

Funding for new rural skills training centre

Carsphairn Community Woodland have received funding to create a Rural Skills Centre at their Muirdrochwood site.

The centre will offer a full programme of rural skills training for young people as well as adults.

"We have planning permission to construct a Rural Skills Centre and are delighted to announce we have secured funding from both the Scottish Government's Place-Based Investment Programme (through D&G Council) and from The Holywood Trust, for which we are grateful," said CCW's chair, Davey McMillan.

With the loss of so many rural amenities, the creation of this training centre is an exciting addition to the area, especially for the young people of the Glenkens.

Davey continues: "The rural depopulation experienced in the area demonstrates the effect of having few opportunities for young people. Our aim is to redress through the provision of education and training, enabling young people to learn rural skills which build towards potential woodland-based employment.



One of CCW's apprentices practices his chainsaw skills

"Young people are the future, and providing such outdoor experiences should be an essential part of education and may be a game changer for future career choices."

Continued on p3...

Galloway Food Hub featured on BBC's Landward series



Pictured are Food Hub volunteers with Landward presenter Arlene Stuart (centre)

The Galloway Food Hub welcomed BBC Scotland's farming and nature programme Landward.

Presenter Arlene Stuart spoke with Food Hub co-ordinator Lesley Atkins before helping to sort local produce into customer boxes at the Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry.

A fun day was had by all and Arlene even helped out with a delivery to a customer in New Galloway on her way home.

You can catch the TV programme on repeat by searching for Landward Episode 5 on BBC iPlayer.

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Fun and games with Bairn Banter

Families from across the Glenkens and beyond continue to come together and join in the fun-filled sessions provided by Bairn Banter in Carsphairn.

Volunteers from the local children's group welcomed kids of all ages for the annual egg hunt over Easter weekend. A total of 22 children participated in the hunt and other activities provided as part of another collaboration with the Carsphairn Heritage Centre. Bairn Banter has also hosted some special visitors along to the group, including the Local Place Planning team and a Citizens Advice Bureau outreach session offering financial advice/support to families whilst the children played.

As we spring forward into the summer months, we have turned recent efforts towards offering more outdoor learning opportunities and the development of a new outdoor play area at Lagwyne Hall. The children are thrilled to have this space to explore and play freely in the great outdoors whilst embracing the new responsibility for the planning/design of the garden.

At present we have a large raised bed which the children are planting with a variety of vegetables and edible flowers. The children are developing a keen curiosity towards learning about the different types of songbirds that visit our donated upcycled bird table. Over the coming weeks, volunteers will be assembling a giant outdoor sandpit to expand the joys of messy sand play.

When playing indoors, the children and their families have

been busy exploring different textures of the messy/sensory play activities, as well as painting, water/sand play and stretching those growing limbs on the soft play obstacle course. The older children have been very creative with the ever-popular pebble painting, as well as baking activities, helping prepare snacks, enjoying the Lego box and various group games.

At Bairn Banter we also provide children (and adults) with free healthy snacks, purchased from our wonderful local businesses - Wright's Shop in Dalry and the Galloway Food Hub.

Look out for us at the Carsphairn Show on Saturday 1 June where we'll have our



children's tent and mobile trailer.

Thank you for everyone's continued support in keeping our happy wee group thriving!

Melissa Ade

Name the Place

This issue of the *Gazette* sees the start of a brand new section - Name the Place.

In each issue a photograph by local photographer Ted Leeming will be included. Images will be of somewhere in the Glenkens and readers have to guess where it is.

The answer can be found on p23, with a bit of information and food for thought about that location. Hopefully this will be both fun and thought-provoking. Below is the first Name the Place photograph...



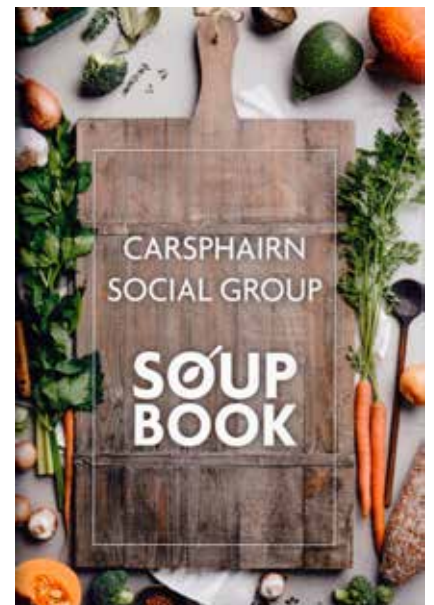
Social soup book

The recreation group of Carsphairn Community Trust hold a social morning every Monday from 11am to 1.30pm, in Lagwyne Hall.

This group welcomes all residents of Carsphairn in a warm, friendly atmosphere, providing a chance to socialise and chat. Often games are played, with a variety of board games available.

During the winter months, hot soup and rolls are provided, as well as hot drinks and home baking, with the soups being made by social group members.

Due to the popularity of the soups, the group has created a recipe booklet which is on sale in the Carsphairn shop and the Carsphairn Heritage Centre. Booklets cost £5, with the proceeds going to the community larder and food bank charity, Stepping Stones, in Castle Douglas.



Rural skills in the Glenkens

Continued from front page...

The recent addition of development officer Alison Macleod, appointed by Carsphairn Community Trust (see p4 for more) will enable things to move at a pace as a significant portion of her time will be spent working with CCW to help take this project forward. Since its inception, CCW have been providing practical, hands-on pre-apprenticeships for young people, offering training and experience in a wide range of skills in an outdoor working environment. Forest supervisor Andy Bain is experienced in a wide range of woodland skills and has a key role in mentoring

the young people.

The new training centre will have a large central room, kitchen, toilets, and an office on a mezzanine floor above. It will also be able to be used as a resilience hub for the local community in times of need, such as power-cuts, as it will be off-grid. The existing forestry shed already has a de-fibrillator fitted.

It is hoped that the Rural Skills Centre will be up and running this year – watch this space for more news!

Carsphairn Community Woodland (CCW) is committed to acquiring, developing and managing local woodlands in

a sustainable, environmentally sound way for the long-term benefit of the local community. Their vision is to deliver a range of economic, social and environmental benefits to the local community through a sustainably managed forest.

The aim is to do this through the creation of a rural economic hub to aid regeneration of the community and create employment through initiatives including timber production, woodland management and rural skills training. CCW is also creating a more diverse woodland environment for wildlife and are providing outdoor space and greater access to the countryside for the

local community and beyond. The group is well-supported in their aspirations, with nearly half of the Carsphairn community being members of CCW, and they also enjoy tremendous support from individuals and organisations across the region and beyond.

Open days are run each year along with a number of workshops and a 'volunteer day' on the first Saturday of the month. Young people and families are encouraged to come along as CCW offers an invaluable outdoor experience for all ages.

See shout-out for a new CCW pre-apprentice on p18...

Support Maggie on her Kiltwalk

My Intensive Care Unit (ICU) story began in 2018 when I was rushed into Crosshouse hospital with a suspected stroke.

I was moved to the ICU three days after being admitted, when my body had become fully paralysed from my eyes to my toes.

After a terrifying wait to find out what was wrong, I was eventually diagnosed with a rare variant of a condition called Miller Fisher Syndrome (MFS). It is one of the rare forms of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), a neurological condition that causes mild to severe muscle weakness. The condition is caused by an immune system reaction against certain proteins in our nerves important for movement, sensation, and function.

There isn't a cure for MFS, but some therapies can stop your immune system from attacking healthy nerves. The most common treatment includes intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) therapy. IVIg therapy uses purified plasma (the liquid portion of your blood) and healthy antibodies from donors (a little shout-out here to please give blood if possible).

I was in ICU for almost three weeks. During this time I had to be given adrenalin three times, as my heart had become compromised from the paralysis.

Eventually I was found a place in 'neuro rehab', where I had nine long weeks of physio, speech therapy and occupational

therapy. I had to learn to do everything all over again, from brushing my teeth to walking.

In 2023 I fell ill again. This time, the hospital in Dumfries had a good idea of what was wrong with me and I started IVIg after just three days. I was only in hospital for 10 days this time, and had all my rehab done through 'out patients'.

ICU is a big part of my story. I have

made some amazing friends through the ICUSTeps charity, two of whom took part in a recent Kilt Walk with me. This charity, the local branch of which is ICUSTeps Ayrshire (hopefully a D&G support group will start in the near future) is a patient-led support group for people who have been in ICU.

I wear a leg splint and the Kiltwalk was the furthest I'd walked since 'Brenda' (my splint) joined my journey. Due to the success of the walk in fundraising for the ICUSTeps charity, I'm going to be doing another one in September. This will be another 'Wee Wander' five-mile Kiltwalk, this time in Edinburgh.

A massive thank you goes to The Sheep Game and The Logo Farm for sponsoring our T-shirts and shirts - here's to our Edinburgh Kiltwalk!

Maggie Philips

You can donate using the QR code here or email Maggie at cheerfulmap@hotmail.com - all money raised goes to help those who have been in ICU or the family of someone who has.



Pam (project lead for ICUSTeps Scotland), Maggie's mum Sheila, Maggie, Maggie's daughter Bekah and Pauline (an ICU nurse who cared for Maggie during her time in ICU) upon completion of their 'Wee Wander' Kiltwalk round Loch Lomond shore

Development officer for Carsphairn

Here is an introduction from Carsphairn Community Trust's new development officer, Alison Macleod:

I started working three days a week in April as development officer for Carsphairn Community Trust and Carsphairn Community Woodland. I'm really excited to be working for both and very impressed by all that has been achieved since they were formed.

I knew Carsphairn as a wee girl

growing up in Castle Douglas as my mum belonged there and we visited my great granny regularly.

I have been involved in community led ownership and development of assets for almost twenty five years, first as development officer on the island of Raasay, where local people took on ownership and redevelopment of Raasay House, now a thriving hotel providing employment opportunities.

I then worked with others in Applecross (where I lived for 35 years) to set up a development trust to take on ownership of a filling station threatened with closure. Later, as development officer for Applecross Community Company I took the

lead in projects including setting up a community broadband scheme and the development of a community owned hydro scheme. I returned to Dumfries and Galloway in 2018 and am settled in Crocketford.

I'm looking forward to meeting people in Carsphairn and working with them to benefit their community.

Carsphairn Community Trust (CCT) is a Scottish Registered two-tiered Charity (No. SC044308), working in and on behalf of the residents of Carsphairn community. CCT are fully committed to working with any Community Group or individual who wishes to initiate a project that will benefit Carsphairn Community residents, including young persons, the elderly and disabled.



A long drive to Ukraine

My name is Graham and I have lived in Glenkens for over 12 years.

I have returned from Ukraine where I was a member of a group of volunteer drivers taking over 30 vehicles out to donate to the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

The charity that organised this trip is called Jeeps for Peace and is based in Edinburgh. They are currently on the lookout for vehicles to take to Ukraine, having already supplied almost 300 vehicles (298 to be precise). Can you help us get over the 300 barrier?

The favourite for the Ukrainians are most definitely 4x4 pickups though any four-wheel drive vehicle is useful. Jeeps for Peace is able to pay between £2,000 to

£3,000 for good used pickups. The vehicle should have a current MOT and a rust-free chassis, though rust in non-structural parts of the vehicle is OK. It is over 1,200 miles to drive to Ukraine, so any vehicle needs to be reliable.

As a charity, Jeeps for Peace wants to keep costs down as much as possible; for instance, the volunteer drivers pay for a lot of the expenses out of their own pocket, such as fuel, food and flights home.

In the past, people have both donated for free and sold vehicles for less than market value and this is greatly appreciated. Other useful items for the Ukrainians are things such as generators, quad bikes, chainsaws, heavy-duty jump leads, tow ropes/slings/chains and ratchet straps. Also good

used off-road tyres to fit the vehicles supplied, and numerous other bits and pieces, are appreciated.

If you don't have any spare vehicles lying around, you can donate financially via the Jeeps for Peace website. It goes without saying that any donation, large or small, will be received with gratitude and put to good use.

Jeeps for Peace can be contacted via their website at www.jeepsforpeace.org.uk or on Facebook or if you prefer, you can get in touch with me on 07811 106 143.

I will be travelling out to Ukraine again in early June with another convoy, and would like to shout-out to any of the Ukrainian community in and around



Glenkens as I would like to learn some basic Ukrainian words and phrases, as well as the Cyrillic alphabet.

*Thank you for reading this article,
Graham Hunt*

Below left: Jeeps for Peace drivers and the local high school choir and orchestra who gave us a welcome concert when we arrived in Ukraine.

Below right: One of the previous vehicles provided and a salutary reminder of why the supply of vehicles is an ongoing necessity.



Glenkens Community Shop grants

The Glenkens Community Shop, Dalry (also known as the Glenkens Charity Shop) is about to run its next round of grants, closing for applications on 15 June.

Forms are available from the shop during opening times (Monday from 10am to 1pm, Tuesday evenings from 6-8pm and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm).

The meeting to decide where money is going to be allotted will be held on Tuesday 25 June

and successful applicants will be notified soon after that.

Also on 25 June is the shop AGM, which anyone is welcome to attend. The meeting will be held in the Lochinvar Hotel at 1.30pm.

Look out in the next edition of the *Glenkens Gazette* for a list of the groups and projects who will be receiving grants, as well as the grand total of grants which have been given since the shop opened.

Donations of items to the shop are welcome any time during opening hours; please don't leave bags on the doorstep if the shop is closed.

And remember to pop in and have a look around - we've got lots of great bargains in the shop, from jewellery to books, clothes to camping equipment!

Lis Lewis



Outdoor opera at Barwhillanty picnic prom



Parton's Barwhillanty Estate will be hosting a Garden Open Day & Picnic Prom on Saturday 8 June.

Visitors can bring a picnic, reserve a pre-prepared picnic hamper, or indulge in a slice of wood-fired artisan pizza with friends and family, while listening to live music in the scenic estate gardens.

The gardens will be open to explore from 11am, with an outdoor concert by Blackbird Opera at 1pm. This performance is led by musical director Cameron Burns, and features well-known arias, duets and ensembles from much-loved operas by Bizet, Puccini, Verdi, Mozart and more - what better way to introduce opera to all the family?

Blackbird Opera is a small opera company based in Dumfries & Galloway, and was formed by local Soprano Claudia Wood. Blackbird Opera previously performed Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* to a sold-out audience at the CatStrand in 2019.

Barwhillanty has been a family estate since 1884 and is currently run by Oscar

and Maria Yerburch. The couple have a commitment to conservation and take seriously their responsibility towards ecological land management, aspiring to create a community that upholds their values of sustainability, responsibility and wellbeing through shared experiences of celebration, education and beneficial connection to nature.

"We are delighted to be hosting what should be an event to remember and hope locals and visitors alike will join us in a celebration of music and nature," said Maria.

There will be some shelter, but visitors are asked to come prepared with something warm and waterproof, as well as picnic blankets and chairs. No dogs are allowed. There will also be tea, coffee and ice cream available.

Booking is essential for this event - see ad on back page for details.

This event is supported by the Create Cultivate Fund, developed by DG Unlimited (DGU), and supported by Dumfries & Galloway Council. This event is also supported by Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival - Support for Ambition (Venues).

Bumper plant and bake sale

The St Margaret's annual plant and bake sale was a great success, raising over £850 for Dumfries & Galloway Blood Bikes.

Delicious homemade baking and homegrown plants were snapped up by locals and visitors, many of whom stayed to enjoy coffee and cakes as well.

The sale was hosted by the St Margaret's Guild whose president, Christine Rankin, explains: "We like to support local causes whenever we can, and this year our members voted that the proceeds from our sale should go to D&G Blood Bikes."

"The charity is going from strength to strength since its inception in 2015, delivering essential blood and urgent medical supplies across our region. The charity is run by volunteers and funded entirely by donations and we are so pleased to be able to support them."

Dawn Matthew, priest at St Margaret's, said: "It was wonderful to see so many people and we are very grateful for everyone's generosity. Many thanks to all who contributed their baking and plants."

Student strike at Dalry Secondary

A report by Gazette youth reporter Rosa Seiffert, in collaboration with Piri and Lena Whitty

At Dalry Secondary School, over the last few years measures such as not giving pupils their subject choices have been taken.

The result was that many pupils left Dalry to go to other schools. Because the numbers were therefore so low, the management declared Dalry should be mothballed. The parents and pupils were not happy about this, and fought hard to keep Dalry open, in which they succeeded.

Before the parent council saved Dalry from being closed, S2 were given options as to which subjects they would like to take in S3. However, when Dalry stayed open, we were unexpectedly told that there were no longer options for S3, and that all of S1-3 would be taught in the same class and have the same timetable.

It seems that neither teachers nor parents had seen this new timetable beforehand. The timetable that we were presented with, out of the blue, consisted of all double, triple, and even quadruple periods. None of us were at all pleased with the new timetable.

After discussing it, a few of us decided to organise a strike to get our choices back and have a decent timetable without

composite classes. The strike was scheduled for Monday 13 May in the school hall. We started to spread the word by putting posters up and we emailed the head of the Education Department, Mr Thin, informing him that we would be taking part in strike action as we were not happy with the timetable. Mr Thin replied to this by saying he was disappointed we felt the need to strike and if we had doubts regarding the timetable we should speak to school management so they could offer us reassurances. He also said we were not allowed to strike on school premises.

A few days later, the headteacher of Castle Douglas and Dalry Secondary, Mr Smith, came into the school. He told

us we were allowed to strike but only for one period (the first), and it had to be behind the school and not in front of it. We then proposed to strike in the park below the school. He told us that would be classed as truanting and if that was on our records it could affect our futures. When we argued that we could have parental consent, he disagreed, and repeated that it would be truanting and not allowed, etc.

At the beginning of the discussion, we questioned why the timetable had to be made of composite classes. Mr Smith said that if it were not the classes would be far too small to learn to socialise and he referred frequently to the Curriculum of Excellence.

Afterwards we were extremely annoyed. We felt as though the management had just tried to shut us down. We talked and came to the conclusion that we could in no way get into trouble for striking provided it was for the whole day and in the park below the school, with our parents' knowledge and consent.

So that's what we did. We spent the entire day on the Monday in the park striking for our school. Most of us were there, some of us stayed home, there was only one child left in the school.

At 3pm we headed up to the school gates where we held up picketing banners that depicted phrases such as, 'SOS, Save Our School' and 'Small classes work'. The press attended and photographers took pictures of us chanting, 'What do we want? Our school to thrive! When do we want it? Now!' We were interviewed by reporters from Greatest Hits Radio, the BBC, the Herald, and the Galloway News.

We are hoping that what we have done will make a difference. Communities need schools.



Pictured are pupils at the school strike holding banners with slogans such 'Small classes work' and 'SOS Save Our School' taken by Galloway News photographer Les Snowden

Poetry, nature and the Scots language

Dalry Secondary classes enjoyed a poetry walk around the village with poet Susi Briggs.

Susi read some of her own poems and encouraged the young people to listen to the world around them and look at their surroundings to gather the elements of a poem.

Susi Briggs, from Gatehouse, is a poet, author, storyteller and musician with a passion for the Scots language, and she recently landed the prestigious National Library of Scotland residency as Scots scribe for Dumfries and Galloway.

Mary Acheson

Poet Susi Briggs out and about in Dalry, encouraging students to find creative inspiration in the world around them



Moving forward with education and learning in the Glenkens

March saw D&G Council elected members approve a motion to halt the mothballing of any secondary schools across the region until a robust policy on mothballing is created that takes into account the wider socio-economic impacts of such a decision.

As a consequence, Dalry Secondary is safeguarded for at least the academic year 2024/25. Any subsequent steps in relation to its future will need to be taken forward in accordance with the policy to be developed and agreed by the full council and within the regulatory and legal framework.

The success of this motion was a great cross-community effort led by elected members that demonstrated how the Glenkens community can and does work together. Following on from this work, an Education and Learning Forum is being created and this group is working to convene an Education and Learning Summit in the Glenkens in July.

John Paterson, chair of the CAP SG, said. "This is a really exciting project which hopes to delve deep into the needs and aspirations of a wide range of stakeholders to work together in finding an effective route map and plan for the future of education and learning in the wider Glenkens area.

"The intention of the summit is to bring together a wide range of people, from parents to students to representatives of the council's newly titled Directorate for Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing and elected members, as well as community and business representatives. We have sent an invitation to Dumfries and Galloway Council to participate as we feel that by working collegiately, we can really make a difference to the future of our community and the people who live here.

"By thinking about all stages of education and learning, and involving all interested parties, it is our intention to enable and support great conversations around effective and sustainable education and learning in the area and to develop deliverable plans."

The summit is likely to be held in the week of 8 July – for more details see the Glenkens Hub (www.glenkens.scot) or contact Helen Keron, GCAT Executive Manager, on helen@catstrand.com

Another excellent piece of news regarding positive steps for education and learning is that the Glenkens and District Trust has issued an invitation to tender for a Glenkens & District Rural Education Review. The intention of this research is to enable people in the Glenkens to gain a better understanding of how other similar communities in Scotland and beyond have responded to the challenges to their educational arrangements. It is also hoped



that a network of interested parties can be created to further share experiences to support effective education and learning in rural communities facing similar challenges.

Glenkens elected members, Dougie Campbell and Andy McFarlane, whose motion has given us time for this work, said: "We were pleased with the support we have received from our fellow councillors and are looking forward to working with the Glenkens community to take this topic forward. This community has a proven track record of working together and this is another example."

The Glenkens Hub has a new Education and Learning page where you can stay up to date with progress on this important matter - see the 'Good to Know' section at www.glenkens.scot

It takes a village...

At Dalry Primary School we've been having all kinds of fun out and about.

In the P1/2 class we have been learning all about Africa. As our class follows the principles of Play Pedagogy, we are always looking for ways for the children to learn and experience as much as they can through play activities and experiences.

As much as we can, we try to include our parents and community members in our learning and this has been the case with our Africa topic. We have had visits from local artist Sarah McCusker to teach the children about coil pot making

and Nick Lomax, who talked to the children about when he lived and worked in Tanzania with Jane Goodall, famous for her ground-breaking work with chimpanzees.

We also visit Dalry Library when we can and enjoy a Book Bug session with Angela, and are planning a print workshop with Cat Corfield, another local artist, who oversees the youth arts programme at the CatStrand.

The children have gained a lot of knowledge from these visits and skills that they will remember long after their primary school days have passed. These experiences help the children with their listening and talking skills. They learn to ask questions and practically experience the

doing, making and recording of what they have learned.

If you have any creative skills or passions you would like to share with the young people in our Glenkens community, please contact the school on 01644 430 105 and let us know. It takes a village to raise a child, so they say!

Sabine Haynes

**Nick Lomax
talking about his
time in Tanzania**



A new chapter for the Pamela Young Trust

Not everyone in the Glenkens knows about the Pamela Young Trust (PYT), the local charity that helps with housing.

It was set up in 1992 by local resident Pam Young who wanted to give something to the community she loved, particularly those who needed help. Miss Young died in 2008 but her legacy continues and the current trustees all live in the Glenkens and share her desire to help others.

The new chairman, Alan Smith, describes the PYT as being quite unique in that it is a purely local organisation, explaining: "The housing requirements here in the Glenkens are likely to be different to those in towns such as Dumfries or Newton Stewart, and being local ourselves the trustees know what is wanted."

Over 30 years later, the PYT now has 23 properties ranging from one-bed flats to three-bed houses. The PYT are good landlords and because all the properties are so well maintained, coupled with affordable rents, most of their tenants are long-term – the knock-on effect of this is that properties rarely become available. Alan comments: "When I first joined the PYT board I was shocked by the length of our waiting list."

To try to resolve this conundrum, the PYT is looking to grow sustainably to address the housing needs of the Glenkens. In order to do

this, they are changing their structure to a SCIO – Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This is not markedly different from a regular charity in that it must have a charitable purpose, trustee rules, etc, but the way it is set up does reflect the requirements of the modern funding environment.

One of the changes in housing over the last 30 years is the emphasis on the environment. There has been considerable public discussion about government rules on energy performance but, as Alan points out: "One size does not fit all. For instance, the government's target of reducing the country's reliance on gas with incentives to replace gas boilers is of no use in an area that does not have mains gas." The PYT is in ongoing discussions to explore ways to help improve energy efficiency in older Galloway homes.

In light of the difficulties in developing older properties, the PYT acquired the vacant site opposite the Smiddy in Balmaclellan in 2022. Dumfries and Galloway Council indicated that they would look favourably on this site being developed for housing and, with assistance of funding from the Rural Housing Fund, architects have been appointed and plans are now being finalised. The current plans are for a block of two two-bed flats and one detached three-bed house. These plans will be presented at the Smiddy on Wednesday 26 June at 5pm; all those interested in learning more are welcome to attend.

Alan says: "We are being ably

supported in this project by South of Scotland Community Housing (SoSCH) who have a proven track record in delivering similar projects. Whilst we still have to source additional funding, we are confident that we should proceed with the Balmaclellan development, not only because of our own substantial waiting list but in view of the outcomes highlighted by the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment recently commissioned by the Glenkens & District Trust and carried out by SoSCH."

Another project which is still at an early stage is the possibility of taking on five of the houses at Glenlee Power Station and returning them to the rental sector. However, Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) are unable to progress this until the outcome of the public inquiry into the overhead line from Kendoon to Tongland is known. But the main work of the PYT is maintaining their existing housing stock and looking after their tenants. Alan explains: "A lot of work goes on behind the scenes, not just in repairs and maintenance but in complying with all the changes in legislation concerning social landlords. Sadly, PYT's factor for many years, Jackie Connelly, recently stepped down due to health reasons but we have been lucky to secure the services of Anthony Bird,



PYT Chair Alan Smith at the site of the proposed Balmaclellan housing development

an experienced and qualified property manager, as our new factor. So with Anthony on board, together with the legal firm AB & Matthews, who look after all legal and rental administration, the PYT is in good hands."

Lastly, following the death of one of its founder members, **the PYT board is looking for a new trustee; you can find out more in the ad on page 10.**

The most important thing for any potential trustee is a strong connection to the Glenkens and a desire to help those who, for whatever reason, would benefit from living in affordable housing.

MATTHEW PAJO

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The Old School, Crossmichael
info@matthewpajo.co.uk
07786 079 845

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Local, friendly family-run removal company at your service

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Large Enough to Handle, Small Enough to Care

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lionremovals.co.uk

Amber Dunlop-Pajo Health Psychologist

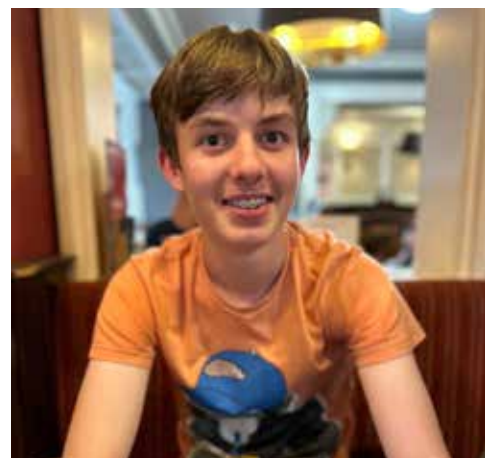
- women's health -
- stress -
- depression -
- anxiety-

The Old School, Crossmichael
info@gallowaycounselling.co.uk
07389 713 106

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 talks about the CatStrand Youth Players.



Every year the CatStrand Youth Players get together and enter a competition called the One Act Play Festival.

This year for the festival we decided to do a play called 'Us and Them'. If you don't know the play, two groups of travellers arrive, one from the east, one from the west. They build a wall so both sides know where their land starts and ends, this wall may stop confusion but curiosity eventually begins and both sides look over the wall and see each other. This eventually grows into a battle, where everyone dies and the cycle continues and no lessons are learnt.

On the day of the competition, we arrived at the CatStrand at 9:30 where we spent half an hour loading up the bus with all the set for the play. Once loaded up we set off to Dunlop. The bus journey took us about an hour and a half. It was an easy journey because it was a Sunday morning and there was no traffic. Some of us went by bus and some of us went in a car. We

arrived at Dunlop, which wasn't dissimilar to New Galloway in size, at the village with a hall where we would perform.

When it was our turn the audience fell silent as the lights dimmed, wondering what our play would be about. Slowly, the curtains parted, as we started the play we had rehearsed for what felt like one hundred times before. We acted out a story about suspicion and conflict, each moment filling the audience with anticipation. The never-ending cycle of war shocked the theatre. A loop of misery and sorrow without anyone understanding what went wrong. The audience loved our play and we were pleased with how it went.

Before we could watch the plays, we had to have our personal adjudication. Backstage, we all gathered excited to hear if the adjudicator found it good or not, waiting for the feedback that could help us make our next steps in the performance. He was really positive and found the play very good. He had many positive comments such as the impressive effect of the mirrored coloured t-shirts on both sides of the wall. He then suggested that the battle scene could have been

extended, allowing for further exploration of the fight and building more tension.

We then went to see the other plays. The first of four plays was a 16+, so sadly we could not watch it. It didn't really matter though because we were third out of the four plays, so we couldn't see the first two. We sat backstage, relaxing and preparing to go on stage. The last one was about a girl going on a hunger strike to explain to people that the large companies are all not giving enough money to farmers.

Unfortunately, we learned after the play had finished that we neither came first nor second. We did, however, get a participation certificate. Kirkintilloch Players, the 16+ play, came first, and Greenock Youth Players, the play about hunger-striking, came second.

Our director, Catherine Campbell, was still very proud of us even if we didn't win. We all packed up and got ready for our journey home - roll-on panto season!

See p27 for more on the CatStrand Youth Players...



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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FOOD HUB**



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gallowayfoodhub.org.uk

Building connections to help reduce loneliness

In today's fast-paced world, loneliness has become an increasingly prevalent issue, affecting people of all ages and backgrounds.

Recognising the impact that loneliness has on mental and physical well being, we've led on various initiatives with the aim of creating meaningful connections and reducing social isolation.

Here we see a case study, the story of John, which illustrates how a community-driven project successfully tackled loneliness in an informal and uplifting manner.



John M feels he has benefitted hugely from LING's Hubbub project

After New Galloway Town Hall reopened following renovations it became very apparent that there was a growing number of lonely residents in the parish, across all age groups. Determined to make a difference, Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) decided to launch a project named 'The Hubbub in the Town Hall'.

The Hubbub aimed to create meaningful connections and combat loneliness by offering a warm, safe space where people could meet, chat and eat. Coordinator Bianca took a casual approach to encourage a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, making it easier for participants to connect and build relationships.

To kick off the project, Bianca Leder organised a timetable full of activities that people could join or just watch. This provided opportunities for individuals to meet and get to know each other. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and laughter as people shared stories, interests and experiences over a cup of tea or coffee.

The activities ranged from cooking to sharing memories to exploring new hobbies together. The casual nature of these activities allowed for genuine connections to form, breaking down barriers and fostering a sense of belonging.

As time has gone on, the positive impact of The Hubbub has become evident. Participants reported feeling less lonely, more connected and happier overall. The relaxed approach taken by the project coordinators had successfully reduced social isolation and created a sense of belonging within the community.

John M has been coming to The Hubbub since it started in 2023 and says he is very grateful to Bianca and the team who provide a welcoming space for him to relax and be himself. He said it makes all the difference for him, knowing he has

somewhere to go every week where he will be welcomed with a smile, not only by the team but by the other participants. John has forged genuine friendships with people that he didn't even know lived a short walk from his home. He enjoys talking about the history of the area in which he now lives and doesn't stop smiling! In the early days, one of the team would give John a knock just to make sure he was coming. In a short time, he didn't need that encouragement, his mood started to lift and he looked forward to every Thursday.

The Hubbub exemplifies the power of connection and the positive impact that a casual and uplifting approach can have in reducing loneliness. By fostering genuine relationships through shared interests and organising relaxed social gatherings, the project successfully created a supportive community where individuals felt valued, connected, and less isolated. Initiatives like these remind us of the importance of reaching out to others, spreading kindness, and making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
help with housing in the Glenkens

Volunteer needed to join the Pamela Young Trust board

The PYT board is currently looking to recruit another Trustee. The term is for a minimum of five years. Responsibilities include attendance at four quarterly meetings per year, alongside active participation via email where necessary.

We would like to hear from anyone who shares our values, and experience or knowledge in one or more of the following areas would be of particular interest:

- Third Sector
- community work/citizenship
- sustainable property development
- lived experience of rental/social housing

This is an exciting time to join the PYT as we have two potential housing projects in the pipeline that would extend our current property portfolio and which would in turn benefit those looking for affordable housing in the Glenkens.

For more information please visit our website
www.pamelayoungtrust.co.uk

Anyone considering the role is welcome to have a discussion with the Chair or another Trustee – but in the first instance an informal enquiry should be made to enquiries@abamatthews.com

BUSINESS in the SPOTLIGHT

Freelancing Jackie - Virtual Assistant Experience seamless support

I came to the Glenkens two years ago, bringing my husband and two sons to live in Balmacellan.

You'll know one of them, Joshua, as he is the Youth Correspondent for the *Glenkens Gazette*. We love living here; the relaxed way of life, the great views and the space. And of course the people; we have a great community here in the Glenkens. It's just what we were looking for when we moved from Kent.

Not that Kent was all bad. I had some great opportunities, such as six years ago I set up a Parkrun in

my local town which still runs today, with over 200 people running every week. I also ran a running club with over 20 branches, and I've even run a few marathons, Loch Ness included. If anyone ever tells you running downhill is easy don't believe them!

One of my favourite previous roles was manager of a country park just outside London. I dealt with unruly elves at Christmas, escaped horses and I even got to rescue someone who had their foot stuck in the mud.

Having settled in the Glenkens, and held various roles, including running the Balmacellan village shop with my husband, which I still do, and the role of community inclusion manager with Local

Initiatives in New Galloway, I felt like I was looking for my next challenge. Then someone said to me "I'd love you to do some work for me - you've got stacks of skills, have you thought about being a 'Virtual Assistant'?" I have to admit it isn't something I'd ever thought about, so I quickly got my head down and figured out what I would be able to offer people and, after sleeping on it, decided; I love helping people and I'm a natural problem solver, so why not?

Jackie recently launched her new Freelance Virtual Assistant services for small businesses, sole traders, individuals and charities within the Glenkens and beyond.

Small business services offered include social



media management, email management, data entry, telephone answering, filing and proofreading newsletters, stocktaking, emails and blogs. She can also do project work including research and website mapping.

For individuals, she can help set up a new phone or computer, carry out filing, set up payment schedules for bills, sort and file emails, arrange house repairs and more.

You can contact Jackie for more information at freelance.jackie.uk@gmail.com or 07828185289

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LING
Local Initiatives
in New Galloway
People, Places & Outdoor Spaces

LING is governed by a board of trustees who are all volunteers for the charity.

The trustees have ultimate responsibility for the charity's vision, values, ethos and strategy as well as for the overall performance. They ensure LING complies with all legal requirements and has the highest possible standards of governance.

But have you ever wondered who they are? If so, here is an introduction to two of the LING trustees:



Guy Benson - Vice Chair

Guy Benson is a retired army officer. His military career spans 40 years, as both a soldier and as an officer. He has extensively travelled the world and spent almost a third of his career on operations in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan. He ended his regular army career as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Ministry of Defence, London.

In 2018 he left military service and was employed by Wiltshire Council as the military civil integration director. In 2020, Guy joined

NHS England, as the national programme director/ team leader of a strategic continuous improvement programme of Veterans Healthcare Alliance.

In his limited spare time, Guy is keen to "give back", and as such joined LING to support the thriving community in New Galloway and Kells parish.



Clare McKenzie - Treasurer

Clare took early retirement in December 2022 after a 30-year career in education: firstly, 20 years in further education within a specialist

open learning department, progressing to a management role, followed by five years in a not-for-profit training organisation as a director then CEO managing private, public, Department for Education and European Social Fund income streams.

In 2017 Clare joined a charity, Skills for Care, which included consultancy work for the Department for Health and Social Care.

Before moving to New Galloway she was previously a trustee for a hospice in Warwickshire, where she was on both the People and Clinical sub committees.

Clare says that throughout her life she has benefited massively from the advice, guidance and help of others and having recently retired she hopes that the experience and knowledge she's accumulated can be put good use supporting the community of New Galloway.



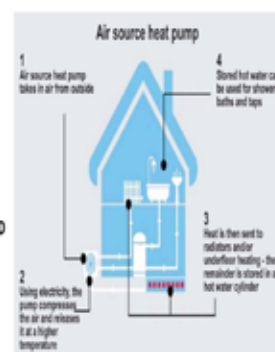
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REPAIR



Time capsuling Scotland's landscape

Local photographer Ted Leeming is heading for the Highlands, Orkney and Shetland on his bike as part of a project in which he is looking at "time capsuling Scotland's changing landscape as we strive towards a sustainable future".

Ted said: "Over the past year I've become fascinated at the extent to which landscapes change over time as a result of our needs. As part of our 2023 Fantastic Forest Festival I became increasingly aware of our own changing landscape.

"I was truly shocked at how so much of what we see as 'normal' are in fact recent human creations. With this in mind I am intrigued to explore generational land use change and the extent to which our practices across Scotland in 2024 are extractive or regenerative, in harmony or in tension between community, biodiversity, climate, societal and commercial needs."

If you would like to follow his journey, Ted will be posting regular blogs at 'Wanderings of a Photographic Duo'. The project will culminate towards the end of the year in a number of talks, workshops

and an exhibition.

"I will be traversing Scotland by bicycle, to minimise my footprint, from the imminent space station on Shetland to the Glensanda 'super quarry', the salt marshes in the Solway to the peat bogs of Forsinard, recording our urban conurbations to the wilds of the outer isles.

"If you know of any locations you think would be worth a visit - they could be anything from amazing community projects or derelict buildings, exemplar rewilding initiatives to examples of pollution - or interesting people I should meet, please do let me know!"

Ted is currently thinking about a title for the project and has lots of ideas. He says: "'The Times They Are A Changing' seems to fit well, but so do 'The Beginning of the End of the Anthropocene', 'The Land Project', 'Nothing Comes For Free', and 'ISOA ('In Search of Awe'). I'd love



What does a modern rural landscape look like to you?

to hear any thoughts if you have them, both for the name and for the project itself and look forward to sharing my journey with you."

To find out more visit www.leemingpaterson.com or email tedleeming@me.com



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What changes are coming?

Eco Feature

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Get inspired with the Great Big Green Week

Great Big Green Week takes place across the UK from 8-16 June this year, with the theme of making a swap for the planet.

And what better way to start the week with some cinematic inspiration to help you swap fear for hope.

Why Not Scotland? is a new documentary about how we can bring wildlife back to our countryside, and its coming to the CatStrand as part of a Scotland-wide tour. The documentary, produced

by Scotland: The Big Picture, explores the issue of rewilding through the eyes of Flo Blackburn, a young Scottish student, who sets out on a personal journey to find inspiring examples of nature recovery around Europe. We spoke to Flo about what she learned from the experience. "Growing up in Scotland I thought, like many people do, that the bare hills were natural. When I started working with the film's producers I learned that this wasn't the case, and that they

used to be native forest."

To make the documentary, Flo visited countries including Norway and Spain, where she visited wetlands, forests and more. "Seeing the forest in Norway was quite eye-opening. I came back inspired and realised that we could achieve landscapes like that at home. It made me feel that

we can change things for the better."

Why Not Scotland? is screening at the CatStrand on Thursday 6 June at 7.30pm.

Share your swaps for the planet on the Great Big Green Week website - head to greatbiggreenweek.com to find out how.

Clare Harris



Learning new skills in Balmaclellan

Back on a dark February night, I walked into my first Make Do and Mend session in a warm and welcoming Balmaclellan Hall.

The session, led by Julia Higgins, would take us week-by-week through the basics of sewing up to being able to take on our projects. In the first week, we learnt how to do different hand stitches.

I've sewed before so I found some of the stitches quite easy, but others I'd never done before. Help was on hand as Julia walked around to show support and give encouragement.

We quickly progressed to making cute little owl pincushions. We followed a

pattern, hand-stitched and stuffed it and took it home. We also made drawstring bags, which taught us how to create French seams. I didn't see the point in it to begin with but it looked really good once I'd finished; I made myself a dice bag from some velvet-type material I bought.

Once we learnt how to do hand-stitching and use the sewing machine, we could

do our own projects. Some people repaired waistcoats, others put pockets on jackets. Another person is making an organiser out of old pairs of jeans, using the pockets for storage.

You can make lots of creations with scrap fabric and old clothes. You can even buy something at a charity shop and alter it to fit you if it's too big.

Every week I learn something new and it's not always about the sewing; this week we were chatting about old money. Everyone was talking about what money was around when they were just starting school. For example, some remembered sixpences and shillings.

Julia has talked about how she would like us to get good enough to do quilting with her. That would be a great challenge.

Since the classes started, there has been an exciting upgrade in the hall - they've got a new disabled toilet, making the venue more accessible. Hopefully, that means even more people can come to our Make Do and Mend sessions. Everyone is welcome and we all help each other out.

Joshua Wells



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

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VHS videos, approx. 130. Mostly films and a few box sets, full collection of Only Fools and Horses. Collect from Carsphairn. Contact 07909 652713



Vinyl LP's and singles from 60's, 70's and 80's. Approx. 100+ LP's and Singles. Collect from Carsphairn. Contact: 07909 652713

Thule 974 three-bike cycle rack to fit car with tow bar. 01644 420267

Old heavy mountain-style bike with new tyres, chain and seat, Apollo brand. **Single mattress**, hardly used. Contact: 07901 207 179

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

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

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

Pre Loved Field Shelter. Happy to dismantle on collection. Contact: 07745 775 480

Community consultation in forestry development in the Glenkens

In our Land Use Focus in Issue 130 (June/July 2022) the *Gazette* featured a shout-out from Kavita Sharma, a PhD student at ETH Zürich, who was researching tree planting in Scotland and asking people to contact her to let them know their thoughts and views on forestry developments in the Glenkens. Kavita promised to send us a summary of her research once complete, so now, two years on, here it is.



I came to the Glenkens in 2022 for doctoral research; my task was to research community consultations for forestry projects.

Through my research, it became clear that consultation proved to be a challenging exercise for all parties concerned. Despite the buzz around engaging communities, empowering participants, and inclusiveness, people reported feeling frustrated with the entire process. Why is that?

The short answer is that consultation, in its current

form, has intractability built into it. It is open-ended, flexible, and without standardisation.

Therefore, the outcomes of consultations vary greatly across places despite similar concerns. It is a forum designed to engage people in technical questions: plant what trees and where?

It excludes the possibility of discussing political issues that are increasingly important to rural communities, such as the price of land, land ownership, and provision of public services.

While forestry development is closely related to these issues, their relationship is complex and mediated by wider national policies, such as tax incentives and regulations. Community consultation

platforms are narrow in their scope to address such matters. While there are lively debates on which species to plant and where, my line of questioning focused on how these decisions are debated, by whom, and on what kinds of platforms.

My objective was not to identify what good consultation might look like; rather, it was to understand and analyse how consultation is currently practised. This might not make my research directly useful; however, I hope that my analysis invites you to think about consultations in a different manner.

Tree planting is believed to be a simple yet effective means of removing carbon from the air, sequestering it, and storing it as biomass. Leaving trees on

the ground or making durable construction materials with wood can store carbon over the long term. In Scotland, the growth in carbon markets and increase in timber prices have made it an attractive investment option for forest investors, farmers, and estate owners.

The government has also increased the grant support to meet its tree-planting targets. While this has led to an increase in tree planting, it has also led to friction between developers and communities.

Consultations for forestry development are encouraged by Scottish Forestry, including consultations with community councils, local organisations, and statutory bodies, such as SEPA.

Continued over the page...

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Community consultation for forestry can take different forms – in-person meetings and presentations, email correspondence with community councils or members of the community, meetings between council members and developers, and more formally, through the online forestry consultation platform where members of the community can voice their opinions on projects to Scottish Forestry.

At some level, community consultations seem empowering. Members or representatives of the community can disagree with developers, negotiate terms with them, and express their opinions directly to Scottish Forestry.

On the other hand, this very flexible and open-ended nature of consultation makes it a frustrating exercise. It is up to interested community members or developers to engage in it as they wish, in flexible terms, and with varying levels of compromise. These flexible arrangements are also outside representative institutions and may not be appropriate forums to seek the resolution of political issues, those that are well beyond a developer's remit.

Consultations are essentially technical exercises where

forest plans are shared with community members, accompanied by maps that indicate the location of different species, open ground, and timber roads. Community members can negotiate these variables with varying levels of success. However, there are several other pressing political questions that are important to communities, and in the absence of strong local representative institutions,



these concerns increasingly find their way into these forums.

These include increases in land prices, wearing down of roads due to timber lorry traffic, and the closure of schools. This leaves both parties – communities and developers frustrated with the content and outcome of consultation.

Moreover, while

community councils are an important consultee, these are voluntary bodies represented by people who, while committed to their communities, are often woefully under resourced.

I found high variance in both the interest and knowledge of council members on forestry issues, but a common theme across all was how overwhelmed they were with consultations more generally.

As one person said, "we have consultations coming out of our ears". Thus, while resources are channelled to make consultations more engaging and participatory, there are significant capacity constraints within community councils to engage in consultation.

What, then, about forestry itself? What struck me as I drove through Glenkens was

the relatively long history of forestry in the region. There were houses, pubs, and parks constructed by the Forestry Commission for forestry workers and their families decades ago.

This stayed with me as a reminder that the landscape and people of Glenkens are constantly shifting and changing, and that a stable equilibrium, or a consensus on what ought to be, may never be achieved.

In closing, I was very lucky to have completed my PhD fieldwork in the Glenkens. I spent time in beautiful landscapes and met wonderful people who took time to show me around, shared their stories, and spoke openly about forestry developments in the region.

The few months I spent there made a clear impression on me, and I will forever remain indebted to the people of the Glenkens for their generosity.

Kavita Sharma

kavita.sharma@aya.yale.edu

Pictured: Dundegh village was created in the early 1950s by the Forestry Commission to house forestry workers. Photograph © Will Graham, www.prefabmuseum.co.uk

Glenkens land use reports published

Building on the Glenkens Land Use Vision published last year, two very interesting reports have just been published to keep this important issue moving forward.

Land use change is happening all around us, whether it's wind farms, re-wilding, new farming methods, housing or forestry. Different people have different views on all these matters, but what the

Glenkens Land Use Vision sets out is how we want our communities to be able to have a say in these changes, and how we want to be sure that they benefit the communities as well as the developers.

One suggestion in the Vision is that a Land Use Forum was created to discuss these issues. Interestingly, Dr Stephen Connolly's report on the matter, 'Feasibility Study into a Glenkens Land Use Forum', determined that this is probably not the best move at present, and that it would be more productive to create a Land Use Network. An early role of the Network would be to create a Land Use Map of

the Glenkens.

One important layer on this map would be 'treasured landscapes' identified by the communities, which brings us on to the second report. 'Participatory Monitoring of Land Use in the Glenkens' has been written by Dr Kerry Morrison and is both a research piece and a reflection of her creative learning process. It shows the depth of knowledge and affection for our Glenkens landscapes, and suggests a bi-annual 'Glenkens Lands' festival to cement and share these feelings. Both reports are well worth a read and are published on the Glenkens Hub 'Land Use' page, <https://glenkens.scot/>

land-use, along with the 2023 Land Use Vision.

These reports were created thanks to NatureScot and SOSE funding and were a Dalry Community Council and GCAT joint initiative. The Glenkens and District Community Action Plan Steering Group is now creating a Land Use sub-group to continue to take the vision and the outcome of these reports forward.

If anyone would like to join this sub-group, contact Helen Keron, GCAT Executive Manager, on helen@catstrand.com

Helen Keron,

Executive Manager, GCAT



Loch Ken Ranger Service gears up for the summer

The season is in full swing for the Loch Ken Ranger Service, with many holidaymakers back to enjoy beautiful Loch Ken.

Head ranger Leanne Pumpri is pleased to be increasing boat and land patrols, engaging with locals and visitors, on and around the loch, ensuring our environment is well cared for.

Leanne responds to many incidents, including fly-tipping, wildlife crime, abandoned campfires and dirty camping.

This season, our ranger service has a cohort of volunteer rangers, who have been assisting with patrols and other ranger activities. It has been great that so many members of the community, who share our passion for looking after our environment, have been keen to get involved.

Along with patrolling, our 2024 Education Programme has been launched, bringing children from our local schools to Loch Ken for ranger-led outdoor education sessions.

There has been a great response to these with the children engaging in fun activities relating to water safety, responsible camping and caring for our environment for the future.

We are pleased to be helping to educate the future generations

on how they can help protect and cherish our natural world and are will be hosting more events for local schools this term.

Our Youth Water Safety Awareness Programme has expanded for 2024, thanks to funding from Drax and the Holywood Trust, offering vital free water safety training to young people in our region. We have had several groups complete this training, held at the Galloway Activity Centre, including Dumfries Disability Sport and 1st Kirkcudbright Scouts and Explorers.

We are proud of our work promoting water safety and we will be welcoming some 56 students from Castle Douglas High School later this term as well.

The Ranger Service is also making progress with improvements to water safety signage on the Loch. Plans are currently underway and we are getting signs made up and making Loch Ken a safer place for everyone.

We are looking forward to a full season of events ahead, including our Family Water Safety Day and Ranger cookout, details of which will be available on our website in due course at www.lochken.org.uk

As always, if you are interested in getting involved, please email office@lochken.org.uk

Our open ranger group meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month and are a great chance to find out about the latest activities of the Ranger Service.

We would like to thank our communities for the continued support.

Leanne said: "As the weather improves, Loch Ken Ranger Service is working really hard to get ready for the summer season. We are delighted to welcome our new Volunteer Rangers and would like to thank all the members of the community who have come forward to get involved.

"We are always keen to welcome new faces, so if you're thinking about it, get in touch and come along to see what we're up to."



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The Optimistic Environmentalist

Reducing your home energy bills - Part Five

Home storage battery systems (continued from last issue)

Whilst batteries and an inverter are not cheap to buy and install, they are a good investment. You can charge the battery with cheap rate electricity tariffs at night, or free from your own solar or wind generation, and use this energy at more expensive times such as at breakfast or in the evening.

It kept us going through a full day power cut recently. NB if you need to, you can still do your washing, bread-making, slow cooking and charge your high heat retention storage radiators for instance, alongside charging your batteries. Despite fully charging and using it every day for over a year, our battery has only lost 1% of its capacity.

Whether you have a battery or not, you can easily get a cheap overnight electricity tariff from your provider. Our tariff is aimed at electric car owners and is seven and a half pence per kWh for six hours overnight and 29p per kWh during the day.

You can get a 0% interest loan from the Energy Saving Trust

(EST) for tens of thousands of pounds, depending on which technologies are being installed. Rather than being used for individual energy technologies, they now cover a 'package' unless you already have part of it. Packages can link home storage of electricity (batteries or high heat retention storage heaters) with renewable energy technologies (solar panels or air/ground source heat pumps). Unfortunately, you have to apply, be accepted, install and pay for the items fully before you get the loan; you are then given the loan so it eventually spreads the cost. Grant funding is also available for projects; some (but not all) are means tested. The EST will advise you.

It is possible to buy a second-hand battery but make sure it has been checked to ensure its safety as well as how well it works; be aware, you will not usually get financial assistance with these.

The photo shows a Tesla home storage battery – other manufacturers also produce them including some in the UK.

Multiple uses of electric cars

The right electric car can be an economic part of meeting your transport needs (see our experiences in later issues of the *Gazette*). As well as getting more mileage for your money, you can maximise your finances by charging the car using cheap tariffs. Some electric cars can be used as a stand-alone battery; in a power cut, for instance, the car can provide power to single electrical items eg a microwave; called vehicle to load (V2L).

Currently being trialled systems allow electric car owners to power their home, (V2H) and/or sell some of their power to the grid (V2G), thus making a profit from the cheap power and enabling the grid to draw power at times of high demand. Thus, the grid will have a flexible power source to meet the needs of its customers. Our provider, Octopus, sends a signal to our car charger when there is excess power charging us 7.5p/kWh instead of 29p.

Fun fact: the sun will never send you a bill!



Tesla home storage battery

(see Part 6 for solar and wind generation)

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

Currently there is the Eco4 grant available to both tenants and homeowners on qualifying benefits. The grant offers insulation, solar panels, heat pump and central heating - visit www.ofgem.gov.uk

Community woodland pre-apprentice wanted

The search is underway for a new forestry pre-apprentice at Carsphairn Community Woodland (CCW).

The community woodland project continues to develop activities and facilities at Muirdrochwood Woodland, near Carsphairn, and directors are now looking to recruit the next forestry pre-apprentice, on a six-month training contract. The role covers a whole range of outdoor and practical tasks on site.

Carsphairn Community Woodland is one of three woodlands participating in the Inspirational Woodlands Project managed by McNabb Laurie at the D&G Woodlands Initiative and funded by the Glenkens & District Community Benefit Fund through

Foundation Scotland. CCW development officer, Alison Macleod, said: "The pre-apprenticeship is six-months of paid work-experience designed to provide essential forestry management skills, giving young people an opportunity to get onto the first rung of the career ladder. Supporting our young people in this way enables them to move into a career in forestry which is one of the areas of employment in this area."

If you would like to register your interest in the role, ask any questions or to find out more about what the role entails, please email to Alison at developmentofficerccw@gmail.com - applications are sought by 5pm on 21 June 2024.

A CCW pre-apprentice gets to grips with fencing, supported by forest supervisor, Andy Bain



Dalry Place Plan vision for the future

Following a final community engagement event at Dalry Town Hall to gather views on the draft action plan, Dalry's Local Place Plan (LPP) is almost complete.

Dalry residents have been marking up maps and making suggestions at various events since August 2023 to highlight the importance of local assets and facilities. Some areas of focus have been schools, the village shop and Post Office, and the community buildings. Participants have also pointed out things which could be improved, with a 20mph speed limit in the village and improvements for pedestrians and cyclists high on the agenda.

Dalry's settlement takes up a small part of the whole community council area, with many people living outwith the village. In addition to considering traditional development questions about where would be the best location for housing

would be, the community has also been asked to share their views on treasured landscapes in Dalry and the surrounding area.

This will help to build up a picture of which walks, views, cycle routes or wild swimming spots are truly valued by the local community, with the aim of trying to ensure that cherished places like Waterside Hill are protected both as an important habitat for nature and a key viewpoint and landmark.

Scotland's new National Planning Framework (NPF4), released in February 2023, introduced a new tier of the planning system. The aim of this is to give communities the opportunity to articulate their own views on what is currently working well and what could be improved in their settlement. It gives communities a chance to share thoughts on development and land use, traditionally not something considered under planning legislation.

Once the draft LPP is finalised it will be available to view and for comments during a 28-day statutory consultation period, following which it can be proposed for adoption by D&G Council.



Thanks to funding for a pilot project from South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) and NatureScot, and following meetings with stakeholders including Forestry & Land Scotland, Scottish Forestry, NatureScot, the Crichton Carbon Trust, the Loch Ken Trust and the Galloway Fisheries Trust, the plan is now almost ready to go out to statutory consultation. It is hoped that the document will be adopted in September and will inform the development of the next D&G Council Local Development Plan (LDP3).

The planning department has given positive feedback on the draft document, and Glenkens Community & Arts Trust is now in a position to be able to offer a template Local Place Plan and package of support to other Glenkens community councils who would like to progress their own LPPs using the £2,000 grant from D&G Council for this purpose.

To find out more about this, or for more information about Dalry's draft LPP, please email Becca Nelson at becca.glenkens.anf@gmail.com

No news is good news - or is it?

No news is good news. Or is it? The *Glenkens Gazette* is a member of Scottish Beacon, a platform created to raise the voices of hyperlocal publications like the *Gazette*.

Without news, how would you know about the issues affecting your community? How would you know what your local authorities were planning or whether they were acting legally? How would you know if your local environment was being impacted and by whom? And how would you know about the positive changes in

your area, the success stories?

As long as we have a local independent news source in our area, our community can stay informed – but sadly, far too many news providers are struggling to keep going.

No news is bad news

We're proud members of the award-winning Scottish Beacon local news collaborative – a collective of 24 independent local news providers right across Scotland.

We want to strengthen local news by amplifying stories and provided trusted, vital information written by people who know their communities best.

Together, we're joining the 'No News is Bad News' campaign, and in June as part of Indie News Week, The Scottish Beacon is hosting a one day

event packed with interesting conversations, lively debates and workshops.

Get your tickets here:
<https://bit.ly/scottishbeacon>

THE SCOTTISH BEACON

invites you for a packed day of lively discussions, workshops, talks and networking exploring the role of local news in Scotland's communities

🕒 10am – 4pm
📅 Friday 7 June
📍 The Grassmarket Community Project, Edinburgh
🎟 Tickets: £15 / £30 via bit.ly/scottishbeacon
🍽 lunch/refreshments included

A face lift for the old girl

The Town Hall in Dalry is one of the oldest and most valuable rural assets in the Glenkens and it is the intention of the management team to begin making improvements/refurbishments to the historic building.

This will ensure that the community can come together and stay for activities involving work, rest and play and benefit from a warm space that feels comfortable, attractive, and a venue to be proud of.

The team have been awarded grant funding for energy efficiency improvements which are progressing and have also completed a successful application to National Lottery Awards for All receiving just over £9,000. The plan is to use these funds to install new heavy duty thermal blinds, paint the back rooms and to refurbish

the lovely main hall floor. Just think of all the great ceilidhs and events that can be enjoyed on that! Our priority is to give the community a building to be even more proud of and to take pleasure in visiting.

In 1817 the labour activist Robert Owen advocated that finding time for rest, play and relaxation contributes to a good balance of mental health, physical wellbeing and increases greater happiness. If the team at Dalry can help achieve this by injecting some new life into the 'Old Girl' and make the hall an attractive, warm and pleasurable experience for all the community and visitors then our efforts will have been worth it.

We have more ideas and plans for other projects but in the meantime, we want the good folk of Dalry to come and see what is happening inside. You may be very surprised.

Open Doors Day

Committee chair, Lesley Blissett, commented that the management team is made up of a small band of volunteers. It doesn't just happen by itself, there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes to put on different events for community participation.

This year is the fortieth anniversary of Volunteers Week, which takes place from 3 to 9 June, and Lesley decided she wanted to take the opportunity of hosting an Open Doors Day at the hall (this will be on Sunday 9 June from 10am). It is intended that other community venues, such as the Glenkens Community Centre, will also be taking part. This is the perfect chance for residents new and long standing, young and old, to come inside and see what is going on.

We intend to have the Community Café during the day which is run by volunteers. There will be a chance to watch the screening of the Covenanters Video Story plus a PowerPoint presentation of all the events and activities that have been and are being organised by volunteers.



A piper outside Dalry Town Hall for a wedding in May 2023

We welcome the newcomers to the village and extend a warm invitation to all.

'The Old Girl' would like some more 'friends' to play with, which helps us become a strong, committed team to future proof Dalry Town Hall for generations to come.

The Dalry Town Hall Management Team



A fond farewell

I am sad to report that the Together in The Glenkens (TiTG) programme has now come to the end of its year of funding.

We have had an amazing year, meeting so many wonderful people and providing an array of activities and experiences for the Glenkens communities.

I wish to thank Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway,

whose initial generous funding allocation from the Scottish Government allowed us to provide a 12-month programme of a variety of events, catering for the interests of a wide range of people in the Glenkens.

Our goals were made possible by the wonderful generosity of volunteers and specialist deliverers who showed great commitment and enthusiasm for the 12-month rolling programme. I would like to thank all our volunteers and deliverers for their energy and creativity which made all of the activities as successful as possible.

TiTG's positive outcomes were also enhanced by the generosity of Dalry Community Shop, NHS Endowment Fund, Co-op Community Fund, Balmaclellan and Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community

Councils, whose additional funds allowed us to increase the opportunities and experiences for all of our beneficiaries.

I wish to thank all our attendees for their enthusiasm and willingness to build and increase their skills and interests, enrich their lives and make new connections.

Our legacy is that out of the 12 activities which were established over this year, four are looking in a highly positive position to continue after Together in The Glenkens's conclusion. This is fantastic to see. Thank you all!

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust is currently seeking



Jo Jackson, activity coordinator for Together in The Glenkens

funding to support Glenkens Food Month and other avenues which continue to offer Glenkens community activities, so we will keep fingers crossed for that.

Jo Jackson

The CatStrand journey...16 years and counting

It is hard to believe that the CatStrand has now been open for over 16 years, and even harder to imagine just what our community would be like without it now!

In that time, the CatStrand and all of the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) services and projects which are delivered from there have become a vital part of life in the Glenkens for residents and visitors alike.

Whether you use the café, attend events or classes, travel on the Galloway Community Transport minibuses, hire the space for meetings, access tourist information, view art exhibitions, read the *Glenkens Gazette* or buy cards and gifts in the shop, there is no doubt that the CatStrand has grown and developed way beyond anything we could have hoped for when GCAT first purchased the derelict old school in 2002.

Our live arts programme brings something for everyone; who knew, 22 years ago, that we would get the National Theatre of Scotland visiting the Glenkens? Our youth arts programme is also an important and very rewarding part of what GCAT offers. Over the years, hundreds of young people from our

rural area have been able to experience different aspects of the arts and develop their skills. Our young people can even benefit from work experience through internships and we are very proud that some have gone on to forge successful careers in the arts industry.

The CatStrand has helped to attract many tourists to the Glenkens and our visitors constantly tell us how lucky we are to have a facility like the CatStrand, often wishing they had something similar in their own, often much larger, communities. There is no doubt that we are lucky, but we didn't get where we are today without a huge amount of hard work too, and we certainly couldn't have achieved anything without the incredible support shown by the community and visitors to the area.

Like many similar organisations, we rely on funding to deliver projects but also on income generated from commercial activities and donations to meet the running costs of our buildings. We want to continue running all the activities and services at the CatStrand and we would appreciate your help more than ever to help us to do that.

There are many ways you can help; our Friends Scheme makes it easy to make regular contribution on a monthly or annual basis. If you feel this is something you would like to do, pick up a leaflet at the CatStrand



or visit www.gcat.scot/support-us where you can also find details for making one-off donations or leaving a legacy (the QR code below also takes you to this page).

Of course your support in using the café, shop, attending events, etc is always much appreciated and if you would like to consider offering your time as a volunteer we would love that too!

The last 16 years have been an incredible journey, including surviving three floods and one pandemic - we couldn't have done it without you! However, just because the CatStrand is now well-established, it mustn't be taken for granted. Please consider helping us continue our journey by joining the Friends Scheme or helping in any way that you feel able.

*Brian Edgar,
a founding trustee of GCAT*



Scouts Easter fun

Well done to all our Cubs who made the most incredible decorated egg entries to the annual competition.

I have been with the Glenkens Cub Scout Pack for well over 20 years now and have never seen such fabulous entries.

Heather and I were very pleased to delegate the almost impossible task of judging them to Mrs Sue Dunstan - thank you Sue for your time. And thank

you Cubs for your brilliant and very creative work.

*Yours in scouting,
Hannah Fitch
Prize winners
Bella, Elliot and
Alba, pictured with
Mrs Sue Dunstan*



Collie rescue comes to Corsock



Nicki at the Corsock farm with one of the dogs

Founded in 1976 as a group of independent individuals around the UK, Border Collie Rescue became a charity in 1995 and a registered charity in England and Wales and Scotland in 2010.

The charity had no base in Scotland until late last year when a small farm was purchased near Corsock to set up a Scottish centre to rehabilitate dogs and assess working sheepdogs under the supervision of two trustees, Mike Cooke and Nicki Oliver.

Nicki grew up with collies as sheepdogs and companions. With her first dog she quickly progressed from beginner

through to advanced at her local dog training club. Farming connections in the family encouraged her to start training sheepdogs.

She soon had waifs passing through her hands, sorting them out and finding them homes, one by one. Dogs love her and quickly learn to trust her, listen to her and want to please her.

Nicki says: "Border Collie Rescue works by choosing homes for dogs based on what dogs show us they want to do. A series of assessments, starting with sheep, enable dogs to demonstrate what they do best. What we discover during the application and assessment processes enables us to make a match and suggest a dog suited to a client's requirements that will benefit most by being in their home, living their lifestyle."

Mike added: "We don't show

clients photographs of dogs to pick from, we invite them to offer a home for a dog. It could be for stock, scent work, sport or companionship. Once a match is made there is a home visit, then they meet the dog which stays with them on a four week trial to ensure both dog and client are happy."

Nicki continued: "The countryside here is beautiful and very reminiscent of the Yorkshire Dales where we have come from. The sweeping hills, dry stone walls, quiet villages and stone houses and cottages are very similar to Richmondshire, where the charity has its UK base."

Until the buildings are modified, all dogs are fostered and re-

homed from Yorkshire but the charity's main administrative office is being relocated to Scotland.

Border Collie Rescue is run and staffed entirely by volunteers. There is work to do on the buildings, land and in the office and the charity is looking for volunteers who could do something they would enjoy that will help set things up for the future of the Border Collies that will pass through the facility.

If you would like to get involved with Border Collie Rescue, you can contact Mike on 07548 258886 or hq@bordercollierescue.org

To find out more about the charity visit www.bordercollierescue.org

Church buildings in the Glenkens

A 'For Sale' sign has appeared outside Dalry Manse and, as a result, questions are being asked about the future of church buildings in the Glenkens.

Because of its democratic nature, decision-making in the Church of Scotland is not a speedy process but it is now possible to let people know what is happening, and to reassure them that the work of the Church will continue and that congregations will still have opportunities to worship locally.

For at least a thousand years it was taken for granted that every Scottish village would have at least one church building, often in a prominent position and always at the centre of village life. However, from about the middle of the last century declining

congregation sizes meant that parishes had to start sharing ministers, and manses began to be sold off. Last year a "presbytery plan" was drawn up which aimed to ensure that the buildings owned by the Church in Dumfries and Galloway could continue to be supported by its human and financial resources.

In the Glenkens the Rev. Pam Bellis, who was appointed

locum minister of Carsphairn, Dalry, Kells & Balmaclellan when David Bartholomew retired, will continue in her role while the plan is implemented. In due course the four Glenkens parishes will be linked with Parton, Crossmichael and Balmaghie and a new minister for all seven parishes will be recruited. The existing manse at Dalry would cost too much to bring up to modern standards

so it is being sold and plans are being made for a new building.

As for the other church buildings, Parton, Crossmichael and Balmaclellan will be sold but it is important to stress that graveyards will not be affected and will continue to be operated by the local council. In most cases only one metre of ground around the building will be included in the sale.

A decision to close a church building is not taken lightly, and only after all alternatives have been considered. The early Christians and, in the Glenkens, the Covenanters, showed that, with faith and fellowship, it is possible to worship anywhere.

Having said that, despite the existence of modern-day, open-air conventicles and Easter dawn services, our Scottish weather demands that these can only be occasional pleasures and that indoor services will continue to be available in the Glenkens.

*Andrew Mellor,
on behalf of the Kirk Session*



Bluebell walk

We awoke to a beautiful spring morning with the bluebell walk eagerly anticipated.

An enthusiastic group of people both local and from afar commenced the circular walk through the New Galloway golf course woods. The walk was of approximately a mile and a quarter, and took just over an

hour. This included stops to take in and photograph the beds of bluebell, an extended stop at the Loch Ken viewpoint and the walk lead taking time en-route to identify examples of work undertaken by the footpath maintenance group.

The conditions of the pathways on the day were good and the sun was shining. More to the point, following the recent spell

of good weather fears that there would be a disappointing show of bluebells were dispelled.

After the walk all participants retired to the town hall where refreshments were served.

If anyone is interested in finding

out more about our next walks or is interested in supporting the maintenance of the golf course pathways, please do pop in to the volunteer fair on 1 June at New Galloway Town Hall between 10am and 2pm or email info@ling.org.uk

Clare McKenzie



The Great Corsock Show

Brace yourself for the Great Corsock Show!

This year the show will be held on 24 August and will see an eclectic mix of vegetable, baking and craft categories.

Show programmes are now available on www.glenkens.scot and from local outlets as well as in the Corsock Hall porch.

Building on last year's record-breaking number of entries there will be activities, a BBQ, a pop-up café, a raffle and try your luck on the famous bottle stall. The judges' challenge this year is 'a cake containing a vegetable'. Open to all!

McNabb Laurie



The Great Corsock Show and scarecrow competition

Saturday 24th August, 2024, Corsock Village Hall



Baking, Flowers, Vegetables and Crafts categories for kids and adults

BBQ • Produce Auction • Activities

Rules & Schedule on back

Admission £1 (under 12s and exhibitors free)

Refreshments available £1

(donations of homebaking gladly received)

Raffle prizes and bottle stall donations very welcome, Keep an eye on Facebook (@CorsockHall) for show updates and details of where / when to drop off donations

Remembrance

The wind howled and blew as around Balmaclellan Kirk it flew,
The trees outside swayed and waved in wild dance
Sunlight glinted through the myriad stained glass Webster window,
Casting lively coloured beams from the Holy scenes
We sang Shine, Jesus, Shine to the rapturous organ beat.

Tapping. Clapping beating feet.
There was present God, Love, Joy, Hope and Peace,
A goose bump moment like a lover's glance.

Then sitting in the Pew the scratched carvings there to review,
A naughty child from 1878, another and another as the decades tumble,
Voices from a far-off forgotten world, rumble.
This church like so many others fading away.
But hark, I hear the beat of beautiful feet,
Taking us back to God with Jesus to point the way.
Let's go.

by Ian Knox

Name the place

(from page 2)

Site Name - Kendoon Dam

Location - Kendoon, Carsphairn/Dalry boundary

Description - The Galloway Hydro Electric Scheme was truly a landscape-scale project. With a catchment area of 2,877km², the Kendoon dam is one of 11 that form an integrated electricity generation network with six associated power stations across multiple water catchments, from Ayrshire south to Tongland and the Solway Firth.

The system was constructed in the 1930s to provide electricity for the infant national grid network, whose vision was to bring power to every home in the UK. It was a truly monumental feat of engineering at the time, employing thousands of workers through its construction and today providing electricity for up to 200,000 homes.

'One for the pub' - Imagine a world without electricity. Should we keep increasing our demand for electricity or find ways to reduce consumption?

Gazetteer of Scotland: extracts Part 2

This is the second part of an extract from the Gazetteer of Scotland from 1803 relevant to the Glenkens.

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.

KELLS; a parish in Kirkcudbright Stewartry, and one of the four which form the district of Glenkens.

It is nearly of the form of an isosceles triangle, the base of which, at the north end, is about six miles, gradually diminishing for 15 miles, to the point where the rivers Dee and Ken unite. These rivers bound it on the east and west sides, and one of the streams of the Ken is its boundary on the north forming it into a sort of peninsula.

The surface is unequal and hilly: towards the south there are large rocky hills covered with heath, and towards the north the hills are elevated still higher, termed Kells Range.

The hills are interspersed with patches of meadow ground, and, along the banks of the rivers, are many fertile fields, of which the soil is partly a rich clay, and partly dry and thin, but kindly, and producing good crops of oats, barley, etc. Husbandry is much improved by the example and exertions of Mr Gordon of Greenlaw, in introducing marl and limestone as manures, and the practice of fallow and green cropping.

Along the banks of Loch Ken there are about 200 acres of the richest land in Scotland, owing to the inundations of the loch, which lay this ground under water twice or thrice a year, leaving behind it, like the Nile, those principles which cause fertility.

Besides Loch Ken, there are about 80 acres covered with lakes, and 500 under natural wood and plantations.

The royal burgh of New Galloway is situated in this parish, and near it the castle of Kenmure, the seat of Mr. Gordon, the representative of the Viscounts Kenmure. Glenlee-Park, the seat of Lady Miller, relic of the late Sir William Miller (Lord Glenlee),

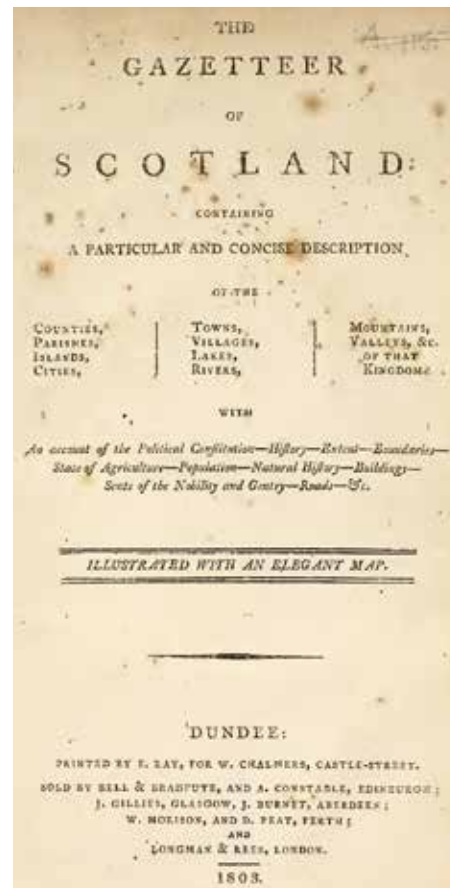
is also in this parish. There is a fine slate quarry in the north end, which was formerly wrought, but has fallen into disrepute from unskilful management: there is a rich lead mine on the Glenlee estate, and within half a mile of it the appearance of a copper mine. Near New Galloway, two miles farther south, there is an appearance of lead, of which the vein is so rich, that pieces have been found on the very surface, almost of pure lead. In 1791, the population of the parish was 869.

Kells Range, or Rhyns; a ridge of hills in the parish of Kells, extending in a north and south direction about eight miles in length, reckoned the highest in Galloway, being part of that extensive range in which the Tweed, the Annan, the Clyde, and the other large rivers of the S. of Scotland have their sources, Kells Range is almost entirely composed of granite; but one of the hills contains great quantities of the finest iron ore, which cannot be wrought to advantage at so great a distance from fuel.

On one of these hills is a rocking stone of eight or ten tonnes weight, and so poised on its center of gravity, that although movable by the pressure of the finger, yet the force of many men would be requisite to move it from its place.

The Rev Mr Gillespie reckons it "a great natural antiquity," and supposes it to have been "formed by nature just as we see it, and lying on a stratum of moss two or three inches thick; and the rains have washed away this moss, and left; the stone resting on the two or three points," but others are of opinion, that it is artificial, as a considerable number have been discovered in other parts of the kingdom: at Stonehenge in Wiltshire, at Balvaird and Dron, near Perth, and another in Kirkmichael parish.

It is supposed to have been of use in the mysteries of the druids; and, as such, Mason in his Caractacus, has introduced it as an engine of superstition. "Behold yon huge and unhewn sphere of living



adamant, which poiz'd by magic rests its central weight on yonder pointed rock; firm as it seems. Such is its strange and virtuous property, It moves obsequious to the gentlest touch of him, whose breast is pure; but, to a traitor, tho' even a giant's prowess nerv'd his arm, It stands as fix'd as Snowden."

Explanations by transcriber:

1. Relict = widow
2. Marl = carbonate rich clays and silt

Transcribed by Paul Goodwin




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Serendipitous events for Dalry kirkyard headstone repairs

Readers may remember reading in the October *Gazette* about an anonymous Dalry resident wanting to know if there were any objections to them repairing three headstones in the Dalry kirkyard.

As a reminder, the first is a small broken cross near the church door and path to the stile with 'infant son' on it; the second a large sandstone headstone propped up against the boundary wall opposite the main church door 'the Reverend James Mather and family'; and the third a broken cross headstone on the grassy boundary of the newer part of the graveyard and the older section 'Peter J Carson and Hilda Robertson'.

Since then, completely out of the blue, Jeremy Carson, great nephew of Peter J Carson and Hilda Robertson, has been in touch with us about 'their' headstone. Jeremy and his wife Karen were over on holiday in September from Tasmania and looking for family headstones in both Dalry and in Borgue. Jeremy's grandparents' headstone (Andrew and Mary Carson (nee Glendinning) stands adjacent to Peter and Hilda's.

This is an extract from Jeremy's first email which may be of interest to readers:

"My family of Carson, on my father's side, lived in the vicinity of St John's Town of Dalry and a bit further away near Borgue. My father, Robert Carson, was born near Twynholm and brought up at Walkerhill Farm near Balmacellan. After the Second World War, he settled in London and held an academic position at the British

Museum. On retirement he emigrated to Australia to follow my sister and me who had both emigrated there in the early 1980s.

"Inevitably, as one gets older, there grows an interest in one's origins, where one has come from and the lives of one's forebears.

Unfortunately, I have little recollection of those still alive when I was small. My grandfather, Andrew Carson, died many years before I was born, and of his wife, my grandmother, I have only the haziest of a memory.

"My father died several years ago, but we found in his papers a handwritten account he made of his early life living at Walkerhill Farm. My wife still has family in the UK and we try to make a visit every few years. On returning this year, I wanted to spend a bit of time in Kirkcudbrightshire to locate places my father mentioned in his account, and to locate the headstones of family members, details of which my wife had found in various resources available to the general public.

"In the cemetery of St John's Town of Dalry we located the headstone of my grandparents Andrew and Mary (nee Glendinning) Carson as well as that of my grandfather's brother, Peter Carson, and his wife Hilda Robertson; the headstones of the two brothers are next to each other. You will see from the dates on the headstones that the brothers died within a few days of each other; my grandfather Andrew aged 45 and my great uncle Peter, aged



39. Both were susceptible to asthma and both developed pneumonia almost simultaneously and with fatal consequences. Their untimely deaths were a heavy blow to the family.

"My wife had also located the headstone of my great-grandfather, James Carson and his wife Agnes Lorimer, in the cemetery of Borgue. We visited the cemetery and were able to locate their headstone. While the headstone of my grandfather at Dalry was in good condition, other than needing a good clean and the letters picked out again, that of my great-grandfather and of Peter Carson were in some state of disrepair. My wife and I decided that we would like to have all three headstones restored.

"As luck would have it, we were put in touch with Douglas Swan & Sons about restoration work. In subsequent correspondence with Jamie Swan, he told us of the coincidence in that you had asked about having the headstone for Peter Carson repaired."

Isn't it lovely that one of the headstones in Dalry has been found by their relatives! And what a coincidence that they were here looking for the headstones at the same time we were preparing an article

for the *Gazette*.

We will hopefully have an update by the next gazette on the restoration of the other two headstones.

Pictured is the headstone of Peter Carson and Hilda Robertson, before and after restoration work.

The inscription reads:

In Loving Memory of Peter Johnstone Carson, dearly beloved husband of Hilda Robertson, who died at Newfield, Dalry, 9th January 1925, aged 39 years. Also the above Hilda Robertson, died 26th February 1955-

Douglas Swan, who has restored the headstone, gave a bit of elaboration about the crown motif:

"The crown represents reward and glory. It honours glorified souls and angels, or points to the triumph and death when it caps a winged skull. Sometimes this symbol is juxtaposed with a cross, which indicates that earthly life includes suffering, and the afterlife victory."

Natural History and Antiquarian Society young researcher competition

The Dumfriesshire & Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society (DGNHAS) Young Researcher Competition is for students in years S4, S5, S6 or recent school leavers who have not yet begun higher education.

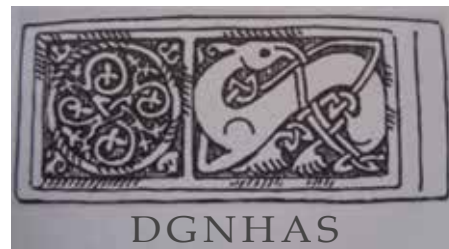
Being an avid *Gazette* reader, DGNHAS secretary Margaret Kennedy got in touch to ask if we would run a piece inviting Glenkens young people to take part in the competition.

The aim is to try and foster a long-lasting interest in the local heritage of the three former counties of Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire.

Entrants are asked to produce an original research paper on any topic relating to the human history or natural environment of Dumfries and Galloway.

Examples of this could be to research the career of a local historical figure, the history of a significant local building/monument, a study – perhaps a census – of local wildlife or the importance of an exhibit in one of the region's museums.

Papers should contain between 1,500 and 2,500 words and may contain images, appropriately captioned.



The society is offering a prize of £250 and the winner will see their paper published on the society's website. The society feels that the prestige involved in taking part in this competition, let alone winning, would greatly benefit students in their future careers.

The competition runs from the end of the summer term, with the deadline for entries being 31 December. This timing ensures that examination studies are not affected.

Full details of the competition are available at www.dgnhas.org.uk under the 'About' tab.



Last year's competition winner was Sophia Earle from St Joseph's College in Dumfries. Pictured are members of DGNHAS with Luka Stores (runner-up) and DGNHAS president David Dutton handing Sophia her winning certificate.

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



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)
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Glenkens Choir wow at premiere of *The Fall of Man*

Spontaneous and sustained applause greeted the glorious final chorus of the Geoff Davidson's new choral work *The Fall of Man*.

This latest world premiere following on from *The Passion* last year was enjoyed by a capacity audience in Dalry church.

The work deals with the subject of Adam and Eve and the serpent (chillingly and dramatically delivered by Marion Adam) and a very angry God (portrayed by the chorus). Robert Lind sang the

captured the weakness and remorse of the first man. Nicola Junor's Eve was beautifully sung and quite devastatingly effective in her realisation of her calamitous mistake. Both singers relished the large chorus numbers and sang with strength and clarity over the chorus counterpoint.

The Reverend John Burns took the role of the narrator and spoke the well-known words of the bible story with authority and aplomb.

The story of Adam and Eve has generally been neglected by great composers. Haydn mentions them briefly in his

role of Adam with equally dramatic power yet

oratorio *The Creation* but his is a couple deeply in love with no mention of serpents, apples or an angry God. *The Fall of Man* did not duck these issues but revelled in them!

Janette Davidson's sublimely beautiful singing as the Queen of Heaven was of a quality rarely heard in these parts and Reverend Dawn Matthews' reading of Mary, an icon of love, was truly moving.

This reading and the powerful prologue were written by Larry Winger, a local writer with whom Geoff Davidson has now collaborated and created an exciting new musical about King David. It's called *The God Stone* and brings to life David, young and adult, King Saul, Goliath, Bathsheba and all. This is next

year's project for this wonderful little choir who exhibit astonishing ability to sing difficult works and make them compulsively gripping. Larry Winger's *Song of Hope* towards the end was a triumph of melody, fanfare and resolution that entranced the stunned audience.

Hundreds of pounds were donated at the door and this will be split between the orphanage in Malawi and the church itself who provided heat and light and a place to rehearse.

With groups like this in the Glenkens, musical life is well served.

Crombie MacNeill

Pictured are members of the Glenkens Choir during rehearsals



VoiceAbility

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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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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 author Jennifer Egan.

My work-related reading, though fascinating, is generally grim, so for some light relief on these even lighter summer days, I'm reading *The Keep* by the contemporary American novelist Jennifer Egan.

Danny, a phone-obsessed New Yorker in his late thirties who wishes to remain forever a child, arrives at the central European castle that his cousin Howie has just bought. Howie – apparently a multi-millionaire – has surrounded himself with graduate students, assistants, and various hangers-on.

They nurse mysterious plans to turn the place into a hotel which will somehow provoke its guests' imaginations. Because: "Old-fashioned 'reality' is a thing of the past. It's gone, finito – all that technology you're so in love with has wiped it out."

At the centre of the castle is the keep, in which secrets are kept, and where the baroness lives, who might be very old, or might be very young.

Though it's all somewhat fantastical, you take for granted the story you're being told about Howie and Danny and their

difficult relationship, until you realise that the person telling it is a prisoner – a murderer – attending a writing workshop, and that this prisoner shares a cell with another who – believe it or not – has a shoe box full of dust which allows him to hear the voices of the dead...

As in the works of Italo Calvino, or the *Thousand and One Nights*, here there are stories within stories.

I'm reading *The Keep* because I enjoyed *The Candy House* so much. And I read *The Candy House* because it is the sequel to *A Visit from the Goon Squad*, which is just brilliant. I can't remember what made me read that, but once I had, I decided to read everything this author had written. (I still have a couple to go.)

The method of *Candy House* and *Goon Squad* is that each chapter works as a story in its own right, though altogether they make up a novel (or two novels). Some chapters were in fact originally published as stand-alone short stories in the *New Yorker*. (You might come across them on the *New Yorker's* literary podcasts, which I recommend.

In *The New Yorker: Fiction*, writers choose a short story by another writer to read and then discuss. In *The New Yorker: The Writer's Voice*, writers read their own stories.)



In between *Goon Squad* and *Candy House*, I read *Manhattan Beach*. This historical novel, set amongst Irish-Americans in the 1930s and 40s, is a bit more traditional in method. It's a feminist novel without advertising itself as such, whose heroine is the first woman diver in Brooklyn's Navy ship yard during World War Two (Egan's not particularly interested in historical accuracy – there were

no women divers in the US Navy at the time – but she portrays the social reality of the moment with clarity.)

Like George Saunders, Jennifer Egan makes the complex look simple. Whether writing traditional realism or performing formal pyrotechnics, she produces books which are reliably funny, sad, page-turning, and endlessly entertaining.

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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- 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: 2 Jun, 7 Jul - 11am

Carsphairn: 9 Jun, 14 Jul - 11am, communion service

Kells: 16 Jun, 21 Jul - 11am

Dalry: 23 Jun, 30 Jun, 28 Jul - 11am

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

Wednesdays - evening prayers on Zoom

Sundays - 10.30-11.30am

Tuesdays - 10am-12noon, the church will be open for private prayer or reflection, or just to have a look round and chat with Dawn

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



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 Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

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GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

www.galloway-community-transport.org

email: gct@catstrand.com

phone: Jon 07841 512449 or Sue 07704 662925

**JUNE - JULY 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.

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Email gct@catstrand.com or phone 07841 512449

EXCURSIONS

GCT EXCURSION
THE MACHARS GARDENS
 Saturday 27th July 2024

A leisurely drive to Wigtownshire, with visits to two private gardens full of interest and colour. Lunch will be taken at the Isle of Whithorn

Galloway House: Informal pleasure grounds where wild flowers and plants have their place besides more exotic cultivated species

Woodfall Garden: a variety of plantings within this peaceful surroundings. Meet the owners and discover the gardens history. Plants for sale

Both gardens partially wheelchair accessible

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MEMBERSHIP HIRE

GCT has a 15, 16 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.galloway-community-transport.org

WHAT'S ON

June/July

JUNE

Sat 1, Volunteer Fair, 10am-2pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Sat 1, Carsphairn Show, show field, all day

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

Sun 2, Ivan Drever 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 2, Dragon Boats on Loch Ken - Open Day, 10am-3pm, Galloway Activity Centre

Mon 3-Sun 9, Indie News Week, events hosted in Edinburgh, available online, see p19

Wed 5, Dalry Film Club : The Great Escaper, 7:30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 6, Film - Why Not Scotland? 7:30PM, CatStrand

Thu 6, Police Community Drop-In Surgeries: Crossmichael Memorial Hall 9-10am; Balmaghie Village Hall, Laurieston 10.15-11am; Mossdale Post Office 11.15-12noon; New Galloway (High Street) 12.15-1pm; Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn 1.30-2.15pm; Dalry Post Office 2.45-3.30pm; Corsock Village Hall 3.45-4.30pm

Sat 8-Sun16, Great Big Green Week, see p14

Sat 8, June, Barwhillanty Picnic Prom, see p5

Sun 9, SR Crockett Classic Car Run, 1-5pm

Sun 9, Dalry Town Hall Opendoors Day, 10am-3pm, see back page

Mon 10, Dalry Town Hall Management Meeting, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Wed 12, Public Exhibition - Troston Overhead Line Grid Connection, 3-7pm, Dalry Town Hall

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

Sat 15, deadline for Glenkens Community Shop grant applications, see p5

Sat 15, European Lunar Symposium- The Moon and the Earth in prose, 10am, CatStrand

Sat 15, European Lunar Symposium- Space and Nature in poetry, 1pm, CatStrand

Sat 15, European Lunar Symposium- Open Mic, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 15, Glenkens Producers' Market, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 20, Ross Ainslie and Ali Hutton Trio (with Owen Sinclair), 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 21, application deadline for CCW Forestry Pre-apprentice, see p18

Fri 21, Gin Tasting Evening, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 22, Dalry Community Café, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 23, SongWave: Singing up a Storm - songs of spirit and the sea, 4pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Fri 28, Heal & Harrow, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 29, Make Some Noise music session, 10.15am-12noon, Smiddy, Balmaclellan

JULY

Thu 4, Black Umfolosi Workshop, 1pm, CatStrand

Thu 4, Black Umfolosi, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 6, Bio Blitz, 11am-3pm, Lochhill Farm, Crossmichael, see p17

Sat 6, Carsphairn Community Woodland Volunteer Day, 10am-3pm, Muirdrochwood Forest

week of 8 July, Glenkens Education & Learning Summit, see p7

Mon 8, Dalry Town Hall Management Meeting, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 12, Carlos Quilici, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 13, The Morrich, 7.30pm, CatStrand

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

Sun 14, Outlaw Sisters Workshop, 1.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 14, The Morrich- Workshop, 2pm, The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Sun 14, Outlaw Sisters, 4pm, CatStrand

Sat 20, Wave Blues Band, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 20, The Motte Pop-up Pub, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Sat 27, Stewartry Show, all day, Stewartry Rugby Club

Sat 27, GCT Bus Trip: The Machars Gardens, Sat 27 July, see p33

Sun 28, One Big Thank You, 6am-6pm, Carlingwark Park, Castle Douglas, see back page

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 mcnabblaurie@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, monthly meetings resume in September

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, 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

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 2.30-3.30pm

Margaret Morris Modern Dance for Children & Young Dancers, 4-5pm

LING Lunches, Tue, 12.30-2pm

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

Zumba, Wed, 6.30pm

Ukulele Group, Wed, 6.30-8pm

Hubbub, Thu, 12noon-5.30pm, drop-in, all ages welcome

Martial Arts, Thu, 7.30-9pm

Babies & Toddlers, Fri, 10-11am

For further info email info@ling.org.uk, phone 07749 249 781

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

Opening Times:

Mon 10am-1pm

Tue 6-8pm

Wed, Fri & Sat 10am-4pm

Dalry Library

Main St, Dalry, Tel: 01644 430 234

Library Opening Times:

Tue 2-5pm, Fri 12noon-5pm with the

first hour for NEC Bus Pass & Blue Badge appointments, etc. Book in the library or call 01387 260 196.

Bookbug and Parent & Toddler Session, Tue, 10.30-11.30am

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, Mon, 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

Join Jim for One Big Thank You

Crossmichael resident Jim McLelland will be spending the day in Carlingwark Park, Castle Douglas, on Sunday 28 July to raise funds for local NHS staff and services.

Jim has committed to matching the NHS workers' 12-hour work shift by walking, jogging and running during the course of the day, from 6am to 6pm. The day will be filled with fun and celebration, providing a chance show appreciation to all NHS staff, from the support services and catering teams to the porters, secretaries, nurses, doctors, consultants and steadfast team of volunteers.

Jim says: "Please come along to support me in raising funds for the NHS charity and staff, who are there for each of us in our time of need. Let's recognise their

hard work, which often accompanies our darkest times of worry or pain. While many of us may not have required their services to date, we never know what the future holds – for ourselves or for our loved ones."

Could you afford to donate, or perhaps to do some fundraising yourself? If everyone in the region gave just £1 each, over £100,000 would be raised! Some fundraising ideas are holding a sponsored walk, run, swim, cycle or a local event such as a quiz night, darts match, bingo evening, coffee morning or karaoke night.

Jim says: "Money raised will go to the D&G Health Board Endowment Fund charity to be used to provide the extras above and beyond what the NHS can provide, giving support where it is needed the most.

"Please accept this warm invitation to be a part of this special community appreciation; we express grateful thanks



to all sponsors who have already pledged donations to this remarkable challenge which could benefit us all."

To support Jim's fundraiser you can donate at www.justgiving.com/page/jim-mcllland-onebigthankyou

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

AUG/SEP COPY DEADLINE: 5 JULY



Editing & Design:
sarah.ade@gmail.com

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