

GLENKENS GAZETTE

April/May 2024

ISSUE 141

FREE

School mothballing halted: Victory for local campaigners!

United community action has successfully halted Council plans to mothball Dalry Secondary School without consultation.



Campaigners had regarded the imposition of mothballing as 'closure by stealth'. Now Glenkens councillors Dougie Campbell and Andy McFarlane have successfully persuaded Dumfries & Galloway councillors to adopt their motion, halting secondary school mothballing across the region until communities are properly consulted and all options considered.

The reprieve has been achieved thanks to tireless work by many people and groups across the community and beyond, working together with a united goal.

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Parents and children from Dalry School outside the council offices in Dumfries

New Galloway Fire Station Best in D&G

After a year of audits of fire stations across the region, New Galloway was declared the Best D&G Station for 2023/4.

These assessments take into account the station's performance against administrative targets, as well as a practical drill carried out on the night.

Area commander Andrew Kenna presented the trophy, commending the station personnel - who are all volunteer fire fighters - for showing great teamwork and professionalism.



Pictured are New Galloway Fire Station's dedicated team with their well-deserved trophy

New Galloway Fire Station is currently seeking new recruits. If you're interested, please visit the station on a Tuesday night between 7pm and 10pm for further details.

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Glenkens Cub Scouts

The Glenkens Cub Scout Pack celebrated the birthday of Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Scouting movement.

This is a day when Scouts and Guides all over the world renew their Promise. We joined the Reverend Dawn and the congregation of St Margaret's Church. Guests included Drew Low (president of the Galloway Scout District), Alan Sidaway (regional Scouter), members of the Active Support Group,

and friend of Scouting, John McCulloch, along with parents and siblings of the Cubs.

Each Cub presented the Reverend Dawn with a piece of memorabilia to create a display. Harriet Archer and Freya Gibson were the flag bearers and handed them over to the minister for the duration of the service. Caitlin Jones and Alba Wall collected in donations for the church.

The Cub Scouts and Leaders would like to thank everyone who supplied the beautiful array of baking and for making this such a special day.

If anyone in the Glenkens has

an interesting job or hobby and would like to come into Cubs and share it, please speak to Hannah at mcandrew.hannah@yahoo.co.uk

It is coming up for the time of year when you are perhaps thinking of spring cleaning. We hope to have a stall at the Scottish Alternative Games in August, so if you have any unwanted gifts, jigsaws, bric-a-brac, jams, etc, we would be grateful for any contributions.

*Yours in Scouting,
Heather and Hannah*

**The Glenkens Cub Scouts
and Leaders at their
Founder's Day service**



The Glenkens community charity shop

The Glenkens Community Shop in Dalry (better known as the charity shop) will continue to be open Mondays from 10am to 1pm, and Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm.

We welcome donations, except for electrical goods and larger furniture items. We also welcome new volunteers!

The shop has helped to fund groups, and individuals with projects, for about 12 years now, and with your support will continue to do so into the future.

We always have an amazing range of items for sale, at amazing prices! Come and visit us to browse or to chat - and go away with something new to you.

Lis

A busy month for St Margaret's

March was a busy month for the St Margaret's Guild - as well as hosting the World Day of Prayer service for all the Glenkens churches, the annual programme of Lent Lunches helped raise money for a variety of good causes.

The format is that hosts put together a simple lunch of soup and cheese in return for donations to a charity of their

choice. In this way, just over £800 was raised for Cancer Research, Turning Point Scotland and Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. The Guild extends thanks to all the hosts, as well as to those who were so generous in their support, not just from the St Margaret's congregation but from all the Glenkens churches and wider community.

Looking ahead, please note that the St Margaret's annual Plant and Bake Sale will be held on Saturday 4 May, 10am to 12 noon, with all proceeds going to Dumfries & Galloway Blood Bikes. This is always a popular event so remember that 'the early bird catches the worm'!

200 years of the RNLI!

Come and celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Lifeboats at a Coffee Morning on Saturday 18 May, 10.30am to 12noon, at Dalry Town Hall.

As well as a raffle and baking stall, there will be special anniversary souvenirs for sale.



Continued from front page...

The school's parent council, Glenkens Community Action Plan steering group, community councils and individual members of the community all supported the campaign. Friends, relatives and former pupils added their voices and widespread coverage was secured through local and national press and media outlets.

Dalry Secondary School has been saved

from what would have been closure by stealth, with no community consultation or investigation into potential alternative options to 'mothballing'. Now, a full and rigorous investigation will be carried out into what can be done to make the school thrive again. The moratorium on the mothballing of secondary schools will ensure that a policy demanding a rigorous community consultation process, including investigation of alternative options and the wider impact

of closure, is embedded in secondary school mothballing policy.

"A door to the future has opened for the Glenkens," said Emily Wall, depute chair of Dalry School Parent Council. "We have gained a respite in which to gather our thoughts and momentum to step into a new future for education for our area. And we're very excited to take that next step together! "

More on pages 6&7...

New local baby & toddler group

A new stay-and-play baby and toddler group has started in New Galloway Town Hall.

We have songs, music, snacks and stories and introduce a particular theme each week such as 'Friendship', 'Mother's Day' or, as the picture shows, we had a 'Building' theme where we had the story of the *Three Little Pigs* and then had great fun using boxes in many

different ways such as building a house, playing peekaboo at the window, climbing in and hiding, and being pushed around to name but a few.

We would love for you to join us! The group runs every Friday from 10-11am.

This is a small, low-key friendly group, for carers and their babies and/or toddlers under three years, offering an opportunity to meet other parents in the area as well as giving their children an interactive, fun, safe space.

The aim is that this group evolves to meet the needs of those who attend so please come and suss us out and offer any suggestions as to how it could suit you more or find out it already does!

Please also spread the word to others you know, pop along to a session for more information, or to get in touch please contact sarahwatson@playworld.org.uk

Sarah Watson



Community Spaces Network reflects on positive first year

Our community halls and centres across the Glenkens play a vital role in offering a space within which to socialise, learn, hold events, access sports and the arts - all organised and managed by hardworking and sometimes overstretched volunteer committees.

The Glenkens Community Spaces Network (GCSN), which held its first meeting in January 2023, was created to bring these voluntary committees together for peer support, to encourage partnership working across

the Glenkens and to amplify their efforts. This was a key priority of the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan. To make it happen, the role of Network Facilitator is funded for one day per week by the Glenkens and District Community Fund, through the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust.

Following an initial round of fact-finding interviews to set priorities for the network, we have hosted seven network meetings to date, four of which have featured guest speakers. These meetings

have been attended by members of 14 town hall, village hall and other community space committees across the Glenkens. Those who have been unable to attend have been kept up to date by email and invited to join in with projects and share updates.

GCSN Facilitator, Becca Nelson, commented: "It's been a really rewarding first year, which

has seen members share successes and expertise, ideas and resources.

"I would like to thank all of the

members of the hall committees across the Glenkens for the huge amount of voluntary effort they put into keeping all our community spaces thriving - the Glenkens is much the stronger for them - as well as the Glenkens and District Community Fund through Foundation Scotland, who funded the project."

A full report on the first year of delivery, plus a look ahead at the challenges and opportunities and testimonials from the halls, is on the Glenkens Hub at www.glenkens.scot/glenkens-community-spaces-network

If you have any questions regarding this project, or would like to join the Network, please contact Becca on becca.glenkens.anf@gmail.com



Pictured are members of Dalry Town Hall management committee - Jim Reid, Peter Andrew and Col Sweeney - with GSN Facilitator Becca Nelson outside the town hall

Celebrating in vintage style

This year's Mothering Sunday at New Galloway Town Hall was set to be a fundraiser with a difference...

The idea was that mothers (and their hangers-on) might enjoy a little indulgence, while listening to some delightful vintage numbers played by Jonnie Dowswell's specially created Little Vintage Tea Band.

So Sylvia Brown brought a selection of her vintage tea settings, and with a band of indefatigable helpers set up a bountiful spread.

I confess that I was rather more keen to imbibe the prosecco on offer than the tea - never been much of a tea drinker - though I did persuade myself to a cup or two to complement the wonderfully creamy Victoria sponge. But what was most salient to observe was the sheer amount of hard work involved in putting the whole package together.

It only takes a moment

to realise that this work, for one particular event, is a kind of epiphany in and of itself. Just to get to the event, to have the cheerful groups sitting at table, listening to the old familiar tunes, and smiling together, was a triumph of perspicacity.

I shall have to remember to enjoy my own small projects, working for the joy of working, of creating pleasure for an audience, with Sylvia's hard work reminding me as I go.

Until then, I'll content myself with a cup of tea, a goblet of prosecco, a remembrance of a hearty repast of cream cakes, unctuous meringues, and chocolate éclairs, and the revelation of the music echoing around me.

Larry Winger

www.RoadsToJoy.blog

Pictured is the Little Vintage Tea Band entertaining visitors in a beautiful vintage setting



Stolen donation box

A collection box in the community car park of Mossdale village has been stolen.

Volunteers from the village who donate their time to keep the village hall, picnic area and car park in good order are shocked and saddened by the theft. A member of the community said: "This was money generously donated by visitors, to support our community."

Volunteers are working to source funds to replace the box so they can continue to raise money for the community.

For anyone wishing to donate, please contact Pamela Bowes on 07740 774 013 or pamela.bowes@hotmail.co.uk

Minister for Scotland joins the Hubbub

UK Government Minister for Scotland, John Lamont, has visited New Galloway to tour the refurbished town hall and meet representatives from community groups.

The minister sat down with trustees of Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) to discuss how a £175,000 award from the Community

Ownership Fund helped transform the town hall into an accessible, versatile, low carbon community space. This was the final stop in a tour of central and southwest Scotland that saw visits to Biggar, New Cumnock and Cairnryan, meeting community groups that have benefitted from UK Government funding.

Visiting on a Monday evening meant that New Galloway's weekly Hubbub - a social gathering centred on home

cooked food, conversation and crafts - was in full swing. The Minister, accompanied by Dumfries & Galloway councillor Pauline Drysdale, joined local residents for a hot meal and lively discussion on key issues impacting rural life.



Townhall Trustees with Minister John Lamont and Councillor Pauline Drysdale

TV's Hairy Bikers visit Galloway Pasta

The Hairy Bikers popped in to see Galloway Scottish Pasta in New Galloway last June while filming Hairy Bikers Go West.

Margaret, from Galloway Scottish Pasta, said: "It was such a lovely experience; Dave Myers and Si King spent the most

glorious day with us in New Galloway when Si made pasta and they both got to taste the pasta with a pesto made from local ingredients.

"We had been sworn to secrecy about the filming until it was announced on the BBC.

"After all the secrecy, we really wanted to share the experience of watching the show with the wider community and booked the big screen at Dalry Town Hall

for a public live showing and a tasting of the dish that the Hairy Bikers made with us."

NB Dave Myers sadly passed away in February after battling cancer.



MUGA plans move forward

Dalry's Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) could be a step closer to being brought back into use thanks to the efforts of volunteers from the Dalry Community Properties Trust (DCPT).

The MUGA, currently under the ownership of Dumfries & Galloway Council, has unfortunately been inactive since 2014. Challenges related to access, availability outside school hours and minimal council involvement have contributed to this situation.

However, the DCPT is excited about the prospect of revitalising this valuable asset under community ownership, ensuring its full utilisation for the benefit of all. DCPT volunteers have surveyed Dalry

residents and school pupils, as well as Glenkens Community Councillors from other settlements, and have received strong expressions of support for reopening the facility.

With the support of Council ward officers, the group is now working on the paperwork to complete a formal asset transfer to resurface and renovate as well as taking on the day-to-

day running of the MUGA. This means that school pupils and the wider Glenkens community would have access to the all-weather sports venue for tennis, five-a-side football, walking football, basketball and wheeled activities.

DCPT Chair Michele Owen commented: "The acquisition of the MUGA marks a significant step forward for community-

driven sports and recreation in the Glenkens. With community ownership, we wish to ensure everyone benefits. Local businesses are eager to revive the tradition of leagues, fostering a spirit of friendly competition among employees and competing groups. Our goal is to generate funds through business and local usage, enabling free access for children and other select groups, ensuring inclusivity and enjoyment for all."

The MUGA was constructed in 2004, funded by the New Opportunities Fund as part of a region-wide programme to upgrade and modernise sporting venues and to improve/provide access to sports and leisure facilities. Hopefully soon it will be in use for the local community once again!

If you would use the MUGA, please help DCPT with the application by completing this very short poll (just three questions) at <https://tinyurl.com/Dalry-MUGA-poll>

Becca Nelson



Uist visits the Glenkens

Glenkens Communities & Arts Trust (GCAT) was delighted to welcome Thomas Fisher and Theona Morrison from Uist in the Outer Hebrides for a very informative visit in January.

Theona and Thomas are heavily involved with community development up in Uist, and it has become clear over recent time just how much the islands and rural communities like the Glenkens have in common. Remoteness and poor transport links foster a high degree of self-sufficiency and community action wherever you are, it seems!

Thomas and Theona are from a community development

organisation on Uist, CoDeL, which had previously sourced a modest amount of Scottish Government funding to support two Glenkens projects that are very much aligned with ScotGov priorities - Bairn Banter in Carsphairn and the Galloway Food Hub.

Both are excellent examples of how to put national priorities around childcare and local food production into action in rural communities - although both rely heavily on volunteer effort, and it would be more sustainable into the longer term if key community projects like these had sufficient paid people to keep them going. In the meantime, we rely on the remarkable good will and efforts of the many volunteers involved, as ever!

Thomas and Theona were also very interested to hear about the Glenkens and District Community Action Plan and its alignment with national policies. They are doing a lot of work with

Scottish Rural Action around depopulation (Theona is the Chair of SRA), and we picked up some good ideas from them that we will be trying to put into action.

We finished the visit with a tour round the Glenkens landscapes, observing the rapid rate of land use change due to renewables and forestry planting.

It was fascinating to hear the observations of a fresh pair of eyes on our Glenkens challenges and opportunities, and we thank Theona and Thomas very much for their time in coming to see us!

Helen Keron,
Executive Manager,
GCAT



Working together for the future of Glenkens education

Over the past few months communities across the Glenkens have been galvanised into action as a result of the proposed recommendation by D&G Education Department to mothball Dalry Secondary.

The term 'stronger together' certainly rings true here as local community councils, Dalry School parent council, local businesses and community groups such as the Glenkens Community Action Plan Steering Group (CAPSG) have engaged with elected members, Scottish Government, D&G Council and press in a bid to have the Glenkens' communities voices heard. Finlay Carson MSP has also raised the issue in the Scottish Parliament and written to the Cabinet Secretary.

Through the intervention of Glenkens Ward Councillor Dougie Campbell, along with scrutiny from Scottish Government, it was discovered that Dumfries & Galloway Council actually has no policy in place for mothballing secondary schools, despite the move by the Education Department to push for this to happen at Dalry Secondary.

National and local press coverage in publications such as the *Herald*, *Daily Record*, *Galloway News* and the *Glenkens Gazette*, as well as on other news platforms such as Border TV, Radio Scotland and DG What's Going On Facebook page have ensured that the situation has a spotlight on it.

Glenkens Ward Councillor Dougie Campbell, with the support of fellow Glenkens Ward councillor Andy McFarlane, put a motion before the next Dumfries & Galloway Council meeting on 28 March asking for a halt to mothballing of secondary schools across the region until a robust policy, which includes rigorous and thoughtful community consultation and assessment of the socio-economic implications, has been put in place. This bid was successful as this edition of the Gazette went to press - see front page article.

Dalry parent council is working hard to get the message out there that the Dalry Secondary needs to be seen in its unique context; with its large remote

"Glenkens education cannot be fitted into a prescribed model... Our children and our communities need to be supported, not sidelined,"

rural catchment including portions of single track roads with elevations over 1,000 feet (resulting in harsh and often unpredictable winter conditions), its situation is more similar to island schools than any mainland school. "Glenkens education cannot be fitted into a prescribed model, and some thinking outside of the box needs to be done with consideration of particular nature of our area. Our children and our communities need to



L-R: Bob Glaister (Glenkens Community Action Plan Steering Group), Cllr Linda Dorward, Cllr John Denerley, Cllr George Jamieson, Sarah Ade (Dalry School Parent Council) and Cllr Dougie Campbell with bus driver, Blue, behind in the GCT bus set drive the route children travel daily if Dalry Secondary was to be mothballed [five more passengers joined the bus en-route]. Photograph courtesy of the Galloway News.

Scan the QR code or type Glenkens to Castle Douglas School Bus into the YouTube search function to see time-lapse footage of the journey.

be supported, not sidelined," said Emily Wall of the parent council.

To illustrate the situation faced by the pupils, Dalry School's parent council arranged a bus ride for councillors and press

along the route that Glenkens children would have to travel to get to high school, which was well

attended and featured on ITV Border on 22 March. The journey was a three-hour

round-trip, and parent council members reminded those on the bus that this journey would need to be taken five days a week for up to six years of a child's life if they had to travel to Castle Douglas High School from S1.

The parent council is also speaking with other small secondary schools across Scotland to find out how they manage with numbers similar to those at Dalry. All the schools approached to date run successful all-through models, which is what parents and future parents are asking D&G Education Department to do in the Glenkens.

Continued on opposite page...

In order for the CAPSG to create a Glenkens Education Forum, it is vital that there is input from all interested parties so that the wider voice of parents, children, employers, statutory providers and community members are taken account of. In light of this, the group is asking for anyone interested in taking part in this important work to contact Helen Keron on helen@catstrand.com

Continued from p6...

Meanwhile, other local groups are continuing to look at Glenkens education in its broader form.

Glenkens & District Trust (GDT) have recently stated that: "We are acutely aware of the importance of education provision to the sustainability of the area and the current issues relating to the potential mothballing of Dalry secondary school.

We are also aware that this is an issue that is impacting various other rural areas across Scotland. In our role to support Glenkens community development, we will be commissioning a piece of work to enable a better understanding of how other communities affected by this

issue are approaching it, to share learning and experience.

This study will provide information and tools that will support the Glenkens communities in their goal to find a locally specific way forward that meets the needs and aspirations of local families and our young people."

The Glenkens Community Action Plan Steering Group (CAPSG) sees the provision of education as an important underpin to the goal set out in the Community Action Plan and is considering whether the creation of a Glenkens Education Forum to develop ideas and potential solutions for the short, medium and long term is appropriate. They said: "For example, this group could work together to develop a 'model for education

and learning in the Glenkens'. This would cover pre-school, primary school, high school, wrap-around clubs, post-school learning, further education and lifelong learning and consider the pipeline of industry in the area. The work proposed by GDT will support this."

Sarah Ade, member of the parent council as well as the CAPSG, said: "The communities of the Glenkens are keen to work with D&G education department to find a solution. But we need to be listened to, and our views respected, which is not happening at present. We see the move towards amalgamated learning centres such as Dumfries Learning Town. We see the challenges of an ageing schools estate. And we aren't saying 'don't change

anything' – we are saying the opposite in fact; we desperately need change to Dalry Secondary school as the current management arrangement is killing the school. We are saying that higher education within our Glenkens communities is vital, and that the department in charge of our schools - the Directorate for Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing - needs to take into account our communities' wellbeing. We have active and engaged local business willing to support education. We have numerous windfarms in development over the coming years. We have enthusiastic and articulate community organisations. And we want to work together to create a plan for Glenkens education that benefits everyone into the future."

A different school of thought

I am writing this article after being deeply moved by reading 'Field Trip' in the February/March edition of the *Glenkens Gazette*.

Well done that author, MNE, describing the 'second clearances', because that is what is happening. No school means the beware that the Post Office, doctors' surgery, garage and arts centre may be next, and then an oldie lonely community with just a few contractors coming in looking after the trees and wind farms.

Does a Dark Skies area much touted refer to a lack of physical light of an area or where depression is present? This is a dramatic description - creative writing at its best - of the decline of the rural community made manifest. It could be so different and the district has a special place in modern rural education history with the Kilquhanity School taking its place as 'The Scottish Summerhill', where the children helped with everything and learnt at the same time. Dalry is perhaps the smallest secondary school

in the UK which, for quiet schooling, can be such a good learning environment. For children in the countryside to have a local, well-funded (the education authorities can fundraise you know!), all-round education makes it a gem in the state school system and it should be given a badge of honour instead of facing the threat of closure.

What could happen to Dalry instead of closure?

One hundred years ago Henry Morris, the Chief Education Officer of Cambridgeshire, published his *Memorandum* which described a cradle-to-grave rural education approach, which became known as The Village College. Here primary, secondary and adult education took place where the local community supported the school and the school supported the community. Fine, light-filled buildings were erected with original artworks on the walls and workshops for engineering training and land skills along with libraries, evening classes, cinema and dances, all under one roof and all financed by charitable trusts and local businesses (I hope you are reading Mr Forestry Owner and Mr Wind Farm Contractor!). They have

been a great success giving people in the countryside brilliant education without the horrific travel times to the far off town.

Nearer to home, not far from South West Scotland, there is a very good example of rural education at the John Ruskin School, Coniston, Cumbria which has built a reputation as a community rural school even taking pupils from the nearby urban areas who are better off away from the tendency for gangland environments. It has been hugely successful as a school which has specialised with support for children with autism and a nature-and-nurture approach, especially important since the pandemic. (That travel fund which has some money left over, D&G Education Secretary, you can take interested parties and go and have a look!).

The Galloway Hills teeter on the edge of The Second Clearances, but it's surely not too late - it's just so unfair that a child from Carsphairn sits on a bus for an hour or



From the cover of Educator Extraordinary: The Life and Achievement of Henry Morris by Harry Ree Longman 1973

more when the alternatives are so possible in an area where rural education has had such a remarkable story to tell.

You can find videos and information on The Village College: The Life and Legacy of Henry Morris, Life at The Kilquhanity School, and The John Ruskin School at Coniston on YouTube and other sites for anyone interested.

A tree planting day at Dalry Library

Children from the P1/2 class at Dalry Primary were invited to the Dalry library to be part of planting a special tree in the grounds.

The children were accompanied by Mr Scrimshaw, Mrs Newbery and Mrs Haynes, and were joined by Alex McRae, a local ecologist. They learned about what trees need to grow strong and healthy and how the soil is enriched by earthworms.

Taking turns digging until a tree-sized hole was created and the tree was carefully placed in the ground. The children then helped to fill in the soil around it.

Whilst the children were digging, as well as lots of worms, they found a piece of old pottery and a May bug, also known as a cockchafer beetle, another sign that the soil was in good health. Once the ground was firmed around the tree, the children sowed clover seeds to help fix nitrogen in the soil which will help the tree to grow.

Alex said: "The tree is a local sapling and is planted with respect for our UNESCO Biosphere and to mark the King's coronation. Also to celebrate Dalry's wonderful library. To encourage wider use of the library's garden, Dalry Community Council have donated a bench and we're also hoping to get a few stumps and planks for little ones to sit on."

The children had a lovely day in the sunshine, learned a great deal about trees and enjoyed being part of creating local history and a legacy for the community.



Farming, food and Easter fun

In Dalry primary school's P1/2 class, the children have been learning about farms and the animals that live there and create our food.

In the classroom, the children had visits from farmer Rory and also Mrs Heuchan and joined in online with Meet the Farmer. They learned about crops, looking after animals, how to make food for cows and how milk is produced.

In the Farm Shop, they learned about vegetables and fruit, how to buy and sell produce and use money. On 13 March, the children went on a visit to Loch Arthur Farm Shop in Beeswing. We were met by Helen, the shop manager, and she talked to the children about the fruit and vegetables, the bakery, the cheeses they make and the butchery department.

They enjoyed a shortbread biscuit and juice in the café before continuing onto the all-inclusive playpark at Carlingwark Loch, Castle Douglas. A fantastic day was enjoyed by all and when we returned to school, we tasted the sausages and yoghurt we bought.

Sing into Spring

Children at Dalry Primary welcomed families and the local community into the school hall for Sing into Spring - an afternoon of spring celebration, performances and cake.

The coffee afternoon was well attended and the children in all three classes had made sweet treats for everyone to enjoy. The P5/6/7 class were responsible for setting up the hall and making beautiful decorations for the tables. Some of the classroom assistants helped the children to make and serve the drinks and we were joined by some of the Dalry Secondary children who also helped.

The audience was treated to musical performances by all the classes, and they also got to see

the entries for the Decorated Egg competition. The prizes were presented during the event. Such wonderful creativity.

The final day of school saw the children participating in an Easter Egg Hunt in the playground and ELC garden. The Easter Bunny joined us and a fun time was had by all.

Dalry Primary are looking forward to more exciting events and learning in the next few months. Thank you for all the parents and the members of the community that support the school over the year. Keep an eye out for forthcoming events.

Sabine Haynes

***Pictured
are Easter
celebrations at
Sing into Spring
and the P1/2 class
outside the Loch
Arthur farm shop***



A big "thank you" from the *Gazette*

Mike Brown has been a member of the *Glenkens Gazette* Steering Group for over 15 years and, now about to enter his eightieth year, has decided it's time to step down and hand the baton to someone new.

An instrumental part in the *Gazette's* journey, Mike has been key to the development of the publication, helping to guide it with care and consideration to the point it's at today; the thriving, active and valued publication as you see it.

We will very much miss his keen journalistic eye, as well as his attention to detail as a proof reader, including an

understanding of law as it affects journalism through a long career in the business.

All at the *Gazette* and GCAT would like to say a huge "thank you" for the many, many hours you have given Mike - you will be very much missed.

In light of this, we will now have a vacancy in our *Glenkens Gazette* steering group. If anyone locally has a background in journalism and/or a knowledge of the law relating to publishing, and feel you may have a few hours to spare each month to support our community publication, please do get in touch.

We're always looking for proof readers to join our pool - do be in touch if you could spare a few hours every two months.

The Glenkens Gazette Team



New faces at LING



Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) is delighted to announce the appointment of Heather Chipchase as assistant Hub host.

Our Hubbub sessions in New Galloway Town Hall on Thursdays are going so well we have needed an extra pair of hands. Heather will be working partly in the kitchen, where the focus is on saving food-waste and providing cheap and nourishing meals, and she also assists Bianca Leder, our Hub Host extraordinaire, in whatever activities are happening each week.

We've had everything from Abi Morden teaching us about the wonders of kale, a citizens' advice visit, and Carol Salisbury running a session on how to make better use of your phone or tablet - starting with how to switch it on!

Plus there's always lots of chat and laughter in a friendly, relaxed environment, as the photographs both illustrate so well.

Above left - new Assistant Hub Host Heather Chipchase. Left - fun and banter at Thursdays' Hubbub



Handfasting

In a woodland setting by Kenmure Castle, Sylvia Brown and Glynne Shackleton quite literally 'tied the knot' in a traditional handfasting ceremony.

Their happiness has been delighting everyone in New Galloway since the romance sprang up only a few short months ago.

Ann Glaister



Glenkens Youth Correspondent

Joshua Wells, age 14, is our *Gazette* youth correspondent and each edition will be writing about things which interest him. In this issue he looks at volunteering in his local community.



I love volunteering; every fortnight on a Saturday I go to the CatStrand Art Club at the Smiddy in Balmaclellan, and in each session we create a different piece of art.

I've made clay sculptures and great drawings. I get there early so that I can volunteer at Art Explorers. The people that go are aged between five and eight years old. They also get to make wonderful pieces of art. I like volunteering there because I enjoy helping people younger than me.

When I'm there I help get stuff out, so there is enough glue and paint for everyone, and then I tidy up the gargantuan mess the children leave! Someone has to make sure it's tidy for my group, I can't leave Cat to do it alone!

During the school holidays, I volunteer at New Galloway

Town Hall. Sometimes I volunteer at the Hub and sometimes I volunteer at LING Lunches. At the lunches, I help by setting up tables, washing up and getting tea and coffee for people. At the Hub I made macaroni cheese for 10 people; it was the first time I'd done anything like that. Just meeting new people would get me to come back again.

Sometimes after school, I go to the CatStrand for Art Ambassadors. This is a youth-led session, and we talk about projects that we could create there. It's a small group; last year we planned Santa's grotto, which involved setting dates, wrapping presents and being elves

ourselves for the grotto.

This week I had an early start, I got up at 7am and had to get ready to leave home at 8.20am to set off to Castle Douglas for Parkrun which happens every Saturday at Carlingwark Loch at 9.30am. However, because I was volunteering as a marshal, I had to be there at 9am.

When I got there, the run director told me what I was going to do and where I was going to be. If you've not heard about Parkrun, it's a volunteer-led run that happens weekly worldwide. It mostly takes place in parks - hence the name. Did you know some Parkruns are held in prisons? I don't think I

can volunteer for those ones though!

I have volunteered at Parkrun before due to my mum setting up one in Kent back in 2016 when I was seven years old. I used to find it fun to use the megaphone in front of around 200 people. This time my dad ran at Parkrun and so did lots of other people from the Glenkens. I think it's a good way to stay healthy, and it's free. Marshalling is easy because all you have to do is cheer people on as they run by and they thank you for helping out. It was all finished and packed-up by 10.30am, so me and my dad went off to the library.

There are a lot of benefits to volunteering such as meeting new people, learning new skills, and getting more hours on your Saltire Award.

The Saltire Awards are for young people aged 12-25 and aim to recognise and reward the commitment, contribution and achievements of young volunteers in Scotland - visit www.saltireawards.scot for more information.



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Want to run a food business?

Do you ever have a glut of fruit or vegetables? Would you like to start a home-made food business?

If you have thought about setting up a food-related business but are not sure where to start, then read on!

The Galloway Food Hub, based in the Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry, is on a mission to encourage local people to take that first step from concept to reality. The project believes there is a need for more small food business in the Glenkens to build a resilient food community. They can provide an additional route to market for small local, good food producers alongside farmers markets, local shops and direct sales.

Whether you have grown too many courgettes or have a secret family oatcake recipe you enjoy making, the hub would love to hear from you. The Food Hub operates on a fortnightly basis, so even if you just happen to have a glut of a particular vegetable one

month, once you're signed up as a producer, you can sell as much or as little of your produce as you like.

You can go to the 'Producer Guidance' page at www.gallowayfoodhub.org.uk to navigate your way through the guidelines you need to get established safely and legally. It's very simple for fruit and vegetable growers and a bit more involved once you start making, baking and cooking.

The Food Hub would love to hear from people making something a wee bit different which is also in line with their Good Food Criteria: healthy for planet, people and animals. Something that involves real ingredients,

preferably organic and/or local, and that is healthy as well as delicious!

Currently the Hub has lots of chutney and jam makers, for instance, but are short on products like oatcakes, kefir, sauces and ready meals. They would also like to hear from keen gardeners who don't have their own growing space and may be interested in helping at a local market garden.

The Food Hub has just completed a successful trial of a Fair Food for All scheme. Using DG Climate Hub funding, the scheme supported 10 free 'food staples' boxes and a range of discounts off Hub products

in order to offer the wider community more affordable access to local, and climate friendly, produce.

Big farms are subsidised to provide cheap food to the nation, so it makes sense that small local farmers produce should be subsidised too, to make it more affordable to those on a tight budget. The recipients' feedback was very positive, with the food making an impact on improving their weekly budget, increasing their feeling of health and happiness and forging a connection to where their food came from.

Whilst some found it difficult to come forward to partake in the scheme, everyone would appreciate if this could be run on a more regular basis. The Food Hub will be looking to bring in donations from the public to fund - or pay-it-forward as it's called - food staples boxes in future. Other avenues for funding will also be investigated to continue this scheme.

To find out more visit www.gallowayfoodhub.org.uk where you can also find out more about current producers and how to shop at the Hub.



Sharing traditional skills

"To be honest I was absolutely delighted to be asked," said Carol Salisbury, one of the volunteers who ran a learning station at the skill-share event in New Galloway Town Hall.

"Old-fashioned herbs and tinctures are something I'm passionate about, so it was a real joy to be able to share that with people who were so keen to learn – all ages as well. I was quite amazed by the level of enthusiasm.

It seemed Carol was not alone in her enjoyment of the occasion. This was a sell-out event, with 40 places supported by Dumfries and Galloway Climate Hub (see article on p15). Bianca Leder, our

own Hub host, was the prime mover and shaker who made it all happen.

We learned about fermenting from Bianca herself, how to make beeswax wraps with Jackie Wells and the basics of sewing from Julia Higgins.

An equally intriguing and delicious lunch was conjured up for everyone by Vika Jouja, one of our several Ukrainian residents in the Glenkens.



"A wonderful, refreshing and revitalising day," said one attendee on their feedback form. "The enthusiasm was contagious," said another.

Ann Glaister, LING

Glenkens Freecycle

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

FREE

Red high seat Parker Knoll chair. Contact: 07876 786 099

Pale brown carpet, laid but then replaced without being used. Approx 4m x 3.5m (13x11 feet). Collection from Dalry. Contact: 07769 959 511

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

A Casio LK100 keyboard and a **Brother KH836 knitting machine.** Both complete and working with instructions and accessories. Free to good homes. Contact: 07531 035 824.

Metal bunk bed frame, double bottom, single top. Contact: 07952 280 902

WANTED

Big long fold up table (similar to those used at craft fairs). Contact: 07749 087 699

Small shed/dog house/chicken coop to house a family of three chickens. Contact: Leto 07763 235 888

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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT REQUIRED - see p32



It's that time of year again when our thoughts turn towards Glenkens Food Month!

The first planning meeting for the September event will take place at the CatStrand on Thursday 25 April at 6pm. Any interested parties who

would like to have a presence are warmly invited to come along – community groups, local businesses or individuals. We'll get the plates spinning and ideas rolling for events and activities to celebrate local food in our glorious Glenkens.

Email jo@catstrand.com for info, or just come along on 25 April.



Glenkens Gardeners

Glenkens Gardeners is a friendly group for keen growers and gardeners from all across the Glenkens.

We aim to have a monthly seed and plant swap somewhere in the Glenkens, and we have an informal 'home' at the Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry.

The group helps gardeners to make new connections, swap anything from plants and produce to hints and tips, and

has an active WhatsApp group as our main form of communication. To be added to the group or find out more, email abi@propagate.org.uk. Looking forward to welcoming new members soon!

The Glenkens Gardeners



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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Out and About in the Biosphere

Spring is an exciting time in the UNESCO Biosphere as nature awakens and longer days bring more time outdoors.

The Glenkens is the perfect place to experience the natural heritage and 'sense of place' that led to southwest Scotland being given its international status more than a decade ago.

The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust's Watson Bird trails will fill with sights and songs over the next weeks; follow in the footsteps of artist and nature-lover Donald Watson (1918-2005) who made countless studies of local bird species. Two trail routes (with audio available) take you around the Biosphere Community of St John's Town of Dalry and across the Glenkens, from Makilston to Mossdale.

For those looking to explore further or take family and friends on some great days out, the Watson Bird trails are just one part of The Ambassador's Tour, an itinerary for visiting some of the Biosphere's best attractions and activities. (The rather grand name comes from being based on the visit of Anna Nsubuga, the UK Ambassador to UNESCO, in July 2023.)

In case anyone was in doubt about the region being a world class destination: within the last few months the GSA Biosphere has been featured by Rough

Guides, Wanderlust, Lonely Planet, and National Geographic Traveller UK in their 'must see' lists for 2024!

As always the Biosphere has a packed programme of events on the go. Recently their first Farming for the Future conference took place in Newton Stewart, in partnership with Propagate and the National Farmers' Union Scotland.

Farmers and producers met, networked, and shared their experiences and ideas on regenerative farming. Several farming businesses are already accredited through the Biosphere Certification Mark scheme as understanding of nature-friendly practice grows; the Biosphere's staff includes a land use and biodiversity specialist and a nature recovery officer who are available for site visits and advice.

Readers may have already seen that the D&G Climate Hub



is well underway, supporting community-led climate action through funding, resources and facilitation. The Hub is one of a national network established as part of the Scottish Government's

economy adviser and The Ship Inn, a Biosphere Certification Mark business in Gatehouse of Fleet.

The team also ran a 'Sense of Place' workshop for residents of Castle Douglas to explore the potential for joining the Biosphere Communities scheme, which brings with it support for destination development, plus learning and wellbeing initiatives that help people live

sustainably and spend more time outdoors.

More information about all the above is available at www.gsabiosphere.org.uk where you can also sign up as a Proud Supporter – open to individuals, businesses, schools, organisations, and community groups and entirely FREE.

The team is active on all the main social media platforms – follow #gsabiosphere to keep up to date with events and opportunities through 2024, or contact staff directly via info@gsabiosphere.org.uk

...within the last few months the GSA Biosphere has been featured by Rough Guides, Wanderlust, Lonely Planet, and National Geographic Traveller UK in their 'must see' lists for 2024!

Let's Do Net Zero campaign, and the GSA Biosphere Partnership is delivering the Hub for the entirety of D&G. The Hub's work covers an ever-expanding project map including Glenkens organisations that have benefited from seed funding, such as the Galloway Food Hub and Local Initiatives in New Galloway (see article on p15, opposite).

Biosphere staff were in Castle Douglas for three days in March, hosting a pop-up info hub at the Samphire Gallery. This included an evening session hosted by business development officers, with presentations by South of Scotland Enterprise's circular



Top: Jake McLaughlan supporting at the Castle Douglas pop-up hub. Left: Faith Hillier, Ribh Gallacher and Jenna Cains – the Biosphere's Community & Education team - at Threave Estate

The Optimistic Environmentalist

Reducing your home energy bills - Part Four

This feature follows on from part three, which was featured in the October/November edition of the *Gazette*.

• Larger or more long-term tips

Always insulate as a priority. If you tackle every aspect of insulating your property it will be expensive but works very well; there are cheaper technologies and techniques that will not be totally effective, but are certainly worth using. Remember, start with rooms that you use more often; it is better to start with a manageable chunk rather than feeling overwhelmed by the cost or size of the job.

• Total insulation

If you have brick or block cavity walls, insulation can be injected into the cavities. If you have solid walls though, eg stone, you can either insulate the outside of the building or inside. This is very effective but is costly and can be disruptive. You may need to decide to cover up your nice cottage appearance or lose some space inside.

Alternatively, use something like Sempatap which is like a thick insulating wallpaper (10mm thick) but can reduce 'U-values' (a measure of thermal loss) by up to 30%. You decorate over the top afterwards. It costs £270 per roll which covers 12.5m².

• Underfloor insulation

You can put mineral wool (eg Eko roll) or insulation board (eg Kingspan) under a suspended timber floor. If your floor is solid, (concrete or soil) you would have to get it dug out before putting damp proofing

and insulation layers underneath before laying the new floor. If this is not possible because of cost, time or difficulty with the disruption, put insulation over the floor or use thermal underlay beneath the floor coverings.

As stated before, insulate your attic. Pound for pound, this is the cheapest and most effective thing you can do.

Find any drafts; check that windows and doors are not leaky; use triple glazing and shutters. These are becoming more popular in the UK because, like all insulation, they help to maintain a consistent temperature in the building against extremes of heat and cold. Beware though, you don't want to make your house so airtight that it becomes damp or the air is stale.

NB: at the moment, insulation materials are charged at 20% VAT but contractors are charged at 0% VAT so they should pass this saving on to you. Whatever you are doing, check to see if there are grants or loans available as what is funded and at what level changes regularly. Contact the Energy Saving Trust or Dumfries & Galloway Council for ideas.

If you are altering your roof, floor or flooring, windows, walls or doors, make sure you add a good

amount of insulation into the project while you're at it rather than it being an add-on later.

• Home storage battery systems

This can be a single unit or built of modules which link together - they start at about £1,000. You also need an inverter (starting at around £600) which converts your mains electricity (alternating current, AC) incoming electricity into direct current (DC) to charge your home storage battery. The inverter also reverses the process and converts the DC battery power to AC when you want to power your home. NB: batteries in Home Energy Storage Systems are now VAT exempt. Also, you can add more batteries at a later date when funds are available.

(see Part Five, in the next edition of the *Gazette*, for home storage battery systems continued)

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

Currently there is the Eco4 grant available to both tenants and homeowners on qualifying benefits. The grant offers full insulation, solar panels, air source heat pump and central heating system, so is definitely worth looking into - visit www.ofgem.gov.uk to find out more.



Seed funding flourishes

Since November 2023 the Scottish Government funded initiative, D&G Climate Hub (delivered by the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere), have supported 27 community climate action projects through seed funding, two of which have been in the Glenkens.

A sell-out Learn to be Self Sufficient day hosted by Local Initiatives in New Galloway at New Galloway Town Hall welcomed 40 participants for a day of skill sharing and great food (see p12 for more).

The second funded project was with Galloway Food Hub who piloted a Pay it Forward scheme which seeks to address food inequality in the region. This has helped people access free high-quality foods staples boxes or a generous discount to a Galloway Food Hub shop.

It was important to Galloway Food Hub that people self-referred, so an impressive 800 flyers were delivered to Glenkens households, thanks to the *Glenkens Gazette* remote rural delivery scheme!

They also used social media, Stepping Stones Food Bank, and other community enterprises to reach the main participants. (See p11 for a full report).

Keep an eye on the D&G



Climate Hub's social media, website calendar and map to keep abreast of local community climate action.

Sarah Thomas,
D&G Climate Hub Climate
Officer (West)

07425 370895

sarah@gsabiosphere.org.uk



GALLOWAY AND
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE
BIOSPHERE



Net Zero
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LET'S DO
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Launch of the Loch Ken Volunteer Ranger Scheme

It's a momentous occasion for the Loch Ken Ranger Service as this month sees the official launch of the Loch Ken Volunteer Ranger scheme.

Since forming in 2021, the Loch Ken Ranger Service has cared passionately about looking after our beautiful Loch Ken, working to help protect it and its surrounding environment for the future.

Head Ranger Leanne Pumpri began her Ranger journey as a volunteer back in 2022, helping out with education sessions for local schools. Leanne now heads up the Ranger Service, working hard to ensure that the loch is better cared for. A typical day for Leanne involves patrolling on and around Loch Ken, engaging with locals and visitors. Whilst there are many responsible campers, Leanne often has to deal with littering, abandoned campfires and camping equipment, and wildlife crime. The Loch Ken Ranger Service is now firmly embedded in our communities – this friendly ranger presence is reassuring for people and has helped to protect our environment from neglect and decline.

The Loch Ken Ranger Service was set up by the community for the community, when council ranger services were withdrawn, trailblazing the way as one of the first community-led ranger services in Scotland. As such, we are still trying to work out what this Ranger Service could provide, and can very much be guided by the needs of our

communities, working out together what this could be in the future. This winter the Ranger Service branched out and worked on a resilience project, assisting communities with preparations for extreme weather events.

The Volunteer Scheme was launched with a 'Meet the Ranger Service' open day where members of the communities were invited to come along and find out more about our work and how they can get involved. Head ranger Leanne gave a presentation showcasing how the Ranger Service has developed over the last few years.

"We had a great response to our open event," said Leanne. "It was great to meet members of the community who share our passion for our environment and are keen to help make a difference with us."

We have been pleased to see a lot of people keen to get involved and help with the work we do, and we hope in time to have volunteer rangers in every community around Loch Ken. Volunteer duties will complement the current work of the ranger service and include assisting with both water and land patrols, resilience work, helping deliver education sessions, looking after our ecosystem or helping out with organised events. The scheme will be a great learning opportunity for many, and also a chance to get out and about in the outdoors and meet new people.

Members of the community also play a vital role in keeping an eye on things, and are very good at reporting incidents to the ranger service. We would urge anyone who notices anything around the loch that they feel concerned about to let us know - you can contact the ranger service on the numbers on this page, or you can report anything on our website www.lochken.org.uk

The ranger service holds a **Ranger Group**



LOCH KEN RANGER
07539 029 175 / 07918 300 889

meeting on the last Wednesday of every month. These meetings are open to all and include discussion and monthly incident and data reports. We would love people to come along, find out more and get involved. Details of our next meeting can be found on our website.

People are at the heart of the Loch Ken Ranger Service and everything we do, and it is fantastic to see such a show of support from the communities.

If you are interested in this scheme or any other Loch Ken Trust projects and would like to be involved please get in touch lktooffice@protonmail.com



A year in the life



Last year was a great year for Balmaclellan Village Hall, building on from the work begun in 2022.

Lots of successful events, activities, and refurbishment to make this centre of the community a thriving and welcoming space. There is still more to do, but more of that later. Let's recap what's gone on so far...

We started 2023 with a terrific Hogmanay party that brought all the village together and got the year started with a swing.

Our Burn's Night supper later that month was a huge success, with lots of music, homilies, laughter and poetry (*Tam o' Shanter* with added action scenes!) - a truly inspiring homage to our bard.

Our second plant sale later that spring built on the success of the previous year, with wonderful weather to really get the gardening year started.

The plant sale and teas (served outdoors in the beautiful weather) introduced many to the new village hall garden. When we dismantled the old stage to create more space for events, we asked Paul Appleyard from Dalbeattie to 'upcycle' some of the timber to create benching around the two cherry trees. Cairan Murdoch had dug flower beds which had been planted over the year to create a beautiful community space where anyone can come and enjoy sitting among the flowers.

Many of the flowering shrubs were purchased from local gardener and nurseryman, Billy Orr, and it was lovely to see the plants he was selling already looking wonderful in the garden.

We also ran a successful series of evening 'Pop-Up Pub' nights, which in the absence of a local hostelry, served to again bring the village together through the year.

These events were very well attended and enjoyed by all. They were an important fundraiser for helping get the refurbishment of the hall underway.

A major upgrade of the kitchen, and the conversion of a former meeting room into a food preparation room, meant that we are now able to cater at a much more professional level. Partly to do with this, but mostly because we have a terrific team of outstanding bakers, our monthly afternoon tea sessions have really taken off with up to 30 people from across the Glenkens coming to enjoy home baking, good cooking, unlimited tea and coffee, and of course, a good chat with friends. Booking for this is now essential; if interested please contact julia.higgins55@outlook.com

Our long-standing and very popular Glenkens Crafters group meet every Wednesday morning. The range of crafting activities that take place is amazing, with beginners and experts working alongside each other helping, teaching and supporting the various projects on the go - and all accompanied by lots of good blether, tea, coffee and cake of course!

In September we were part of the Glenkens Heritage Hub Day and filled the hall with displays and exhibits about the history and heritage of our small village. This was a very busy day, with lots of cake consumed...

The end of the September Glenkens Food Month was celebrated by a hog roast.

Sadly, the weather was rather less than kind, but the fabulous food more than made up for it.

We ended the year with our annual children's Christmas party, hosting a lively afternoon of entertainment by Magic Monty followed by a visit from Father Christmas himself, resulting in lots of happy children.

It was a quiet start for 2024 - no Hogmanay this year. The perennial problem in all volunteer-led organisations is one of volunteer shortage. Without anyone willing to take on the organisation of an event, things simply don't happen (please get in touch if you would like to be involved in helping organise events!).

This year's Burns Night was another amazing event with excellent guest speakers, this time a thoughtful and thought-provoking monologue on Burns himself and a vigorous and hilarious rendering of *Holy Willie's Prayer*, all accompanied by a wonderful meal provided by Michelle from The Thistle in Crossmichael. The haggis was

again, as last year, beautifully piped in by young Ollie McKie.

And moving on to 2024, our centenary year got off to a splendid, if slightly late, start. We have lots lined up for the upcoming months: a 'recipes from rationing' day takes us back to wartime cooking (booking needed for the morning practical fun session). Our annual plant sale will be combined with a traditional village fete, teas and barbecue (bar from 12noon-6pm), a pop-up pub night in July, and a hog roast and ceilidh, to celebrate the anniversary of the opening, in September. Keep your eyes open for details on social media, the Glenkens Hub (www.glenkens.scot) and posters around the area.

Lynn Stewart

Pictured are the annual plant sale and a packed hall for the pop-up pub night





GLENKENS & District Trust

As the Glenkens & District Trust gears up for our spring round of funding we have been reflecting on the year past and the landscape we operate in.

The fund hit the significant milestone of having paid out £1 million since it launched in 2019, supporting initiatives right across the Glenkens & District area, and more recently, Education and Training bursaries.

The early years of the fund have supported a wide range of projects and the trustees have swiftly evolved its strategy to ensure we can make the most of the money

Keeping the com the heart of com

we receive, delivering against the community's priorities which were articulated through the Glenkens & District community action plan.

One of GDT's key roles is to liaise with wind farm owners on existing and pipeline projects. While our stance on development is always neutral and we play no role in the planning/consent process relating to construction, we work hard to get the best possible arrangement for our communities.

We pride ourselves in being proactive on this front and ensuring that all project developers know GDT's role, how it operates, and the principles of inclusiveness and equity that we operate through our membership arrangements.

During 2023 this has resulted in additional annual payments

of £54,000 from the Windy Rig windfarm coming into the Fund and an agreement in principle with Red Rock Power, that should secure an additional £112,000 per year in community benefit funds for the Glenkens & District area.

This funding will not be available until 2026 at the earliest and indeed the pipeline of potential wind farm projects that could benefit the area, if constructed, also look to be gradually pushing out towards the end of this decade.

This means that the fund is not going to grow significantly over the next few years and because the main donor (Blackcraig Windfarm Scotland Ltd) does not provide an inflationary uplift to their annual payment, in real terms the trust will be trying to do more with less.

Education & Training

We are beginning to see the impact of the Education & Training fund launched in August 2022.

This fund is open to all residents in the area aged 16+. While 50% of the awards are associated with the cost of leaving home and studying at college or university, it's not just for school leavers - around a third of applicants do short courses and are mid-career and retraining, or people re-entering the job market after a break.

In total 34 bursaries were awarded over 12 months, with just over £47,000 being distributed through the fund.

Anna's story...

Having raised a young person away from her origins, Anna was looking for her original goal of working in her adolescent mental health to Practice qualification to regain nursing registration. The costs involved were a jeopardy to Anna's ability to complete the course.

Anna made a successful application to the Education & Training fund which enabled her to undertake the 450 practice hours required at Dumfries Royal Infirmary.

Anna says: "I am now a qualified nurse. I say I completed all the



Community voice at Community benefit

This has led to much trustee discussion about the fund's strategy and the best ways in which the trust can fund local initiatives to create the greatest impact.

This is an ongoing debate but some emerging themes in that discussion so far include the impact created by investing in:

- activities that in turn enable other groups or individuals within the community to thrive (such as the Glenkens Community Spaces Network, which provides support and information for local halls and assets, or the Citizen's Advice Bureau outreach service)
- providing early-stage awards which may have some inherent risk but can act as a springboard for a service to launch and flourish (such as the then Glenkens - now Galloway - Food Hub)
- holding highly valued local

services steady through the provision of core funds (such as the three year award for the Loch Ken Ranger Service). Liaison with developers also forms one part of a bigger aspect of our role - which is ensuring that community voices stay central to community benefit processes. As the scale of community benefits grows across Scotland, a wide variety of regional and national bodies are showing increasing interest in how community benefits are delivered and used, with a diverse range of perspectives on how this is done. We are working closely with our fund partners Foundation Scotland, which has a long track record of working in community benefits across Scotland, to take an active part in this live conversation. GDT's key objective, and the relevance

of the national 'noise' to our local setting, is to ensure that community remains at the heart of decisions on how community benefit monies are used; and that appropriate support is given to communities by the right agencies at the right time, to enable them to prepare for community benefits money in such a way that enables them to stay in control by being effective and ready to deliver.

There are various ways of getting involved if you would like to support this work. Most of our trustees are drawn from our member community

councils but our constitution also allows to include up to five independent trustees and we also welcome associate members, usually people or organisations who are keen to support our work and stay involved but who don't have voting rights at our AGMs. These members will be fully involved in the life of the trust, receiving updates on the work of GDT and opportunities to engage. To find out more about getting involved email info@glenkenstrust.org.uk or go to www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/get-involved

GLENKENS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY FUND AREA



ing Fund: a snapshot

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academic and practice elements of the course and have re-registered as a mental health nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. I was also subsequently offered a full-time position within the Dumfries & Galloway Child and Adolescent Mental Health team. I could not have done this without the kind financial assistance I received."



creative,
successful,
healthy,
strong,
lively,
supportive,
connected,
inclusive,
long-lasting.
and
positive,

Remembering children of Ukraine

As a children's and young people's therapist I understand the profound effect that traumatic experiences can have on children, both immediately, and also on their future physical and emotional development.

If a child has experienced trauma they need specific help and understanding to allow them to begin to process their experience and begin to feel secure again.

Play Therapy offers such a method to help children find ways of coping with a difficult

emotional issue. It can help them gain more of a sense of themselves and therefore enables them to feel more in control and have agency over their lives despite living with ongoing challenges.

When the war in Ukraine started in February 2022, I felt desperate for the plight of the children and wanted to find a way to help, but what could I do? The task seemed overwhelming! I decided to give myself the challenge of trying to replicate the essential Play Therapy kit into a small string bag which could be easily portable.

In May 2022 I was able to raise enough money (£12 per kit) through the church I was with at the time - MCC in Harrogate - to send the first 100 therapy kits via a van that was taking mainly medical supplies into Ukraine through Poland.

When we moved to New Galloway in August 2022, members of St Margaret's church were keen to support a further 50 therapy kits, which were sent out in January last year.

Last week I was excited to have the opportunity to send another 10 Therapy Kits to Ukraine with a friend from Castle Douglas who has gone to help where he can in rebuilding homes.

It has been such a privilege to be able to help in this small way, and through the generosity of people who have donated. However, it does just feel like a drop in the ocean...

I would love to be able to send more therapy kits in the future, so if anyone is interested in supporting me to do this, please email sarahwatson@playworld.org.uk

For more information about Play Therapy and what I offer locally please visit my website - www.time-to-blossom-therapy.com

Sarah Watson



Sarah putting together her play therapy kits to send over to the Ukraine

THE GLENKENS HUB survey

We'd love to hear your views on the Glenkens Hub after its first year - is it doing what it was designed to do? Do you use it? Is it useful?

Please help us out by filling in a short survey - you can follow QR code below, or visit www.glenkens.scot/survey-2024 to complete the survey online.

*Thank you!
Gail*



Funding a community freezer

A fundraising appeal in New Galloway town hall raised over £600 for the purchase of a community freezer.

Hosted by Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING), the event attracted an amazing turnout with hot drinks, homebaking, and a second-hand book sale. A raffle featured prizes donated by several food-related businesses in and around the Glenkens, including the Galloway Food Hub, Balmaclellan Store, West Coast Sea Products, and more.

Aiming to widen understanding of the problem of good food going to waste (one third of all food is thrown away every year, with the UK wasting 9.5 million tonnes annually) the event concluded with an edibility quiz, with one lucky winner heading home with a bagful of veg and loaves of pumpkin bread.

Plans are to install the community freezer in an accessible room in New Galloway Town Hall where anyone can collect portions of homecooked meals

and other frozen items donated by individuals and businesses.

The initiative is part of LING's ongoing work to increase community connectivity through skill-sharing, social gatherings, and practical support for local people.

The fundraiser was the latest public event in a busy winter programme which followed the reopening of the Town Hall in October 2023, after eighteen months of renovations which returned the building to its historic position as the central hub for Scotland's smallest Royal Burgh. LING, a Registered Scottish Charity, took asset transfer of the town hall from Dumfries and Galloway Council in 2022.

Chair of LING, Barbara Barker, said: "At LING our mission is to support a thriving community, which includes supporting wellbeing and accessibility to essentials like warmth, companionship, and good food. LING Trustees and our wonderful team of volunteers are hugely excited to develop the New Galloway's community food initiative through 2024 and beyond."

Reflections on remoteness

Prompted by a visit from some Uist islanders, I've been thinking recently about remoteness.

The Glenkens are categorised by the Scottish Government as Remote Rural because we have a drive time of over 30 minutes to a large town. But I realised that I don't feel remote, here in New Galloway.

Part of that is because I am very lucky to have a great support network of friends and family here - but another part of it is because of our community and the work of many people over many years to make it a great place to live.

My children went to Primary

School a five minute walk away. When I need provisions for dinner, the shop is a 6 minute walk away, right next to the Post Office and Town Hall. The medical practice is a four minute stagger - I've done that on crutches. There's even a fire station, if heaven forbid it was needed. And of course (and slightly unbelievably still), I can access amazing live arts events and a fantastic cafe just five minutes down the road.

Further afield, there are pubs, churches, community woodlands, shops, more halls, producers' markets and endless community activities available for all to enjoy. And all these 'lights' make my rural life bright.

But what if those lights get switched off, one by one? We've already lost the bank, the police station, the dress shops, the cafes.



Each one perhaps passes unnoticed in busy lives - but each one makes rural life a little darker. Our schools, our village shops and post offices, our cafes, pubs and arts centres, our town and village halls, our local businesses - all are hugely important to keeping rural life thriving.

So thank you to all the many people who give endless time to keeping their particular light bright, and if you can support local, please do. We need to work together in these difficult times to keep ourselves going - despite the remoteness.

Helen Keron

Space for everyone: creating a community health and wellbeing hub

At LING (Local Initiatives in New Galloway), we are still floating on air since hearing that we have been successful with a major funding bid to the National Lottery's Community Fund.

As opposed to the capital funding which allowed us to renovate and make New Galloway Town Hall fit for the future, this is revenue grant funding which enables us to continue our work with the community to help make this beautiful, rural part of the world a really good place to live.

We called our project 'Space for everyone: creating a community health and wellbeing hub', which we felt encapsulates what we want to offer. Much of what we do is centred in the Town Hall, with our LING Lunches on Tuesdays, Hubbub on Thursdays and Men's Monday Morning Coffee on - you guessed it - Mondays, as well as lots of regular classes and events (See the listings on p35).

But we also include the great outdoors in our idea of 'Space for Everyone' with our restoration of the old Garroch Estate Walled Garden and of literally miles of wonderful countryside walks. (See newgallowaytownhall.com for more information)

What this grant offers us is continuity and security, which is like gold dust in this world of hand-to-mouth funding.



We can continue to employ our wonderful Community Inclusion Worker, Jackie Wells, as well as being provided with massive support for our running costs. And, amazingly, they are promising this support over three years. It's positively transformative for LING!

What made us, we think, a good fit for this grant is that it sits under what they call their 'community-led' funding head. As trustees we hold certain responsibilities, but this whole venture only works because LING operates as an integral part of the community. Almost

everything that happens in the Town Hall and around and about only happens because the community is fully engaged in everything we do. They push ideas forward and make things happen. There's no way we could be doing this alone. It was quite a delight to be able to give an account of ourselves that allowed us, in a sense, to showcase the community. Not just New Galloway but the whole of the Glenkens is a fantastic community to be part of and the success of this grant bid is testimony to that.

Ann Glaister, LING

Get involved...

A successful Place Planning drop-in session was held in Carsphairn's Lagwyne Hall, with local folk stopping by to give their views.

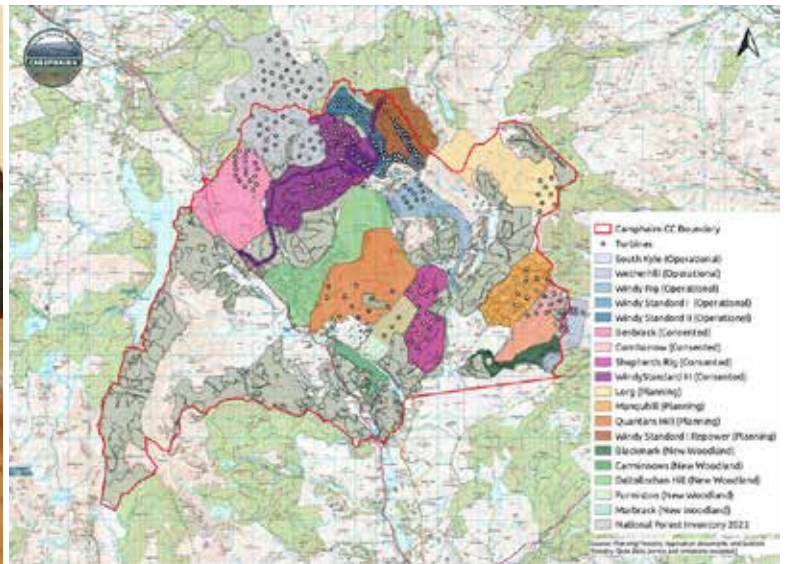
Carsphairn's Local Place Plan will set out how the community would like their area to be reflected in the next Dumfries & Galloway Council Local Development Plan.

Carsphairn Community Council will be finding out what the community thinks

throughout 2024; keep an eye on carsphairn.org for coming events.

If you can't make it to an event, you can still give your views and ideas by filling in the survey at www.carsphairn.org/LPP and if you'd like to get involved please email carsphairncc@gmail.com

Below left: Lagwyne Hall drop-in session. Below right: map showing current wind farm and forestry developments in the Carsphairn Community Council area



Driving abroad?

If you are planning on driving abroad this year, please consider whether you need an

international driving permit (IDP).

This may be needed whether you are in your

own car or driving a hire car. If you have a UK photo driving license, then you may not need one (especially in many European countries). But if you are driving in Turkey, USA, Canada or Australia (and many other countries) then you will need one.

Up until now you could get them from the Post Office, but from 1 April you can only get them from a Paypoint. The nearest Paypoint to the Glenkens is the Co-op in Castle Douglas.

Regards,
Paul

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Gazetteer of Scotland: extracts Part 1

A gazetteer is a geographical dictionary or directory, usually used in conjunction with a map or atlas. It typically contains information concerning the geographical makeup, social statistics and physical features of a country, region, or continent. The next two editions of the Glenkens Gazette will include extracts from the Gazetteer of Scotland from 1803 relevant to the Glenkens.

GLENKENS, the northern district of Kircudbrightshire, comprehending the valley watered by the river Ken, and part of the high lands which divide Galloway from Carrick.

It is divided into four parishes, Kells, Balmacellan, Dalry and Carsphairn, and contains the royal burgh of New Galloway. The Glenkens breed of sheep and black cattle is much famed, and the farmers are reputed to excel in the management of their pasture farms.

BALMACLELLAN; a parish in the Stewartry of Kircudbright. Its general appearance is muir, with five or six small lochs. Its surface is level, with a gentle rising towards the N. There are about 60 acres of natural wood, chiefly on the banks of the rivulets, which intersect it. Only about one-fourth of the land is arable; but this portion is very fertile. Many sheep are fed on the muirs. Two turnpikes pass through the parish.

Population in 1793, about 500.

CARSE-FERN, or CARSE-FAIRN; a parish in the county of Wigton (sic). The surface is all hilly, except a small plain on which the church is situated, and a few spots on the sides of the rivulets. The hills are in general green, interspersed with moss. From the appearance of the country, it is evidently unfavourable for husbandry: indeed, pasturage is only attended to. Formerly there were extensive forests of

natural wood, and at that time iron mines were wrought; but the decay of the forests, and the want of coal, render useless the iron ore with which this parish abounds. Many of the springs contain iron, dissolved by means of the carbonic acid, and are admired for their tonic quality.

Population in 1792, 609.

DALRY; a parish in the Stewartry of Kircudbright. Its greatest length from N to S is about 15, and its greatest breadth about 10 miles. Towards the S the soil is arable, and capable of cultivation; but by far the greater part is hilly, and only fit for pasture; along the river Ken, which is the boundary on the W for upwards of six miles, there are some natural woods of considerable extent.

There are several small lakes; and, besides the Ken, the parish is watered by the rivulets Garpoul, Blackwater, Earlston, and Stonrigan. In Lochinvar are the remains of an ancient fortified castle, with a drawbridge, said to have belonged to the Gordons, anciently Knights of Lochinvar, and lately Viscounts of Kenmure. There are also several moats and ruinous places of defence. Mr Alexander of Mackilston, and Mr Hunter of Lochinvar, possess elegant seats. A village called St John's Clachan, the property of the Earl of Galloway, is finely situated on the banks of the Ken.

Population in 1791, about 1200.

GALLOWAY (NEW); a royal burgh in the parish of Kells, in the Stewartry of Kircudbright; it is situated in a delightful vale,

which is denominated Glenkens, from the river Ken, which waters it. The houses are neat and regular, but it possesses no manufactures; its only consequence seems to be derived from its post-office, and its central (sic) situation, as a market for the different products of the neighbouring parishes.

It was erected into a royal burgh by Charles I about the year 1633, when scarcely 20 houses entitled it to the name of a hamlet. But, in those visits which Charles paid to Scotland, he generally dealt out such honours and bounties to his Scottish subjects, which he had to bestow; and, in this instance, Sir John Gordon of Lochinvar obtained a peerage, by the title of Viscount Kenmure, and the creation of this royal burgh on his estate. In this town the institution of a farmer club has been of the greatest importance, in disseminating agricultural knowledge. The whole town is the property of Mr Gordon, the representative of the Kenmure family, which was attained for attachment to the family of Stuart. Kenmure-castle, the residence of that gentleman,

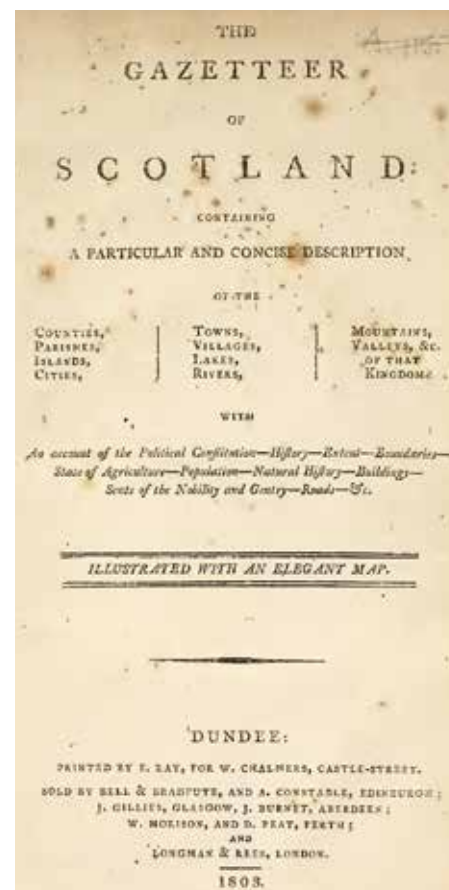
is situated in the immediate neighbourhood, and adds much to the importance of it.

In 1793, it contained about 480 inhabitants.

Explanations by transcriber:

1. Turnpike = toll road
2. Rivulet = burn or stream
3. Attainted = (in this case) beheaded for treason
4. Moss = bog

Transcribed by Paul Goodwin






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The Glenkens Story: *The last global warming in the Glenkens*

Do you know your drumlin swarms from your eskers?

Dramatic Global Warming in the Glenkens - what happened when the last ice melted, and are there lessons we can learn about the present?"

The Glenkens Story is pleased to announce that geologist Dr Alan Gibbs will tell us about the transformational effect on the landscape of the Glenkens of the disappearance of the last ice-sheet some 12,000 years ago.

Alan comes from Annan and spent a career as a geologist telling stories in space and time to anyone who would listen. He worked initially as an academic and then as a commercial

consultant heading a software modelling team working on projects globally for major corporations, academic research and state survey organisations. Since selling his business he has been involved with his family restoring a tower house, farming and forestry.

Alan makes the point that 'while we tend to think of glaciation in terms of erosion of high mountains; corries, fjords, u-shaped valleys, etc, this is not the really interesting bit of the story in the Glenkens. It's about the deposition and what happens as the waning sheet ice melts.'

The processes that Alan will describe shaped the landscape we live in and work today. Come along to



the CatStrand on Sunday 26 May at 3pm and learn how it all happened. Tickets are available from the CatStrand at www.gcat.scot or 01644 420 374.

Drumlin swarm at Galrinnies Farm, Balmaclellan
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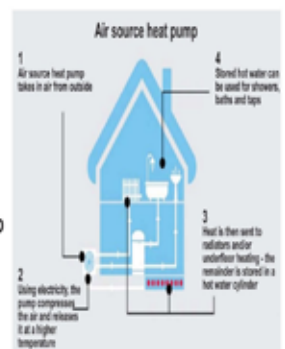
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DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Arts Festival

Scotland's largest rural performing arts festival is back for its 45th anniversary festival across Dumfries & Galloway from 23 May to 2 June.

For 45 years, the Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival has brought world-class theatre, music, dance, comedy and spoken word to the heart of communities across the region. The festival is a celebration of local and national artists and its wide ranging 2024 programme of events has something for everyone to enjoy.

This year the festival has curated an eclectic and exciting programme featuring everything from outdoor circus events in Castle Douglas and at Crawick Multiverse to theatre performances from the incredible James Rowland with his show **Piece of Work** and Raymond Wilson presenting his **Made in Scotland** show **I Hope Your Flowers Bloom** and the world famous **A Play, A Pie and A Pint** to spoken word events with Chrys Salt and Richard Ingham and I AM LOUD bringing their South of Scotland **Poetry Slam Heat**.

The 2024 festival will present work in a variety of local venues, some non-traditional spaces and outdoors and providing events that build community engagement, enhance the health and wellbeing of communities

and nurture equality of access and environmental sustainability.

The Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival 2024 will build on its 45 years' history of helping to develop and nurture a strong and sustainable future for the performing arts industry in Dumfries & Galloway through continuing to create new and exciting partnerships across the region, and also bringing together the incredible local artists who we've supported throughout the year to perform their newly developed work.

Pictured are Crawick (above) and Scottish Opera (left), acts performing at this year's festival



Are you over 50 and have a story to tell?

Come and create a show that challenges pre-conceived ideas of how older people think and what they aspire to, as part of D&G Arts Fest with Tricky Hat Productions.

Contact: emma@dgartsfestival.org.uk





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DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY
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From the Bookroom

In 'From the Bookroom' Glenkens-based author of the novel *The Road From Damascus* and co-author of *Burning Country: Syrians in Revolution and War*, Robin Yassin-Kassab, takes readers through some of his favourite books. In this edition Robin takes a look at the quarterly journal, the *Critical Muslim*.

We've heard a great deal about Muslims recently, and most of it negative.

Suella Braverman claims that Britain has been 'taken over' by Islamists. Lee Anderson says that Sadiq Khan has handed London "to his Islamist mates." If these claims are true, the 'Islamists' in question must be remarkably tolerant – given that they allow Islamophobes like Braverman to be Home Secretary, and given the Gay Pride marches, fund raisers for Israel, and so on, in London.

It isn't just the Tories. When Keir Starmer pressured the Speaker to not allow the SNP motion for a ceasefire in Gaza, he and other Labour politicians implied that he had done so because he was scared that Muslims would attack his MPs when they didn't vote for the motion.

This scapegoating of a group at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder for our failures is somewhat frightening as well as ridiculous. As with other aspects of our current 'post-truth' politics, it's unsettlingly reminiscent of the 1930s.

There's much less of this rabble-rousing in Scotland, but – because we're attached to Westminster – it still pollutes the atmosphere here, to an extent at least. Therefore it's worth pointing out some more positive things about Muslims, and at the same time to tell you about one of my jobs (next time I'll tell you about the other). That is, I'm deputy editor and frequent contributor to the *Critical Muslim*, a quarterly

journal that looks like a book, published by Hurst.

It focuses on the endlessly diverse Muslim world – not something that can be reduced to a right-wing slogan. Our last issue, for instance, contained an essay on Sinead O'Connor as a 'punk theologian'. It's certainly not a religious publication, despite the title. You don't have to be religious to write for it – fortunately for me. You don't even need to be a Muslim.

Each issue of the publication has its own theme – and the current issue's theme is 'Scotland'. Why? Because the leaders of Scotland's two biggest parties are Muslims, because there is a small but significant Muslim community here, and because there are a host of Scottish issues – from minority languages to competing versions of nationalism – which echo issues exercising Muslim-majority countries.

As well as a long road-trip essay by me, there's an essay by the Scottish-Sudanese novelist Leila Aboulela on her Scottish influences, one by a music-mad Glaswegian girl who grew up in a Muslim household which thought music was 'haram', one on the history of Glasgow's Pakistani community, and much more.

Amongst the much more are two contributions by Glenkens residents. Robin



Ade, artist and author of the classic *Fisher in the Hills: A Season in Galloway*, has written a wonderful essay on trout fishing in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Galloway. And Bill Holmes – the artist and dark philosopher of Deugh Studio, Knockengoroch – has offered a beautiful series of paintings, often of faces seen in rock faces, which connect the Syrian desert to the Galloway Hills.

We should probably arrange a local event to celebrate both the essay and the spread. Watch this space...

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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The Fall of Man - *a song of hope*

Following the considerable success of 'The Passion' last Easter, Glenkens Choir is currently preparing another substantial choral work reflecting on the state of the world and offering a song of hope.

Geoff Davidson's new work tackles the story of Adam and Eve and the serpent. The subject has been virtually ignored by composers and the only work of note – Haydn's 'The Creation' – briefly deals with a happy couple, in love and living in a beautiful garden with no mention of serpents, defying God or the consequences of disobedience.

The story is actually very dramatic and offers opportunities for exciting and moving music which will be performed by stunning soloists from last year, baritone Robert Lind as Adam and soprano Nicola Junor as Eve with the Glenkens choir taking the part of a very angry God! Marion Adam becomes the ghastly serpent and narrations will be delivered by Rev John Burns.

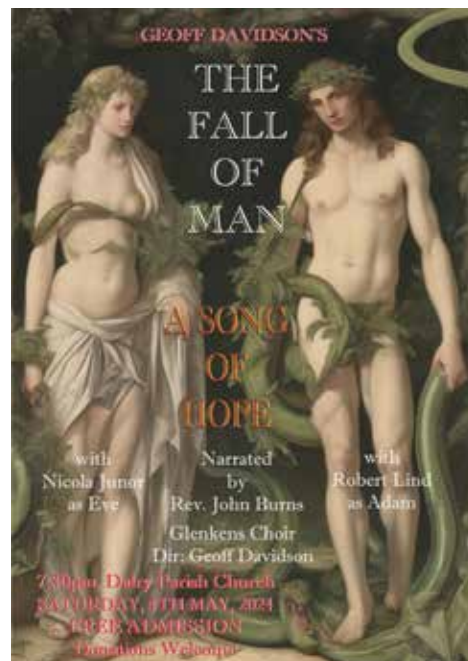
In these troubled days with Man falling ever further into violent conflict, it seems Adam has a lot to answer for.

The allegory contains terrible truths, warnings and devastating consequences. Adam's eating of the apple and his expulsion from the garden were only the beginning of a sorry saga of regret, murder and misery. Hope

comes in the figure of Mary, Queen of heaven (sung by Janette Davidson) whose son offers a path to redemption.

The final chorus "For unto us a child is born" (the words of which Handel used in his famous 'Messiah') is delivered with stirring determination that all is not lost. There is hope.

The performance will take place on Saturday 4 May in Dalry Church at 7.30pm. Admission, as usual, is free but a donation is requested on exit.



Last year 'The Passion' realised £1,000 for charity. Just remember – May the fourth be with you...

Geoff Davidson



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Further success for Youth Players

The Scottish Community Drama Association (SCDA) Stewartry District One Act Play Festival was held at the Fullarton Theatre, Castle Douglas, with, for the third year in a row, CatStrand Players representing Stewartry District at both the Open and Youth Western Finals.

Eleven plays were performed; the highest number for many years, making Stewartry the biggest District Festival in the country!

Three nights of great entertainment were enjoyed by full houses. Those who attended could vote for their favourite play to receive the 'Audience Choice' awards, with the other decisions left to adjudicator, Dr Paul Dougall.

The CatStrand Youth Players' production of *Us and Them* by David Campton, directed by Cat Campbell, was crowned as this year's winning youth play and also was awarded the trophy for 'Best Stage Presentation'. The adjudicator described it as "an interesting presentation which showcased some excellent young talent". Cat and her cast of thirteen are now

looking forward to performing again at the Western Divisional Youth Final at Dunlop in Ayrshire.

In the Open Festival, our two plays were both very well received and finished in third and fourth places overall, with only one point between them. In fourth place was *As We Forgive Those* by Andrew Smith directed by Brian Edgar. The adjudicator felt that it was a very challenging play and an engaging piece of theatre noting that "the acting was of a high order". Only two actors in the whole festival were highlighted as "outstanding" by the adjudicator; one was Zoe Kirkpatrick, who played the lead role of Sophie in *As We Forgive Those* and the other was Rose Benson, who starred in our third-placed play *All of the Monkeys*, written by Michael Park and directed by Jo Jackson. The adjudicator stated that this was "a very clear exposition of the piece and the standard of acting was very good indeed", and also awarded the play the trophy for 'Best Moment of Theatre'.

All of the Monkeys will now progress to represent Stewartry at the Western Division Open Final in April. However, unlike the last two years, there won't be a trip 'overseas' to Dunoon this time as it is Stewartry District's turn to host the event back at The Fullarton. They will be joined there by the first and second placed teams, 88 Theatre and Stranraer Drama Club.



A scene from the CatStrand Players' performance of *As We Forgive Those* photographed by Ian Biggar

All three plays were staged at CatStrand on 8 March with another full house, thoroughly enjoying a diverse evening of theatre.

CatStrand Players have gone from strength to strength over the past 16 years and are now well known in SCDA circles all over Scotland due to our regular appearances at Western Finals and also at the Scottish Final in 2022. Hopefully one or even both of our plays can make it to the national final again this time around!

Brian Edgar

Ken Bridge Hotel

Opening Times

Sit-in and takeaway, seven days a week

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Bar Service: from 4-11pm Monday to Friday and 11am to 11pm Saturday and Sunday

*** all meals must be booked in advance ***

- Pool table and darts board • Terrace/beer garden •
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- Dogs on leads welcome on outdoor terrace -

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Free Benefits Support

About advocacy

What we do and our promises to you
We'll help you be heard

Do you self-identify as disabled? Voice and rights charity VoiceAbility is providing free, independent advocacy support across the country to help you to understand and access Social Security Scotland benefits.

Are you aged between 16 and 65, identify as disabled or have a condition that effects your daily life? If so, then we can support you. Support is also available for parents, guardians, or carers who are accessing benefits for a disabled child.

Local Voice Advocate, Maureen Jardine, is hoping to visit locations across the Glenkens to let people know about this free advocacy service. Please get in touch if you would like Maureen to come to your community.

For more information please email maureen.jardine@voiceability.org, call our helpline on 0300 303 1660 or for further information visit www.voiceability.org

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INFORMATION

OPENING TIMES

MONDAY-FRIDAY
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SATURDAY - 8.30AM-5PM
SUNDAY - 8.30AM-3PM

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FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

Write to:

107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

Phone: 01556 504991

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

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



Gillespie Gifford & Brown LLP



Gillespie Gifford & Brown LLP
Solicitors and Estate Agents

Dumfries & Galloway

01556 503744
www.ggblaw.co.uk

All legal advice

Offices in Castle Douglas and Dalbeattie

USEFUL GLENKENS CONTACTS

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

• Galloway Food Hub - glenkens.scot/local-directory-listing/glenkens-food-hub

• 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

• Harris & Co: www.harrisandco.uk

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 info@ling.org.uk

Dalry Communities Properties Trust (DCPT): Contact Michelle Owen at sjtdalrycc@gmail.com

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 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: 7 Apr, 5 May - 11am

Carsphairn: 14 Apr, 12 May - 11am

Kells: 21 Apr, 19 May - 11am, Pentecost

Dalry: 28 Apr, 26 May - 11am, communion

Special Services & Events

Performance: The Fall of Man, Sat 4 May, 7.30pm, Dalry Church (see article on p28)

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

Special Events: Annual Plant and Bake Sale, Saturday 4 May, 10am-12 noon. All profits will go to the Dumfries & Galloway Blood Bikes.

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

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

- **Pothole 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

MINUTES/REPORTS OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT SPENDING

GLENKENS DISTRICT TRUST (GDT)
www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/gdt-corporate-information

CARSPHAIRN RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND LTD (CREFL)
www.carsphairn.org/CREFLArchive

Local Job Vacancies

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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT REQUIRED – NEW GALLOWAY

Personal assistant required to work with elderly gentleman who suffers with Parkinsons. The support is to enable this gentleman to remain safe and independent in his own.

Duties include: personal care, meal preparation and general household chores.

Rate of pay above the National Living Wage.

Hours: 5 to 8 per day (3 days per week) and alternate Saturdays. Also may be required to cover holidays and sick leave if available. There is a possibility of more hours, this can be discussed at the interview. Will consider job share – split into 2 roles.

Driving essential due to location.

Please call for further information: 01644 420 674.

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

(price per issue incl VAT)

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6cm x 6cm, £50

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01556 502263

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*The Surgery
 High Street
 New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

email: gct@catstrand.com

phone: Jon 07841 512449 or Sue 07704 662925

**APRIL – MAY 2024****REGULAR SERVICES****GK2 Glenkens**

Castle Douglas (Tesco) Wednesday Evenings (Registered Route)

Outward		Return
19:00	Dalry (Underhill)	21:15
19:05	New Galloway	21:10
19:15	Mossdale	21:00
19:25	Laurieston	20:50
19:30	Townhead of Greenlaw	20:47
19:37	Castle Douglas (Market St)	20:37
19:40	Castle Douglas (Tesco)	20:35

Booking not required

**Glenkens to Newton Stewart Fortnightly
Tuesday mornings**

Outward Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 09:30

New Galloway (Town Hall) 09:35

CatStrand) 09:37

To Aldi (Return)

Pickup Newton Stewart (Aldi Car Park) 11:30

Return fare £3.50 Advance booking required.

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

EXCURSIONS

25-27 May 2024
SPRINGFLING
Scotland's Premier Art and Craft Open Studios Event
Saturday 25th May – Monday 27th May 2024




We are very pleased to announce that this year we have partnered with the Upland Community Interest Company, to provide transport to some of the artist studios participating in this year's Spring Fling

Further info (prices / tickets) are available on the Spring Fling website: www.spring-fling.co.uk/whats-on/

SATURDAY 25TH MAY: GLENKENS
SUNDAY 26TH MAY: STRANRAER
MONDAY 27TH MAY: KIRKCUDBRIGHT

MOBILE:
07841 512449

EMAIL:
GCT@CATSTRAND.COM

WEBSITE
WWW.GALLOWAYCOMMUNITYTRANSPORT.ORG

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

MEMBERSHIP HIRE

GCT has a 15 and 8-seater minibus 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

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

WHAT'S ON

April/May

APRIL

Sun 7, Jax's Sunday Lunch, 12noon, New Galloway Town Hall, £15pp, booking essential, 07501 400 333

Tue 9, Menopause Really Matters, 7-8pm, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Tue 9, Kathryn Joseph, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 10, Dalry Film Club: A Quiet Passion, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 11, Ken Words: Writers' Café, 7pm, CatStrand

Thu 11, Stewartry Birdwatchers: Hen Harriers, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

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

Sat 13, SoundWaves Music Battle, 7pm, CatStrand

Thu 18, Carsphairn SWI: Zumba, 7.30pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Fri 19, Flames by Trickhat- Community Recruitment, 11am, CatStrand

Sat 20, Spalding Bowling Club Green Opening, 2pm, Dalry

Wed 24, Dalry Film Club: Oppenheimer, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 25, Glenkens Food Month Planning Meeting, 6pm, CatStrand, see p13

Sun 28, Together in the Glenkens Pub Quiz, 7pm, Kenbridge Hotel

Sun 28, Bluebell Walk, 10:30am, meet at New Galloway Golf Club, info@ling.org.uk

MAY

Sun 3, Jax's Sunday Lunch, 12noon, New Galloway Town Hall, £15pp, booking

essential, 07501 400 333

Sat 4, The Fall of Man, 7.30pm, Dalry Church, see p28

Sat 4, Plant & Bake Sale, 10am-12noon, St Margaret's Church, New Galloway

Thu 9, Ken Words: Writers' Café, 7pm, CatStrand

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

Sat 11, Ration Recipes & Digging for Victory, Balmaclellan Village Hall, see Fb for info

Wed 15, Dalry Film Club: A Haunting in Venice, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 16, Roo & Neil, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 16, Carsphairn SWI: Goats & Cheese-making, 7.30pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Sat 18, RNLI Coffee Morning, 10.30am-12noon, Dalry Town Hall, see p2

Thu 23, Antiques Roadshow courtesy of Thomson Roddick, 2.30-4.30pm

Thu 23-Sun 26, Knockengoroch Festival, see back page

Fri 24, DG Arts Festival: I Hope your Flowers Bloom, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 25, Patrick Monahan: Exclusively Yours!, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 25, GCT Spring Fling bus tour: Glenkens,

see p33

Sat 25, Plant Sale & Traditional Village Fete, teas and BBQ, see Balmaclellan Village Hall Fb for info

Sun 26, Glenkens Story: The last global warming in the Glenkens, 3pm, CatStrand, see p24

Sun 26, Together in the Glenkens Pub Quiz, 7pm, Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry

Sun 27, GCT Spring Fling bus tour: Stranraer, see p33

Mon 28, GCT Spring Fling bus tour: Kirkcudbright, see p33

JUNE

Sat 1, DG Arts Festival: FLAME OUT, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 2, Ivan Drever 7.30pm, CatStrand



Glenkens & District Community Councils

Balmaclellan Community Council: Bi-monthly, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall - contact Martin on 07939 261 391

Carsphairn Community Council: Last Monday each month, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn - contact carsphairncc@gmail.com or 07531 035 824

Dalry Community Council: First Monday each month, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall - contact sjtdalrycc@gmail.com or 07940 313 445

New Galloway & Kells Community Council: Second Monday each month, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council: contact mcnaablaurie@hotmail.com or 01644 440 200

Balmaghie Community Council: contact secbalmaghiecc@btinternet.com or 01644 450 621

Parton Community Council: contact ericaporteous@hotmail.co.uk or 01644 470 277

Crossmichael Community Council: Second Monday every month - contact richardandjane@phonecoop.coop or 01556 670 691

Full minutes of local Community Council meetings can be viewed at Dalry Library or online at www.glenkens.scot

REGULAR EVENTS & OPENING TIMES

Balmaclellan Village Hall

Tuesday Afternoon Teas, 1st Tues each month, 2.30-4pm, warburton.

julie@googlemail.com

Community Exercise Class, 6pm

Exercise Class, 7pm

Glenkens Crafters, Wed, 10am-

12noon, julia.higgins55@outlook.com

Community Library, Wed, 10.30am-12.30pm; Sat, 10am-12noon

Tai Chi, Wed, 2pm

Make Do & Mend, fortnightly from 14 Feb, 7-9pm

Stewartry Birdwatchers, 2nd Thu each month, 10.30am

Men's Shed, Balmaclellan

General Opening Times:

Mon, 9.30am-12noon

Wed, 9.30am-12noon

Fri, 9.30am - 12noon

Art Group, Thu, 2-4pm

Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Monday Morning Social, 11am-2pm, 07710 124 255 or carsphairn.trust@gmail.com

Carsphairn SWI, 3rd Thu of the month, 7.30pm

Craft Group, Fri, 10am-

12noon, includes tea & coffee, carsphairncraftgroup@gmail.com

Bairn Banter; family stay & play session, 0-7 yrs, Sat, 10-11.45am

CatStrand, New Galloway

Spring opening hours: Tue-Sun, 11am-4pm

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

Behind the Scenes, bi-weekly, Mon, 5.30pm

Energising Yoga Flow, Tue, 9.30am, booking essential, 07733 111 466

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

Weekly Bus Service to Tesco, Wed, 7pm

Dramarama, (age 6-10), Wed, 4pm

Up Skills: Musical Theatre, (age 15+), Wed, 5pm

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

Piano Lessons, weekly, term time 4-6.30pm

Morning Flow Yoga, Thu, 9.30am, booking essential, 07733 111 466

CatStrand Singers, Thu, 11am

Dance Steps (age 10-18yrs), Sat, monthly, 12.30-3.30pm

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

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

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

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Glenkens Ukelele Group, Wed, 6.30pm

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

Mini Music Makers, family session, monthly 11.45am (under 7yrs)

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

Musical Misfits, group singing class, bi-weekly, 10.30am

New Galloway Town Hall

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

Margaret Morris Movement, (adults), Mon 2.20pm

Tai Chi, Mon, 7pm, petchy2@btinternet.com

LING Lunches, Tue, 12.30-2pm

Sports Evening, Tue, 7-9pm, carpet bowls or table tennis

Zumba, Wed, 6.30pm

Ukulele Group, Wed, 6.30pm

Hubbub, Thu, 11am-5.30pm, drop-in, all ages welcome

Martial Arts, Thu, 7.30pm

Babies & Toddlers, Fri, 10am

For further info email info@ling.org.uk, phone 07749 249781

Glenkens Community Centre

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

Glenkens Youth Group, Mon, 7-8.30pm

Dalry Good Neighbours Club, Tue, 2pm, 07795 613 148

Clachan Crafters, Thu, 2pm, 07500 861 041

Kickback Martial Arts, Thu, 5.30-7pm, kmabrian@gmail.com or drop-in

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

Yoga For All, Fri 9.30am, drop-in, 07733 111 466

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

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

Glenkens Charity Shop

Winter Opening Times:

Mon 10am-1pm

Wed, Fri & Sat 10am-4pm

Dalry Library

Main St, Dalry, Tel: 01644 430 234

Library Opening Times:

Tue 2-5pm, Fri 11.30am-12.30pm for NEC Bus Pass & Blue Badge appointments and PCs and 1-4.30pm for books, etc: appts can be booked in the library or on 01387 260 196.

Bookbugs Session, Tue, 10.30am

Glenkens Book Group, last Fri each month, 2pm, 01644 420 361

Lego Stay N' Play With Your Child, every 3rd Sat of the month, 1-3pm, contact Michele Owen on Fb

Dalry Town Hall

Tai Chi, Mon, 2pm

Dog Training, Tue, 7pm, 07831 590 822

Song Share, 1st Fri each month, 7.30-10.30pm

Various

Strictly Get Dancing, Loch Ken Activity Centre, Parton, Mon, 7pm

Spalding Bowling Club Sweep Nights, (start Mon 22 Apr), Mon & Wed, 7pm, shazfish1@gmail.com

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

Crossmichael Heritage Centre, Wed & Fri, 1.30-4.30pm

Cub Scouts, Wed 6.15-7.30pm, Scout Hall, New Galloway

Patchwork Workshop, Crossmichael Church Hall, Thu, 1-3pm

Yoga, Mossdale Mossdale Village Hall, Fri, 2.15pm

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

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

Knockvennie Hall Heat Bank & Snooker Club, contact Andrew on 01556 690 677

Outdoor Bowls, Dalry, contact Fiona Ramsay on 07500 554 751

Snooker/Indoor Bowls, contact Gary on 01644 430 521



KNOCKENGORROCH KNOCKENGORROCH

Our very own Glenkens music festival is in its 26th year, with musicians, DJs and performers from all over the globe once again flocking to the Carsphairn hills.

Knockengorrock Festival is Scotland's longest-running greenfield festival, founded by the Holmes family, who still run the festival from their rural farm, in 1998. This year's event will run from Thursday 23 to Sunday 26 May in the wild upland landscape around Knockengorrock Farm.

Some of the artists performing are Reggae diva par excellence Queen Omega from Trinidad, Scottish fusion favourites the Peatbog Faeries, Roma Band Zor, Norway's Kajsa Balto, our resident sound system Mungo's Hi-Fi, N'famady Kouyaté from Guinea (winner of Glastonbury's Best Newcomer 2023), 808 State, Kathryn Tickell & The Darkening, and festival favourites Dr Meaker.

Honouring the landscape and environment, Knockengorrock employs policies to contribute positively to the environment,

from recycled paper for promotional materials to having the site as a single-use plastic-free zone. Additionally, many of the festival's permanent buildings were built using traditional, environmentally friendly techniques, and the new Discee polytunnel venue, erected last year, is being planted and is nearing readiness as a food growing venue in time for May.

In addition to music there are workshops in a range of traditional arts and crafts and lifestyle subjects suitable for all ages.

Other attractions include a fire show, global shopping stalls and a range of food caterers offering a delicious range of international cuisine.

The festival is family friendly with a buoyant children's tent and parade on Sunday afternoon.

Tickets are now on sale - please visit www.knockengorrock.org.uk

Specially reduced tickets at local prices will be available soon from Carsphairn Shop (01644 460 568 or @Carsphairn Tearooms on Facebook).

23-26 MAY 2024

KNOCKENGORROCH

Music to the Hills - Sustaining the Land

BO AIRIGH STAGE

Queen Omega & The Royal Souls | Peatbog Faeries | Dr Meaker
Bombskare | Rìoghach Connolly & Honeyfeet
N'famady Kouyaté | Kathryn Tickell & The Darkening
The Breath | Kajsa Balto | Malin Lewis | ZOR | Jemima & the Fuse
Ewan Macintyre | Ape House | Muckle Spree | Dalmellington Silver Band

SHIELING, TAIGH TENT & TAKEOVERS

808 State (DJ Set) | A. Skillz | Mungo's Hi Fi x Eva Lazarus
Radikal Guru & Party B | Banco de Gaia | DJ Rap | Maranta
Yoko Pwno | Samedia Shebeen | Nightwave | John Fairhurst
Dyur x Fredy Clue | Frankie Archer | Vixen Sound | FLEX
Auld Reekie String Band | Binky Blue | Both Hands | CCTV | Thundermoon
Jiginaboot | Con'tyia | Cosmic Triceratops | Jukebox Bingo | Nema Kuta | Corran
Heatnavi | Nem

Tarns Dub: Freear (Slamboree DJ Set) | Clumsy (Madhatters) | Demloxx
WheresNorth? | TZ | ZornB | Polyanimal | Nathan Sutherland | Zelly | Evie Loka | SWEKA
Hosted by: DEDGE, Abi Nyox Warrior

Chapel Perilous: Egebamayi | Neil Landstrumm | Cosmic Trigger Collective
Isa Gordon | Cenote Sounds | U-Tense-L | Volume Knob

The Hive: Part Time Semi Pro | Dan O'Leary | John Copper | Craig Sow | Martin Phillips
Spicy Italian | Broken Spector | Maff Robinson | Dannerz | Coops | Swamp Stomp

LONGHOUSE & FRAOCH

Mairi Campbell | Cera Impala | Fredy Clue | Morag Brown & Lewis Powell-Reid
John Anderson & Luisa Brown | John Langan & Dave Tunstall
The Positive Experience | The Fatties Ankles | Wailing Slane | Ruby Goddess | Sam Grassie
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The Finest Music from the Celtic Diaspora and Across the Globe

Workshops, kids area, sessions, stalls, and lots more in the Carsphairn hills of South West Scotland.
www.knockengorrock.org.uk **Tickets on Sale Now**



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

JUNE/JULY COPY DEADLINE: 5 MAY



Editing & Design:
sarah.ade@gmail.com

The Glenkens Gazette is an initiative of the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust, a Registered Scottish Charity No SC032050

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