

Pioneering education and learning event

With a focus across Scotland on the loss of rural amenities, schools and rural depopulation, the Glenkens is taking the reins in engaging our communities to figure out what we need and want in terms of education and learning.

The Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT) hosted an event on behalf of the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan Steering Group.

The event was designed to inform and inspire, and welcomed six excellent speakers who gave up their time to move this important

subject forward.

There were two areas on which the speakers focussed; 'industry' and 'education'.

On the 'industry' panel, Richard Nash of Natural Power, Matthew Bacon of Vattenfall and Abi Mordin of Propagate gave fascinating insights into the pipeline of skilled jobs that will be needed in the land and energy industries in the Glenkens over the next 20 years.

The 'education' panel comprised Anne Paterson,



Speakers at the education and learning event addressed a packed auditorium

previous Head of the Argyll & Bute Education Department and now researcher into rural small schools, and Andrew Pyle, Head of the Kilquhanity Children's Village near Kirkpatrick Durham.

Continued on page 11...

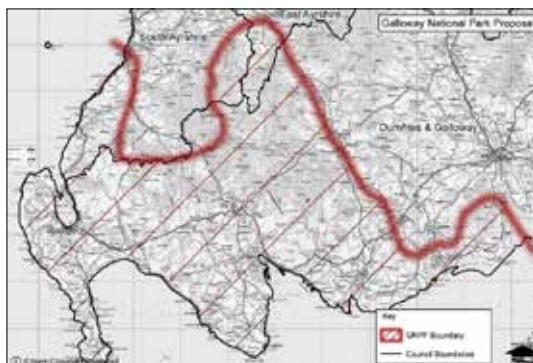
A National Park for Galloway?

In July 2024 the Scottish Government selected Galloway as a possible location for a new National Park.

The region, which came out top from a shortlist of five, will be the subject of a consultation and an investigation into its suitability.

The *Glenkens Gazette* and Glenkens Hub don't have a position on the National Park itself, but we think that the best outcome will be achieved through wide and well-informed discussion.

To support the public's meaningful engagement with the issues, we have brought together the relevant official documents on this a new page under the 'Good to Know' section of the Glenkens Hub at www.glenkens.scot/galloway-national-park-proposal



Proposed area for the Galloway National Park

and will update it as we get more information in the months ahead.

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Carsphairn's Big Lunch

Carsphairn's inaugural Eden Project Communities Scotland Big Lunch, intended to bring communities together, was a success.

The event was well attended with a buffet lunch supplied by Carsphairn Tearooms. Finlay Carson MSP and his family joined residents for the buffet-style meal, supported by Carsphairn Community Council and organised by Cathy Cockburn. Also present was children's group Bairn Banter organiser, Melissa Ade, with a

host of fun things to do for the younger attendees.

Cathy said: "A big thank you to all who assisted in making this event a success and let's look forward to doing it annually."



Name the Place

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

The answer can be found on p22, with a bit of information and food for thought about that location.

Loch Ken Dragon Boats party night

Join the Dragon Boats on Loch Ken club for a fundraising party night on Saturday 7 December at Dalry Town, with music from Glasgow-based Vintage Vinyl.

Last year we held the party night at Balmaclellan Village Hall and it was a great success. More information will be available from October regarding tickets; they sell fast so make sure the date is in your diary. You can reserve tickets by calling or 0751 431 7578 or emailing pflssw@gmail.com

Dragon Boats on Loch Ken is based at the Galloway Activity Centre. We paddle on Sundays from April to October, meeting at 9.30am - do come along, we'd love to meet you!

Joyce Thacker



Spalding open triples competition

Spalding Bowling Club held the annual Open Triples competition at the end of June.

Congratulations to Stewart Crossan, Bert Little and Melvin McTaggart on winning the open triples, beating Stevie Johnston, Tom Rogers and Davy McHenry in the final. A big 'thank you' goes to Kate Bone for presenting the prizes on behalf of our sponsor, William Bone, of Upper Dullarg Eggs. The club would also like to thank everyone for coming along to the event and all those members who helped out, making it a fantastic day.

Garry Priddy



Left to Right: (runners up) Tom Rogers, Davy McHenry, Steven Johnstone, Kate Bone (Upper Dullarg Eggs), Garry Priddy (President); (winners) Stewart Crossan, Melvin McTaggart and Bert little

Galloway Community Transport: Goodbye, hello and expanding the fleet

Galloway Community Transport (GCT) bade a fond farewell to Sue McMinn.

All the team will miss her cheery personality and hard work but respect her need to spend more time with family.

Good news - we have a new member of the team joining us on 1 August; Jason Wilding has been selected as the new GCT coordinator. Some of you may recognise him from the GCT driving work he has been doing for us. Welcome Jason!

More good news - we were recently in receipt of a generous anonymous donation which allowed us to purchase an almost-new

Ford Transit 16-seater minibus at the end of May. It has already been used for several excursions, with the response being very positive.

Even more good news - due to a combination of funding and another anonymous donation, we have been able to order a brand-new wheelchair accessible 16-seater minibus. We are expecting delivery of that at the end of August.

We have also been in very productive discussions with Dumfries & Galloway Council about the installation of a DC (direct current) charger in the Glenkens over the next few months, which will allow us to get our e-Bus fully up and running. More news on that next time...

Jon Betts, GCT Manager

In memory of Brian

There was an excellent turnout of members to honour and remember Brian Porteous, the New Galloway Golf Course greenkeeper of longstanding.

Brian tragically died whilst working on the course a year ago and is sadly missed by all the members and visitors to the club. He was always working on the course, making it one of - if not *the* - best 9-hole courses in Scotland.

This high standard of maintenance on our course drew in many visitors from all over the world. Brian was also always on hand to offer

encouragement to visitors and tell them one of his many jokes.

Members played a competition for the Brian Porteous Trophy, a stunning wood turning made by club member, Rex Dressler, from the sycamore tree which had stood next to the clubhouse.

Brian was an excellent putter and also had a lovely sense of humour. It therefore was very appropriate that the format of the competition involved the players using the longest club in their bag to putt on the green.

Three players scored 30 points - Ewan Kelly, Mark Evans and Jeff Sutcliffe - but there can only be one winner, and with a better inward half of 17

points, Ewan won the trophy.

A prize draw was organised and raised enough money for the Seniors to purchase a plaque for the memorial seat which had been built from stones taken from the dyke on the 3rd hole and built by member Guy Pumpur.

The seat stands next to the 9th tee and looks across the glen to the east.

Jeff Sutcliffe



Three new homes for Balmaclellan



The Pamela Young Trust (PYT) held a drop-in session to showcase their plans for the old filling station site in Balmaclellan.

The Smiddy venue, situated directly opposite the site of the proposed development, was the ideal place to showcase

plans for the new houses to members of the community.

Drawings were available to view and people got to talk to the architect and hear from representatives of South of Scotland Community Housing, who have been instrumental in helping PYT develop the plans. Approximately 40 members of the community attended and

the PYT trustees were delighted to have positive feedback from the public.

Alan Smith, chair of PYT, said: "We are now moving towards sourcing funding for this project which will provide three new homes, designed to be aesthetically pleasing with an element of green space, and of a scale that is suitable to their location in the centre of the village".

Galloway Riding for the Disabled

Many people may not be aware that there is a riding group for people with disabilities in this area, but Galloway Riding for the Disabled (RDA) has been in existence for many years.

We were originally the Machars Group but moved to Barstobrick, Ringford, in 2007 and became Galloway RDA. Last year we moved to our new home at Gelston where we are lucky to have access

to some lovely horses and ponies and, thanks to Mr and Mrs Scott at Gelston Castle, we are able to take our riders out safely through the castle grounds.

Our group is led by volunteers, apart from one paid qualified instructor. We cater to groups of children, usually three to a group, from local schools, groups from Loch Arthur Community and groups of adults who come independently. We operate in term-time only and also have a winter break from December to February to avoid the worst of the weather.

Many of our adult riders have

been coming for several years and thoroughly enjoy their sessions, but it is the children who show the most marked difference in behaviour. It is astonishing how calm they are near the horses and how they absolutely love the experience; one little boy said to me "it's been the best day of my life". Contact with horses is known to have a therapeutic effect and they can certainly work their magic.

In order to have this 'magic' we need volunteers, which is proving difficult in modern

times as more and more people are working longer hours, looking after grandchildren or are generally busy.

We meet on Wednesday mornings, starting at 10am and finishing about 1.30pm to allow groups to ride for approximately one hour each. We need volunteers who can help for either one, two or three hours at a stretch to assist riders in organising getting their hats and boots on, leading the



horses or preparing the arena. No experience is necessary, either with horses or disabled people; just a willingness to help.

We are a friendly group and try to make everyone feel welcome. We have a social get-together in the summer to thank our volunteers and also another one at Christmas.

If anyone wishes to do a first aid or Safeguarding course, we can provide these.

So if you can spare an hour or two any Wednesday morning, please do come and join us - volunteering is good for you!

We have a training day on Wednesday 28 August before we start the new term in September and would love to meet you. Please get in touch to find out more - you can call or email Galloway RDA chair Sue Cooper at 01644 450 201 or gallowayrda@gmail.com

Keith Cooper



Riders enjoying a Galloway RDA session at Gelston

Bowled over again



Congratulations to David Grieve as winner (yet again!), and Eddie Cruikshank as runner-up of the carpet bowls competition at New Galloway town hall.

LING's Tuesday sports evenings, offering table tennis upstairs as well as the carpet bowling downstairs, are on pause for the summer but reopen on 3 September at 7pm. All are welcome - just drop in (it's £4 a head).

Clare McKenzie

Sense of place workshop



The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere will be holding a Sense of Place workshop at New Galloway Town Hall on Wednesday 2 October from 6.30-8pm.

This will be an informal, interactive workshop looking at what it means to become a Biosphere Community and to discuss what is special about the New Galloway and Kells Parish, covering topics such as heritage, recreation and wildlife.

Refreshments will be provided and there is no need to book in advance - everyone is welcome. For more information please contact Biosphere community officer Faith Hillier at faith@gsabiosphere.org.uk

Lottery supports LING to provide 'a space for everyone'

For many charities, the National Lottery's Community Fund is one of the biggest grant opportunities available, and excitement reigns at Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) as we have been rewarded £148,902 over three years.

This money is given to enterprises that the National Lottery deem to be 'good causes', particularly where they champion inclusivity and environmental sustainability.

This fits neatly with LING's aim to promote rural regeneration, both through maintaining recreational facilities, and providing a regular programme of activities for the public in those places – particularly for those who bear the brunt of rural isolation,

marginalised by reason of their age, infirmity, disablement, or socio-economic circumstances.

The grant itself covers a lot of behind-the-scenes work and a percentage of the running costs for LING, but most importantly it offers funding for our community inclusion leader and other supporting roles, alongside identified training and development, travel and expenses.

Having some of our core costs covered is key to sustaining LING and allows us to develop and grow in its mission to make daily life in New Galloway and the Glenkens community affirming to everyone.

And there is plenty to look forward to on the LING calendar, all made possible through this funding!

As well as our regular programme of events we have a craft ale tasting and pizza night coming up in September as part of Glenkens Food Month (see article below), a Halloween event in October, and the return of Risto's pop-up restaurant in

November.

So a variety of events for a variety of people!

LING's annual general meeting and cheese and wine event for friends of LING take place on 4 October at 7.30pm.

Thanks as always go to our tireless board of trustees, made up of volunteers from the community, who worked hard to obtain the grant which will allow LING to provide a range of support and opportunities.

A charity such as LING relies on the generosity of local people giving their time to help, fully



Pictured above are the LING board of trustees with the Lottery cheque

representing the diversity of our local community. If you are interested in getting involved either as a member or a trustee please get in touch at info@ling.org.uk

Dominique Pope

Fifth Glenkens Food Month coming soon!

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) is delighted to have secured some funding from Dumfries & Galloway Council's Region Wide Communities Fund to be able to coordinate Food Month again this year.

We have been extremely busy behind the scenes coordinating a varied and exciting programme celebrating the marvellous food and produce on offer in our glorious part of the world.

Gala days, ceilidhs, hog roasts, community hall afternoon teas and pop-up pizza nights, plant & seed swaps, buffets, talks, discussions and foodie films are all on the cards during September in the Glenkens. A brochure is now available at outlets and you can also find events listings on the Glenkens Hub calendar at www.glenkens.scot/glenkens-food-month-2024 or please don't hesitate to email me to find out more - jo@catstrand.com



We look forward to seeing you in September; thanks, as ever, to all the community organisations and local businesses for hosting Glenkens Food Month events and activities – this delicious celebration of local food wouldn't exist without you. A particular 'thank you' goes to the Galloway Food Network and Propagate who work year-round on these important local food issues.

Jo Jackson, Glenkens Food Month Coordinator

Glenkens Cub Scouts

Glenkens cubs had an exciting visit when Freya's dad came and took them through the Air activity badge, Stages 1 and 2.

We are very lucky Stewart is a pilot and his presentation was amazing. Some of the things learned were to write our names using the phonetic alphabet, and all the different countries Stewart flies to. Thank you Stewart for a wonderful evening.

Glenkens Cubs teamed up with Loch Ken Trust rangers, Lianne and Lindsay, to learn about water safety. We were shown how to build a responsible camp fire and to leave no trace of our fire. We then had a talk on water safety and were given a chance to try water rescue. We had a fabulous time and have learned skills for life. A big "thank you" to Lianne and Lindsay, and also to Hannah for organising the event.

Heather and Christine had a display to promote Scouting in the Glenkens and beyond at the volunteer fair organised by LING in New Galloway Town Hall, supported by families and youngsters who came along in their uniforms.

Harriet received her Chief Scout's Silver Award. This badge is the highest award you can get in Cubs and we are very proud of you – well done!

Cub Pack meetings restart on 4 September from 6.15-7.30pm at the New Galloway Scout Hut. If you are eight years or older and would like to come along and give it a try, please give Heather a ring on 01644 420 375.

Heather and Hannah

Carsphairn Show

Since 1875 Carsphairn Pastoral and Horticultural Society has hosted Carsphairn Show.

You can find lots of wonderful historic photographs, like the one below, depicting events on

Show Day over the last 147 years at the Carsphairn Archive (www.carsphairn.org/CarsphairnArchive).

Here are a few snaps from this year's show, taken by Chris Caygill, 'Shepherd with a camera' - for more of Chris' photos visit @Cjcaygill Fuzzypotos on Facebook.

There was a great turnout, with lots on offer including a kids' area hosted by local

stay-and-play children's group, Bairn Banter (see article below).

Pictured below right are winners of the pet show: Cherice Clark-Kennedy took first prize with miniature dachshund Evie and Keita Holmes took first place in the Best Pet category and second in the Best Dog category with miniature schnauzer cross French bulldog, Moine.



Carsphairn Pastoral and Horticultural Society
(ESTABLISHED 1875)

The 131st Annual CARSPHAIRN SHOW

Classes for Sheep (Confined and Open Sections)

HORTICULTURAL and INDUSTRIAL Classes, DOG SECTION, CHILDREN'S PETS.

OPEN SHEEP DOG TRIALS

At the FIELD AT THE CROFTS, CARSPHAIRN
(by kind permission of the McMorran Family) and in the LAGWYNE HALL

SATURDAY 1st JUNE 2024

Secretary: Anne Finlay, Evanston, Balmacellan,
Castle Douglas DG7 3PZ
07876373968
EMAIL: carsphairnshow@btinternet.com
www.carsphairn.org/carsphairn-show



Out and about with Bairn Banter

Youngsters from near and far visiting Carsphairn Show enjoyed Bairn Banter's new touring tent and trailer for fun, free children's activities throughout the day.

Some of the activities on offer were sheep-themed crafts, water play, bubbles, soft play and sensory activities. There were a variety of snacks on offer, and a nice cool area to take a rest away from the glorious summer sunshine.

Back at the Bairn Banter home base in Carsphairn's Lagwyne Hall the children have been turning fingers green, planting

and looking after their small garden. The wee garden has now reached the point that children can enjoy the fruits of their labours, with young pea shoots and sweet strawberries able to be picked and eaten.

As the summer holidays are now upon us, members of Bairn Banter warmly welcome all children and families to come along and enjoy the weekly group. Alongside all kinds of fun activities, the group continues to provide free healthy snacks for children (and parents), helping combat food poverty and promote healthy eating for youngsters and their families.

If you would like to get involved



with the group, perhaps to offer a skill, share a story, or anything else, please get in touch by emailing bairnbanter@outlook.com or feel free to join our Facebook page to keep up to date with news and upcoming activities

Melissa Ade

Pictured are Bairn Banter's new trailer and tent, funded through GCAT by the Scottish Government through CoDeL (see p11 for more on CoDeL), set up at the Carsphairn Show, and strawberries in the children's garden next to Lagwyne Hall

Glenkens Youth Correspondent

Joshua Wells, aged 15, is our *Gazette* youth correspondent and in each edition he will be writing about topics which interest him. In this issue Josh takes a look at train routes through the Glenkens.



The walk from Gatehouse of Fleet train station to Mossdale goes along a former railway line.

The approximately nine-mile journey takes around four hours to walk and for the most part it is flat, making it easy for any walker.

As you walk along what used to be train tracks you'll see lovely landmarks, including the little Gatehouse station which has been turned into a house, the Big Water of Fleet Viaduct which, as the name states, is large, the calm Loch Skerrow, and the tall Clints of Dromore. Most of the paths are well-maintained and easy to walk along. However, some sections have become overgrown or boggy, so I recommend bringing your wellies. The last time I walked it, I ended up with wet feet.

A perfect spot to take a break is what used to be Skerrow station, which can be found

halfway along the walk. Here you can enjoy a leisurely lunch and keep an eye out for wildlife such as lizards or snakes.

You may still see an old railway viaduct when driving along Loch Ken, and on the same road, you may spot the former Parton station that is now a shed; just look out for a red shed with a sign that says 'Parton Station'.

The old railway line, which used to be called the Paddy Line, went from Dumfries to Stranraer via Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie and Kirkcudbright.

Unfortunately, this useful line was closed in 1965 due to Richard Beeching calling for the closure of one-third of the country's 7,000 stations after he identified in his report "profitable and unprofitable services and revealed great unevenness in the use and effectiveness of railways". The tracks were removed somewhere between 1967 and 1969, but bizarrely the stations were not removed.

Weirdly, when the railway line was first constructed,

many of the stations served only a handful of residents. Despite its name, Gatehouse station was built a fair distance (approximately six miles) from the town of Gatehouse of Fleet. Many people wish for this lovely railway to be re-opened, so people can commute to work from a local train station, instead of having to travel to Dumfries to get the train. However, if these wishes are granted, many changes must be made for trains to be able to run. For example, train stations should be moved

closer to towns, so it may be just a walk away to get to the station, saving money on fuel and making it more convenient for locals.

A railway line could also be useful for younger people, as they would not have to rely on the local inconsistent buses for free public transport. I believe that bringing back the train would be a good idea and with public transport growing due to eco-friendly efforts, it could bring Dumfries and Galloway to a greener future.



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

This is the second instalment introducing the trustees for LING.

If you are interested in finding out more about trustee opportunities, please see the information at the end of the article.

Barbara Barker – Chair

The Town Hall always played a major part in my life growing up in New Galloway. From parties to pantomimes, dances to discos, church sales, jumble sales - it all happened there!

Having spent many years living around Dumfries and Galloway, and working in health and social

care, I was looking forward to retiring 'back home'. My family have lived in and around New Galloway since the 18th century and have been involved with the Town Hall and the old burgh council over several generations. My father was one of the last town councillors when burgh and county councils were abolished in 1975.

I was delighted to be invited to join LING in their quest to restore the Town Hall to its former glory. It's a great honour to head up a team of hard working and talented individuals who have taken on the task of making sure we have a building the burgh can once more be proud of, and to ensure it can be enjoyed for many more generations to come.

Ann Glaister – Secretary

Ann became 'accidentally' involved in LING back in 2015 when she and her husband Bob found themselves sitting around Ros Hill's kitchen table agreeing to be secretary and treasurer respectively 'just to get a business plan agreed'. Ros had a way of engaging people which has

become almost legendary. Eight years later, Ann is still in the same role.

Previously she had been enjoying a relaxed retirement from an academic job with the Open University, where she had worked for 25 years. An NHS psychologist initially, she had made the transition to the field of health and social welfare, and loved the challenges and interest of working in multi-disciplinary teams. That is something she still enjoys - working as a trustee with others who bring different perspectives and skills.

Her academic role had involved some fundraising, but she had not anticipated how useful that experience would be, until she found herself fundraising for LING. The improvements to New Galloway Town Hall suggest it has indeed helped, although, as ever, success has depended on community support for the project.

At LING, our trustees are the backbone of our Charity, ensuring we stay true to our objectives and deliver meaningful change in our

community. Each trustee is supported to bring: integrity; commitment to our goals; teamwork spirit; understanding of their legal duties; strategic vision; independent judgement; creative thinking; willingness to voice opinions.

We currently have opportunities to join the LING trustee team; if you would like to know more please email info@LING.org.uk with your details for an informal chat.



Pictured are Barbara Barker (top) and Ann Glaister

Advertisement



An update from Border Collie Rescue - progress at Corsock

We still have a lot to do here but things are progressing well thanks to local volunteers who have given their time to help us get things up and running.

JSF have installed stock fencing and gates to divide our 12 acre field into 6 areas.

We now have two large grazing fields, 3 paddocks for exercise and training and a set aside perimeter around the whole which, in the long run, will become a nature walk and conservation area for the use of school groups visiting the centre.

So far we have planted over 250 native species trees in this area with more planned for next year.



Grass is growing fast this year so its been topped and 25 sheep are keeping it grazed. Our 3 paddocks have been top fenced as extra security and the whole 12 acre perimeter is either deer fenced or double height to keep dogs in and deer out.

We are now making the yard secure, after which we will move on to converting some of the outbuildings to set up accommodation and support facilities for a small number of dogs. Until then any dogs we take in from, or rehome into Scotland, like those below, will go into foster homes in Yorkshire and be re-homed from there.

There are all sorts of jobs to do, skilled and unskilled so if anyone out there wants to get involved, please give us a call on 07548 258886. We and our dogs look forward to hearing from you. **Mike and Nicki.**

Dogs shown here are rehomed



BUSINESS in the SPOTLIGHT



My wife Sharon and I are often asked locally what we do since moving our business here some 18 years ago.

We started our company, TransK9, in 2003, designing and manufacturing dog transport crates.

Over the years the business has grown and we now sell worldwide, supplying numerous police forces, HM Prison Service, HM Customs & Excise, various local authorities and literally thousands of individual dog owners for whom the safety

of their pet in transit is of the utmost importance.

A customer recently contacted us to thank us and share their experience, and we thought Gazette readers may find it an interesting story, so we've included it here.

Rob Marshall

Hello TransK9,

I just wanted to say a massive thank you. Today, the unthinkable happened; I was rear-ended on the M25 by a van going at 70mph.

Me and my spaniel Mitch were on our way back from work (on a school farm)

and the lanes were slowing down and filtering off to the slip lane.

I heard the sound of a horn and a screech, held my breath, and thought "this is it!", hoping we'd go quickly with no suffering. To my amazement, I crawled out with merely a scrape and Mitch not even a scratch - the dog crate took the impact!

The police, paramedics and Highways England commended the crate, saying my dog would have not survived without it.

The police said that not only did the crate save my dog's life, it took a lot of the impact which prevented further damage to myself too.

So I just wanted to get in



touch and say, thank you; your product saved my dog's life and I will not hesitate in a heartbeat to buy another for my next car.

Best wishes,
Hayley (and Mitch)

Pictured is Hayley's car after the accident, showing the TransK9 dog crate in the boot which took the majority of the impact

Ken Bridge Hotel

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Sit-in and takeaway, seven days a week

Evening Meals: 5.30-8pm

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

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Finding a way forward for rural education

As humans, learning is as much a part of us as breathing; from the moment we open our eyes until we take our last breath, we are learning.

Over the years, with schools a core service in every community in Scotland, we have perhaps become complacent with regard to the learning process.

There is an innate assumption that children go to school and come out with 'an education'. Until, that is, we find our schools at risk of closure. Then, bathed in the stark light of loss, we are forced to reassess what schools and education mean for our communities.

Here in the Glenkens, as with all rural communities, our vital amenities are core to the health, wellbeing and future sustainability of our area. In a town or city, if a school or doctor's surgery or Post Office closes, it likely doesn't have a huge impact on those within that community as there will be another one within a reasonable distance. Not so in rural settings.

The Glenkens Community Action Plan Steering Group (CAPSG), along with Dalry School Parent Council, have been working in partnership to highlight the value of education in our communities; across the board, not just for families with children.

With the very real risk of losing Dalry Secondary, there is a need for community-wide discussion on where

the future of education and learning in the Glenkens lies, and also a need for the community voice to be heard by D&G Council.

The talk held at the CatStrand on 11 July was well attended by a wide range of members of the Glenkens communities, and has hopefully opened the doors on this conversation. With a Glenkens & District Trust funded report on rural education in the pipeline, and real interest being shown from the D&G Council education department with regard to engaging with our communities, there is hope that we can move forward with optimism towards fit-for-purpose learning opportunities for our unique rural communities.

On the following pages are a selection of articles considering the topic of education and learning in the Glenkens.

Discussions about Carsphairn school

A meeting was held in Lagwyne Hall to discuss potential options for Carsphairn Primary School in providing education for the community.

The event was well attended, with over 30 members of the local community present as well as a number of children and young people.

Organised by Emily and Tom Wall, the meeting showcased two presentations of potential community-led options for the school. The first saw the Walls present an idea for

an education and learning centre, and the second was a presentation by Fiona McQuinn considering ways the community could work in partnership with the council to offer early child care and primary school education.

With the new Rural Skills Training Centre at Carsphairn Community Woodland, and conversations happening with regard to lifelong learning across the Glenkens, education is the hot topic of the moment.

The event was well attended, with tables set up to accommodate discussion, and a selection of biscuits, snacks and drinks to ensure everyone was content. Those in attendance were invited to note their thoughts down and engage



There was a full house for discussions on ideas for future education and learning options in Carsphairn

in discussion on the potential options.

Comments from attendees at the meeting will be compiled

and further discussions had once potential funding opportunities have been investigated - watch this space!

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A Glenkens focus on education & learning

Continued from front page...

Matthew highlighted the increase in operational positions needed on wind farms, which is predicted to rise by 250% by 2030 in Dumfries & Galloway - from 112 to 395 positions. These are long-term, well-paid roles.

Similarly, Abi highlighted that the changing agricultural subsidy regime will require new skilled roles in a variety of areas including nature restoration and enhancement.

Richard drew on his non-executive role at Dumfries & Galloway College to highlight how joint working between the college and Natural Power had led to a new course in wind turbine maintenance that was training technicians in the relevant skills, ready to enter the industry directly.

Anne discussed her previous research into the issues and possible solutions associated with small rural schools, and reflected on the importance of such schools both to the communities they are embedded in and to a local authority's vision for rural sustainability.

Her own research highlighted the need for due consideration of context and place when implementing national policy, the need for mutual understanding between local authorities and communities and the need for innovative thinking to find new solutions. Andrew gave an insight into an entirely different model of education, as embodied by Kilquhanity Free School from 1940 to 1997 - one that prioritised learning over education and embraced radical democracy for and by the children (see Andrew's article on p12).

Finally, Theona Morrison, a founding director of community development organisation

CoDeL, based on Uist, and chair of Scottish Rural Action, gave some inspiring examples of the Uist communities working in partnership with their local authority. New courses were designed, giving young people the skills needed to stay on the island - including entrepreneurship and leadership - instead of educating them to leave.

As a result of this and other efforts, the depopulation of Uist has been significantly mitigated. She also highlighted the research work that they have been commissioned to do by the Glenkens & District Trust. They plan to publish a final report on the Glenkens Hub by the autumn and will be engaging with Glenkens community members as well as other rural communities world-wide during the summer.

The event was extremely well attended, with more than 60 people coming along including children and young people.

Representatives from local businesses, Dalry School Parent Council and D&G Council directorate for Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing were in attendance along with information stands from Carsphairn Community Woodland, the Scottish Childminding Association and the now-completed Galloway Glens project on their incredibly successful internship scheme.

Caroline Reeves, a member of the CAP Steering Group and Crossmichael resident, chaired the evening. She said: "As ever in the Glenkens, the level of engagement, creative thinking and knowledge in the audience was inspiring in itself. Added to the fantastic presentations and insights, it all made for a most interesting and thought-provoking evening that we

hope helped everyone look at education and learning in the Glenkens, and other rural areas, in a new way. Many thanks are due to GCAT, who hosted the event."

Helen Keron, executive manager of GCAT, said: "Many thanks to all the speakers, manned stands, Caroline, GCAT staff and all the volunteers who made this event such a success. It's always inspiring to see the communities of the Glenkens come together about issues that mean a lot to them, and I am optimistic that we can continue to keep working in partnership with all members of the community, local businesses and the council to find a great solution to education and learning in the Glenkens; one that is fit for modern rural living".

As a result of

the event, Dumfries & Galloway Council representatives have reached out for further meetings with Glenkens communities and businesses and have offered to share relevant data, which is very welcome.

A written report from the event is available on the Glenkens Hub at www.glenkens.scot/education-and-learning

Photographs taken at the Glenkens Education & Learning Summit © Ian Biggar



Kilquhanity House School

The relevance of an alternative education model for the Glenkens

I was asked to speak at the Education Forum held at the CatStrand along with six other speakers, some online and some in person.

Sadly, the timescale of the evening was such that speakers were only allocated 10 minutes in which to share their thoughts. As is often the case, the shorter the time, the more one tries to cram in facts and information and raise specific points of view. In my case – poorly put across. However, hopefully some words here will help to put the case I had hoped to share on the night!

We started with a quiz along the line of 'Who Said?' noting some important perspectives relevant to the Glenkens today and for the future:

Who Said...?

"If you live in Scotland, you are Scottish" - William McIlvanney

"Small is beautiful" - Ernst Schumacher

"Education is the generation of happiness" - William Godwin

"Learning by doing" - John Dewey

"The Glenkens is awash with talent" - Me!

Apart from myself, all of the above have made significant, sometimes huge, contributions to our understanding of – well, life!

Kilquhanity House, near Bridge of Urr, was founded in 1940 by two couples; John and Morag Aitkenhead and Argyle and Felix Sturgeon (the Sturgeons swam away in 1941!).

As we know in 1940 the German Luftwaffe were bombing UK cities and ports like London, Glasgow, Newcastle and Barrow. Many children were evacuated from these places and Galloway was considered one of the safe places to access.

Many of the big houses were commissioned for such use. Kilquhanity survived financially for its first few years due to the placement of several evacuated children.

Both John and Morag had been influenced by the words of AS Neill, founder of the Summerhill School – lastly in Leiston, Suffolk.

Neill famously wrote many books on 'free school' education.

At Kilquhanity 'free school' was interpreted as a community of children and adults living and learning together. The daily routine would include 'useful work' where every individual would undertake chores and responsibilities for the benefit of everyone – chopping firewood, gardening, peeling spuds, preparing sandwiches and tea or coffee for morning break, cleaning bathrooms and toilets, sweeping, etc. This period would last for about 40 minutes.

As repetition could become tiresome everyone could ask to swap 'useful work' jobs through the Council Meeting, which was a meeting held once a week on a Thursday afternoon, attended by everyone and at which everyone had a vote – staff and pupil alike.

As pupil numbers were higher than staff, it could be possible on occasion for staff to be outvoted. The meeting was the forum to discuss ALL issues in the school – bullying, theft, bedtimes, menus, toilet paper, celebrations, visitors seeking permission to visit, etc. Each item would be discussed with the level of detail required, points of view shared and, if necessary, votes taken to determine outcomes. The meeting was chaired by a pupil and scribed by a pupil, so a permanent record was kept.

Often this record would be a point of reference at a future meeting to remind the meeting of a decision taken. Often, rather than a 'punishment', individuals would agree an undertaking to behave in a particular way to show that they had 'changed their ways'.

Beyond basic literacy and numeracy, the majority of lessons could be considered free choice and often the content of a lesson would be negotiated between teacher and pupils. As the school was small – remember small is beautiful – a class of four or five kids in a particular subject area could follow individual routes to learning.

For myself, in Science I spent a term exploring the design and fuelling of rockets, culminating in a two-kilogram rocket flying approximately 200 metres

into the air, fuelled by a mixture of methylated spirits, zinc and sulphur ignited through the main electricity socket. This project somewhat annoyed the Ministry of Defence who sent an angry letter demanding cessation of the project.

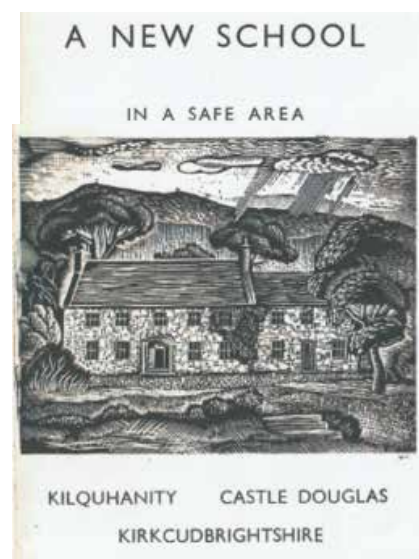
My woodwork project was designing and building a loudspeaker cabinet. Other kids my age were interested in motor vehicles, taxidermy and wildlife – several trips to A&E following bites by adders stick in my mind.

So there was no National Curriculum, Highers or equivalents. However, pupils could choose to study for public examinations if they wanted to. I remember so well Bett Kelso, from Kirkpatrick Durham, invigilating and bringing homemade tablet, tea and coffee around to keep us going through the exam period.

That is not to say 'free school' education is for everyone. My son attended Kilquhanity; my daughter said she did not want to; she enjoyed her state school, had a large friendship group and enjoyed being successful in her subjects.

Ex-pupils have entered many professions and work lives: musicians, artists, therapists, joiners, architects, teachers, tax inspector, professor of mathematics, dentist, bread-maker, taxi-driver, actors, lifeboat coxswain, mechanics, yoga teacher – and there have of course been some rascals too! Just like any other school – state or private.

Sadly, the school closed in 1996/7. The estate was purchased by Kinokuni Childrens Village Trust (KCVT) and re-opened in 2007 as a Scottish base for the five schools of the Trust in Japan. Shinichiro Hori, the director of KCVT, was previously an academic professor of education in Osaka. His specialism was Western progressive education and for many years he was a visitor to Kilquhanity and Summerhill,



The front of the original Kilquhanity school prospectus, highlighting the fact that it was a safe place to send your children in wartime Britain

along with many other 'free school' establishments across the world. He is now a world leader in this type of education.

To close my talk, I was going to make a comment on the recent Dalry School student protest, as reported in the *Galloway News* and *Glenkens Gazette*. Contrary to the Government's Section 11 Act concerning the right to assembly and protest in a public place, the comments made – as reported in the papers – by the outgoing headteacher to the striking pupils are, in my opinion, outrageous. To say the pupils had no right to protest where they had chosen, to state they were truanting, and telling them it would be on a permanent record, is really not a positive educational message to give young people about democracy. I would certainly not send any of my kids to his school!

The Universal of Education is about learning to be human, humane and sociable as well as learning about self. The Individuality of Education is about choice of learning.

To find out more about the history of Kilquhanity you can visit www.kilquhanity.blogspot.com

Andrew Pyle,
Former Head of Kilquhanity
Children's Village (2007-2024)

Kendoon's lifesaving solar solution

With only a small number of permanent residents, the tiny hamlet of Kendoon is one of the more isolated rural communities within the Glenkens.

In June last year, residents started the long journey of sourcing funding for a defibrillator. Raising funds to purchase this lifesaving equipment turned out to be the easier part of the process; the difficulty lay with the power supply required to maintain the defibrillator batteries and temperature control unit.

Due to the rural location, the work involved

in taking power from existing outlets was estimated at around £17,000. Therefore, alternatives had to be looked at. With the help of various parties and the support of SP Energy Networks, Kendoon now has a fully-funded top-of-the-range defibrillator in a solar-powered box (one of only a handful currently in use in Scotland).

Jamie Rose

Some Kendoon residents alongside members of the St John Scotland team during a defibrillator training session



Find out more about our feathered friends with the Stewartry Birdwatchers

Stewartry Birdwatchers commence their monthly meetings on Thursday 12 September with non-members always welcome.



This first meeting in Balmaclellan Village Hall starts at 7.30pm when the speaker, Crystal Maw, who worked for the RSPB from 2006 until early this year, will talk about Ailsa Craig and its seabirds.

She moved to Galloway in 2012 and has helped to organise and carry out surveys on the island for over ten years.

The island has a very large and important nesting colony of gannets as well as nesting fulmars, black and common guillemots, kittiwakes, puffins and razorbills.

Pictured are gannets nesting on the cliffs of Ailsa Craig (photograph by Joan Howie)

Crystal is an amusing and extrovert speaker who says her talk "will celebrate how awesome island life is!"

As usual, about halfway through the talk there will be a break for refreshments which gives the audience a chance to chat, mix and put any questions to the speaker.

After this our monthly meetings will all be in the afternoons, starting at 2.30pm. Our October talk is about the greylag goose, November is about the horrors of wildlife crime, and December is about birds of southern Texas.

For further information you can contact me on 01644 420 280.

Joan Howie

Help boost the Glenkens native tree population

The Dumfries & Galloway Tree Planting Grant Scheme is now open for applications.

The scheme provides grants of up to £1,000 for purchase of trees and tree protection on a small scale (less than 0.25 hectare) projects across the region. There were grant recipients last year located across the

Glenkens, with farmers to community groups planting trees from aspen to yew. The scheme is administered by Dumfries & Galloway Woodlands - to find out more visit www.dgwoodlands.org.uk or contact Phil Dowling on 07301 052793. Phil can provide advice on species selection or planting plan.

It is said that the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, and the second best time is now... *McNabb Laurie*



McNabb Laurie of D&G Woodlands with Phil Dowling, Richard Smith (grant recipient last year) and Doug Howieson



Eco Feature

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A dynamic Bioblitz at Lochhill Farm

In early July a highly successful Bioblitz was held at Lochhill Farm near Crossmichael.

A Bioblitz is a way for citizen scientists to get out in nature, find and identify species, learn about flora and fauna and add to those important data records.

Over 40 people visited Lochhill on the day. The event was co-ordinated by Propagate in partnership with the Loch Ken Trust – and some help from Cath Seeds, a Crossmichael resident and Wildlife and Conservation Lead at SRUC's Barony campus.

Small groups trekked off across the land with a trained group leader, armed with sweep nets and sample jars. On their return, the books came out and the microscope was deployed to identify the plants and creatures. Over 80 species of all types of living organism were recorded – all of which have been added to the national data records.

Feedback from the event has been universally positive, with several people asking when the next one is! Big thanks to Cath and to Barney and Lindsay from the Loch Ken Trust for their help on the day, and to Mitchells, Irvings Bakery and Marchbanks Bakery who all donated refreshments.

The Bioblitz was just one element in a longer-term eco-agricultural plan for Lochhill.

The farm sits above Crossmichael, on the road leading to Clarebrand. Home to Richard and Jane Middleton who have

lived there for 13 years, managing the land organically and planting thousands of trees, the farm extends to about 75 acres and like much of the area includes a mix of different habitat types.

As early members of Propagate's Regenerative Farming Network, Richard and Jane had been inspired by the knowledge sharing between farmers and by the farm walks they went on. Accepting that they are maybe of an age when some farm tasks are more challenging, they have been looking for a way to still be involved in the farm while sharing tasks with others – and making sure the land is managed in a way that is in keeping with their ethics and principles, including contributing to a sustainable future for the local community.

In April this year, Lochhill and Propagate officially began a new adventure. The aim is to explore ways that Lochhill can:

- Maximise ecological diversity
- Support sustainable livelihoods
- Be a place for education and learning

These elements are influenced by agroecology – which includes social and political ideas alongside environmental and economic drivers for the farm.

This year a big push is underway to generate a full ecological baseline for Lochhill.

Earlier this year, a group of farmers met at Lochhill for a biodiversity recording training session, led by Malcolm Haddow from South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre. Malcolm showed the group how to

use the iNaturalist app to identify and record individual species of plants, invertebrates, fungi, mammals and more. This is important to help add to the national records held on various species – which tell us how well nature is doing in our area.

Soil samples have also been taken and sent to a qualified Soil Food Web Lab Technician in North Ayrshire.

This produced a report not for soil carbon and organic matter, which have already been analysed, but



for beneficial bacteria and nematodes, mycelium, protozoa and other micro-organisms that have important functions in the soil.

The Bioblitz was a further step in the exploration process. The next stage is to look at the viability of farm enterprises. A roundtable event was held in May where ten other farmers came together to brainstorm different ways that Lochhill could meet its aims.

Possibilities include a cow-with-calf micro dairy, pastured poultry for layers and broilers, a rare breed beef enterprise with adaptive grazing, a market garden and orchard, and maybe a venue for workshops and events.

The project team is currently working through cost/benefit analysis and identifying the inputs and outputs – financial, social and ecological – for each enterprise. There are a number of experts in these fields lined up to share their knowledge and experience.

The idea is that these can happen in an 'enterprise stacking' approach – with different people taking responsibility for different elements. Next year, we hope, will see some of the different enterprises get underway.

Watch this space – and get in touch if you're interested!

Abi Mordin (Propagate) and Richard and Jane Middleton (Lochhill Farm)

abi@propagate.org.uk



Top: Participants on the BioBlitz before they set off.

Left: Biodiversity training session for farmers at Lochhill

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Exploring Scotland's land use

My project exploring our use of land across Scotland which was introduced in the last *Gazette* is now well underway.

As you slowly pass through the landscape on a bike, all senses awaken and you truly begin to feel within the landscape rather than simply passing through.

On Orkney and the Shetland Islands one of the sustained sensations throughout each day was the exquisite beauty of birdsong. I asked why, and was told a reduced use of pesticides and herbicides on the fields, less intensive agricultural practices and fewer predators are the reason.

I began to wonder what we as a nation would have to do without to enable such a heart lifting luxury as this to be part

of our daily lives. On the outer isles, whilst the birds are ever present, it is the incredible flowers of the machar that ultimately overwhelm; field of orchids a simple dream.

Different again as I cross Skye, where it is that of sheer geological scale that hits you. It has a faint Icelandic feel but with rocks slightly more smoothed with age. It dawns on me that each island might have its own personality, not only physically but culturally, and I realise that it was but a generation or two ago that easy movement became a norm.

Nowhere did I sense this more than on Skye, which due to the bridge (completed in 1995) feels less remote than the other islands, and even to when I was last here some 20 years ago; the roads are congested and fast and drivers wave and stop to chat far less. I get the feeling that for all the advantages it brings to modern

life, that maybe this is ultimately at the expense of its unique islandness.

Having grown up by the sea, and for part of my childhood on an island, the smell of salt and seaweed on the air and the rise and fall, rise and fall of the tides feel homely. The sound of gulls and the oyster catchers and the curlews. My mind empties and feels free.

On the islands I somehow sensed a greater connection between the people and the land. An unspoken respect for nature and the weather. Or maybe it's the values held by locals who, to survive, have to work together as a community.

Whatever the reason, throughout the trip the islands had a less commercial feel and, whatever the cause, it lightened my soul. Thoughts and ideas flow and are carried off on the breeze. Within a few days I feel absolutely at peace with my cycling regime. Many of life's

normal bells simply don't ring and what is left is a profound simplicity and calm. I am at peace.

But I also have time to ponder how I might share what I am feeling and learning as the project continues and, as the pedals turn, thoughts begin to form as to how this might develop.

I am already giving a talk at Go Falkland, a regenerative agriculture conference in July, and running a workshop in October where we will be exploring issues surrounding how we manage and use land.

I am also wondering if I can develop a toolkit that could be shared with others, exploring how we can more positively relate to the land.

The ideas are in there somewhere but yet to solidify, so more on that another time. For now, the adventure simply continues...

Ted Leeming



Considering Glenkens land use

A very interesting event was held in Balmaclellan to update on progress on the Glenkens Land Use Vision.

This Vision document was created through community consultation in 2023, responding to widespread concern about the rapid rate of change in our landscapes at the moment. The Vision doesn't seek to mandate what should happen where, but it does set out a set of principles and expectations for how our community voice should be heard during any changes.

The headline is that 'everyone who takes value from our land returns value to it', with value being expressed in many different ways - biodiversity, access, housing, skills and jobs, as well as community benefit funding. The event was to present and discuss the findings of two reports on this subject and the Dalry Local Place Plan, all of which were researched and written by Glenkens residents.

One recommendation from the Vision was the creation of a Glenkens Land Use Forum.

After research and consideration by Dr Stephen Connelly, his report in fact recommends the creation of a facilitated Glenkens Land Use Network and a Land Use Map - both ways of bringing together a wide range of interested parties in a constructive manner, designed to move the issues forward not just talk about them. It will require funding to support the position of Facilitator, but the idea was well received by the engaged and well-informed audience at the event.

Another aspect of this topic is how we all respond to our landscapes. We are all very lucky to live in an area of such outstanding beauty, and many of us are very attached to either big or small natural areas around us. Dr Kerry Morrison considered the creative responses to our landscapes that are already happening all around us - often by people who wouldn't describe themselves as 'artists'. Her main

recommendation was for a Festival of Lands, to bring all this work together and to catalyse more.

This idea again was very well received by the event audience, and Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) has included it in their pending application to the Heritage Lottery for a new post of 'Cultural Glenkens' project officer.

Lastly, Becca Nelson, the Glenkens Community Spaces Network facilitator, updated the audience on her work with Dalry Community Council on Local Place Planning.

Thanks to the work by Steve, Kerry and Community Council volunteers, the Dalry LPP has a substantial section on land use, in recognition of the fact that for us, developments in the wider parishes affect us just as much as developments within the villages themselves.

This prompted a surprisingly lively discussion of national planning policy, but again was very positively received. Becca and the wider GCAT team are available to support Glenkens

Community Councils with their Local Place Plans, if they would like to build on the learnings from Dalry in these matters. The Glenkens Land Use Vision, plus Steve and Kerry's reports, are published on the Glenkens Hub on the Land Use page (www.glenkens.scot/land-use) and the Dalry Local Place Plan will be out for final consultation shortly.

Thanks very much to NatureScot and SOSE for funding these three projects through GCAT, to Steve, Kerry and Becca for all the work that has gone into them and to all the Dalry Community Council volunteers who have given huge amounts of time to make this happen.

The Land Use Vision is an addendum to the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan, and consideration is currently being given for how to move this work even further forward under the Community Action Plan Steering Group.

All ideas or expressions of interest in this are very welcome - contact me on helen@catstrand.com

*Helen Keron,
GCAT Executive Manager*

Getting busy at Glaisters Bridge community woodland site

After more than a year of negotiation and discussion behind the scenes, tangible progress is underway on the new Glaisters Bridge community site, near Corsock.

New paths have been cut enabling access around the site and 250 trees were planted by a band of volunteers. These are the first steps in the creation of a local landmark, with ambitions in coming months for signs, seating, wildlife scrapes and a wide range of public and biodiversity benefits.

This work is only possible thanks to an innovative partnership between the site owner, Foresight Sustainable Forestry Company, and The Upper Urr Environment Trust.

The site forms part of a 20-year lease, established to formalise a partnership between the partners, delivering community and biodiversity benefits.

The lease is thought to be the first of its kind, supported by national agencies including the Scottish Land Commission, and is being seen as a useful tool to deliver community benefits in response to the land use revolution underway.

A variety of government agencies and public bodies have been visiting the site in recent months.

For more information about upcoming events and activities, follow 'Upper Urr Environment Trust' on social media.

Coming months will see installation of signs, seating, reptile habitats, car parking and further broadleaf planting. In

years to come, it is hoped that Glaisters Bridge community woodland will become a much-loved asset for locals and could even inspire a new revolution in how communities can work with landowners across the UK.

McNabb Laurie





Loch Ken Ranger Service gears up for the summer

Over 100 young people in the region have received vital water safety training through the Loch Ken Trust's Youth Water Safety Awareness Programme.

The programme, launched last year, offers free water safety training to young people at the Galloway Activity Centre on Loch Ken.

Thanks to funding from the Holywood Trust and Drax Group UK, this has expanded for 2024, with local high schools bringing pupils to take part in this water safety workshop and gain experience of enjoying water activities safely.

During National Drowning Prevention Week, the S6 year group from Castle Douglas High School came along to take part.

Andy McNay, principal teacher of Health & Wellbeing at the school said: "I'd like to thank Loch Ken Trust and Galloway Activity Centre for a wonderful day. The young people all had a great time, while learning important lessons to keep themselves safe on the water."

"These are great skills to learn prior to the summer break when, hopefully, we will be enjoying some lovely weather."

The workshops cover the water safety code and

practical experience on paddleboards, where the young people learn paddleboarding skills

and get the opportunity to rescue themselves back on to their board. This session also had a visit from Scottish Fire & Rescue Newton Stewart crew, who talked about ways to keep yourself safe, and what you can safely do to help if you see someone in trouble on the water.

Water safety is a major issue for our young people, with the abundance of accessible lochs, rivers and open water in the region. Some of the pupils have volunteered to become Water Safety Ambassadors, and have presented what they have learned at year group assemblies, promoting water safety to the younger year groups in the school.

With the season well underway, water safety has been a major focus for the Loch Ken Ranger Service this year, aiming to promote key water safety messages. Improvements have been made to the safety signage on and around Loch Ken,

and Loch Ken Trust is currently working with partners on a full signage proposal to improve safety for all loch users. The ranger service regularly carries out patrols on and around Loch Ken.

Tragically, there was an accidental drowning on Loch Ken last year.

Subsequently, the Loch Ken Trust has increased its work on water safety and raising awareness of the dangers.

The Youth Water Safety Programme is the first of its kind in the region and has featured as a case study in *National Guidance on Open Water Experiential Learnings*, published by Water Safety Scotland. The programme has also received recognition from the Scottish Parliament.

This year our head ranger, Leanne Pump, delivered Ranger Education sessions to local primary schools, giving the children the opportunity to try scenario rescues and learn all about the dangers

of cold-water shock and the Water Safety Code.

The education programme also included a competition to design our new ranger water safety badge, with the winning design adopted for the Loch Ken ranger uniforms.

The ranger service regularly carries out patrols on and around Loch Ken. Leanne said: "We would ask all loch users to take time to consider safety before entering the water. Loch Ken is a wonderful place with lots of opportunities to enjoy all it has to offer safely."

If you are interested in the work of the Loch Ken Trust and Ranger Service, check out our website www.lochken.org.uk for details on how you can get involved.



LOCH KEN RANGER
07539 029 175 / 07918 300 889



Pupils from Castle Douglas High School took part in the Loch Ken Trust's Youth Water Safety Awareness programme this summer

The Optimistic Environmentalist

Reducing your home energy bills - Part Six

Solar generation

The cost varies depending on how much you want, but you make your money back much more quickly than you might think. Don't believe people when they say that Scotland does not get enough sun. We have solar at home and it works well; in two years there has not been a single day that we have not generated something, even in the depths of winter.

The myth that solar panels shut down or don't work properly when it gets hot is not true. For every 1° over 25°C they lose typically between 0.3 and 0.5% of their output, depending on the panels. For example, if the panels were in full sun on a calm hot day and they reached, say, 60°C they would lose between 10.5 and 17.5% of their output. This sounds significant; however, as they are in full sun so are likely to be at or near full power. If your system was rated at 4kW, it would still produce 3.2-3.5kW;

enough to run your kettle and microwave simultaneously and continuously which is much more than you might think.

If you install solar panels, get the maximum number you can. People often regret not getting a bigger system as they start altering their lifestyle. However, you can always add panels later, so it is better to get some than none.

You can use your generated power directly or store it in a battery for later; or via a solar diverter like the Myenergi Eddi, which can be used to heat your hot water or to charge your electric car with something like a Zappi charger. These technologies can automate their coordination and use at cheaper or greener times.

If you still have power spare, you can sell it to an electricity provider. This does not have to be the same one that you buy your power from. Don't just check how much they will pay

you, but also look at how flexible they are and what notice period you need to give them. Some pay you more for your generated power if you buy power from them, but some do not.

Maintenance for solar electricity is minimal. The panels may need cleaning every year or two depending upon the number of birds and trees around you, for instance. You can buy specialised soft brushes on extendable poles so you don't need to climb onto the roof.

A relatively new solar generation technology is solar tiles/slates. It covers the roof with solar generation tiles and they are connected to a hidden metal frame. Ordinary tiles are put around the very edge of the roof. The solar tiles/slates are a little bit more shiny than conventional slates but the difference cannot really be seen from the ground. A friend of ours had this done recently in Dumfries & Galloway as he needed a new roof and

found it was significantly cheaper than a conventional slate roof. He says it generates electricity very well (see photographs below - these tiles look very different to conventional solar panels).

Wind generation

If you have a big enough garden or field, you can buy wind generation systems eg from Britwind. Their small wind turbines are available in 5kW, 12kW and 16kW models. Ironically, Britwind is made in the UK but sells more of their products in Japan.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

(See part 7 for examples of energy efficient technology)

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



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Are you looking to plant trees this winter?

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www.dgwoodlands.org.uk

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Photos showing solar tiles being fitted and then a finished installation illustrating how they blend in



Young people from the Glenkens Youth Group have been having a great time at their regular Monday evening meet-ups, as well as on special summer trips!

The group has fun enjoying each other's company, sharing their music tastes, playing guitar, dancing and singing. We are very grateful to the Glenkens Community Centre for providing us with fantastic facilities where the young people can explore various creative tasks and make use of the kitchen for cooking.

Glenkens youth summer fun

Talking of cooking, the group organised their own 'taco night' activity. They prepared a delicious salsa from scratch and tucked into taco snacks. The group has also created some other tasty meals over the past few months, from pizza to pancakes. We look forward to seeing what else is cooked up in the kitchen next term!

On a pleasant June evening, the Glenkens Youth Group participated in a fantastic Loch Ken Trust responsible camping and water safety session. They built their own campfire and were rewarded for their attention to safe and responsible fire making with toasted marshmallows!

The group also showed off their water rescue skills after learning how to use a throw-line to rescue someone in trouble on the water. It a very enjoyable session, and a big "thank you" goes to Leanne Pump and Lindsay Stewart from the Loch Ken Trust Ranger Service for an excellent evening.

Finally, we were thrilled to be awarded funding from Dumfries & Galloway Council through their 'Amazing Summer' programme. As a result, we were able to offer two free activities in July for our young people.

The first was a session at the Galloway Activity Centre with an action packed day of activities. The second session was a beekeeping taster collaborative event with the Glenkens and Dee Honey Company. Professional beekeeper Raeburn Thomson will introduce the young people to the fascinating world of honeybees and beekeeping.

At the Glenkens Youth Group we strive to create a safe, non-directed space for young people from P7-S3 to be themselves, make friends and develop new skills. Sessions run

during term-time on Monday evenings in the Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, from 7-9pm. The group is free to attend thanks to funding from the Glenkens & District Community Benefit Fund. It's a Glenkens Community & Arts Trust project, linked to CatStrand Young Creatives.

To find out more email Beata at glenkensyouth@gmail.com

*Beata,
Youth Group Lead*



Captain's Day at New Galloway Golf Club

For New Galloway Golf Club Captain's Day an impressive 50-plus members and guests were in attendance.

The number attending was boosted by army pals of club captain, Alan Thorburn, who came to support him on his special day.

The weather was beautiful and the course looked exquisite. The day started with Alan informing the players about the format of the competition, playing for the Jack McQueen Quaich (named after a former greenkeeper).

It was a shotgun start, meaning that all the players were allocated a starting hole. Once they heard the hooter then play commenced.

The green staff had worked hard on preparing the course and compliments were flowing

from the competitors about the excellent condition of the course.

The winner of the competition was Terry Haine and Best Lady was Fiona McQueen. Both were presented with their prizes by Jane McQueen. Other winners on the day were David Aitken, Gill Warnock and Phil Lancaster. After the game a raffle was held together with an auction which raised over £2,000 to be shared between the Army Benevolent Fund and New Galloway Golf Club.

Alan's wife, Julie, provided the buffet which was enjoyed by those attending. Thanks were given to all the volunteers, sponsors, donors for making the day so successful, after which members and friends enjoyed a drink at the bar.

New Galloway Golf Club shows what can be done in a small club and is an asset to the village and the community.

The volunteers who contribute

so much to the club enjoy the satisfaction that comes from caring and nurturing the golfing landscape and one so unique with its views and terrain.

We are pleased that the club is seeing an increase in visitor numbers and feedback is always complimentary.

The club offered free coaching sessions for under-16s during July, which was a great success.

Memberships are available for both full membership and social membership. To join, or for more information, please ring the club secretary on 01644 420 737. *Jeff Sutcliffe*

Pictured, left to right, are club captain Alan Thorburn, Fiona McQueen, Jane McQueen, Terry Haine and Janette Davidson (lady captain)



Putting the 'great' into the Great Corsock Show...



Saturday 24 August sees the arrival of age-old Galloway tradition of the Great Corsock Show.

Plan your entries now! Show programmes are available online by searching for the 'Corsock Hall' website or can be collected from local shops or Corsock hall porch. Categories vary from the ever-competitive Lemon Curd category, through

to Carrots and Crafts - and that's only for the Cs! New categories this year include Upcycled Item and the judges' challenge will be a Cake Containing a Vegetable.

Competitors are welcome to drop off their items on the Friday night or Saturday morning, and the show opens to the public at 1pm on Saturday.

There will be a BBQ, raffle, bottle stall and café so do come along; it's a great chance to assess the competition for next year, and good fun for all the family. This year's show will not be televised.

McNabb Laurie

Some of last year's winners in the flower and vegetable categories

Help for Kirkcudbright lifeboat station

The Glenkens Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) fundraising group is delighted to report that over £900 was raised at its coffee morning in Dalry Town Hall.

Money raised from the sale of lifeboat souvenirs is sent back to central funds, but the remaining £740 has been sent to the Kirkcudbright Lifeboat Station Appeal.

The current Lifeboat Station in Kirkcudbright has not changed

much since it was built in 1893 – it is unheated, cramped, cold and damp. Space is limited for maintaining the lifeboat or fixing any faults and the last half-mile from the boathouse to the water is a dirt track which slows down launches.

This appeal will fund work to modernise the 130-year-old lifeboat station. Some key areas are to upgrade the changing facilities, providing somewhere to warm up after responding to a 'shout', and building a dedicated workshop for maintaining the lifeboat. Work would also be done to improve the access track and create a new parking and turning area.

John Collins, lifeboat operations manager and station mechanic at Kirkcudbright, said: "We're a harbour town, a fishing town. The lifeboat is really important to the local community and we're here to answer the call whenever we're needed".

The Glenkens RNLI group is pleased to be able to support this important appeal, which will bring the Kirkcudbright Lifeboat Station into the 21st Century.



Many thanks to all who helped at the recent coffee morning, and for all those who supported the fundraiser.

Nicolette Wise

New Galloway community larder

Local Initiatives in New Galloway is delighted to report success in gaining a grant of just over £3,000 from D&G Council's Regionwide Community Fund to help with the planning and development of creating a community larder.

Along with our Lottery funding, this will provide some valuable time for Bianca and Heather (our hub hosts) to get everything in place by the autumn.

There are some excellent models around showing how this kind of idea can work really effectively. Planning also needs to be tailored to work best for our community, which in turn means working closely with other organisations such as the Galloway Food Hub.

There is a lot of energy already going into ensuring that we can

draw on local resources, reduce waste and meet the needs of local people for healthy and affordable food and we want to make sure that we will play a positive part in all of that.

We look forward to being able to update you with more detail over the next few months. In the meantime, Bianca and Heather will continue to be at New Galloway Town Hall on Thursdays from 12noon till 5pm for the Hubhub drop-in sessions.

Anyone is welcome for tea,

coffee, biscuits – just make yourselves at home, have a chat, browse our books, meet a friend. Food, largely cooked on the premises from donations or leftovers, is available for a bit of lunch or for Thursday tea-time take-aways 4-6pm (just help yourself at the side door). It's all free, although donations are always welcome.

If you have excess garden produce to donate please contact Bianca at bianca.hubhost.ling@gmail.com.

Ann Glaister and Bianca Leder

Showcasing our Glenkens volunteers

With such a small and dispersed population, onlookers might be forgiven for thinking that life in the Glenkens is sleepy and uneventful.

Regular readers of the *Gazette* of course know this to be far from the case, and so do those who attended the Volunteer Fair, hosted on a sunny afternoon in New Galloway's Town Hall as part of Scotland's annual

Volunteers' Week.

Organisations in attendance ranged from the nationally recognised, such as the Scouts and Citizens Advice, to the regionally specific such as the community shop and the afternoon's hosts, Local Initiatives in New Galloway.

What was intended as an exercise in volunteer recruitment also became an effective way for organisations to become aware of each other, finding common difficulties – and, in some cases, common solutions.

It might go without saying that even the day's refreshments

– including copious amounts of cake – were provided by volunteers, but that in itself can be the very nature of volunteering: that it often does go without saying.

Volunteer work is not often something that is done for one's own benefit. It is not something that is done with the expectation of reward.

On paper this hardly sounds attractive, and you might be justified in wondering why anyone turned up to the volunteer fair at all. But giving up something like a sunny Saturday afternoon is just one

of the ways in which we can sustain a commitment to the collective wellbeing and shows an awareness of how we are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality and interdependency.

If you are interested in volunteering with Local Initiatives in New Galloway, please get in touch at info@ling.org.uk

Dominique Pope

You can also find contact details for other community organisations across the Glenkens on p31 if you may be interested in more volunteering opportunities.

Plants, sunshine and pop-up pubs at Balmaclellan Village Hall

For our third, now annual, Plant Sale, the weather smiled on us, showing off the enormous number of plants to their very best.

We had more stalls this year but still managed to clear almost everything, so it was a huge success. The teas were as popular as ever, and this year the Church Guild provided a cake stall. As the afternoon progressed, the bar opened and the BBQ began, and so the day mellowed into early evening with lots of contented locals enjoying the sunshine in the garden.

We rely on volunteers to make



our events successful - but we need more help. If you are interested in helping keep this little gem of a hall working for the community, please consider volunteering. We are not looking for huge commitment, but help organising or running events makes it possible to broaden

what we offer. We'd also love to hear your ideas for anything else you'd like to see happening in village.

There is an enormous amount of equipment available to hire; from all sizes of plates, cups, mugs, serving dishes, cutlery, chairs and tables, to outdoor

lighting and heating, gas barbecue, gazebos... So if you need something for a party or event, get in touch. The whole hall is also available for hire of course.

On Saturday 21 September, as part of the Glenkens Food Month (see article on p5) and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of Balmaclellan Village Hall, we're holding a Gala Day with hog roast and pop-up pub. This will be following in November with a St Andrew's Day pop-up pub and, during the day, a Christmas plant sale.

Crafting, make-do-and-mend and fitness classes will continue through the summer. Please get in touch at julia.higgins55@outlook.com or wellsjackiea@gmail.com or btlynnstewart1@icloud.com

Lynn Stewart




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All hands on deck at Dalry School garden

Thanks to all the parents and children who came along to help tidy up the Dalry School garden.

All the beds have been cleared, the polytunnel is almost ready for use and a new

compost bin and fire pit have been built.

We're hoping to get another few days organised over the summer to get it looking amazing and ready for use by children of all ages before school returns.

The next step will be to set up a gardening club to oversee planting and harvesting all kinds of exciting things.

If you have any ideas of things which could be done in the school garden please send the Parent Council a message on Facebook at the Dalry Schools Parent Council page.



Left: before the tidy; where are the raised beds?!

Above: Some of the helpers at the school garden tidying session after lots of hard work



Carsphairn community market

Carsphairn's community market will be held in Lagwyne Hall on Saturday 7 September from 10am-2pm.



Part of the Glenkens Food Month calendar (see article on p5) the event is free and will host stalls with home-grown and home-made produce including baking, preserves, plants, vegetables and crafts.

For younger visitors, Bairn Banter will have a children's play area set up, and there will also be refreshments and information on what it means to be a Biosphere community.

Traders who would like a table (for which there is no charge) please email lizholmes21@gmail.com or carsphairnmarkets@outlook.com to book.

For further information see ad on p27...

Last year's community market in full swing

Summer arts & crafts fair

Dalry Town Hall will once again play host to a summer arts and crafts fair, giving locals and visitors alike the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the work of local makers.

On Sunday 25 August, from 11am-3pm, creative

artists, designers, makers and producers from southern Scotland will be in attendance, offering beautifully crafted creative items produced in our corner of Scotland, or linked to Scotland in some way.

Why not get a head start on your Christmas shopping, getting ideas and inspiration for gifts for loved ones?

After enjoying the fair, you round off your visit relaxing at one of our picnic tables in the (fingers crossed!) sunshine, or under cover of one of our marquees, and sample some home baked

cakes accompanied by tea, coffee or a cold drink.

The event is run by members of the hall management team, who are all volunteers. Please do come along - we are looking forward to welcoming residents and visitors to this very popular event. All proceeds go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the historic town hall building, a much valued local rural asset.

Lesley Blissett, Chair, Dalry Townhall Management team

For further information see ad on back page...

Name the place

(from page 2)

Site Name - Loch Ken

Location - The heart of the Glenkens

Description - With the Rhinns of Kells as a backdrop looking north and a transition zone between hills and lower watershed of the river Dee lie the winding waters of the nine-mile long Loch Ken - the heart of the Glenkens.

Centre of natural beauty, cultural heritage and recreation for the community and visitors alike, it is one of our unique and precious assets.

The loch and its environs have been managed by the Loch Ken Trust since 2020, with the vision "...to promote the natural, cultural and recreational assets of the Loch Ken area for the benefit of the public and to support sustainable local communities."

If you want to know more, visit their website at www.lochken.org.uk and you will be amazed at the number of community functions and services they offer, including the exemplar ranger service and Loch Ken Plan, for the benefit of us all.

Interesting fact - This natural feature became part of the Galloway Hydro Scheme in the 1930s, when the Glenlochar barrage raised its level by approximately one metre, allowing for increased storage and water control for the Tongland power station further downstream.

Kickstart for Glenkens childminding

The Scottish Government has committed funding for a three-year national childminder retention and recruitment programme which aims to grow the workforce.

The Glenkens is one of the specific areas targeted through the programme, as well as as being supported through the Glenkens and District Community Benefit Fund through Foundation Scotland.

An important part of the package is one-to-one support from dedicated Scottish Child Minding Association (SCMA) workforce officer, Claire Ward, who is assigned to the Glenkens. Claire attended the education and learning event held at the CatStrand where she spoke with local people, highlighting ways in which the programme aims to support economic

and community development through increased provision of local childcare places and job creation.

Along with support and training, the recruitment package also includes a minimum £750 start-up grant. Claire said: "This is a fantastic springboard to starting a career working with children; we're here to support candidates every step of the way through the registration process and in establishing their new business."

"I was really delighted to meet with local people in the Glenkens at the education event, and to see how we can work together. I'll be returning for the Glenkens Agricultural Show in August where I'll have an SCMA information stall - so if you have any questions come and have a chat!"

Simone McDonald, who lives with her husband on a working farm outside Dalry, applied to become a childminder through one of SCMA's previous pilot schemes. When she opened her service, Simone was inundated

with over 40 enquiries from parents, some from over 30 miles away.

Childminders enjoy the flexibility of being able to run their own business from home and earning an income while bringing up their own children. No previous childcare experience is required, but it is essential to have a passion for working with children. Professional childminders also undertake ongoing development to ensure the highest of standards within their childminding setting.

Half of Scotland's local authorities, including Dumfries & Galloway Council, are participating in the first year of the recruitment campaign.



Left to right: Helen Keron, Executive Manager for the Glenkens Community Arts & Trust; Claire Ward, Workforce Officer for the Scottish Childminding Association; Caroline Reeves, Glenkens CAP Steering Group member who was chairing the Education & Learning event

For further information visit www.childminding.org/getstarted or email claire.ward@childminding.org



VoiceAbility

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About advocacy

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

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

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

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

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

Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the
Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Co

This issue's winner is Paul Goodwin with this stunning sunset shot taken from his bedroom window in Dalry.

Paul wins two portions of mac and cheese from our competition sponsors, the Balmaclellan-based Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Co. Company owner and competition judge, Hannah Gould, said: "What could be more breathtaking than a gorgeous Glenkens sunset...".



To enter you can send in any photograph taken in the Glenkens to glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk

From Schoolhouse to Community Hub: *The Glenkens Community Centre's Remarkable Journey*

Built in the late 19th century as a school, the Glenkens Community Centre in St John's Town of Dalry has weathered challenges, closures, and transformations.

The building has played a key role in St John's Town of Dalry for almost a century and a half. However, it hasn't all been plain sailing and during the last 50 years the building has faced closure three times, each time being pulled back from the brink through the commitment and dedication of volunteers.

St John's Town of Dalry (known locally as Dalry) is situated roughly in the centre of Dumfries and Galloway. With a population of around 500, the village formed around a strategic river crossing point on the pilgrim route to St Ninian's Chapel in Whithorn.

The layout of Dalry dates back to the development of a planned village by the Earl of Galloway in the 1700s, leading to a compact settlement roughly triangular in shape.

The land for the community centre was purchased in 1878 for the building of a school, as a consequence of the 1872 Education (Scotland) Act introducing mandatory education for children aged five to 13. It was actually the third school building in Dalry, with the first records of a school in the village dating back to 1639. The 1878 building was a simple rectangular hall constructed of granite and whinstone; with just one classroom with a high ceiling, heated with a single coal fire, with vents in the ceiling to let out the smoke.

The school had one teacher, whose desk was positioned squarely in front of the

fireplace, ensuring he was nice and warm, even if his students shivered. Some went to school barefoot all year round, even through to the 1920s and 30s. The original building had no plumbing; loos were earth closets, with the soil being utilised to fertilise the kitchen garden of the headteacher.

The building was expanded and remodelled over the years, with a house for the headteacher built out to the side of the original school, and the back wall of the school taken down to allow the building to be extended to form a second classroom.

In the early 20th century, a third classroom was added which served both as science lab and home economics room. In the 1920s the fireplace was bricked up and radiators were fitted, powered by a coke-fired boiler. This was during the 30-year incumbency of headteacher Sandy Singleton, who lived in the adjoining schoolhouse with his wife and family. The fact

The secondary school was attended by pupils from the primary schools of Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Corsock, Kells, Polharrow and Stroanfreggan, as well as Dalry.

that the family had two servants demonstrates the relatively high status of teachers at that time.

During the Second World War, evacuees from Glasgow boosted the school roll in Dalry. In the mid-1930s a separate primary school was built, leaving the old school as a secondary-only site. The secondary school was attended by pupils from the primary schools of Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Corsock, Kells, Polharrow and Stroanfreggan, as well as Dalry. It was not uncommon for pupils from outside the village to struggle to get to school in the wintertime, as the diesel in the school buses would freeze.

In 1965, Dalry's new (current)



secondary school was built, although the old school was pressed into use when the roof blew off the new school (this happened on more than one occasion!). The village is very hilly, with level ground mainly being confined to the flood meadows alongside the water of Ken (from which Dalry – meaning 'meadow of the king' in Gaelic – gets its name). Local

legend has it that a resident with a demolition licence was tasked with blasting all the knowes on the piece of undulating land bought from the Church of Scotland for the new school, leaving a level piece of ground for the school and playing field.

Following local government reorganisation in 1975, the now rarely-used building became the responsibility of the Community Education Department.

Renovations were carried out in the late 1970s as part of Scotland's Youth Opportunities Programme, and the building was repurposed as a community centre. The Regional Council owned the building but the management was tasked to a management committee made up of representatives from each of the centre's user groups.

This committee were charged an annual rent of £900 to cover

the cost of a cleaner, heating and any repairs to the building. When the council subsequently embarked on a regional programme of closing community centres, the management committee put up a spirited battle to keep the centre open.

This was successful but led to a change in the management structure in that council still owned the building, but the management committee took full responsibility for funding all costs apart from maintenance of the outside of the building – an arrangement which continued for more than four decades.

With user groups including a playgroup, Brownies, art and craft groups, martial arts, the Good Neighbours club and the Glenkens Children's Club, the building was well-used by residents of all ages from across the communities of the Glenkens. The building also hosted ballroom dancing lessons, French classes, art exhibitions and history days, as well as being let commercially.

However, in 2014/15 the building was again threatened with closure and the only option to keep it open was for a community body to take on ownership. To facilitate this a charity called the Dalry Community Properties Trust (DCPT) was set up and the transfer into community ownership was finalised in 2017.

Continued over the page...

Continued from previous page...

The new setup saw the management committee covered running expenses, paying DCPT a rental fee for any major works. User groups continued at the centre, with a local childcare provider (Bright Stars, formerly the Glenkens Children's Club) becoming the main user overall, renting the space four days a week.

Changes in the funding of childcare provision and disruption through the Covid pandemic resulted in this formerly vibrant and well-used facility standing empty and unloved.

The UNESCO Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere partnership investigated converting the building into office space, but this did not come to fruition. In August 2022 a crisis point was reached and a public meeting was called to see whether new volunteers would step forward to take responsibility for the building. Thankfully new faces stepped forward to take up the baton and, almost two years on, the building is once again a thriving community venue. For older

residents, the Good Neighbours club has rekindled and there are weekly digital literacy drop-in sessions. Martial arts and Yoga for All groups offer an opportunity to keep fit, and the weekly Glenkens Youth Group is a hit with local teens. There is an outreach service of the local Citizens Advice Bureau every fortnight and art and craft groups take place regularly.

The old science lab/home economics room at the back of the building is now the home of the Galloway Food Hub – a local, producer-led online farmers' marketplace which an online shopping experience, including delivery, from producers based within 30 miles of the Glenkens. A community garden has been set up in the front garden of

the building, with grant funding received to construct raised flower beds, and the Glenkens Gardeners group meets here regularly.

Community engagement for the Local Place Plan has demonstrated strong support for the creation of a café run as a community enterprise; this extra income could enable the community centre to offer free room hire to groups of benefit to the rural communities of the Glenkens.

Not content with bringing the building back into use, the new management team have big ambitions for the future. With its high ceilings and minimal insulation, it is an expensive building to run and DCPT

trustees have plans to future-proof the building, creating a warm and welcoming, as well as economic, venue that flaunts its eco credentials.

After a turbulent few decades, at present the future of the now community-owned Glenkens Community Centre looks bright. Hopefully this space will continue as a beacon of grassroots community activity; a hub of local activity and a vital community resource in these times of tightening council purse strings where rural amenities seem to be disappearing at an alarming rate.

Becca Nelson, Glenkens Community Spaces Network Facilitator

The Glenkens Community Spaces Network was created by GCAT in 2023 to provide a forum for the management committees of Glenkens village halls, community centres and other community spaces to enable sharing of information and experiences - find out more at www.glenkens.scot/glenkens-community-spaces-network

Glenkens Food Hub volunteers outside the Glenkens Community Centre



Music of the Glenkens at Parton Village Hall

Following on from the success of concerts and symposia about traditional music held at the Catstrand and Dalry Town Hall, we are pleased to host another such event at Parton Village Hall.

On the evening of 24 August, Dr Jo Miller, will begin the evening with a discussion and lecture based on traditional music of the past in the Glenkens, and offering an insight to the future. This will then be followed by a concert featuring musicians and singers from the Glenkens and surrounds, finishing with what would be a typical session such as those held in the Clachan Inn, Dalry and various pubs in and around the Kirkcudbright area.

Dr Jo Miller began her studies in Glasgow, with a BA in Music Education and a BMus. she then went to Edinburgh as an MLitt student, doing a study of music making in the Glenkens where she grew up, based on fieldwork with all age groups. During the 1990s, first in Glasgow and then in Stirling, she brought up a young family, many of whom have performed at the CatStrand, and taught at the RSAMD. She returned to academic research at the University of Sheffield, where in 2016 she completed her PhD in the learning and teaching of traditional music.

Peter Standing



Robbie Murray, a Glenkens shepherd who played and wrote fiddle tunes around the beginning of the 20th century (www.carsphairn.org/CarsphairnArchive)

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POP IN FOR A CHAT AND A BROWSE

Dalry Heritage Group book

After a lot of hard work over the last couple of years, the Dalry Heritage Group has now got its next book, *Auld Memories Frae The Clachan o' Dalry*, away to the printers.

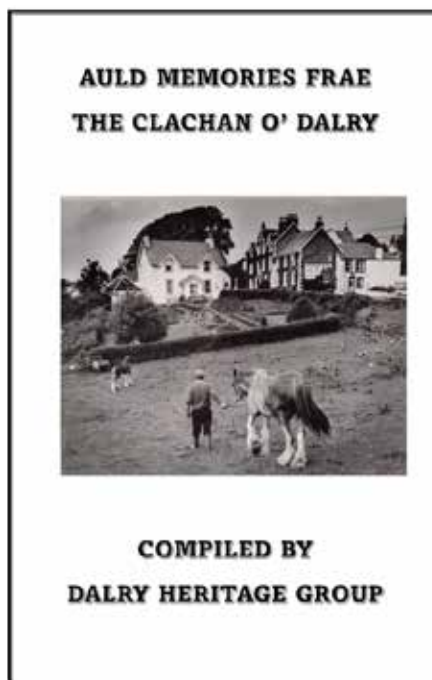
Unfortunately, the complications of copyright law means that we were not able to include many of the photographs we had initially chosen, but this does mean that many of those in the book are new to most people.

Thanks to all those who have contributed their memories, and especially to those who provided their own family photos for use in the book.

There will be a book launch in Dalry Town Hall on Sunday 1 September from 2-4pm.

Please keep a look out for posters advertising this free event and come along to join us - all welcome.

The book is for sale at £10 and



enquiries about pre-ordering can be made by email to dalryheritagegroup@btinternet.com

Hilda McAdam,
Chairperson, Dalry Heritage Group



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

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The mysteries of Kenmure burial aisle

Alongside Dalry Church lies part of the former pre-Reformation church.

It was a side aisle of the earlier church, and the reason it was not demolished when a new church was built on the site in 1771 was because in the vaults beneath it were buried the Gordons of Kenmure. It was known as the Kenmure burial aisle or the Gordon aisle.

Within the roofless remains there is a stone plaque informing us that: "This aisle and the vaults below were built by Sir James and Lady Gordon 1546. Restored by their descendants Charles and Jean Forbes 1939. 'Ora Pro Nobis'."

Most likely this side aisle was added to the rectangular pre-Reformation church in 1546. Sir James Gordon was the fourth Lord of Lochinvar and was probably the first to be buried in the vaults, for he was killed at the Battle of Pinkie in 1547. You can still see the arched entrance into the main church which was filled in with stonework in 1771 to stabilise and help preserve the retained aisle. There is an old Glenkens rhyme about the Gordons which runs:

*"In the sainted kirk of aul' Dalry,
Their coffins will stand and
their banes will lie."*

I've not been able to discover the first written record of this rhyme, but Jean Gibson in her 1974 booklet, *Around Dalry: A Guide to St John's Town of Dalry*, quotes it.

There is a widely held belief (at least in the Glenkens) that Robert Burns made use of the story of Adam Forrester of Knocksheen in crafting his poem *Tam O'Shanter*. Burns knew the Glenkens, and is known

to have visited the area at least once. The story goes that Adam Forrester was making his way home on his horse one night, after drinking at a tavern in the village of Dalry, when he heard the sound of music coming from Dalry Church.

Looking in, he saw the Clachan witches dancing away to wild music. He shouted out, in Tam o'Shanter style, to the local barmaid, "Ah, Lucky Hair, ye'll no deny this the morn!" and had barely time to mount his horse when they were out and after him.

Up on the shoulder of Waterside Hill he realised they were catching up on him; so he jumped off his horse and drew a circle with

his sword in the name of God around the place where he stood. And within that circle he and his horse were protected from attack - though in the encounter his horse lost its tail, which had been grabbed by one of the witches!

When they heard a cock crow on a neighbouring farm, heralding daybreak, the witches suddenly departed. That supposed circle ('The Score'), is marked on the 1849 six-inch Ordnance Survey map, and you can still view it up on the side of Waterside Hill.

In his poem Burns makes reference to the upright coffins in Alloway kirk, echoing the supposed upright coffins of the Gordons in the Gordon aisle in Dalry churchyard.

He describes the coffins standing round in Alloway kirk with their dead in their last dresses holding lights in their hands. It is said that in the vaults under the Gordon aisle at Dalry Church the coffins were stood upright in order to fit them in that tight space. But these vaults have been closed up since the new church was built in 1771, when Burns was a child.

For some time

I have thought it would be interesting to put together a project to investigate these vaults and record who was buried in their (presumably) stone coffins. They likely have stone lids on which were carved the names of those interred.

That idea was strengthened when a gentleman got in touch with me recently who is doing research on the Gordons of Kenmure. He wanted to ascertain whether William Gordon, the 6th Viscount Kenmure, was buried at Dalry after he was executed in London in February 1716 after the 1715 Jacobite Rising.

Our investigations since then suggest that he was, and that he would have been laid to



Top: Remains of the Gordon aisle of the pre-Reformation church standing alongside Dalry church. Middle: Stone plaque alongside the roofless remains of the Gordon aisle. Above: Blocked off entrance to the Gordon aisle

rest in the family vaults. So it would be really interesting to bring together a project to open up those vaults temporarily and record what is in them. There may well be some fascinating old stone coffins with lettering on their lids.

Might it be possible to seek grant funding for a project led by a group such as Rathmell Archaeology, who provide archaeological and heritage consultancy services, and involving members of the local community?

I throw out the suggestion and invite others to take the idea forward.

David Bartholomew

Caged at the CatStrand



CatStrand are excited to announce the return of local actress Eilidh Thomson to her home turf.

The performance of *Caged: The True Story of Isabella McDuff* on 7 August stars former member of the CatStrand Youth Players, Eilidh Thomson, in the title role.

Eilidh joined the Youth Players

when she was only 10 years old. With her heart set on a career on stage, there was never any doubt that she had the talent and determination to succeed.

It looks likely Eilidh may follow in the footsteps of another former CatStrand Youth Player, Dylan Blore from Mossdale, who has gone on to appear in several



Eilidh performing in the 2013 Youth Players' performance of Aladdin; photograph by Ian Biggar

major TV shows including *Crime* with Dougray Scott, BBC Comedy Short *Calamity James* with Mark Bonnar and the most recent series of *Shetland*.

Panto season

It is hard to believe, but it is almost that time of year again when we have to begin planning for our Christmas pantomime!

After the summer break, we will meet again on Sunday 1 September at 2pm at the CatStrand to begin the panto build-up. All former members are welcome to come along and we will have a few places available for new members too

(age 10+). If you are interested in taking part in the show or helping behind the scenes, please come to the first meeting or let us know you are interested by calling 01644 420 374 or emailing Brian or Cat on briangm@catstrand.com or catherine@catstrand.com

This year it looks like we could be going to Camelot for Christmas! The favourite

choice so far is *King Arthur – A Pantomime Adventure in Camelot* by Paul Reakes.

Subject to casting and numbers available, that will be our panto for 2024. The show will be staged on 6, 7 and 8 December and tickets will go on sale from October onwards - please look out for the launch date and book early to avoid disappointment. *Brian Edgar*



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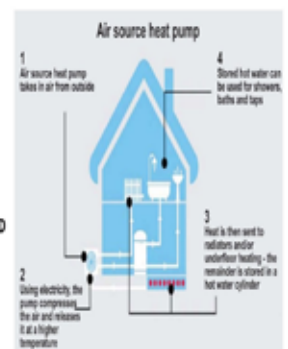
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From the Bookroom

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 Flann O'Brien.

Usually in the high summer I do more gardening than reading.

This year is an exception, for two reasons. First, I'm far too busy working on a prisons project which will be launched in September. That is, I'm reading and writing about people who never see the sun. Second, there's no sun here. This year, summer hasn't managed to begin.

So in my snatches of free time I've been reading a book – *At Swim-Two-Birds* by Flann O'Brien – whose story only just manages to begin, then doesn't get much further. In the great tradition of Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*, the narrative here digresses so insistently – and so comically – that narrative itself is called into question.

The narrator – some of the time – is a Dublin student who drinks too much stout. "You are writing a novel, of course?" asks one of his friends. "He is," answers another, "and the plot has him well in hand."

The student invents a character called Trellis, a writer, who in turn invents various other characters including the depraved John Furriskey and Peggy, a servant. Trellis designs Furriskey to assail Peggy's virtue,

but Trellis isn't in control of his creations. Furriskey and Peggy discover that Trellis's powers are suspended when he sleeps, so they drug him, come out of character to get married, and set up a home in which they host more characters, who tell yet more stories.

Among these characters are at least a couple who live in other books too – for instance, the legendary hero Finn MacCool, as well as Sweeney, the mythic king of ancient Ireland who, cursed with madness for his blasphemy, went to live in the trees.

Sleep and wakefulness are central to O'Brien's work – and connections are implied between dreaming and writing fiction. Reading his second novel – *The Third Policeman* – with its strange repetitions and shifts in perspective, and the narrator's unsurprised acceptance of the most absurd events, may be the closest I've come to dreaming while awake.

I'm not sure if I'd recommend *At Swim-Two-Birds* to everybody. Those who are not already committed fans of narrative weirdness may find it frustrating. But I recommend *The Third Policeman* without reservation. I hope I'm not giving too much away by saying that its protagonist is trapped in a hell of his own making, though the devils here have uniforms,



notebooks and mild manners rather than pitchforks and burning coals, and though the tone of the book is much more comic than tragic.

But back to *At Swim-Two-Birds*. In the end, the characters invented by Trellis take him over (they actually put him on trial). And perhaps that's not so shocking. Trellis is a mere invention of

the unnamed student, after all. The student, of course, is an invention of Flann O'Brien. But even Flann O'Brien was an invention – of a man called Brian O'Nolan, an Irish modernist of the age of Joyce and Beckett, who wrote novels in English and Gaelic under various names, and lots of journalism, and who drank far too much stout.

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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DARK SKY JAZZ WEEKENDER



MODERN VIKINGS

FRI 30 AUGUST | 7:30PM

Stephen Henderson leads a stellar line-up featuring Fergus McCreadie, Graeme Stephen, Konrad Wiszniewski, David Bowden. Modern Vikings play music with a strong emphasis on melody with the added grooves, urgency and colours of the American jazz tradition.



KITTI

SAT 31 AUGUST | 7:30PM

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SUN 1 SEPTEMBER | 7:30PM

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CATSTRAND, NEW GALLOWAY : 01644 420 374 : GCAT.SCOT

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USEFUL GLENKENS CONTACTS

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Glenkens Medical Practice
- 01644 420 234

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- Balmaclellan: Martin Warnock - 07939 261 391
- Carsphairn: Liz Holmes - 07718 358 160
- Corsock: Julie Garton -

07769 647 702

• Kirkpatrick Durham: Heather - 07551 639 629

• Crossmichael: Richard Middleton - 01556 670 691

• Dalry: Graham West - 01644 430 503

• New Galloway: 07741 656 601

• Parton: Tom - 07835821976

FOOD DELIVERIES

• Galloway Foodbank - 07730 788 335

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

• Ballards Butchers - 01556 502502 (they also deliver groceries)

• Grierson's Butchers:

01556 502 637

• Henderson's Butchers: 01556 502 654

• Mitchell's Greengrocers: 01556 502 077

• Fleet Fish: call 07966 103 912 to find out about Glenkens delivery days

• Roan's Dairy - 01556 620 374

• Harris & Co: www.harrisandco.uk

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS

Glenkens Community Shop: Helen Crowther on 0790 467 8599 or drop by the shop on Main Street, Dalry

Glenkens Scout Group: Contact Heather McIntosh on 01644 420 375

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING): Contact info@ling.org.uk

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

Dalry Town Hall: Contact Lesley Blissett at lesleyblissett52@gmail.com

Glenkens Community Centre: Contact Sarah McAdam on minimac01644@gmail.com

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

New Galloway Community Enterprises (NGCE): Contact ngce5000@gmail.com or pop

into New Galloway Community Shop

Balmaclellan Community Trust: Contact Julia Higgins at julia.higgins55@outlook.com

CatStrand: Contact info@catstrand.com or 01644 420 374 or pop in to the CatStrand

Schools: Visit the school office or call Dalry Primary on 01644 430 105 (for Nursery/ELC too), Dalry Secondary on 01644 430 259 or Kells on 01644 420 340

Carsphairn Heritage Initiative: Contact Ben Ade at carsphairnhi@gmail.com

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

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

If you would like to add your community organisation to this list please get in touch with the Gazette - contact details are on the back page.

GLENKENS CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday Services

Balmaclellan: Aug 4, Sep 1, Sep 29 - 11am

Carsphairn: Aug 11, Sep 8 - 11am

Kells: Aug 18 (communion), Sep 15 - 11am

Dalry: Aug 25, Sep 22 (communion) - 11am

For further information contact Rev Pam Bellis on 07751 379 249 or pam@bellisconsultancy.co.uk

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*St Margaret's Church, Kenbridge Road, New Galloway,
The Revd Dawn Matthew*

Sundays at 10.30am: Holy Communion with refreshments after the service

Tuesdays from 10am-12noon and **Thursdays** from 2-4pm: the church will be open for visitors or private prayer. Look for the 'church is open' sign on the road outside

Thursdays from 7.30-8pm: evening prayers via Zoom shared with our sister church, All Saints' Challoch. Please contact Dawn for the link.

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

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- **Pothole Hotline:** 0845 276 0000
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www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/gdt-corporate-information

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www.carsphairn.org/CREFLArchive

Local Job Vacancies

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GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

www.galloway-community-transport.org

email: gct@catstrand.com

phone: Jon 07841 512449

**AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 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.

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**EMAIL:
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0910 New Galloway CatStrand

0925 Crossmichael Shop

0935 Castle Douglas Market Hill

0955 Kirkcudbright Harbour Square

1010 Gatehouse of Fleet Spar Bus Stop

**FURTHER INFO:
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/GALLOWAY-
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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 August/September

AUGUST

Wed 7, Caged: The True Story of Isabella McDuff, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 15, CatStrand Youth trip to Edinburgh Fringe (book now - age 12+), leaves CatStrand 8am

Sat 17, Glenkens Agricultural Show, Newfield Farm, Dalry (**entries close 9 Aug, for info visit Facebook**)

Fri 23, Anna Massie, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 24, The Great Glenkens Music Night, 7pm, Parton Village Hall, see p25

Sat 24, Corsock Show, 1pm, see p20

Sun 25, Arts & Crafts Fair, 11am-3pm, Dalry Town Hall

Wed 28, Galloway Riding for the Disabled training day, see p4

Fri 30, Dark Sky Jazz: Modern Vikings, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 31, Dark Sky Jazz: kitti, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 31, GCT Excursion: Port Logan Botanical Gardens, see p33

SEPTEMBER

For full list of Glenkens Food Month events visit www.glenkens.scot/glenkens-food-month-2024

Sun 1, Dalry Heritage Group book launch, 2-4pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p26

Mon 2, Community Pop Up Burger BBQ, 5-6pm, Carson's Knowe Car Park, New Galloway

Sun 1, Atlantic Road Trip, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 4, Glenkens Cub Scouts restart, 6.15-7.30pm, Scout Hut, New Galloway, see p5

Sat 7, Carsphairn Community Market, 10am-2pm, Lagwyne Hall

Sat 7, An Evening of Ukrainian & Syrian Food, 6pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 8, The Famous Fungal Forage, 1-4pm, venue tbc

Mon 9, Community Pop Up Burger BBQ, 5-6pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Tue 10, Morag You're A Long Time Deid, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 11, Six Inches of Soil: PG Film Screening and Discussion, 7pm, CatStrand

Thu 12, Stewartry Birdwatchers, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall, see p13

Fri 13, Friday Night Film and Feast, 6pm, Glenkens Community Centre

Mon 16, Community Pop Up Burger BBQ, 5-6pm, Underhill, Dalry

Tue 17, Loch Ken Cook Out, 5-7pm, Ken Bridge

Thu 19, Film for Thought and Take Away, 4pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Thu 19, Carsphairn SWI Meeting: Search & Rescue Dogs, 7.30pm, Lagwyne Hall

Fri 20, Paul McKenna Band, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 20, Beer Tasting & Pizza Night, 7pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Sat 21 at 6pm & **Sun 22** at 12noon, Clan Latino, CatStrand

Sat 21, Gala Day & Hog Roast, 2pm till late, Balmaclellan Village Hall, see p21

Sun 22, Harvest Celebration Lunch, 12.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Sun 22, Community Pop Up Burger BBQ, 3pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Tue 24, Cooking for Health and Wellbeing Sessions, 6.30pm, Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry

Wed 25, Wilding: PG: Film Screening & Discussion, 7pm, CatStrand

Thu 26, Author's Talk: Hitler's Oil Broker, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 28, Lulo Rheinhardt & Yuliya Lonskaya, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 28, Forage, Feast & Forge, 9.30am, Galloway Activity Center

Sat 28, Mossdale Village Hall Soup Saturday, 1-3pm, Mossdale Village Hall

Sun 29, Glenkens Food Month Pub Quiz, 7pm, Clachan Inn, Dalry

OCTOBER

Wed 2, GSA Biosphere Sense of Place workshop, 6.30-8pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Fri 4, Galloway SangStreams, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 4, LING AGM and Cheese & Wine, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

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 Wednesday every month - contact richardandjane@phonecoop.coop or 01556 670 691

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

REGULAR EVENTS & OPENING TIMES

Balmaclellan Village Hall

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

julie@googlemail.com

Community Exercise Class, 6pm

Exercise Class, 7pm

Glenkens Crafters, Wed, 10am-

12noon, julia.higgins55@outlook.com

Community Library, Wed, 10.30am-

12.30pm; Sat, 10am-12noon

Tai Chi, Wed, 2pm

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

Stewartry Birdwatchers, 2nd Thu each month Sep to Apr (Sep & Apr, 7.30pm; Oct-Mar, 2.30pm)

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, 10-11.15am

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

Citizens' Agenda: democracy in action

The *Glenkens Gazette* and Glenkens Hub took part in a ground breaking collaboration in the run up to the General Election on 4 July; a first for us and hopefully the start of many more joint projects.

We joined forces with other independent community

news publications as part of the Scottish Beacon collaborative, to ask candidates to respond to the issues most important to the people they were hoping to represent.

Readers in the Glenkens answered a short, four-question survey from which we formulated a Citizens' Agenda specific to our area.

We put the collated questions to the seven candidates standing in the Dumfries & Galloway constituency and had a fantastic response rate,

with replies from all but one candidate.

As we were between *Gazette* editions, to reach as many people as possible the full replies were published on the Glenkens Hub and linked to in the email newsletter and on social media.

You can read the full article online at www.tinyurl.com/glenkenshub-citizens-agenda or scan the QR code to the right.

We hope readers found hearing first-hand from the candidates useful and we'd be interested to hear what impact you thought it had.



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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 glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk

OCT/NOV COPY DEADLINE: 5 SEP



Editing & Design:
sarah.ade@gmail.com

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