Group, a Community Council, a Parent Council can be frustrating and boring.

It can be hours of pre-read and a meeting on a sunny evening when you'd rather be walking the dog. It's putting the tables and chairs out to start the meeting, and putting them away again at the end. It's trying to remember to write up the Minutes in good time, and to get your actions done between meetings. And sometimes it's being stopped on the street when you're just trying to pick up some milk to get told that you're doing it all wrong. So why do so many of us in the Glenkens do it? Because it's the only way to get things done.

The Glenkens has an amazing track record of community work stretching back decades. From Dalry Town Hall which never came out of community ownership, to the CatStrand opening 16 years ago, to Carsphairn Community Woodland, the heritage centres, the renovation of New Galloway Town Hall and other asset transfers, Glenkens Food Month, Loch Ken Trust - literally too many

to mention. And all of this was achieved by an astonishing amount of hard work by volunteers sitting

on committees. Because they cared and because they knew it was important.

It's fun to sit on the sidelines, pointing out all the things that aren't right. It's easy to write a letter or stop someone in the street with a good idea that 'should' be done. What's hard is making it happen.

We need the good ideas and the identification of problems - and then we need the people who turn up to the meetings, write the grant applications, puzzle through the business plans and have sleepless nights over the finances. Community work is exhausting - but when you get it right, gosh, it's rewarding. To see a playgroup flourishing or an activity programme bringing new people together or a building buzzing with life again and know that you played your part in making it happen - that's why we do it.

So thank you to the hundreds of people in the Glenkens who have stepped up over the years to make things happen for this amazing community. Without you, we would all be much the poorer. I hope you feel that it was worth it, and more power to your elbow!

Helen Keron

Stronger together

I was delighted to meet with a number of Community Council representatives in August, to see if meetings between the Councils would add value.

We had a very positive meeting, where we discussed Local Place Plans (see page 14) and the difficulty and some solutions to recruiting Community Council members and engaging effectively with all members of their community.

We agreed to meet again in November after the outcome of funding to support Local Place Planning is known.

If any Community Council member in the Glenkens would like to be on the invitation list personally, do let me know on helen@catstrand.com

Helen

...how it works and how to get involved

The Kinks, The Beatles and local councils

In 1968, The Kinks surprised the world upon the release of their sixth studio album *The Kinks Are the Village Green Preservation Society*.

At a time where other British bands such as The Beatles, The Who, and The Rolling Stones were taking the USA by storm, gearing up for the so-called 'Summer of Love', The Kinks took an alternate approach which set them apart from the hegemonic depiction of youth culture in the late 1960s. Throughout the album, the listener encounters numerous vignettes and character studies that evoke nostalgia and a vague desire to preserve so-called 'British' things for posterity.

The album may be understood as using common cultural experiences of the past to cope with the alienation felt in the present – alienation that has only increased in the decades since.

As ever with Ray Davies, however, there was a twist. Many critics sensed an underlying cynicism to the album's veneration of a certain way of life, concluding that it might have been intended as a sharp rebuttal to those who were obsessed with romanticising a non-existent past. To this day critics are divided over whether Davies' intentions were ironic or if he truly yearned for the traditions outlined in his work.

Nowadays, in our advanced, post-industrial world, his concerns may seem reactionary, a musical manifestation of NIMBY ideology. Fifty years later local politics is still riddled with views that carry similar objectionable undertones. Groups who are already marginalised can be disproportionately stigmatised due to obsessive attitudes towards antisocial behaviour. Long-standing prejudices against municipal housing and so-called 'problem estates' erase the reality that, for many, moving into a council house provided life-changing security – not dependency – enabled the creation of joyful family homes.



The disingenuousness that is so often tied to community associations does little to widen their appeal. In truth, local politics does lack the glamour and intrigue of the happenings in Holyrood, Westminster, and the Whitehouse. It conjures up images of the petty and twee, figures who are sticklers for procedure, oblivious to the relative insignificance of their role.

I first became involved in local politics myself whilst living in London as a student. There I met countless individuals who cared deeply about their

first introduced in 1975 under the 1973 Local Government Act. They are voluntary organisations, meaning their existence depends entirely on the will of individuals in the area to stand for election. Exemplifying their preference for channelling the opinions of their local communities above all else is their non-party-political and non-sectarian nature. But what do they do?

Community councils have the right to be notified of and respond to any planning applications, so spare them a thought as you draw up plans for your new six-storey extension – or equally if you wish to protest that of your neighbour. Parks, playgrounds, and footpaths also fall within their sphere of activity, so it is them who should be approached if you carry concerns about the haunting spectre of a swings and roundabouts accident. Local events, the magnets which can pull together our otherwise potentially disparate and inward-looking communities, can be organised by, with, and through community councils.

Above all else, they provide residents with a voice. They are a means by which one can prevent changes that do not best

serve a community.

That is not to say that all change is inherently bad.

Likewise, opposing change does not a reactionary NIMBY make. Rather, to take one example, some types of change can prioritise the leisure and pleasure of those who are visiting – who have expendable income and homes

to which they can return elsewhere – over the basic necessities of those living in a certain area.

The community councils occupied by the readership of the *Glenkens Gazette* include Balmaclellan, Balmaghie, Carsphairn, Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael and District, Dalry, Parton, and the luxuriously named Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells Parish. It is a lesser-known arm of government, but one that can be instrumental in fostering a sense of collective responsibility for the areas in which we live. Through them you too can make meaningful contributions to a community of which you can be proud.

Dominique Matthew

...introduced in 1975 under the 1973 Local Government Act. They are voluntary organisations, meaning their existence depends entirely on the will of individuals in the area to stand for election.

communities and wished to provide a more personal voice to their residents. Making sure that bins are collected on time, that local schools are functioning, and that public transport is cohesive may not seem glamorous, but they are the first things we notice when they do not work or cease to exist.

Over time I found that local politics is equally significant in rural communities where issues such as isolation and accessibility take on different dimensions. Dumfries & Galloway council has a large remit under which most of the aforementioned issues fall, but what about at a more local level?

Community councils in Scotland were

Local Place Plans - coming to a village near you!

You may have heard about Local Place Planning already - you may never have heard of it!

But it is coming, and it is something of importance to us all. Dumfries & Galloway Council will be creating a new region-wide Local Development Plan in 2024, and as an important feed into that, they are asking individual settlements or parishes to create Local Place Plans (LLPs) for their local area.

The crucial thing about LPPs is that they include 'spatial planning' - where you would or wouldn't like to see house building, light industry development, protected green spaces, etc. They should also be a statement about what is already there that is important to you, like local shops or schools.

They also ask wider questions

about the priorities of the communities, but a lot of these have been answered in our Glenkens and district Community Action Plan (CAP). Glenkens Community & Arts Trust is therefore seeking funding to create a role to coordinate Local Place Plans across the area, so that we can get the best of both worlds - not duplicating the good work that was done to create the CAP, but amplifying it with the views of individual settlements about spatial planning.

So what has all this got to do with you? If you are a Community Council (CC) or a community group who would like to create a Local Place Plan for their area, then there are loads of resources online if you search 'Local Place Plans - what are they?' on the Dumfries & Galloway Council website (dumgal.gov.uk). And if you'd like to be included in the discussions about coordinating the work and accessing a paid resource for support in creating

them, then contact helen@catstrand.com

If you are a Glenkens resident and you'd like to be involved, then either contact your CC to find out what the local process is going to be, or just look out for consultation sessions that might start popping up at the end of the year. Although Dalry CC is going great guns and already has theirs well underway! Balmaclellan CC

should also be thanked for raising awareness of this whole issue at their recent meeting.

The LPPs only have to be submitted by the end of next year, so there's plenty of time to find out more and engage in this process. But whether you are creating your Local Place Plan or feeding into it, do be sure to get your views in. It's easy to overlook consultations like this, but I think we all have a view on how much housing we need and what our green spaces mean to us. This process is a way of getting those views heard and incorporated at a regional level, so it's worth turning out one more time!

*Helen Keron,
GCAT Executive Manager*



Your Town Hall needs you!

Building on the success of being awarded grant funding amounting to £50,000 for energy efficiency improvements, Dalry Town Hall's management team are now reaching out to the community, both young and old, new and long-standing residents, to invite them to join the team.

Committee Chair Lesley Blisset commented: 'We are small in

number but big on commitment. However, in order to achieve our goal of keeping the hall well-maintained and improving the facilities available so that it continues to be a welcoming and safe place for users and hirers, we need to increase our strength."

The team are planning to host a 'Meet and Greet' evening in December (date to be confirmed, but will be listed in the next *Gazette*, as well as on the website and Facebook). The session will probably take place in the first week of December and refreshments, wine and a very warm welcome will be on offer!

Put your talents to good use as a friend of Dalry Town Hall

There are a number of exciting opportunities. If you are

passionate about local produce, why not get involved in the organisation of the Producers Market? This could include liaising with stall holders, planning the layout, helping with set-up and take-down and being present at the market, as well as looking at ways to increase footfall and turnover.

Perhaps your strengths lie in marketing and publicity. Could you help by producing and designing content for the website and social media, managing and administering the website, or creating posters for events at the hall? Or would you like to get involved with the day-to-day running of the town hall, welcoming hirers to the building or managing bookings?

If you have experience with event planning, and would like

to use your organisational and creative skills to put together events to raise funds for the Town Hall, or have new ideas for activities or celebrations that will encourage a wider range of the population to participate in activities at the hall, the team would love to hear more. And if you are interested in fundraising, notwithstanding recent successes in this area, there is a constant need to raise funds in order to ensure that the building is well maintained so as to avoid costly issues in future.

Whatever your skills, the team at Dalry Town Hall is very keen to welcome new members. This is an opportunity to be part of a team whose mission is to maintain, manage and preserve one of the best rural heritage assets in the Glenkens.

To find out more, or register your interest for the 'Meet and Greet' event, please contact Lesley Blissett on lesleyblissett52@gmail.com or 07710 525 927.

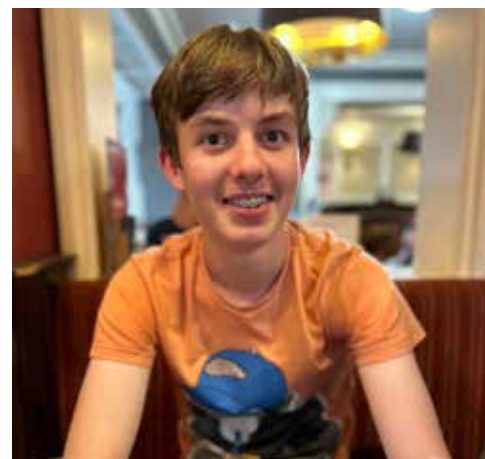
Glenkens Youth Correspondent

Joshua Wells is our new *Glenkens Gazette* youth columnist, and will be writing each issue about things which interest him.

In this edition he has researched New Galloway Town Hall and written a bit about its history as well as the hall today. Below Joshua gives a little bit of background to himself.

I'm Joshua Wells, aged 14, I am an aspiring political journalist, and I have recently moved to the area.

I enjoy writing and following current events. I also like reading. Some of my favourite books include; Animal Farm, Great Gatsby and All Quiet on the Western Front. When I'm not at school you will find me travelling or spending time outside with my family as well as volunteering.



She said: "We took asset transfer (ownership) from the Council in August 2022 and

I also asked Anne what have been the highlights, and she said that having the Victorian moral maxims around the top of the Upper Hall repainted by a specialist so they look beautiful and can be read properly again, getting the external painting achieved at last and getting the lift installed and working.

Ann says the highlight she is looking forward to is the celebratory launch on 21 October (see p8). She also really enjoyed how many volunteers have been willing to give time over the past six and seven weekends to help with beginning clearing and cleaning in the hall. She also enjoyed how nice it has been to carry on with LING lunches in Kitty's. That has felt as if some of the essence of LING has been able to continue.

Did you know karate started in the town hall in September? So if your young person is looking for something to do on Thursday nights, this might be for them.

I think we can all agree the town hall stands at the physical and emotional heart of new Galloway.

New Galloway Town Hall was built some time before 1771.

In 1875 it was rebuilt and enlarged. In early 1970 it became a category B listed building (buildings of special architectural or historic interest which are major examples of a particular period, style or building type). New Galloway Town Hall is located at High Street, New Galloway.

According to the *Daily Record* New Galloway Town Hall was sold for a bargain £1 to Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING). When LING eventually secured funding they started undertaking a vast renovation of the town hall both inside and out to save this historic building while making it a fully accessible, efficient and effective community space. Improvements to the hall

include: a new air source heat pump, improved insulation, new windows, suspended ceiling, accessible toilets, and a brand new lift.

These repairs and refurbishment will make the building a great venue for events, workshops and classes as well as the famous LING lunches.

I asked Ann, the secretary of LING, what have been the challenges of refurbishing the town hall. She said that there were many things that were difficult such as stamina, price increases, tradesmen being too busy and overcommitted (so they start and need to disappear to another job), Covid, holiday, one delay leading to lots of knock-on effects and managing grants, as in not just getting offers, but providing all the evidence needed to draw it down at the end of the day.

although we had most of our fundraising grants in place by then, it took a few months to get tradesmen lined up to start. Proper work began in October - so it will be about a year."

I interviewed former users of the hall and they were really excited about the hall opening. One said: "I will be very pleased when it happens." Another New Galloway resident said: "I hope to see film nights and quizzes." Another remarked: "I think dances would be a great event in the town hall because it is a great floor for dancing people used to come from miles around just to dance at New Galloway Town Hall." Nearly everyone said they are looking forward to the clock working again some even said they had to buy a watch since the town hall clock stopped. People were buzzing at the idea that there might be a Christmas concert on the horizon.

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Midsummer in the Glenkens

Having been away working most of June, it was great to get back home to Dalry and set out on a gloriously bright day with big white puffy clouds and just enough breeze to blow away midges and clegs.

Down the boat weil, over the swinging brig and up Water of Ken to Waterside Hill along the Southern Upland Way. The

grasses, bracken and other ferns were lush and swaying slowly to the tunes of assorted bird songs and calls. A male whitethroat sang his scratchy song from a haw bush, while slow rasping calls revealed more, and probably a brood, in the undergrowth. A fine male whinchat sang obligingly from a high wire – so

much easier than spotting him atop one of a thousand thistles or bracken fronds. They are fine ventriloquists and usually further away than their fluted notes suggest. Early willow warblers now had their second wind and one sang from the saughs (willows) towards the fish ladder now behind me.

The falling cadence always reminds me of a falling feather. These were the obvious songs, but there was another, more delicate, initially unseen songster valiantly issuing his understated high-pitched notes in three parts: two short, one longer. This was the coalheid or reed bunting, magnificent in his glossy black head and bib, with pristine white collar and moustache. How handsome he looked as he opened his tiny triangular bill to send out his song from the rashes. An agitated female whinchat chacked as I passed and presently she was joined by her recently-fledged brood returning her calls as they scattered over the bracken. A second brood was about the upper half of the hill, whilst a profusion of meadow brown and ringlet butterflies flicked through the grasses and made the ground their own.

All of this was very uplifting, of course, but as I progressed, I couldn't help but be drawn into negative thoughts of the recent afforestation of Waterside Hill, against the wishes of many local people and indeed local community councils. Whilst all these birds and more were currently thriving and revelling in the open lush habitat, inevitably the growth of the trees will deny them, especially on the far side of the hill where the bulk of the dreaded Sitka regiments will dominate and darken all beneath them. In my work with RSPB over nearly three decades I was involved in several regional and other more local community initiatives,

facilitated by D&G Council, Forestry Commission and Scottish Natural Heritage. These ranged from the Indicative Forestry Strategy and Woodland Plans as part of the regional Structure Plan processes, to Local Forestry Frameworks designed to identify constraints to, and opportunities for, new woodland planting in two pilot areas, one in Galloway and one in eastern Dumfriesshire. Reflecting the growing anxiety over continuing forest expansion, all of these involved extensive public consultations, and the latter included intensive local community workshops, etc, and provided detailed

...an interim embargo on further non-native conifer planting in certain areas like Galloway would be welcomed by most, and would come as a great relief to our quality of life, visitors, and biodiversity.

information and recommendations over the type of woodland, if any, that might be appropriate in different compartments.

However, sad to say, all of these hopes and efforts of many resulted in little or no change, in so far as proposals for extensive non-native conifer plantations, largely Sitka spruce, continued to be approved and supported by public grants in semi-natural upland habitats - to the continuing loss of dependent open country birds and other valued biodiversity. In short, the forest industry largely ignored these initiatives and, backed by public funding, followed the money and indeed continue to target places like upland Galloway, where land is relatively cheap and infrastructure and industry are well-established, but where, of course, there is so little remaining scope for yet more forestry to all who really value what diminishing open country, landscapes and biodiversity we have left.

This situation has existed, more or less, for many decades now, and is tellingly recorded in the late Derek Ratcliffe's excellent *Galloway and the Borders* (2007) in

Collins' prestigious New Naturalist series. Derek was a former Chief Scientist of the Nature Conservancy Council and a frequent visitor to the Glenkens and wild Galloway. Of course, foresters themselves are not to blame, it's what they do and know. Equally, no blame can be attached to farmers and other landowners selling up, as they have their own existing and future financial situations to consider, as have we all.

Surely, the fault lies in the blunt financial grants system that applies equally across Scotland, with no impediment to continued planting in places like Galloway, Carrick and

parts of Dumfriesshire, etc, where so many areas are so heavily overplanted already. Whilst I am no longer up to speed on the needs and economics associated with such timber, I do know it relies on huge public financial incentives, and I believe these should be targeted better. A holistic land-use strategy seems beyond the reach of our

current politicians, but I'm sure an interim embargo on further non-native conifer planting in certain areas like Galloway would be welcomed by most, and would come as a great relief to our quality of life, visitors, and biodiversity.

On over the top of Waterside Hill and a late whaup called from down near The Score. On an earlier walk I'd heard a pair on Hannaston beyond, but again their continuing presence will be increasingly jeopardised as the young Sitka trees develop. The attractive open scrub of the southwest-facing brae down to Garroch Burn was moving with fledged willow warblers, whitethroats and another whinchat brood, the third I'd seen this day. All of these birds would soon be heading off south on migration to sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. What an adventure.

On the lower slope I came on more meadow brown, ringlet and small pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies, all enjoying the shelter and strong June sun. Across the burn I checked two red kite nests on the way back to Dalry, both with big chicks close to fledging. The sand martin colony on the Ken, just above the confluence with Coom Burn, was buzzing with delight as adults and fledged chicks zipped about just over and high above the water. So uplifting. Then, a wonderful and more surprising conclusion to my walk on this lovely day – the distinctive piping of common sandpiper, somewhere through the saughs on the water's edge. I never did see it (them?), but the call is quite unmistakable. This wasn't an unusual place for them, but it was the first time I'd heard them just there this year, which brought a grateful smile.

Chris Rollie, late June 2023



Male whinchat by Tim Melling



**Electrical
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Limited**

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

When you make the decision to install solar panels, you're making an investment for a positive future.

However, it is essential that you choose a reputable company who takes care of you from beginning to end - and then some.

Sadly, here at RJW we have been to our fair share of homes to re-do or fix a job undertaken by a less than reputable company.

So what can you expect from us? You can expect expertise; we have over 12 years PV installation experience and a team of highly-skilled solar professionals.

From a small family home to a large commercial establishment, every job is carried out with

meticulous care. We take pride in our work and never leave a premises without feeling 100% happy with it. And, being a local company, our team live in the area and want to get more work, so it works in our favour to do things right by you, unlike firms coming from elsewhere who do the job as quick as possible and then leave, never to be seen again.

So if you've been thinking about solar panels, or about getting a battery for your existing system, get in touch to book a free consultation or to find out more. And of course you're also welcome to visit our website to find out more at www.rjwes.co.uk

Contact RJW Electrical Services TODAY for your free, no obligation quote.

Rob Wade, RJW Electrical Services Ltd, 01387 810 428



RJW Electrical Services Limited
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- A Team Of Expert Engineers ✓
- Impeccable After Care Service ✓

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Eco Feature

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How solar panels and battery storage could work for your home

You will most likely have seen solar panels going up on houses around the Glenkens over the last few years, with this year seeing a boom in installations thanks to a number of government incentives.

So what are the benefits of solar energy for you? Let's take a look...

Solar power may take an initial outlay, but it can potentially save you money in the long run, although the specific amount will depend on various factors.

Considering Solar Power

Initial investment: Installing a solar power system requires an upfront investment, including the cost of solar panels, installation, and any necessary equipment. However, prices for solar panels have been decreasing over the years, making them more affordable.

How It Works

Energy production: Solar panels generate electricity by harnessing sunlight. The amount of energy your solar system can produce depends on factors like the size of the system, the location, and the amount of sunlight it receives. By generating your own electricity, you can reduce your reliance on the grid and potentially lower your energy bills.

The Start of Energy Independence

Net metering: Many utility companies offer net metering programs. When your solar panels produce excess electricity, it can be sent back to the grid, and you receive credits for the energy you contribute. During times when your panels aren't producing enough electricity (such as at night), you can use these credits to offset the energy you consume from the grid.

Use More, Gain More

Energy consumption: The amount of money you can save with solar power also depends on your energy consumption. If you use a significant amount of electricity, a larger solar system can potentially cover a substantial portion of your energy needs, resulting in greater savings. Energy-efficient practices, such as using energy-efficient

appliances and optimising your energy usage, can further enhance the benefits.

Battery Storage: If you have batteries for your solar, they can be charged overnight off the grid, on a much lower tariff. This makes a significant difference to the charging cost, saving you money once again.

Who Doesn't Love An Incentive?

Incentives and rebates: Government incentives, tax credits, and rebates can help offset the initial costs of installing solar power systems. These incentives vary by location, so it's essential to research what financial benefits are available in your area.

Look After Them, They Will Look After You

Lifespan and maintenance: Solar panels have a long lifespan, typically ranging from 25 to 30 years or more. With proper



maintenance, they can continue to generate electricity efficiently. Maintenance usually involves periodic cleaning and inspections to ensure optimal performance.

It's recommended to consult with solar installation professionals and assess your specific circumstances to get a more accurate understanding of the potential cost savings.

SOLAR BATTERY STORAGE

Solar battery storage is the process of storing energy generated by solar panels in batteries for later use.

This technology has become increasingly popular in recent years as more people seek to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and decrease their carbon footprint.

By using solar battery storage, households and businesses can store excess solar energy generated during the day and use it when needed, such as during the night or on

cloudy days.

This not only saves money on energy bills but also helps to reduce strain on the electricity grid. Additionally, with advances in battery technology, solar battery storage systems are becoming more efficient and affordable, making them a viable option for more people around the world.

If you have a solar PV system and are not at home during the day to use the energy produced by the panels, then a battery will help you use that energy later on, cutting your electricity bills.

When the sun is shining during the daytime, you can meet your consumption needs by using your household appliances.

Without a battery storage system, when night time comes, and your solar panels have clocked off for the day, you will return to being dependent on energy suppliers for all of your needs. Batteries solve this issue by storing excess energy for use when your panels cannot generate any green energy.

Battery Benefits

• Optimization of self-generated energy

Having only solar panels, the energy source is dependent on the time of day. With battery storage added, you can store additional energy which has been generated and become more energy independent

• Save on your energy bills

A standard solar PV system will help you cut down energy consumption during the day. However, it is during the evening when solar battery storage can discharge the stored electricity from your battery system, providing you with renewable-generated electricity at no additional cost.

• Be more energy independent

Purchasing a solar battery will be a significant step toward off-grid self-sufficiency as you are keeping your costs to the energy suppliers and the grid operator lower.

In Conclusion...

Whilst a stand-alone PV solar panel system can be very beneficial and save you money, adding a solar battery system can accelerate your savings and put you on the path to complete energy independence.

Rob Wade,
www.rjwes.co.uk

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/trimmers/other small machinery. Non-runners/broken welcome. Contact: 07845 562 217

Mystery cave on the Garple

There is an intriguing cave along the Garple Burn which a reader stumbled across recently and wonders if anyone knows its original purpose.

Roughly 200m down along the Garple from Grennan Bridge, the cave looks

small from the outside but is larger inside and clearly man-made.

Was this a cold store for one of the larger houses? Or perhaps a Covenanters' hide-out? Are there any local historians out there who have any information on what this cave's original purpose could be? If so, please email or call the Gazette (details on the back page).



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
help with housing in the Glenkens

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

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



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

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CAKES
AVAILABLE TO
ORDER



INFORMATION

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7.30am - 5.30pm

SATURDAY 8.30am - 5pm

SUNDAY 8.30am - 3pm

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DALMELLINGTON COUNTRY
BUTCHERS

UPPER DULLARG EGGS

MITCHELLS FRUIT & VEG

SWEETCAKES BAKERY

GLENKENS HONEY COMPANY

CREAM O GALLOWAY

GALLOWAY LODGE PRESERVES

IRVINGS BAKERY

SCOTTISH GALLOWAY PASTA

GLENKENS HONEY COMPANY

POP IN FOR A CHAT AND A BROWSE



GALLOWAY GLENS

Landscape Partnership

Walking around Crossmichael, there are now places to stop and stare and think about our history; be it the seat by the war memorial, the seat by the Wee Book Hoose or the by the church hall.

There is also a seat in the Hearse House, opened in 2019, where a timeline of the village reminds us it was a place of Viking and Roman Conquest and tracks the impact of social change over

hundreds of years.

Our thanks to the Galloway Glens team, who kept John Nelson (the chairman of the Crossmichael Heritage group) and his team on track and helped us deliver on time and in budget.

Jane McCarthy

Crossmichael Community Council

Pictured are some Crossmichael Heritage Project volunteers beside the Hearse-hoose time-line.



We didn't realise back in 2017 what a mammoth undertaking digitising the Carsphairn Archive would be!

Carsphairn Heritage Group had collected an amazing inventory relating to the lives of past residents of the area, and we were keen to preserve it for the future and make accessible for everyone, where ever they were in the world.

We could not have succeeded

without the help of Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership whose funding under the 'Our Heritage' Small Grants Scheme allowed us to get professional help to scan large and fragile documents; archival storage to protect photographs and papers; and equipment to help with digitisation.

As important as the funding, the support Galloway Glens provided to the project and the morale boost this gave

volunteers, was just as vital. Galloway Glens also put us in touch with Dumfries Archival Mapping Project (DAMP) who had undertaken the task of collecting scans of estate maps in the area. They kindly (and for free!) scanned our 1838 plan of Woodhead and adjacent farms (you can view the huge map on the National Libraries of Scotland website).

We finally "completed" digitising the archive in January 2021, but like all huge projects it's never really finished! There remain transcriptions to be made, past Heritage Centre exhibitions to re-assemble online, and we are pleased to receive and digitise any further donations to the collection.

The long term security of the digital archive has been secured not only by Carsphairn

Community Council's commitment to hosting the online archive, for which we are very grateful, but also by the invitation we received from the Archives Hub to upload and host our archive there, where more researchers can find and make use of it.

Take a look at the archive yourself at www.carsphairn.org/CarsphairnArchive and on the Archives Hub at www.archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk

None of this would have been possible without the help and support of Galloway Glens and anyone who uses the archive will be forever grateful they were there to make the project possible.

Thank you Galloway Glens and farewell!

Pictured are volunteers hard at work archiving Carsphairn heritage materials.



FAREWELL

The Galloway Glens Scheme:

This September saw the completion of the delivery phase of the Galloway Glens Scheme, closing five years of work up and down the Ken/Dee valley which sought to 'connect people to our heritage', boost the local economy, and support sustainable communities.

The Scheme has overseen more than £6million in activity, over 75% of which has been spent in the region, with more than

190 Dumfries & Galloway busi-

Through recent months, the focus has been on protecting and maximising the long-term benefit of our activities in recent years, and we are lucky to have worked with a wide range of partners that we know will look after projects in the future.

One legacy ambition overridden by the pandemic was to leave partner agencies feeling able to underwrite the scheme again in the future.

In September, the Council's Economic Resources Committee applauded

Without their generous support, the Little project would not have been able to explore and develop the creativeness of the Glenkens that it has and will continue to do.

Writers' Cafes have been a feature of the area and consistently throughout the period. This has played a role in encouraging people from different backgrounds to develop their skills of creative writing. A diary when one can share their pieces has spurred many to write, otherwise have prevaricated, and put a pen to a daunting piece of paper, which is the reason why we want to change the date of the clash.

The fact that Ken Words is the end of Galloway Glenkens, believe, a real measure of success.

With thanks

L GALLOWAY GLENS

Gone but not forgotten

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work of the Galloway Glens Scheme and tasked officers to develop future landscape partnership-type projects in the region – with particular emphasis on a Solway marine project and one in the east, with a working title of The Border Dales.

Brilliantly, this has allowed the core members of the Galloway Glens team to be retained in Council employment for project development, carrying what we have learned forward and benefitting future schemes. It is superb to think of the Galloway Glens Scheme, designed with the

communities of the Stewartry, inspiring or informing work on a bigger stage in the future. The art will be to pick out activity that genuinely fits elsewhere and not to make any assumptions that different areas are experiencing the same problems or have the same opportunities.

On a personal note, I look back at the last five years – seven including the development phase – with every emotion in my limited arsenal. It has been great fun. It has been challenging, it has been rewarding. I can see some things that could have gone better – connections not made, results not achieved – but I think this has been the best thing about the Galloway

Glens Scheme. The team at The National lottery Heritage Fund commented early on that we were being very ambitious, and I comfort myself that if everything had worked, then we simply weren't trying hard enough...

My overwhelming feeling is of luck: that we secured the funding, that partners and people engaged with us so willingly, that we recruited such a team, and that I was paid to basically enjoy the people, projects and heritage of the valley. Thank you to every single person involved.

#InGallowayItHappens
*McNabb Laurie,
Galloway Glens Team Leader*

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anks and best wishes,
Andrew Mellor

From the earliest days of discussion and planning, the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP) was conceived as 'Biosphere in action' - an authentic, accessible way for people to experience our region's astonishing natural and cultural heritage.



For its five years' duration GGLP has shared and celebrated all the reasons why southwest Scotland holds UNESCO Biosphere status, and why local people in the Glenkens and beyond feel such immense pride in living here.

The variety of projects hosted, funded or led by GGLP and the passion of McNabb, Nick, Jan, and the rest of the team, have created many special memories for residents and for visitors too.

They've helped us learn while having fun, they've brought us closer to nature, and they've inspired us to join in wholeheartedly with community life.

The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere will take immense pride in sharing the Galloway Glens legacy for many years to come.

*Ed Forrest, Director,
GSA UNESCO Biosphere*

Jan Hogarth from GGLP is joined by historians, artists, travellers and locals to explore the legends of the Green Well of Scotland, at the foot of Cairnmore of Carsphairn.

e GGLP initiative has been, and
ill continue to be, of great benefit
ose of us in the Glenkens, as well
itors to the area, who enjoy the
t outdoors.

Footpaths, bridges and boardwalks, the
oration of many original footpaths and
utiful old walled garden, in partnership
ocal volunteers, has opened up the
environment to young and old alike.

proposal was ever beyond consideration
deas were often improved on using
xpertise of the GGLP team. Rules and
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s seemed to be found.

m up the GGLP team in three words:
isiasm, Commitment and Delivery.

always been a pleasure to work with
nd our very best wishes for the future
tever it may hold.

*from LING (the pathways and
walled garden team leaders in particular)*

Galloway Glens will definitely be missed in the area!

Propagate has benefited from a small grant that has enabled land-based skills workshops such as seed saving, scything, herbal medicine and dry stane dyking.

We also worked with the team on delivering a healthy lunch and food systems games for schools as part of the Wellbeing in Winter programme.

A massive thanks to the Galloway Glens team for all you have achieved!

with love from Propagate

What a great benefit the Galloway Glens scheme has been to our area.

Yes the money has been helpful for projects. But most of all it has been the enterprise, vitality and action by the Galloway Glens team, brilliantly led by McNabb, that has been of greatest benefit.

It has helped some many of us to come together

to bring nascent ideas to fruition, to learn more about our area and to give a greater sense of a positive future for The Glenkens.

Many thanks to all of the team. Special thanks from me to Nick Chisholm for all of his help in bringing the Watson Bird Trails into operation.

*Best wishes,
Roger*

Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) have so enjoyed working with the Galloway Glens team on many interesting and important projects.

These projects have helped to understand, protect and restore

important habitats, water quality and fish populations in the Dee and its tributaries.

Without the support and funding from Galloway Glens, these important projects would not have taken place. Our real highlight was the internship

programme which supported GFT to give four young people an excellent opportunity to launch their careers.

Thank you Galloway Glens for everything!

Jamie Ribbens



GALLOWAY GLENS
Landscape Partnership

THE GALLOWAY GLENS SCHEME – AN OVERVIEW

THE SCHEME HAS UNDERTAKEN ACTIVITY
WORTH MORE THAN
£6 MILLION

£100,000

SPENT ON **27 PROJECTS**
THROUGH THE SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

>21,000
ATTENDEES
AT PUBLIC EVENTS

10
NEW OR REFURBISHED
BUILDINGS

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

690 VOLUNTEERS
GAVE THEIR TIME, WORTH MORE THAN
£300,000

23 MILES
OF FOOTPATH INSTALLED
OR IMPROVED

120 ATTENDEES
ON 'GO WILD CAMPS'

OVER 190
D&G BUSINESSES
RECEIVED WORK

>2,000
ENTRIES ON THE GALLOWAY
GLENS PLACE NAME DATABASE

4 YEARS

OF THE NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED
'CAN YOU DIG IT' COMMUNITY
ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT



CARSPHAIRN

DALRY

CLATTERINGSHAW

LOCH KEN

>35,000 MILES
TRAVELLED BY THE TAGGED GREENLAND
WHITE FRONTED GEESE

95% OF PEOPLE
RATE THE GALLOWAY GLENS SCHEME AS
'GOOD OR VERY GOOD' (OF 420 SURVEYED)

MORE THAN **90%**
OF VOLUNTEERS
SAID THEY HAD LEARNED
MORE ABOUT HERITAGE

35 HEADLINE
PROJECTS
SUPPORTED UP AND
DOWN THE VALLEY

'NATURE
POSITIVE'

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

KIRKCUDBRIGHT

15 INTERN
POSITIONS SUPPORTED

CASTLE DOUGLAS



The **Galloway Glens Scheme** is an initiative of Dumfries & Galloway Council's Environment Team, running between 2018 and 2023 in the Ken/Dee valley in Galloway. The Scheme worked with a brilliant range of partners to 'connect people to their heritage', boost the local economy and support sustainable communities.

Funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and a variety of other sources, more than 75% of scheme expenditure stayed in the region, being spent with Dumfries & Galloway Businesses.

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SCOTLAND

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#BiosphereInAction



The Optimistic Environmentalist

Reducing your home energy bills - Part Three

Some easy or low cost tips (continued) :

- **Use the ring on the cooker that matches the size of the pan.** Using rings that are too big wastes energy – like in the photo!
- **Use rechargeable batteries**, eg in your TV handset.
- **Get non-electric devices**, eg wind up radios or manual carpet sweepers instead of vacuums.
- **If you are getting a new floor covering**, eg a carpet and it's impractical to insulate the floor, **consider using thermal underlay**
- **Fit LED lights**
- **Turn off radios, lights, sockets and devices when you're not using them** or are not in the room. This includes not leaving equipment on standby or sleep settings. This wastes power and puts pressure on electrical components e.g. fans in computers. Modern energy saving light bulbs do not take time to 'warm up' like they used to, so turn them off when not in use. Use dimmer switches to rest your eyes and reduce power consumption.
- **Reduce time in the shower** - try a timer. Using a shower's eco setting with the temperature turned right up can use up to half the energy of the standard setting with the temperature turned down.

• **Be careful how you use machines**, eg don't charge mobiles in short bursts. Empty to 20%, then charge to 80% to prolong battery life and unplug the charger when not in use.

• **A slow cooker allows you to make meals during cheap rate at night.** Unlike my limited use of stews, you can cook all sorts of vegetarian and meat meals, meat joints and puddings. Look at www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/slow-cooker-recipes

• **Cook on equipment like a Ninja (www.ninjakitchen.co.uk), a pressure cooker or a microwave** rather than an ordinary

cooker. You can get good results and they use less energy and cook more quickly. If you use a traditional oven, use it to its maximum capacity so that you have prepared a number of meals – don't just reheat one pie!

• **Make bread overnight with a bread maker** with cheap power and enjoy for breakfast.

• **Keep your freezer full** rather than it having to cool empty space.

• **Cooling mats - they draw body heat away.** They are marketed for pets but can obviously be used by humans. They are waterproof, wipe clean and use no power to run - available from about £5 to £160 from the Range.

• **Change the way you travel** - maybe you could roll a number of journeys into one. Car-share with friends or set up a local car-share network to make overall travel costs cheaper.

• **Most peoples' cars are unused for 95% of the time.** Joint-own a car to share the costs and responsibilities.

• **If you travel a lot locally, consider other forms of transport**, eg cycle or electric bikes. The CatStrand in New Galloway hires out electric bikes if you don't want to buy one.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan



Youth sessions on water safety skills

Sixteen enthusiastic young people have completed the first free session of the Loch Ken Trust Youth

Water Safety Awareness Programme, learning vital skills to keep themselves safe on the water.



The session, aimed at 13-25 year olds, was led by experienced instructors at the Galloway Activity Centre and covered basic paddleboarding skills, water safety and the dangers of cold water shock.

Everyone had the opportunity to try different paddleboard strokes and had a go at rescuing someone back on their paddleboard. All 16 achieved their completion certificates, Adam Hutchings of the Galloway Activity Centre said: "Paddle sports have

become more accessible than ever, and it's great to see so many young people getting out enjoying the water. There are risks associated with all water sports, and some simple steps you can take to keep yourself safe. We're delighted to be involved with the Loch Ken Trust's valuable work in improving water safety on the loch and look forward to delivering more of these training sessions and having lots of fun too!"

Lindsay Stewart, Loch Ken Trust Support Officer, said: "It was great to see so many young people enjoying being out on the water and learning such important safety skills. Thank you to the fantastic staff and instructors at the Galloway Activity Centre for delivering these sessions, and thank you to the Holywood Trust for funding this programme."

There will be more sessions in the coming weeks. If you would like to take part, or if you have a group that is interested in being involved, please email LKToffice@protonmail.com



My Loch Ken



As I glide silently along the edge of the lilies there is a huge powerful explosion under the large round leaves, only visible by a surge of water which makes the lilies sway.

It's a pike, a large one; the loch's ambush predator, a danger to young ducklings as well as fish. Loch Ken's large pike are highly attractive to the pike fisherman who travel to fish here, and the code is to catch and release, not to eat them.

Stationary now in my kayak, I watch the damselflies and dragonflies laying eggs, the female dipping her body in the water as the male supports her above. I paddle further. The loch is like a mirror, perfect for a morning paddle before the afternoon breeze gets up. Kites gaze down on me, these opportunist scavengers always keeping an eye out for an easy meal. Then I see another bird, large, but much lighter in colour, plunge into the water - an osprey, I guess one of the Threave ospreys. I disturb a fishing grey heron who rightly swears

at me. On rare occasions I spot an otter, another resident of the loch enjoying the bountiful supply of the invasive American signal crayfish.

A paddle and the loch has changed with the season. The winter visitors are here from colder climes, flotillas of geese, the declining Greenland white-fronted geese and wintering greylags. Whooper swans, with their bright yellow bills, can also be seen gracefully gliding along the loch. On shore, pink-footed geese share fields with greylags and Canada geese. A variety of ducks can also be seen with numbers surging when watercourses freeze, further up north.

The Loch Ken and the Dee Marshes area is a very special place for wildlife, and it is internationally recognised for its wetlands (RAMSAR), as well as being a Special Protection Area for its winter geese visitors. Some areas are also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for certain birds and insects.

Loch Ken Trust Rangers help protect the abundant wildlife around the loch, carrying out activities as wide ranging as deterring summer landings on islands during the bird nesting season to allow geese to successfully raise young, to environmental education programmes for local children and visitors or just chatting to visitors. Our Rangers also work closely with the police Wildlife Crimes Officer and the National Rural and Acquisitive Crime Unit over illegal fish nets and crayfish traps. Sadly, there have been two recent occasions where otters have been found dead in crayfish traps. Oh, and our Rangers also speak to some visitors who think pike are very tasty, and not for releasing back in the water to grow and become someone's prize catch of the day; a sentiment most likely not shared by the loch's many avid anglers!

*Kate Adamson,
Loch Ken Trust Trustee & Vice Chair*

Care about Loch Ken?

With recent exciting developments, LKT is seeking extra support from the community to make their future plans the best they can be.

There are currently a number of vacancies for trustees and the trust is especially looking for people with expertise in environmental and educational work.

A double funding success means the trust can now look forward to an exciting future. Thanks to generous awards from both the Blackcraig Windfarm Community Fund and Drax plc, the trust and the Loch Ken Ranger service

can both make plans for future years, with the confidence that they will still be around to deliver them.

Glenkens & District Trust gave a multi-year award from the Blackcraig Windfarm Community Fund to the Loch Ken Ranger Service, securing the service for the next three years.

Loch Ken Ranger Service was established in 2021, in response to the withdrawal of the local authority Rangers. They undertake regular patrols of Loch Ken, on both land and water, as well as delivering a range of educational and environmental activities. Current future plans include setting up a Volunteer Ranger scheme, continuing work on

our Baseline Ecosystem Assessment, delivering resilience support to local communities as well as developing a programme of footpath maintenance.

Drax plc are the owners of the Galloway Hydro Scheme, which includes Loch Ken. They have awarded funding to LKT, to support all of its varied activities and operations.

The wider work of the trust involves delivering the Loch Ken Plan, which aims to support sustainable local communities around Loch Ken. The plan has projects across three themes; People, Prosperity and Planet, with the ambition to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives, works or plays at Loch Ken.

If you are interested in knowing more, or would like to apply, please contact LKToffice@protonmail.com

Stewartry Birdwatchers winter programme

Are you interested in birds and other forms of wildlife?

If so, why not come along to the meetings of Stewartry Birdwatchers this winter? Formed in 1976, the

group has held a series of talks from September to April every year since, and at present we meet in Balmaclellan Village Hall.

This winter's session got off to a flying start on 14 September when retired Dumfries GP and prize-winning photographer,

Edmund Fellowes, gave us an excellent presentation entitled 'Cuckoos, Kingfishers and Otters'.

Ronnie Graham will be giving a talk on Dumfriesshire Goshawks on 12 October, and this will be an evening event, at 7.30pm. Ronnie has learned more in recent years about this elusive species from a handful of satellite-tagged birds than from the hundreds he has ringed over the years!

For the rest of the winter we switch to morning meetings, at 10.30am, starting on 26 October when Jeremy Brock

will speak about Oman, an interesting but little-visited birdwatching destination. Situated on the southern coast of Arabia, this is a country with an exciting array of migrating birds from Europe, Africa and Asia.

Chris Rollie will give a talk titled 'Donald Watson's birds in a changing landscape' on 7 December. Donald Watson, the famous wildlife artist and naturalist, lived and worked in the Stewartry for over 50 years. Chris, now retired from the RSPB, will illustrate his presentation with Donald's paintings to show the land-use changes around Galloway.

All are very welcome to attend any of these talks - for further information please get in touch.

Joan Howie,
Secretary of Stewartry
Birdwatchers; a branch of the
Scottish Ornithologists' Club

01644 420 280

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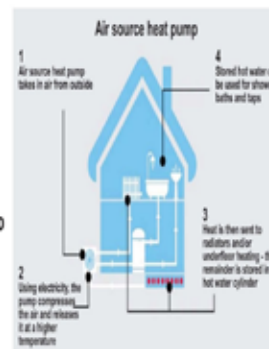
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Drama with Mrs JB

Over the last four weeks, we have been doing drama with Mrs JB.

In the first couple of weeks, we did fun games to build our confidence and teamwork. Then we started using our bodies to make props.

This sounds easier than it is – how would you make your body into a washing machine? I had to become the buttons (with my fingers, and my

mouth became the soap sud drawer). We also had to make the noise of the prop.

When we put all the body props together into a mini performance – nobody could stop laughing. The best part is...we are going to continue with Mrs JB at the end of October with hopes of putting on a small performance in December. We have all loved the workshop and we cannot wait for her to come back.

Piri Whitty, S1



Kells Primary update



Kells Primary School have had a busy start of term!

The pupil council is up and running and are feeling very happy to have their voices heard. And the whole school have been building - can you guess what they're making?!

Margaret Heuchan



Learning new skills

Dalry Secondary's S1 class are working on a map reading skills unit, where they have been learning how to use an atlas effectively to locate places, countries and continents.

The S2s have been looking at the causes, effects and solutions for deforestation in the Amazon and the S3s have just finished a case study report on a volcanic eruption where they had to explain the impact of an eruption on people and the landscape.

*Ross McFarlane,
Geography Teacher,
Dalry Secondary*



The Christmas panto

Rehearsals for the CatStrand Players panto are already well under way and we are delighted to announce that this year we are presenting one of the most popular stories of all – Cinderella!

The cast includes Ella Campbell as Cinderella, Fiona Edgar as Buttons, James Wallace as the Duke of Verruca and Ruby Harfield and Megan Oliver as the Ugly Sisters. The script is written by our favourite

panto author, Paul Reakes, and is filled with fun and laughter throughout with lots of the compulsory corny jokes and plenty of audience participation too.

The 'behind the scenes' crew have been working on props and scenery since August to be ready for the panto to take to the stage on Friday 8, Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 December. The first two shows are at 7.30pm, with the Sunday show at 3pm.

Tickets are now available from CatStrand Box Office (01644 420 374) or online at www.gcat.scot. Please book early to avoid disappointment as tickets always sell out well in advance.

Brian Edgar



Ali Sinbad (Dante Newbery) and Semolina Sinbad (Ruby Harfield) in last year's Youth Players CatStrand Christmas panto

New youth music programme

CatStrand Young Creatives (CYC) is set to take its Young Music Makers (YMM) project to new heights, thanks to generous funding received from the Stewartry Area Committee of D&G Council.

This will enable them to expand their Young Music Makers programme (funded by YMI Creative Scotland and The Holywood Trust) by offering violin lessons as well.

Young Music Makers is a CYC project that began in April this year and aims to provide accessible music education to our Glenkens children and young people.

Currently, the YMM project offers ukulele, guitar, singing, keyboard and piano lessons, all-inclusive music workshops and the 'Stranded Cat' record label project where young musicians work with industry professionals to develop their own music track to release to the public.

Now, thanks to this additional funding, CatStrand Young Creatives is excited to announce the addition of violin lessons to its repertoire.

This latest development aligns perfectly with CatStrand Young Creatives' mission of offering a diverse and comprehensive creative arts programme to our children and young people.

It provides them with the opportunity to explore new instruments, push their boundaries and embrace their passion for the arts, and fosters an open and welcoming environment for participants to learn and grow alongside fellow music enthusiasts.



Spaces for violin lessons are limited, so early registration is highly encouraged.

Lessons are available for a fee of £4 per week, and those currently receiving Universal Credit may be eligible for free tuition.

Aspiring musicians can secure their spot by contacting Cat at catherine@catstrand.com

Come and give the ukelele a try

The Glenkens Ukulele Group are looking for new (and old) members to come and play along with us on Wednesday evenings.

If you can play ukulele at any level that's great. We play lots of three-chord wonders (amongst others) from all eras of music. If you don't play but can sing, or play another instrument,

percussion, or rhythm you'd be more than welcome too.

We meet at the Smiddy, Balmaclellan, from 6.30-8pm, and play the odd gig when requested. The group is friendly, encouraging and a bit of fun; something to keep you entertained over the winter.

You can either just come along to one of the sessions, or contact me for more details on 07969379762 or jason.wilding@gmail.com

Jason Wilding



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*.

Just as books can transport their reader through space, so they can through time.

The particular time machine I've been using recently is *Weavers, Scribes, and Kings: A New History of the Ancient Near East*, by Amanda H Podany. It's a beautiful illustrated hardback – a pleasure to hold and smell – focusing on the earliest civilisations.

The world's first cities were located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in what is now southern Iraq but was then called Sumer. In 3500BCE, Uruk was by far the largest city on earth. It was already the size Athens would reach 3,000 years later, and it contained perhaps 40,000 people. That's the current population of Dumfries, Castle Douglas and Kirkcudbright combined, so not much in contemporary terms, but an astoundingly huge number then.

The city grew before writing was invented, so we must guess at the inhabitants' lives using archeological clues. Fortunately there are plenty of those – monumental architecture

originated in Uruk's enormous temple complexes. On a smaller scale, pots and cylinder seals decorated with pictograms give hints of the people's beliefs and social organisation.

But writing soon developed, so after a few centuries we begin to hear the voices of our very ancient ancestors, who wrote lists and business contracts, complaints and panegyrics, letters and prayers.

It all happened a staggeringly long time ago, some centuries even before the stone circles on Orkney. We consider these first producers of texts as standing at the very beginnings, but they saw themselves as at the end of a process of 400,000 years of civilisation – as the Sumerian King List shows.

In some ways the Sumerians were very different from us. They worshipped the heavens, the sun, the moon, and the storm. They were ruled by priest-kings (and priestess-queens too), and made a system of scribal training (in cuneiform) central to their culture.

In other ways, they were just the same. They engaged in farming, warfare, diplomacy, and long-distance trade. They wore wool and linen as well as



gold and lapis lazuli jewelry. They ate mutton and drank beer. Their statuary art stands the test of time. Their literature dealt in the human universals – desire, conflict, fear of death and loss – and created some stories which are still familiar. The story of Noah and the flood, for instance, has a Sumerian precedent.

How lucky we are to be born in this time, despite climate change and everything else. A century and a half ago we knew nothing at all about the Sumerians (and some still don't

– a Castle Douglas teacher, inaccurate by millennia, once told my children that writing was invented in Greece). And so much more is known now even than in my youth. Since I first read about the Sumerians, tens of thousands of cuneiform tablets have been translated – each tablet a time machine linking us across the epochs to our fellow human beings. These translations are the meat of the book, allowing us insight into the lives of ordinary men and women as well as gods and kings.

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WOMAN WALKING
SILVIA DOW
WED 4 OCT 7:30PM

Inspired by the life of Nan Shepherd, Woman Walking explores grief, resolution and the healing power of nature with humour and pathos



FOUR GO WILD IN WELLIES
INDEPEN-DANCE
SAT 14 OCT 11:30AM
Lagwyne Hall Carsphairn

A whimsical adventure with bobble hats, scarves, & wellies for pre-shcool to P3



**PIERRE SCHRYER
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WED 18 OCT 7:30PM

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Three headstones in Dalry kirkyard

Some time ago a Dalry resident was in discussion with the Rev David Bartholemew, asking if they could help preserve some headstones in the churchyard.

The minister identified three that would benefit from some attention before they disintegrated further. The first is a small broken cross near the church door and path to the stile with 'infant son' on it; the second a large sandstone headstone propped up against the boundary wall opposite the main church door 'the Reverend James Mather and family'; and the third a broken cross headstone on the grassy boundary of the newer part of the graveyard and the older section 'Peter J Carson and

Hilda Robertson'. Dumfries & Galloway Council have advised that the wider public need to be consulted on this to establish if there are any objections to the repair of these headstones, however unlikely this would be. The Council is only responsible for repairing dangerous headstones, so without intervention from interested local parties, nothing would



be done to save any that have fallen into disrepair but are not deemed 'dangerous'.

The local resident has had Jamie Swan from Douglas Swan & Son come to assess the headstones and they are repairable, so now it needs to be established that there are no objections to the repair of these headstones. If anyone does have any objections, please get in touch with the



Gazette at glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk or 07727 127 997. If there are no objections lodged by the 8 January 2024, repair works will begin in the new year.

Hopefully soon the three headstones can be quietly restored to their former glory; and perhaps if this is a success, more can be repaired in this way as and when needed.



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

A sneak peak into *Last Flights*

A new book has been published by the Galloway Glens Project entitled *Last Flights* (see article on p6).

The booklet is not available for sale but copies are available in local libraries and other places. *Last Flights* was put together from a series of articles that I wrote and which have been published in previous issues of the *Glenkens Gazette*. I added in a few other stories which were not in the previous articles and these are retold below in case you don't have access to the book.

Although outside the Glenkens, these sites are (bar one) all within the Stewartry, and close enough to be of interest. The one exception (the first) is included for its interest and because it links to another near Dalbeattie.

I had heard of a First World War airship crash on Lamachan Hill near Glentworth. Research has shown this to have been airship SSZ 11 which crashed on 20 August 1917. Although there was brief mention of the crash in the book *The Merrick and its Neighbouring Hills*, the crash had not made its way into any of the various published sources for aircraft crashes, either in books or online.

The pilot was Flt Sub-Lt Harris. Having lost power to its single engine, it was then blown by strong winds into Larg Hill and then blown over the top towards Lamachan Hill, finally coming to rest at a height of 1,500 feet. The pilot and crew members were injured in the crash but all survived and eventually recovered from their injuries. There is some discrepancy about the exact crash site, although there seems little doubt that the initial contact was with Larg Hill. However, one can imagine the airship being then dragged somewhat further by the wind.

If you are trying to imagine the airship, don't think of something grand like a Zeppelin or the R101; this was a Royal Navy Airship of the SSZ class of which 77 were built. Carrying a three-man crew, it was of the blimp type with a wooden fuselage and a single pusher propeller. They were used mainly for spotting U-boats

in inshore waters and could sometimes be seen escorting the Stranraer/Larne ferry.

In the week following the crash, the airship was dismantled and moved to Auchinleck Farm on horse sledges down the Penkiln Burn. It was taken back to base, reassembled, and put back into service. SSZ 11 would eventually go on to complete 1,610 flying hours, more than any other airship of her class, before being scrapped along with all her sister ships in October 1919.

By an odd coincidence, another airship of the same class, SSZ 13, crashed at Castle Point in Auchencairn Bay on 30 August 1918, and despite efforts of men and boats from Kippford and Rockcliffe, it was so badly damaged that it never made it back into service. Some details of this latter crash are held by the Dalbeattie Museum.

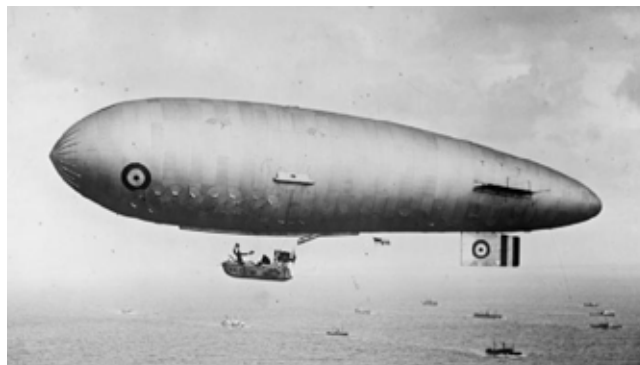
Both of these accidents took place during wartime so the Defence of the Realm Act ensured that nothing was reported at the time.

A notable crash of a civilian aircraft happened on 2 February 1937 when a de Havilland Dragonfly, serial G-AEHC crashed on Darnaw hill, near Clatteringshaws. The twin-engine aircraft belonged to the *Daily Express* and was being used to prove a safe air route from Glasgow-Renfrew to Liverpool-Speke.

After the aircraft failed to arrive, a search and rescue operation was instigated and it was found that the aircraft had crashed in poor visibility. The exact cause of the accident is unknown, but it is assumed that the pilot descended below safe limits, perhaps in order to follow what he believed to be the coastline of the Solway Firth.

All four on board were killed and there is a memorial at the crash site: Leslie Thomas Jackson (pilot, aged 32); Archibald Francis Philpott (wireless operator, aged 35); Major Harold Charles Pemberton DSO (passenger, aged 47); Reginald Charles Wesley (passenger, aged 22).

A more recent crash was that of a US



Air Force F-111E (Aardvark) swing-wing supersonic bomber. The crash happened on 19 December 1979, when the aircraft was on a training exercise from Upper Heyford and flew into a rock face on Craignaw hill. Both crew were killed in the crash and there is a memorial at the site: Richard Alfred Hetzner Captain Pilot; Raymond Charles Spaulding Captain WSO/Navigator.

The final local crash may well be remembered by some readers. On 3 June 1997, an RAF Harrier II Mk 7, serial ZG861, crashed on Bengairn, Castle Douglas, just two fields away from Ingleston Motte.

The aircraft had been one of four from RAF Honington, Suffolk, taking part in Exercise Hill Foil 97/1. Fifty minutes after take-off, the aircraft suffered engine failure due to compressor blade failure and the pilot ejected safely at 700 feet and he was taken by Sea King helicopter to Newcastle hospital. This is standard procedure following the stresses of an ejection. The plane crashed into open ground shortly after the pilot ejected.

One widely used air crash website describes the crash site as being in woodland, five miles SE of Newton Stewart, but this is incorrect. The actual crash site was on Bengairn which has been verified by a local who is familiar with the site and visited it at the time; also, the photo of the crash clearly shows it to be in open ground and not in woodland.

There are many more crash sites further afield in the Stewartry, which I leave to others to research and write about, especially the eight crashes on Cairnmore of Fleet and a Dornier crash on Cairnharrow.

An archive of previous issues of the *Glenkens Gazette* is available on the Glenkens Hub at www.glenkens.scot. The previous articles on air crashes were in issues 89, 95, 100, 112 and 134.

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

Paul Goodwin



Pictured: top - SSZ Class Airship (© public domain). Far left - de Havilland Dragonfly (© BAE Systems). Near left - F111 (© public domain)

A journey from shepherd's boy to professor of languages

If you take a drive out of New Galloway, following the A712 or Queens Way, you will see in the distance what is an 80-foot high obelisk that dominates the skyline.

Sitting proudly on a hilltop in the rugged and remote Galloway countryside a few miles beyond Clatteringshaws loch, this is Murray's Monument.

Nothing to do with Murray's mound at Wimbledon, but it does commemorate another famous Scot, namely Alexander

His languages were mainly self taught and included Latin, French, German, Hebrew and Lappish.

Murray, born 22 October 1775 at Dunkitterick, son of local shepherd Robert Murray. Alexander died on the 15 April 1813 in Edinburgh, aged only 38, and was interred in Greyfriar's Kirkyard.

However, what Alexander Murray

achieved in his short 38 years should be an inspiration to us all. Through hard work and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge Alexander disproved any preconceived rules regarding who could achieve what. Through a tireless learning journey he stepped out of his role of rural shepherd boy in a remote south of Scotland glen and rose to professor of languages at the esteemed Edinburgh University in the heart of Scotland's capital city.

Encouraged by his father, Alexander's early education began by reading the Bible. An uncle funded the young Alexander's education in New Galloway for a short period of time around 1784, and then at the school in Minnigaff where he also worked at the mill and taught the miller's children.

His languages were mainly self taught and included Latin, French, German, Hebrew and Lappish. In his formative years he worked as a shepherd and also as a tutor and a translator of languages.

In 1793, aged 18, Murray was admitted to Edinburgh University to study African, Asian and Abyssinian languages. It is believed that Alexander Murray met Robert Burns in Dumfries around 1794 where he received good advice from Burns in relation to publishing his works and furthering his studies.

Ironically, Robert Burns was to die some two years later in July 1796, aged just 37.

Alexander Murray graduated as a Doctor of Divinity and became assistant minister in the village of Urr, near Dalbeattie, where later he held the post of Minister from 1806 until his death in 1813.

In December of 1808 Alexander Murray married Henrietta Affleck, a parishioner's daughter, and they had a son and daughter. The daughter died of consumption in 1821 and the son, who qualified as a ship's surgeon, sadly drowned when the ship went down on his first voyage.

Despite Alexander being dogged by poor health and failing eyesight, in his short life the shepherd boy was a prolific writer, translator, husband and father, church Minister, Doctor



of Divinity (DD), Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (FRSE) and achieved the status of Professor of Languages at Edinburgh University in 1812, a post he held until his untimely death in April 1813.

His progress from shepherd boy to professor is commemorated by the 80-foot tall obelisk erected in 1835, some 22 years after his death, and located just a mile from where he was born into such humble beginnings in a shepherds cottage in the valley below.

Alexander's achievements were made at a time when communications were by letter and transport was by means of horse-drawn carriages. *Bill Grant*

Top: Murray's Monument. Below: the plaque on the monument about Murray's life and achievements. Left: the view looking down from the monument



Scottish Alternative Games 2023

Continued from front page...

Familiar faces were winning in some of the other events too with Ralph Spernagel winning the Men's Tractor Pull again and George Dempster and Dawn Spernagel winning their respective Tossin' the Sheaf competitions.

FULL RESULTS ARE

Gird n' Cleek World Championship Final

1st - Elizabeth Spernagel (also won in 2022)

2nd - Ralph Spernagel (Elizabeth's Dad)

3rd - Alice McIntosh

(Alice's Dad, Rob McIntosh also qualified for the final and finished 5th)

Other finalists - Logan Ripley, Woody Clark

Tractor Pull

Men's winner - Ralph Spernagel (7.9 secs)

Ladies winner - Louise Ripley (9.7 secs)

Tossin' the Sheaf

Men's Winner - George Dempster (24ft)

Women's Winner - Dawn Spernagel (21ft)

Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane

Men's Winner - Dennis Groom

Ladies Winner - Freya Spernagel

Classic Car Show

Winner as voted by the crowd - MGA owned by Alan Smith

(Excellent turn out of Classic Cars and motorbikes this year)

The Commentator's Quaich is a trophy in memory of the late George McCulloch, who commentated at the Games for over 20 years, and is presented to an individual or family who have epitomised the spirit of the Games. This year the Quaich was presented to the McIntosh Family who have supported the Games for many years, and three generations were in attendance this year. Alice and Rob both qualified for the World Final. Alice first competed years ago in the Primary age category and has taken part most years since then, this year she qualified by winning the Ladies Final.

Ollie Rigg was the Games Piper this year. He opened and closed the Games by playing the Highland Bagpipes in the arena and also attracted a big crowd during the afternoon when he played in the bandstand and demonstrated Border Pipes, Scottish Small Pipes and Uilleann Pipes as well as Highland Bagpipes.

The Games have now been running for 46 years and it was great to see so many old friends returning again along with many others enjoying the unique event for the first time.

Huge thanks are due to everyone who helps to organise the event and to everyone for coming along to support the Games once again.

Brian Edgar



Top: Games Piper Ollie Rigg marched around the arena to officially open the Games followed by reigning World Champion Elizabeth Spernagel and some of the other competitors.

Above: The ever-popular Snail Racing draws a crowd at the 2023 Games.

Golf is good for you!

New Galloway Golf Club is giving the community a chance to live healthier and longer!

Recently there has been a campaign by the Royal and Ancient to promote the holistic health benefits of golf.

Most of us who play golf know and appreciate some of the health benefits of the game, if not all of them. Those of you outside the sport perhaps have been less aware that golf is one of the very best activities for increasing overall physical and mental health and can increase your life expectancy.

Published in the *Scandinavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports*, a landmark study found a 40 per cent reduction in mortality rates among 300,000 members of the Swedish Golf Federation, corresponding to an increase in life expectancy of

about five years. The research also showed that golf can help prevent and treat 40 major chronic diseases, including diabetes, heart attacks, strokes, breast and colon cancer, depression and dementia.

Other studies highlighted that risk factors for heart disease and strokes, such as cholesterol and blood pressure are reduced in populations which play golf.

Further findings were that golf is highly beneficial for improving strength and balance, it helps prevent injury and assists rehabilitation from injury. It can also play a significant role in improving mental health as a sociable outdoor activity.

New Galloway Golf Club (NGGC) enhances the community bringing in golfers and visitors from all over the country and beyond. It helps the economy of the area as golfers bring their families who use the shops, hotels and other facilities.

This year has been a difficult



year having lost our excellent greenkeeper early in the season; he kept the course in an immaculate condition and it has been acknowledged under his guidance to be one of the best nine hole courses in the south of Scotland. Thanks to the efforts of the Management Committee and volunteer members the course is now looking good.

There are different groups - men, women, seniors and juniors. Members can play in competitions or just socially. The club can offer coaching either in a group session or individually. The club also has a Social Membership which is proving very popular with residents. Full Membership runs from January

to December but we can offer a Winter membership running from October to March which enables you to experience golf at first hand. As a member you will be able to play as much golf as you have time for and experience the fantastic views from the course and make friends with other members.

I started this article by saying that by joining the club you will enhance your chances of living a healthier and longer life - so why not come and join us! To find out more about memberships or club information contact the Club on 01644 420 737 or go to the club's website newgallowaygolfclub.com

Jeff Sutcliffe

Glass Recycling Points

- Balmaclellan Stores, Balmaclellan
- Memorial Hall, St Michael's Road, Crossmichael
- Kirkland Street, St John's Town of Dalry
- New Galloway, Carson's Knowe Car Park
- St David Street, Kirkpatrick Durham

USEFUL NUMBERS:

- Pot-hole Hotline: 0845 276 0000
- Police, non-emergency: 101 or email StewartryCPT@scotland.police.uk
- Doctor: 01644 420 234
- NHS 24: 08454 24 24 24
- D&G Council: 030 33 33 3000

Local Job Vacancies

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



CAB outreach clinics are held fortnightly on a Monday at the Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, and fortnightly on a Tuesday at CatStrand, New Galloway.

Fiona Norbury, the clinic's generalist advisor, will be on hand from 10am to 4pm (see article on p11). These are drop-in sessions with no appointment required. Dates are October 9, 23; November 6, 20; December 4, 18; January 15, 29.

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New Galloway*

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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, 5 Nov, 12 Nov (Remembrance Day service - 10.45am), 3 Dec

Carsphairn: 11am, 8 Oct, 12 Nov (Remembrance Day service - time tbc), 10 Dec (morning service & Carols by Candlelight at 6.30pm)

Kells: 11am, 15 Oct, 12 Nov (Remembrance Day service - 10.45am), 19 Nov

Dalry: 11am, 22 Oct (with communion), 29 Oct, 12 Nov (Remembrance Day service - time tbc)

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 10.30am: Holy Communion with refreshments after the service.

Tuesdays at 11am: Informal midweek service with refreshments and chat.

Thursdays 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

Corsock Craft Fair
Sunday December 3rd



Corsock Village Hall
£1 entry fee
Includes tea / coffee and cake

HIGH QUALITY VENUE HIRE AVAILABLE

*The CatStrand, New Galloway,
 and The Smiddy, Balmaclellan,
 are available for hire for:*

- Meetings for 4 to 12 people -
- Talks or events for up to 80 people -
 (raked seating)
- Hybrid meetings -
- Social events -

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**GALLOWAY
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**
www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org
 email gct@catstrand.com
 phone 07841 512449 (Jon) or 07704 662925 (Sue)

October 2023 - November 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

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 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.

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 gct@catstrand.com

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

OCTOBER

Turn to P9 for Together in the Glenkens Oct/Nov activities...

Thu 5, Alzheimer Scotland Fundraiser, 1-4pm, Dalry Town Hall

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

Fri 6, Glenkens Food Hub Shop Opens 12noon, www.openfoodnetwork.org.uk/glenkens-food-hub/shop (open for orders & delivery each fortnight)

Fri 6, Song Share, 8-11pm, Dalry Town Hall (1st Fri each month)

Sat 7, Glenkens Story: Music Making in the Glenkens: Past, Present and Future 10.30am-3.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 7, Music Making in The Glenkens: A Wee Hoolie, 4.30-5.45pm, CatStrand

Sat 7, Music Making in the Glenkens: "Gaither roon folks an this story I'll tell", 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 8, Clachan Folk Sessions, 5.30-7.30pm, Clachan Inn, Dalry

Wed 11, Crossmichael CC meeting, 7-9pm, Crossmichael Hall, (monthly)

Thu 12, Stewartry Birdwatchers talk, 7.30pm,

Balmaclellan Village Hall, see p25

Sat 14, Four Go Wild In Wellies: Independence, 11.30am, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Sat 14, Four Go Wild in Wellies Workshop, 1.00pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Sat 14, Pierre Schryer & Seán Gray, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Mon 16, Corsock & KPD CC meeting, 7.30-9pm, Corsock Village Hall, (monthly)

Wed 18, My Doric Diary, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 18, Balmaghie CC meeting, 7-9pm, Balmaghie Public Hall, (monthly)

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

Sat 21, Battery Park: Sleeping Warrior Theatre Company, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 21, New Galloway Town Hall Grand Reopening, 2.30- 4.30pm

Tue 24, Parton CC meeting, 7-9pm, Parton Village Hall

Wed 25, Dalry Film Club: Banshees of Inisherin, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 25, Dragon Boats fundraiser, 7.30-11pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall, see p3

Thu 26, Castle Douglas Rotary Club dinner, 6pm, Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry, see p8

Thu 26, Stewartry Birdwatchers talk, 10.30am, Balmaclellan Village Hall, see p25

Fri 27, Pie, Pint 'n' Patter, 7-10pm, CatStrand (monthly)

Sat 28, HENGE, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 28, Halloween with Bairn Banter, 10-11.45am, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Sun 29, Pub Quiz, 7.30-9pm, CatStrand

Mon 30, Carsphairn CC meeting, 7-9pm, Lagwyne Hal, Carsphairn, (monthly)

NOVEMBER

Sun 5, Ginger: Tortoise in a Nutshell, 2pm, CatStrand

Wed 8, Dalry Film Club: Allelujah!, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 18, A Day to Play : Shaper Caper, 10am, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Sat 18, Paper Moon: Shaper Caper, 2pm, CatStrand

Wed 22, Dalry Film Club: Empire of Light, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Wed 22, Fergus McCreadie 7.30pm, CatStrand

DECEMBER

Sat 2, CatStrand Shopping Night, 6-9pm

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

Wed 6, Dalry Film Club: The Age of Innocence, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Wed 6, Christmas Coffee Morning, 10.30am-12noon, New Galloway Town Hall, see p3

Thu 7, Stewartry Birdwatchers talk, 10.30am, Balmaclellan Village Hall, see p25

Fri 8 & Sat 9, CatStrand Panto, 7.30pm, CatStrand, see p27

Sun 10, CatStrand Panto, 3pm, CatStrand, see p27



Happy HALLOWEEN with Bairn Banter

SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER

10am - 11.45am
Lagwyne Hall
Carsphairn

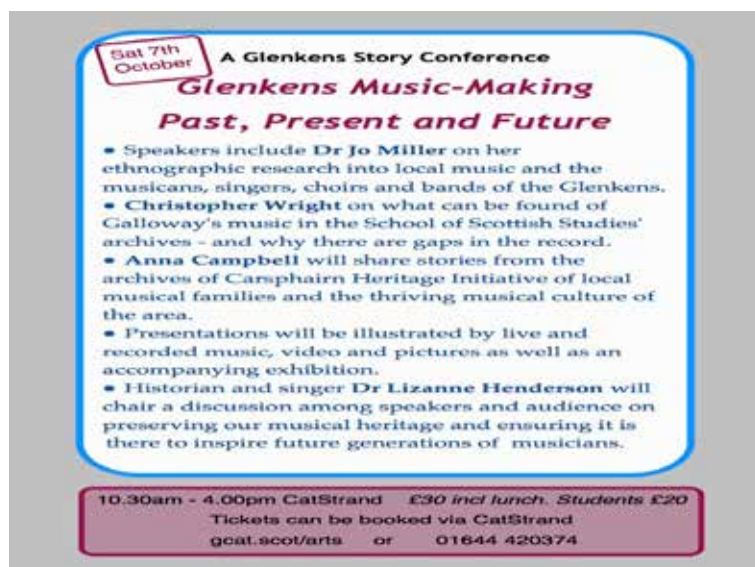
FREE ENTRY

FANCY DRESS SENSORY PLAY
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APPLE BOBBING SPOOKY SNACKS
BABY ACTIVITIES

DARE TO ENTER?
book your free spaces

Open to all ages
Children must be accompanied by an adult

EMAIL: bairnbanter@outlook.com
WHATSAPP/TEXT: 07979492791



Sat 7th October **A Glenkens Story Conference**
Glenkens Music-Making Past, Present and Future

- Speakers include **Dr Jo Miller** on her ethnographic research into local music and the musicians, singers, choirs and bands of the Glenkens.
- **Christopher Wright** on what can be found of Galloway's music in the School of Scottish Studies' archives - and why there are gaps in the record.
- **Anna Campbell** will share stories from the archives of Carsphairn Heritage Initiative of local musical families and the thriving musical culture of the area.
- Presentations will be illustrated by live and recorded music, video and pictures as well as an accompanying exhibition.
- Historian and singer **Dr Lizanne Henderson** will chair a discussion among speakers and audience on preserving our musical heritage and ensuring it is there to inspire future generations of musicians.

10.30am - 4.00pm CatStrand £30 incl lunch. Students £20
Tickets can be booked via CatStrand
gcat.scot/arts or 01644 420374

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

Zumba, Fri, 6.30-7.30pm

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, 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

Glenkens Ukelele Group, Wed, 6.30-8pm

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

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

Weekly Ukelele, 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

LING Lunches, Tue, 12.30-2pm, £6, currently held at Kitty's, opposite NG Town Hall

Table Tennis & Carpet Bowls, Tue, 7pm
Kickback Martial Arts, Wednesdays 7.30-9pm

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

Glenkens Community Centre

Citizens Advice Drop-ins, every other Mon, 10am-4pm

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

Glenkens Charity Shop

Opening Times:

Mon, Tue & Thu - 10am-1pm

Wed, Fri & Sat - 10am-4pm

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, 7-8pm, contact Eric Broadhurst on 07831 590 822

Kickback Martial Arts, Thu, 7-9pm

Song Share, 1st Friday each month, 8-11pm, contact anne.chaurand@btinternet.com

Various

Glenkens Youth Group, Mon, 7-8.30pm, Dalry School (or Glenkens Community Centre)

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

Dragon Boats on Loch Ken, Sun 9.30am-12.30pm, Galloway Activity Centre, Parton

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

GLENKENS

YOUTH GROUP

This August saw the Glenkens Youth Group get back underway after the summer break, this time under the new hands of the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT).

Local Initiatives in New Galloway did an incredible job in first establishing the group, and GCAT are proud to take the reins and continue developing this great idea.

The Glenkens Youth Group is an informal group for young people (P7s – S3s) to meet old and new friends in a relaxing and welcoming space. They meet every Monday during term time in Dalry (location to be confirmed - contact Beata for confirmation of venue) from 7 to 8.30pm. You can just turn up, and all sessions are free thanks to our support from the Glenkens & District Community Benefit Fund.

Do come along and meet Beata, the new Glenkens Youth Group deliverer. As well as

providing a relaxed space to meet friends in, she aspires to empower young people by offering various activities and events that will develop confidence and give a voice to the youth in the area. Beata is looking forward to creating an environment where each and every individual feels free to be themselves.

Currently, GYG members are excited to be participating in a fantastic water safety activity organised by the Loch Ken Trust. In a couple of weeks, the young people will be taking to the (hopefully not-too-chilly) waters of Loch Ken to have a go at paddle boarding and learn the fundamentals of water safety.

There are also plans afoot for an evening of fire and food!

So hop along to the Glenkens Community Centre on a Monday evening, where you



Beata, the new Glenkens Youth Group Deliverer

can listen to music, chat, draw, play games, try your hand at table tennis, badminton or basketball, or of course come along with your own ideas.

Visit us on Facebook for updates on events and sessions @GlenkensYouthGroup

Beata

CATSTRAND CHRISTMAS SHOPPING LAUNCH NIGHT

FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER
6:00PM - 9:00PM

SHOP LOCAL AND BROWSE OUR NEW CHRISTMAS GIFT RANGE WITH A MULLED WINE AND SHORTBREAD.

CATSTRAND BAR OPEN FOR DRINKS

CATSTRAND WINTER OPENING HOURS

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATSTRAND WILL CHANGE TO WINTER OPENING HOURS AS FROM 1st NOV.

TUESDAY - SATURDAY 11:00AM-4:00PM
CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY

not on the high street

Christmas Arts & Crafts

DALRY TOWN HALL

SUNDAY 26th NOVEMBER
11am until 3pm

HANDCRAFTED GIFTS

Enjoy shopping with Unique Artists and Artisan Crafters

Delicious cakes and hot drinks

Free Admission - Voluntary donations to the hall are welcomed.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

DEC/JAN COPY DEADLINE: 5 NOV



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.