

GLENKENS GAZETTE

October/November 2024

ISSUE 144

FREE

A focus on

The Glenkens has traditionally been a farming area, so a focus on, and understanding of, local food production is a familiar field.

However, in recent years there has been a real upsurge of interest in growing and producing food locally. The value in terms of the health benefits as well as impact on the environment of locally produced food is widely acknowledged.

The Glenkens has had a producers' market for some



years now, which is a great success, and with the creation of the Glenkens Food Hub (now the Galloway Food Hub) in 2021 and Glenkens Food Month, which was started by New Galloway Community Enterprises in 2019, there is a wealth of enthusiasm for that which is grown or made in our neck of the woods.

This year has seen a massive

surge of interest in local food.

Glenkens Food Month offers myriad local food-connected events, activities and projects for all ages, from the Glenkens Gardeners to Bairn Banter's Seed-to-Soup-Spoon project and the creation of a permaculture garden at Dalry School.

All in all, there's no shortage of fresh, local food on the table!

For more on local food turn to pages 18 and 19 at the centre of this issue...

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Scottish Alternative Games

The renowned Scottish Alternative Games, held each July in New Galloway, was another roaring success, with crowds attending to compete for prestigious world champion status.

The usual quirky events were enjoyed, especially the ever-popular snail racing, and the threatened rain held off until late in the afternoon, just as the events were coming to an end.

Congratulations go to Alexander McKenna for reclaiming the Gird 'n' Cleek World Championship title for the fourth time. He last held the title in 2018, but this year, against fierce competition from Ralph Spernagel, he won the final once again. Alexander's triumph has equalled the record of four title wins also



held by two of the Games' other repeat champions, Jayde Devlin and Neil Armstrong. Can he manage a fifth year...?

Huge thanks to everyone who came along to support the Games and to everyone who helped to organise and run everything on the day.

See you all next year!

Brian Edgar

Pictured are Gird 'n' Cleek World Champion, Alexander McKenna (centre) with, left to right, Brian Edgar (commentator), Ralph Spernagel (2nd place), Benny Seed (3rd place) and Ollie Rigg (Games piper), photographed by Hayley Edgar

News from the communities of Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Corsock, Crossmichael, Kirkpatrick Durham, Laurieston, Mossdale, New Galloway, Parton and St John's Town of Dalry

A glorious day at the Glenkens Show

Another excellent event was hosted by the Glenkens Agricultural Society with their annual Glenkens Show.

The number of entries in the livestock and horse classes were a credit to all involved, putting the show firmly in the spotlight for not only the number of entries but also the standard of stock shown.

A couple of rain showers soon passed and allowed the judging to get by without any of the usual weather-related problems. In the cattle section,

a total of 55 animals went forward; the sheep section saw 227 animals, alongside 22 goats. Some highlights in the sheep section included classes of 23 mule ewe lambs, 17 crossing bluefaced Leicester ewe lambs and 16 blackface ewe lambs.

The show committee would like to express a heartfelt thanks to all the exhibitors who took the time to come along and show. The conclusion of the day saw the judging of the Champion of Champions take place, whereby the winning animal from each section goes up against each other to be crowned the overall winner.

This year's judge was Mr Donald Smith of the Lowes Farm, Corsock. A local man, Donald has attended a grand total of 71 Glenkens Shows and was very impressed with the line-up of livestock. He found his champion in the Clydesdale winner, a two-year-old filly,



Holmhead Apple Blossom, who is out of a homebred mare, Holmhead Molly, and by Single Limited Edition. The filly is owned by William Gemmell, Holmhead of Boreland, Kirkcowan, and was shown on the day by his niece, Arlene McKie.

This horse was champion at Glenkens Show last year and also champion at this year's Stranraer and Stewartry Shows. Taking the reserve spot was a blackface ewe lamb belonging to R Jardine & Son, Upper Hardland, Balmaclellan. She was out of a homebred ewe

and by a Dudlees-bred tup bought from Kirkmabreck. The overall beef winner was from Miss Jodie Caig, Tarbreoch, Kirkpatrick Durham.

Finally, thank you to all the show sponsors and trade stands who support the show.

Judith Cowie

Top: Champion of Champions, Holmhead Apple Blossom with, left to right, Donald Smith (judge), William Gemmell (owner) and Arlene McKie (William's niece). Left: Judging of the bluefaced Leicester ewe lamb class with judge William Barrowman



Corsock Show unfazed by soggy summer

Exhibitors and visitors came from far and wide to attend the Great Corsock Show, a vital fixture in the Stewartry's event calendar.

Concerns had been raised over the poor growing weather this summer, but entrants turned out to make the show a success across all 57 categories.

The show was opened to the public at 1pm, with the ribbon cut by Jane Ingall, village resident and long-term show stalwart. Visitors were welcome to tour the categories, eat at the BBQ, take part in the bottle stall and enjoy some home baking.

At 2.30pm, the cups and prizes were awarded, the

remaining produce was auctioned off and then the raffle took place.

Judi Shaw, a member of the organising committee, said: "This year, due to poor growing conditions and unpredictable weather, we felt there wouldn't be many entries for the show. We were very wrong!"

"Folks rose to the challenge and supported the Great Corsock Show making it a huge success. It was wonderful to see people of all ages coming together and having fun. The standard of entries continues to exceed expectations. It's hard work but worth it. Now we can look forward to doing it all again in 2025!"

Funds raised will go to a variety of local good causes.

McNabb Laurie



New Galloway's fundraising plant stall

A milestone has been passed this year as New Galloway's 'Navrig' cottage plant stall raises a record-breaking £650 for charity."

Over the last five years the stall, run by Carol Salsbury, has typically raised from £200 to £400 for different local charities. This year, the story is more personal with the money going to LACE (Life after Cancer Essex).

Bill and Carol's daughter, Joanne Hammond, founded LACE five years ago when she thought she was clear of cancer. The aim was to set up a walk-and-talk group for cancer survivors who needed solidarity. When Joanna's cancer returned, this time diagnosed as terminal, she continued to work tirelessly for LACE, re-naming it 'Lives Affected by Cancer Essex'. LACE became a Community Interest Company so that her husband Steve could continue the work after her death.

Jo did so much for her expanding group that members nominated her for an MBE. Steve received the letter of confirmation from the palace five months after Jo's death. Jo's pioneering work has meant so much to many people, and still continues, supported entirely by funds raised by its members.

Previous Navrig plant sales have been in aid of local charities but Bill and Carol wanted to participate in LACE's work, despite the fact that they are unable to take part in fundraising activities down south. They are delighted by this year's

success - £650 will keep LACE going until Christmas. Carol didn't let Jo's husband Steve know just how much the stall had raised until he unfurled the cheque.

The Navrig plant stall began in a small way when Carol had a few spare plants and sold them outside her house to raise money.

New Galloway Town Hall, New Galloway shop and other local initiatives have benefitted in their turn. Carol never grew flowers until a few years ago, but now she says she's "an obsessive flower gardener". All the plants in her garden are friendly to pollinators and she'll only buy plants for the stall if they're good for bees. Much of her stock comes from dividing her perennials, with some bought-in baby plants come from bargain-bin sales. Carol often chats to buyers and passers-by to explain the gardening ethos behind the plant stall.

She said: "I'd like to thank everyone who purchased flowers from the stall; they've contributed to something really important and close to our hearts."



Bill and Carol presenting the cheque for funds raised at the Navrig plant stall to Steve, who runs the charity LACE

The Navrig plant stall is now part of our local scene, operating from April through to August. For those who've spotted it and not yet bought, you'll have another chance next year. Supportive of important causes near and far, the plant stall is also an asset to our community in its own right, providing affordable, locally-grown plants, so the thanks go both ways.

Margaret Elphinstone

Book Week Scotland at the CatStrand *New Scots: Old and New Connections*

The CatStrand will take part in a special event in next month's Book Week to celebrate writers who have made Scotland their home after being forced out of their native countries.

Thanks to a successful bid for Book Week Scotland funding, CatStrand will be hosting two distinguished writers on Saturday 23 November for a 'New Scots: Old and New Connections' event.

Sawsan Al-Areeqe is a Yemeni poet and film-maker who received an international Artist Protection Fund Fellowship hosted by the University of Glasgow. She has received international

acclaim for her poetry, in Arabic and English, and her filmmaking has brought her numerous awards.

Iyad Hayatleh is a Palestinian poet and translator. He was born and grew up in a Palestinian refugee camp in Syria and has lived in Glasgow since 2000. He describes his poetry as discussing "themes of exile and identity, torn between the many places I call home and the struggle to build up a new mixed identity of cultural diversity."

The writers will speak about the journeys which have brought them to Scotland and will read from their work.

It is also planned to hold a workshop event where the guest speakers will work with members of local writing groups including WriteOn and Ken

Words. Keep an eye on the Glenkens Hub and the CatStrand website for further details of this exciting venture.



Call to reinstate the Clachan Fair

The Clachan Fair was a much-loved local event, bringing the communities of the Glenkens together in a week-long celebration.

Since 1977, the fair had run on a biannual basis, offering events and activities over the course of a week with the main celebration being on 'parade day' when stalls lined the streets and various events and activities were organised in celebration of the village and surrounding area.

The parade included a variety of floats from across the Glenkens - the special float to carry the Clachan Fair Lad and Lass (a much-coveted local title among Glenkens teens) was provided from Crossmichael and the fire engine from New Galloway Fire

Station was brought out.

As can be seen from the programme to the right, the fair played a significant role in uniting the community and giving a strong element of community cohesion, with all of the Glenkens schools being involved, as well as other local organisations, clubs and members of the community.

Andrew Metcalf, one of the last members of the Clachan Fair committee, is reaching out to anyone who would like to re-establish this traditional event, which sadly folded due to internal politics some years ago. He said: "I would like the fair to continue; there is still time to get it underway for June next year, if someone was keen and started organising things now.



"There is a significant sum in the kitty - not just a few hundred, but enough to reconstruct the fair. Please get in touch if you feel you can rally a group of folk together to get this excellent, and much missed, local event going again!"

If you, or a group you're involved with, would like to bring back the Clachan Fair please get in touch with Andrew at am460249@yahoo.com



Pictured is the 2013 Clachan Fair programme along with some photographs from, left to right, the 2011, 2016 and 2013 fairs



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 p23, with a bit of information and food for thought about that location.

Summer at New Galloway golf course

The summer (oh... did we have one?!) has been very busy at New Galloway Golf Club.

The green staff have worked extremely hard during the summer in keeping the course in excellent condition, even though the weather has been challenging. We are pleased to say that visitor numbers are well up on the previous few years, which is obviously good for the finances of the club.

The junior coaching sessions were run during July were well-attended and we hope to have a budding professional golfer from the group.

A quiz night proved popular, with over 34 people taking part. The club also held a coffee morning and secondhand sale in September which was well attended by members, friends and residents, for which the club is particularly grateful. Over £400 was raised which will go towards improvements to the clubhouse.

The number of social members is growing; the bar is open every Saturday evening and once a month it is proposed to have a quiz night or other entertainment. Memberships, both social and full, are still available as well as coaching for both juniors and adults.

For further information please contact the club secretary on 01644 420 737.

Jeff Sutcliffe



A moment of sunshine for the fundraising coffee morning and secondhand sale

Glenkens Men's Shed celebrates ten years

Glenkens Men's Shed, the first 'Shed' in Dumfries & Galloway, celebrates its tenth anniversary this year.

Started by Brian Jones in the forerunner to the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust's hugely successful Connecting In Communities project, the Shed went on to become a constituted group and has gone from strength to strength.

From its humble beginnings in the empty old agricultural workshop attached, at that time, to the derelict Smiddy (that turned out well too), it has gone on to be one of the best equipped and most diverse Sheds in the UK.

The Sheddors are forever indebted to Alan Smith, former chair of the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT), for the continuing use of his premises. Without his generosity there would be no Shed, so cheers Alan, we owe you!

Since its initial seed funding the Shed has been self-funded, raising money through grants, donations, subscriptions and sale of works. We're also grateful to Tesco, the Co-op, Age Scotland, LEADER, the Galloway Association of Glasgow, GCAT, the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership, Glenkens Community Shop, Balmaclean Community Council and a myriad of other benefactors and donors who've all supported us on our journey.

Men's Sheds were

established to "combat loneliness and isolation in the elderly male population" but ours has expanded and proudly diversified. We are both accessible and open to all adults, irrespective of gender, and indeed some of our sub-groups have more women than men! Apart from our open sessions for woodwork, metalwork and project work, we also host a stick-making group and an art group. The Shed has also supported numerous groups and individuals through work to make or repair items needed; from pine marten boxes to bench renovations, PAT testing to fixing bikes, water sampling equipment, planters and fairy houses...the list goes on!

In parallel to the renovation of the Smiddy, the Shed itself also underwent a transformation. It now sports a new roof, external cladding, solar panels, battery storage, electric heaters, a mezzanine floor and even electric vehicle charging points in the tarmac carpark outside the building - so the space is pretty much unrecognisable from its 2014 origins.

The Shed is affiliated to the Scottish Men's Sheds Association to which we pay a fee of

£20 a year, and so is free to join for members. We will be hosting an **open day on Tuesday 19 November** - which coincidentally also happens to be International Men's Day - from 10am to 1pm. Why not pop in and see for yourself what goes on? You'll be more than welcome and the kettle will be on. Or if you just can't wait that long? Feel free to drop in at one of our weekly sessions for a cuppa and a chat (opening times below).

In keeping with the overall Men's Sheds ethos, there's no requirement to take part in any specific activities at the Shed, just turn up for a brew, a biscuit and a banter - many do! But if you have something to make, mend or upcycle, you'll find all the tools you need, and plenty of experienced Sheddors to help and guide you if needed - come on in, you're very welcome. To get in touch you can email mensshed@btinternet.com or simply pop in.

Chris Jowsey

OPENING TIMES ARE:
General Sessions - Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9.30am-12noon
Stick Making Group - Monday 7-9pm
Art Group - Thursday, 2-4pm



Glenkens Men's Shed attending ShedFest - an annual event by the UK Men's Sheds Association (UKMSA) that celebrates and connects Men's Sheds across the UK. Pictured with some winning exhibits are John and Michelle Fagan, Tom Leach, Ali Stewart, Brian Jones and Chris Jowsey

Britain's first rock 'n' roll show is back

SIX FIVE SPECIAL

Britain's first Rock n Roll show



Vintage film clips & photo's

Dance, Dance, Dance or you can watch films on the screen

The *Six Five Special*, Britain's first rock-and-roll TV show, is back on the tracks and touring the South of Scotland.

Come along to New Galloway Town Hall on Friday, 18 October at 7.30pm and watch the full story of this ground-breaking show.

The *Six Five Special* started on the BBC in 1957, but it nearly didn't happen. This is the story of behind the scenes at the BBC plus film clips of the show live on stage in 2015 and interviews with the stars from the TV show.

After watching, there will be music from the 1950/60s, with films of the times, so you can sit and listen to the music and watch the films or you can put on your dancing shoes and rock 'n' roll the night away!

Entry on the door with a donation bucket with funds raised being split between Prostate Scotland and the New Galloway Town Hall.

Alan McLellan

Glenkens parish churches harvest lunch

The Glenkens parish churches will celebrate the season with a harvest thanksgiving lunch open to all.

On Sunday, 13 October, the four parishes of the Glenkens will come together for a harvest and thanksgiving service at Carsphairn Parish Church, at 11am, followed by a 'Soup & Sweet' lunch at Lagwyne Hall, with anyone who wishes welcome to attend.

Carsphairn Church will also be hosting an open afternoon the day before, on Saturday,

12 October, from 2pm onwards. The church will be open for people to come and visit, talk to church members, study the unusual communion table and just generally have a look around in an informal setting. Tea and biscuits will be provided and, again, all are welcome.

For further details please contact Irene McCreath on 07974 861 927.



Collaborative reporting

that mattered most to them in the run-up to the General Election. Climate change and green energy were the top two issues that emerged across the board.

Through a partnership with Local Storytelling Exchange, a UK-based organisation dedicated to showcasing the stories of the green transition, Scottish Beacon members will participate in bringing attention to local actions that are shaping Scotland's future, offering inspiration and practical examples of how progress is being made.

Over 100 days, Scottish Beacon members aim to collectively publish more than 50 stories that highlight community solutions that are already making a difference.

Some initial stories being shared include the *Gazette's* article on Kendoon's new solar defibrillator, along with contributions from other Beacon members across the country... Keep your eyes peeled for more over the coming months!

Visit <https://www.scottishbeacon.com> to find out more and read articles from other hyper-local publications across Scotland.



Hyper-local online community news collaborative The Scottish Beacon (of which the Glenkens Gazette is a member) believes in the power of community-driven solutions and aims to

amplify these stories to show that a greener, fairer Scotland is possible – and already taking shape.

And they have a brand new project in the pipeline on the heels of their successful Citizens Agenda project, which asked people to define the issues

Peddalling to the Black Sea

Just before Covid Heidi and I had about five days in Vienna with Heidi's parents and our two boys, and one day we took a boat down the Danube to Bratislava.

We saw people enjoying cycling along cycle paths on the riverbank and thought it might be fun to come back and have a cycling holiday in the area when I retired.

In March last year, Heidi had been browsing on the internet and she turned to me and asked, 'How about it if, rather than just having a cycling holiday in the Vienna area, we were to cycle the Eurovelo 6?' She went on to explain that the Eurovelo 6 was a long-distance cycle route from the mouth of the Loire to the Atlantic coast to the Black Sea. She knew I am always up for an adventure and the idea immediately caught my imagination.

Within a fortnight, Heidi had purchased cycling guides covering most of the route and had acquired a solar panel to go on the back of her bike so that we could charge our mobile phones! She began making detailed plans for the journey.

And so it came about that in April this year, after leaving our dog with Heidi's parents in Wiltshire, we took a ferry from Portsmouth to St Malo and then local trains down to St Nazaire. We then cycled across the large, arched suspension bridge over the Loire to get to our first campsite on the south side of the river.

The next day (13 April) we started out from the beach on the Atlantic coast and began heading east. Our expedition

was beginning and we tried not to think too much about the distance that lay ahead. There were doubts about whether we had been a bit too ambitious in what we had taken on. We planned to cycle 40 to 50 miles a day – mostly camping overnight but with the option of a B&B or hotel if we felt we needed a little more comfort or refuge from the weather.

It had been a challenge deciding what to take and what not to take, and we both ended up with about 25 kg in our panniers. There weren't many things that we could have done without, but we were certainly well loaded!

We met some challenges as we cycled up the Loire – flooding near the river and frosty mornings which made us seek refuge in Airbnbs. We cycled over 800 miles through France before reaching the Rhine near Basle. We then followed the Rhine up to Lake Constance through Germany and Switzerland, before heading north to the Danube at Tuttlingen.

After that we were never far from the Danube as we traversed another seven countries. The western part of Eurovelo 6 has many cycle paths and in other parts tends to follow quiet country roads, though it does also pass through cities. Particularly in France and Germany there are many more bicycles on the road than here in the UK, and they put us to shame in the way they treat cyclists with thoughtfulness and respect.

After Austria, we entered Eastern Europe when we reached Bratislava in Slovakia. In many ways I found the second half of the trip the most interesting. There were far fewer cyclists, especially once we got past Budapest, and we had more of a sense of being adventurers off the beaten track.

There were some cycle tracks, but also many quiet roads to follow as we made our way through Slovakia, Hungary and on into Croatia and Serbia. We only had two nights in Croatia and, after passing through Vukovar, which was flattened in the Balkan conflict, we spent the second night in Ilok at a B&B in a block of flats. The owner had had to run for her life with all the inhabitants of the town, which was surrounded by Serbian territory on three sides, and she and her husband got back home seven years later to find their flat gutted. But I was presented with a cold beer on arrival and she gave us a wonderful breakfast in the morning.

I had always felt a bit ambivalent about passing through Serbia on account of the Balkan conflict and the fact that it was the only country that we were passing through that wasn't a member of the EU; and that feeling was heightened as we crossed over into Serbia the next morning. But I have to say that Serbia was one of the highlights of the trip. We found the people most hospitable.

We spent quite a bit of time traversing Serbia, as we kept to the south side of the river as it passed through the dramatic Iron Gates gorge. After that we stayed on the south side of the river and continued on into Bulgaria, as we had been advised that the roads on the Romanian side were flat and boring and very busy. Bulgaria was more scenic, though also more hilly.

At that point the temperature was climbing above 30 degrees C every day and there was a lack of campsites, so we ended up staying in hotels and B&Bs instead. At the end, we had two days cycling through Romania to reach Constanta on the Black Sea, which we reached on 16 June. There we had a few days to get our bicycles boxed and arrange a taxi to the airport for our flight back to Luton.

I've often found that some of the most rewarding experiences



in life come when you step a bit beyond your comfort zone. Cycling across Europe through ten countries carrying all you need on your bicycle might seem a little daunting. But any long journey is best accomplished one step at a time, or by focussing on one day at a time. That way it becomes more attainable. I was fortunate at nearly 68 that I had good enough health to consider taking on such a challenge and I was keen to grasp the opportunity while it was still there.

I am also fortunate to have a wife who was up for such an adventure and willing to live out of cycle panniers and in a small tent for several months. Heidi was really the brains behind the trip. She excels at meticulous planning, poring over maps, working out realistic mileages for each day and the availability of suitable campsites or accommodation. Also her technical skills in bicycle maintenance are far ahead of mine. The trip couldn't have happened without her!

We cycled 2,883 miles across Europe. When I think back on all the hills climbed and countries traversed I have a kaleidoscope of memories of chateaux and cathedrals and ruined Roman cities, of precious encounters with some lovely people and beautiful scenery to enjoy all along the way. And it was remarkable how few days we ended up cycling in the rain! We have a treasure of experiences to look back on for the rest of our days.

David Bartholomew

Pictured above are David and Heidi upon arrival at the Black Sea and to the left, Schloss Werenwag above the Donautal gorge in Germany



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 describes the Glenkens Youth Group summer holiday trip to the Galloway Activity Centre.



On 11 July the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) youth group ran a trip to the Galloway Activity Centre.

The trip was completely free, thanks to funding from the Glenkens & District Community Fund and Dumfries & Galloway Council's 'Amazing Summer' fund. It allowed and allowed young people from across the Glenkens, from P7 to S3, to participate in activities such as laser tag, archery and the 'wobbly waterpark'.

To start the day, I had to arrive at the CatStrand at 10am so we would get to the activity centre for 10.15am. Getting there early let us have more time for each activity. People could have also been picked up at Dalry, making it easier for people who are just a bit too far from New Galloway.

Once we arrived, we had the plan for the day explained to us. After this, we were taken straight to laser tag (an hour-and-a-half activity), put into two teams of seven (blues and reds) and given out guns. The guns were connected, with a wire, to headbands, with three sensors on each one.

To eliminate a player you must shoot one of the sensors on a player's head; if the player gets hit 10 times they are out until the next round. The arena contains multiple wooden barriers, blocking you from gunfire, and a wooden castle in the middle

provided to us for free. We spent an hour in the lovely Waterfront Cafe.

Following this appetising lunch, we were taken to the archery ground. Once we arrived, we were taught how to hold a bow,

to get the hang of it and started getting closer and closer to the bullseye.

Finally, we went to our last activity, 'the wobbly waterpark'. We suited-up in our wetsuits, pulled on our buoyancy aids, and strapped on our helmets. Once we got to the dock, we jumped off and swam towards the first inflatable, which had a slide on both sides. The next one that we swam to was a large slide - it was less steep than the last but was just as fun. The last one we got to go on was a trampoline connected to a very hard obstacle course. Even though it was hard to jump on the trampoline, due to the amount of water contained inside it, it was still ridiculously fun.

This terrific trip allowed younger people to get some once-in-a-lifetime experiences and allowed for any family from any background to get their children a good trip for the summer, as it was free and very accessible. If this trip was held again, I would recommend to everyone to try to get their spot.

Pictured are young people on the Glenkens Youth Group trip on the 'wobbly waterpark' at the Galloway Activity Centre - photograph courtesy of Beata, Glenkens Youth Group lead



which blocks you from getting shot from all sides. Even though I was not very good at it, I found it fun.

After that action-packed activity we collected our lunch, which consisted of a roll, crisps and a chocolate bar, all of which were

how to aim and what to and what not to do. Once we had learned how to use the bows, we started shooting. Just like laser tag, I was bad at archery, but I still enjoyed it. At the start of the session I couldn't even hit the target, but after a couple of tries, I started

SHOP LOCAL

Galloway food hub

seasonal good food

GALLOWAY FOOD HUB

A local, online, farmers market.

Open every other week for collection from Dalry or delivery within the Glenkens.

gallowayfoodhub.org.uk

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CatStrand's new youth intern

Ella Campbell, the CatStrand's new youth intern, tells the Gazette a bit about herself and why she's so excited to take on the role.

Hi, my name is Ella Campbell and I'm a 16 year-old girl living in Dalry.

Many of my achievements have been thanks to the CatStrand. When I moved here from Leeds three years ago, I was worried I would lose my love for drama and music, as it is a small area, but my passion has only expanded since I moved here.

During my time at the CatStrand,

I have been given many incredible opportunities from the team. I gained a Saltire certificate for doing 20 hours of volunteering whilst helping with the 6-10 year-old drama group when I was 14, which I really enjoyed doing.

I also had my first ever gig when I was 14. This was the first ever time that I got to sing my own lyrics in front of an audience which opened up more opportunities like working with Dumfries Music Collectives, who kindly helped me to start a songwriting mentorship with Sarah Jane Scouten, who is the nicest lady to work with on my music ever, and I would love to do that again.

I also got to perform at Youth Beatz with Dumfries Music Collectives (DMC) in 2023 and 2024, which was a joy and I loved

it, mostly because of how kind the people who work at DMC are, and I will always take any opportunity that they give me.

I also do the CatStrand Youth Players pantomimes which are an annual thing that Brian Edgar does, and the pantomimes are only expanding and getting bigger and better each year. Last year I was lucky enough to get to play Cinderella and I got to write a song for the pantomime too, and perform it.

I am now starting my new internship at the CatStrand as Youth Music Coordinator, which I applied to because I just know it will be amazing to work with more young people and share my ideas.

Thank you for reading this and see you at the CatStrand!

Best wishes, Ella :)



Another new face at LING

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) have welcomed a new member onto their team - John Muir, who will have taken on the role of Community Inclusion Leader.

A resident of New Galloway, John brings over a decade of experience in community engagement, volunteer management, and the development of health and wellbeing programmes.

He has worked extensively with local organisations, including Dumfries and Galloway Council where he served as an

Active Schools and Community Sport Officer, and Stewartry Rugby Club, where he holds the position of director of rugby.

John has successfully collaborated with external stakeholders such as NHS Social Health teams, local businesses, and charities to deliver impactful community programmes. He is particularly passionate about mental health initiatives and has worked on projects that promote inclusion and wellbeing.

In his new role, John looks forward to working with the LING trustees and local volunteers to drive the trust's project work forward, fostering stronger connections within the community and enhancing access to health and wellbeing activities.

If you would like to get in touch with John, you can contact him at john.muir@ling.org.uk



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Carsphairn Community Woodland welcomes their third pre-apprentice

Carsphairn resident Shaun McClune is the newest forestry pre-apprentice to benefit from the training scheme offered at Carsphairn Community Woodland (CCW).

Shaun has started a six month contract with the CCW team and will be working in a whole variety of woodland jobs, with access to a range of certificated training opportunities. He is the third pre-apprentice to train with CCW, under the supervision of Andy, our community forest supervisor. Both his predecessors

completed their training successfully and moved on to positive destinations.

With previous experience of planting with his uncle (who pointed out the opportunity for the pre-apprentice programme to Shaun when he saw it advertised), Shaun says he is enjoying the role so far and appreciates the emphasis that CCW puts on providing opportunities for younger people as he has found employment options limited in the rural areas he has always lived in. He's hopeful that the training provided by CCW will provide a foundation for a career in forestry.

Shaun brought his two younger brothers to help with tree planting at our recent volunteer day, which resulted in a good number of young trees in the ground at Muirdrochwood.

Shaun's role is funded thanks to support from Glenkens & District Community Fund and The National Lottery Heritage Fund Scotland, and is part of the 'Woodlands Plus' project managed by McNabb Laurie through his role with Dumfries & Galloway Woodlands.

*Alison McLeod,
CCW Development
Officer*



McNabb Laurie of D&G Woodlands, visited the woodland to meet with Shaun



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Positive momentum as local education discussions continue

Talks on education have progressed after last issue's well-received Education and Learning event.

Hosted by the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT), the event was set up in support of the Community Action Plan (CAP) to have people think differently about education in the Glenkens.

As a direct result of this event, members of the CAP Steering Group and Stewart Gibson, chair of Dalry Schools Parent Council, met with Gillian Brydson, Executive Director of the regional council's Education Skills & Community Wellbeing Department, in late July. It was an honest but productive meeting about the challenges of rural education, and came out with a commitment to working constructively and pro-actively together to achieve the best outcomes for our young people.

You can find the full note of the meeting on the 'Education and Learning' page of the Glenkens Hub www.glenkens.scot, but the key actions were for Gillian and the Dalry School Parent Council to continue the conversation about what education provision for children aged two to sixteen in the Glenkens could look like, and for

the CAP Steering Group, through GCAT, to pursue conversations about a 16+ 'Skills Campus' in the Glenkens.

This is very ambitious and would be very hard to achieve but with the right partners on board, the Glenkens is a great place for such a facility. We are in the centre of the region, we have decades of work on land-based industry coming into the area, whether agriculture, wind or forestry, and of course we are a very committed community, dedicated to putting things in place to ensure our local economy and people can thrive.

While it is a long journey ahead, there is a commitment and a degree of momentum now that is very encouraging and will



AI-generated rendition of an eco-build learning campus in the Glenkens

hopefully be fostered on both sides. More updates to come so watch this space!

Helen Keron, Executive Manager, GCAT

Our Glenkens primary schools



Clockwise from top left:

At Dalry Nursery this term have been baking biscuits, looking at bugs and visiting Dalry library enjoy Bookbug sessions.

The Kells P5/6/7 class have been creating games to help them develop their mental maths strategies and researching WW2.

Children in the P1/2/3 class at Dalry enjoyed collecting apples for the Soup Social event.

The P1-5 pupils at Kells have set up a cafe to learn about money.

In the P4/5/6/7 class at Dalry they are learning about 'Incredible Inventions'.



All change for Glenkens schools

This academic year sees a complete reshuffle for our local schools with a new acting head teacher for the Glenkens Primaries Partnership of Kells and Dalry, as well as a new head teacher for both Dalry Secondary and Castle Douglas High School. We spoke to Stephen and Brogan to learn a little about them and their new roles:

Stephen Foster, Head Teacher, Dalry Secondary

What brought you and your family to the Glenkens?

My family and I were excited to move to the area because of the rural experience offered that is different to the experience of living in Ayrshire for most of my life. We wanted to buy a house with character and renovate it whilst feeling part of a community.

We had wanted to move to the area when I first started teaching but circumstances didn't align to allow us to do so. We were excited to move into the Glenkens area nearly five years ago. The learning curve has been steep but in addition to teaching I have learnt new skills such as roofing, joinery, plumbing and brick laying that I have had to employ within my house.

What do you guys like most about it?

I have been impressed with

the community spirit, the friendliness of people and how welcome we have been made to feel. My experiences with the pupils and parents in school and outside of school have been so positive. It is now the norm to see people that we know when we are out and about and it is great to chat and mix with the community.

Where/what were you teaching before taking the post as Head at Dalry/CD?

I came into teaching after a career in ASDA and my first permanent job was at the Douglas Ewart. I then worked in a number of authorities before returning to Dumfries and Galloway when I started at Dalbeattie High school. This is when we permanently relocated.

Last year I was the acting Headteacher at the first school I worked which felt like a full circle when I returned to the

Douglas Ewart. The opportunity then arose to apply to be Head teacher at schools I was already part of the community with and I jumped at the chance of a permanent post.

What are your aspirations for the post; are there any key changes/improvements you plan to make?

My aspiration as a Head Teacher is for my schools to be the difference for my pupils. I believe the strength of the positive relationships that we have with our pupils gives them the platform to be successful and it is very important to me that their voices are heard.

I am excited to grow my school community to reach their potential in partnership with my staff, pupils and my parents and carers.

And for the Secondary, how does the next term look - any key topics, trips, partnership



working, etc coming up?

I am currently working on engaging with our wider community to secure partnerships that will be of benefit to my pupils.

I would request that local businesses please make contact with the school so that we can explore mutually beneficial ways to support each other and develop our communities. My door is always open.

To get in touch you can call the school office on 01644 430 259 or email Stephen at gw12fosterstephen@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Brogan Murray, Acting Head Teacher, Glenkens Primaries Partnership

Hi, I am Mrs Brogan Murray, the current Acting Head Teacher of Dalry Primary and Nursery and Kells Primary School.

I have really enjoyed joining the Glenkens partnership and getting to know the communities a bit better.

I grew up in the Stewartry so have many links to the area already. I received a warm

welcome from children, staff, and families, which was great.

This year we will be focusing on improving our school community further, by improving communication between home and school and aiming to raise attainment and engagement in Numeracy and Literacy.

If any parents or members of the community

would like to get in touch, please call the school office

on 01644 430 105 and I'd be happy to meet with you, or you can email me at gw12murraybrogan@ea.dumgal.sch.uk





As the Summer comes to an end, the Loch Ken Trust's seasonal ranger, Jason Wilding, reflects on the 2024 season.

Well, as the summer starts to fade away, two less minutes every day, kids of all ages have all gone back to school, work, back to the normal daily grind.

For those that live and work around Loch Ken we are left with a little breathing space; quieter roads, parking space on the lay-bys, fewer tents and tourists. The small hope of an Indian summer still exists - just a few more days of sunshine to enjoy the beautiful outdoors before autumn really kicks in.

We can't claim it's been a summer of any great note, just a few nice days here and there. The season has been quiet in comparison to previous years on visitor numbers; factors to consider are weather and the rise in cost of living.

The Loch Ken Trust Ranger Service has carried out over 200 patrols this season, along with launching our Volunteer Scheme. We can proudly say we've run a series of successful events over the year, starting with the Loch Ken 'meet the ranger service' event in March, our Youth Water Safety Awareness Programme at the Galloway Activity Centre

A look back over summer on the loch

(recognised nationally as an example of best practice), a Ranger Education Programme for local primary schools, collaborating with Propagate on a Bio Blitz (where people work together to identify as many species of wildlife as possible in a given area within a set time frame) at Lochhill Farm, Crossmichael, our highly successful Loch Ken Family Fun Day, where the weather was fantastic, and our Ranger Cookout, a part of the fantastic Glenkens Food Month.

We must thank everyone who has supported the ranger service over the spring and summer by giving their time, energy, experience and enthusiasm to help keep the visitors and residents safe, the loch clean and the wildlife and habitats protected for future summers to come.

For the ranger service, as our visitor management focus lessens, we are moving towards our autumn and winter work programmes and, with the invaluable help of our volunteers, hope to be working on more ecological themes, considering how external factors are likely to affect the wildlife, plant life and aquatic life in and around the Loch.

More of that in the future - for now in this little breathing space



LOCH KEN TRUST RANGER
07539 029 175 / 07918 300 889

we can look back on some of the stunning views of Loch Ken we have captured over the past few months.



Helping young people to stay safe on the water

Our Youth Water Safety Awareness Programme draws to a close for 2024, with the final



sessions being held this October before the water temperatures start to cool.

To date over 200 young people have received this free training, learning vital skills for keeping safe on the water and also how to paddle board.

We would like to thank our funders, the Holyrood Trust, Drax Group UK and Dumfries & Galloway Area Committee Youth Fund for supporting the programme, without whom this would not be possible.

The demand for these sessions has far exceeded our expectations and we are

grateful to have been able to provide sessions to each of our local high schools and various organisations and groups.

We would like to thank the fantastic team at the Galloway Activity Centre and everyone involved in the programme. We are proud to be promoting the Water Safety Code to young people in our region.

SAVE THE DATE

The **Loch Ken Trust AGM** will be held on **Tuesday 12 November** at 7pm in the Smiddy, Balmacellan.

Eco Feature

Observations from the saddle

sponsored by



The overwhelming sensation as I continue my cycle rides exploring Scotland's rapidly changing landscapes, is that the more I see the less I know.

I am becoming the ignorant observer. But as I meander through our incredible and varied countryside, it is slowly dawning on me that a lack of knowledge is not always the weakness one might imagine, but that perhaps it is something to embrace.

This might seem at odds with a societal norm where expertise and science are held in the highest esteem, but allow me a moment to indulge my thesis before concluding I've simply spent too long in the saddle! My reasoning goes something like this...

On this trip I am often travelling through unknown environments for the first time,

seeing through fresh eyes and witnessing as an observer, rather than a participant. It's the same sensation you get when arriving on a plane or stepping off a train in a new country. For those special first few hours everywhere you look, and everything you witness, is somehow exaggerated and enhanced, as if seeing with heightened awareness. A few days later, those elements which initially enchanted are simply subsumed into the background, however hard you look. They become the familiar, the normal, the "how it is". But is the accepted norm always right?

On the bike, I have no option but to experience using a range of senses that most often lie dormant, or at best repressed, when cosseted in the blurred cocoon of a car, train or bus. From your seat, as in a movie, you are detached from and pass through the landscape, rather than exploring from within. By literally smelling the land (not always pleasant!), tasting the air, and feeling the wind on my cheeks (or hopefully

my back), cycling connects me to my surroundings, with each new bend re-stimulating and invigorating, inviting investigation. I remain constantly free of the burden of familiarity and the accustomed, where things "just are", and find myself questioning rather than accepting.

By way of example, whilst cycling through a horrendously hagged peat bog, horribly eroded through overgrazing for decades, I asked a local expert why it was like that. Her reply was that folk simply state "it's always been thus", as though the devastation was not only how things have always been, but why nothing needs doing about it now. There are endless examples of the depletion of our lands, some of which are openly visible, while you have to learn to spot others even though the damage might be greater. There are many shades of green.

I am yet to fully rationalise where this slow contemplation of place leaves me, but as I transition between different land uses and management

approaches, I am left with a overwhelming sense that our land and seas are becoming increasingly commoditised and commercialised. Siloed and simplified. Managed from behind a desk by an accountant's spreadsheet. Neat. Each individual modification incrementally small, but together resulting in generational changes that quickly become the accepted norm. The "how it is".

I cannot simply undo these feelings. They don't just resolve themselves. But when I see inspirational exemplars of positive future thinking (of which there are an every increasing number), it allows me to question.

As the pedals keep turning and I continue my descent into ignorance, I will be exploring these and other themes in a visual talk of my cycles to date, together with a workshop, at the CatStrand on 9 November. I don't offer answers, for they lie within the hands of others, but together we might provoke a conversation or two.

Ted Leeming



Glenkens Freecycle

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Apply to the Galloway Glens legacy scheme

The Galloway Glens Scheme came to an end in September 2023 after a fantastic five years supporting the communities of the Ken/Dee valley.

The legacy of the Galloway Glens can be seen in many concrete ways, such as the Watson Birds Trail, a suite of new footpaths across the area and in revitalised community buildings and assets.

However, it also supported communities in many other ways and made a very real difference to the lives of the people who live here. It was a Dumfries and Galloway Council Environment Team project, administering more than £6 million of National Lottery Heritage Funding and other funds over the five years, supported by the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere.

To further this legacy, the Galloway Glens Scheme is offering small maintenance grants to ensure that legacy Galloway Glens-funded projects can continue to deliver great outcomes for the communities they serve. £45,000 is available to be spent over the next three years, with the first round closing for applications on the 4 November.

Applications can be made for revenue or capital funding, and the amount requested should be under £5,000 and proportional to the size of the initial Galloway Glens funding. This legacy funding is intended to extend delivery of the outcomes of projects originally funded, and this will be the main criteria for assessment.

The application process is being managed by the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT), one of the key Galloway Glens legacy partners.

Applications and enquiries should therefore be sent to Helen Keron, GCAT Executive Manager, at helen@catstrand.com

Details about the application process can be found on the Glenkens Hub at www.glenkens.scot/galloway-glens-legacy-fund

Ed Forrest, GSA Biosphere director and member of the Galloway Glens legacy fund steering group, said: "Galloway Glens

was an incredible five years of place-based activity that brought together communities, agencies and local organisations around a common theme of protecting, enhancing and understanding our unique natural and cultural heritage. Whilst the project itself may now be over, this funding offers an opportunity to ensure the legacy lives on by revisiting activities that created some of the shared memories and ensuring the upkeep of the infrastructure that was created."



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Partners: Dumfries & Galloway, Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere, Galloway Glens Legacy Fund

The Optimistic Environmentalist

Reducing your home energy bills - Part Seven: Examples of energy-efficient technology

Passive technology or housing

This is where energy is not used to maintain heating or lighting; for instance, insulation helps to maintain a comfortable temperature in buildings; stove fans move heat around a room for a more consistent temperature.

We have sun tunnels in our garage that passively carry light from the outside in; this works surprisingly well. These are good for rooms without windows, north-facing, etc.

Technologies for generating space heating and hot water

(a) Electric combination ('combi') boilers are a traditional way of space and water heating in your house. Just like gas or oil combi-boilers, you can set either water or heating when needed and are fairly efficient. The downside with electric combi-boilers is they can use electricity at peak times and may be costly to run. In contrast, Tepeo's zero emission boiler (ZEB) can easily be installed just like a gas or oil boiler but uses electricity at off-peak times to charge up a 'heat battery' to supply heating during the day.

(b) Air-source or ground-source heat pumps for water and heating (ASHP/GSHP). These take heat from the air or ground and use it in your house or building so the running costs are minimal. They work well in the right circumstances but may need wider-bore water pipes or larger radiators so may be more cost effective as part of a refurbishment rather than an add-on unless you have some funding.

They can also be harder to install in some buildings, eg some flats, although this is improving. If you want to heat a single flat, a subset of rooms in a building, or a building that is not used often, you might be better to use an alternative efficient heating systems (see ideas further on in this article).

For maximum efficiency, heat pumps work at lower temperatures than boilers and are really good at maintaining a fairly constant temperature. People are uncomfortable when the temperature in a building goes up and down; keeping it consistent increases comfort. Some people that have heat pumps have small additional heating equipment for particular rooms, situations, relatives or visitors.

Heat pumps are currently expensive to buy and install but costs are reducing, eg Octopus Energy have designed a lower cost pump which they install themselves.

Specific technologies

Different technologies can fit into your lifestyle. For instance, you can have separate heating and water systems so that if one breaks, the other still works. If you live in a room, bedsit, part of a building or a building that is difficult to install bigger systems into, you have a limited budget or rent your accommodation, you can get different pieces of technology to suit you.

(a) High heat retention storage (HHRS) heaters. These are particularly efficient and thus economic storage heaters. Traditional storage heaters often leaked heat during the day and ran out in the evening when heat is needed. As the name suggests, HHRS heaters are very well insulated, minimise heat losses, and often have thermostats and timers so you can have the heat level you want, when you want it. Some also have 'landlord' settings so that the temperature cannot be pushed up too high accidentally or by a non-bill payer, eg in holiday accommodation. As advised in Part Five of this series, contact the Energy Saving Trust and Dumfries & Galloway Council for advice for loans and grants.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan
(see Part 8 for more technology)



Top: Sun tunnel external

Above: Sun tunnel in a windowless garage




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The Garroch walled garden

The Garroch Walled Garden is one of the Glenkens' hidden gems.

Nestled within the ancient oak woodlands of the Garroch Estate, the garden is a unique and special place. It has been brought back to life by a group of local volunteer gardeners.

The project to restore the walled garden, under the support of Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING), began in 2018. It was made possible by five years of funding from the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership and the dedication of the volunteer gardeners known as the Garroch Garden Group.

When the project first began, the garden was overgrown, wild and drastically in need of some care. One of the first steps was for the landowner Nick Roper-Caldbeck, to let his pigs into the garden to help break up some of the vegetation and loosen the soil in the area where the vegetable plots now are.

The gardeners were then able to get to work designing and building the vegetable beds, a large polytunnel and a small greenhouse. There are now approximately 10 plots where a large variety of flowers, vegetables and herbs are grown.

In its heyday during the 1920s (or thereabouts) the Garroch Walled Garden would have been the envy of any modern-day grower. Garden produce was sent by train from New Galloway station (in Mossdale) to Covent Garden in London.

The original garden plans show that the south-facing wall of the garden was covered in heated greenhouses which were used to grow fruits such as melons and even peaches!

Plans like this are of course a little ambitious, and the Garroch Garden Group has sought to adopt a light-touch approach that has ultimately

bountiful crop. Several fruit bushes such as blackcurrants, raspberries and blueberries have also been planted.

The group garden organically without the use of synthetic chemical pesticides and fertilisers and we encourage wildlife around the garden with abundant wildflower areas, log piles and nest boxes.

Jack Barton, from New Galloway, joined the Garroch Garden Group in 2022 with his partner Katy and has since become group coordinator.

"When I discovered the walled garden it quickly became one

On the third Saturday of each month we hold a garden get-together. We have a picnic and work on various tasks around the garden such as pruning, planting and repairs.

created a lovely, peaceful atmosphere in the garden. The centerpiece of the garden is the long pergola, planted with twenty-four roses and climbers, which put on a fabulous display during the summer months.

All around the garden are a selection of apple trees, some of which are very old but still hang heavy with apples in the autumn. The garden has its own apple press, allowing us to make the most of the

of my favourite places to spend time," says Jack. "On a sunny summer's day the garden is bursting with flowers, bees and butterflies and it is always such a peaceful and relaxed environment in which to unwind."

The Garroch Garden Group has now become a small group of people growing flowers and vegetables together in a convivial and beautiful environment. Plots of various sizes can be rented



for a small annual fee of £25, which goes towards buying communal tools and plants,

etc. "We are very keen to welcome new members to the group who enjoy gardening and good company," says Jack.

"You do not need to have a garden plot to be a member of the group - some members come to help out with other garden tasks. On the third Saturday of each month we hold a garden

get-together. We have a picnic and work on various tasks around the garden such as pruning, planting and repairs. These get-togethers are a chance to make new friends and contribute to a fantastic local project which keeps the garden a place for everyone to enjoy."

For more information about joining the group please contact Jack Barton on 07530 529 192 or jhbarton97@gmail.com



A focus on food

Dalry School permaculture garden

Over the summer a group of Permaculture Design students, as part of a course run by Propagate, developed

a plan to revitalise the Dalry School garden.

Propagate is a community interest company specialising in local, community and sustainable food projects. The Permaculture Design course in

Galloway is a collaboration between Propagate and permaculture educator, Lusi Alderslowe, who is author of the book *Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share in Education: the Children in Permaculture*

Manual.

The group's brief from the Dalry Schools Parent Council was to design a food growing and maintenance plan for the garden that would best make use of the polytunnel and raised beds already situated in the garden. The group were also asked to develop ideas for how the wider garden space could best be used for outdoor learning.

The detailed design, pictured here, includes plans for a flexible annual food-growing calendar that can be adapted to the needs of the school. It includes suggestions for soil improvement, composting and planting for biodiversity and pollinators.

There are also ideas for creating spaces within the garden for

reflection, play and outdoor learning.

The next step is to consult children, teachers and parents to gauge wider needs and aspirations for the garden. These findings will feed into a working action plan to be taken forward by the school's Parent Council.

With a renewed focus on the garden, our hope is to create a vibrant, productive outdoor place for the children to call their own and look after. This will be a safe space for children of all needs and sensitivities to play, learn and grow, and be nurtured by nature.

If you would like to get involved please either call the school office on 01644 420 259 or email the Parent Council at dalrypcchair@gmail.com



Bairn Banter seed to spoon

The Carsphairn children's group, Bairn Banter have had a very productive and hands-on learning experience focusing on producing their own food for free.

Children and parents began the garden project in the beginning of the year, when they took responsibility for a section of disused ground beside the village hall and looked into purchasing a raised bed and bags of compost (funded by Blackcraig Windfarm Fund through Carsphairn Community Council).

This then allowed the children to begin sowing pea, carrot and cabbage seeds, plus onion sets and donated potato tubers.

Each Saturday the

group of children and parents would carefully tend to the micro-vegetable-patch by weeding, thinning and watering to ensure the best plant growth throughout the spring and early summer months.

The children engaged in a wealth of learning opportunities from bug-hunting, colour-matching, plant identification, soil structures and overall soil care and plant welfare.

Come harvest time, the children were thrilled to be able to savour the fruits of their labour, feasting on the tasty peas and strawberries picked fresh from the plants.

The group also dug up some of the plants so they could share the produce amongst families, to take



home for them to enjoy.

The children collectively decided that they would like to make some soup from their garden veg, so parents helped the children to make this happen. Vegetables were dug up or picked, washed and then prepped ready for the pot.

And it was certainly worth it, as it was the "most delicious soup that I have ever tasted," according to one happy Bairn Banter attendee (aged four).

*Melissa Ade,
Bairn Banter*



in the Glenkens



Glenkens Food Month showcased a feast of local foodie events and activities over the month of September.

There were community Pop Up Burger BBQ's across all the Glenkens communities, an Open Bar Night at the CatStrand with Brian Edgar shaking up storm of local gin cocktails. Carsphairn Community Market

was well attended with loads of local produce, home made preserves, fresh vegetables, home baking, plants and crafts, on offer, and the Ukrainian and Syrian Buffet at Dalry Town Hall was fully booked with an incredible 67 diners enjoying a wide variety of delicious, colourful dishes.

The Famous Fungal Forage was also a sell-out event, taking place on the Garroch Estate, and the Feast and a Film at the Glenkens Community Centre saw a packed-

out room enjoying incredibly cooked Galloway Food Hub produce before settling down to watch Rooted, a film produced by Propagate, featuring many of our local producers.

A big thank you goes out to Dumfries and Galloway Council who provided the funding to coordinate and organise this year's Food Month.

*Jo Jackson,
Glenkens Food Month
Coordinator, GCAT*

Carsphairn Community Market

As part of the Glenkens Food month, Carsphairn held their annual community market in Lagwyne Hall.

The event took place in collaboration with the local children's group Bairn Banter and hosted a wide selection of stalls from Carsphairn and beyond.

There were local producers of fruit and vegetables, honey, jams/preserves, skilled crafters,

fundraising stalls, baked goods, a mini leather workshop, a bric-a-brac table, information stalls and exotic hand-made rugs.

To accompany the exclusive shopping experience, a wide variety of delicious refreshments were available to buy and enjoy within the pop-up café/lounge area or outside at picnic tables in the garden area.

Proceeds from the Bairn Banter fundraising table and the tea/coffee and cake sales came to

a fantastic total of £168.16. This will go towards the annual children's **Halloween party** which will take place on **Saturday 2 November** from 10-11.45am (all children welcome!).

"We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who made this fun community event such a great success, and to all those who helped us to raise funds for the children's Halloween party," said Bairn Banter organiser, Melissa Ade.



Famous fungal forage

This year's much-loved fungal forage took place in the Garroch Estate woodland, by kind permission of Nick Roper Caldbeck.

Under the guidance of

Emma from Balmacellan, we meandered through different habitats finding and identifying all sorts of wonderful mushrooms - edible and non-edible alike!

Some attendees had opportunities to share their knowledge and everyone went home wiser. A fabulous day, thanks to all who took part.

Abi Mordin



Scouting in the Glenkens

Being involved in Scouting develops skills for life, builds confidence, offers new challenges and the opportunity to experience adventurous activities.

Youngsters from six years of age can join a Beaver Colony, moving up to Cubs at eight years of age and then into Scouts from 10½.

A very active Cub Scout Pack has been running in New Galloway for many years under the expert

Leadership of Heather McIntosh and ably assisted by Hannah Fitch.

Sadly, there currently is no Beaver Colony or Scout Troop in the Glenkens. This means youngsters are not getting an introduction to Scouting in their early years. In addition, those attending and enjoying Cubs who would like to continue in the Scouting movement, taking advantage of the benefits and skills developed as part of Scouting, cannot continue to do so. The nearest Scout Troops are in Castle Douglas and Minigaff, both of which have waiting lists, even if participants could arrange to travel the distance.

Adults are urgently required to become involved so that a Beaver Colony and especially a

Scout Troop can be re-established. All training and support will be given to anyone willing to come along and give it a go. There is a purpose-built scout hut in New Galloway, owned and maintained by Glenkens Scout Committee.

Whether you're able to offer occasional help or a regular commitment, please do get in touch.

We want young people to have the chance to dream big, give it a go, and build skills for life.

But it's not just the young people who benefit from Scouts. Volunteering is good for boosting your wellbeing, developing CV-friendly skills, making friends and building memories. If you want to support young people or if you're more comfortable planning an adventure from the sidelines, we've got space for you.

Our purpose and method

Scouts actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

In partnership with adults, young people take part in fun indoor and outdoor activities. They learn by doing, by sharing in spiritual reflection and by taking responsibility. They make choices, undertake new and challenging activities, and they



live their Scout Promise.

For further information or to get involved please contact Christine Rankin at dalgowantraining@aol.com or 07749 212 201/01644 4202 59, or Heather McIntosh on 01644 420 375. You can also find further information at www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer

Christine Rankin

Pictures are of Scouting trips and camps, to illustrate the potential opportunities



Glenkens Cub Pack

The Glenkens Cubs have been on holiday over the summer but have still been busy.

Alba received the Thomas Ferguson Cup at Carsphairn Show for gaining the most points in the juvenile class.

Freya played her part in the violin concert. The Jardine family were successful at the Stewartry Show, showing sheep, and Cole won a prize at the Corsock Show for his entry of eggs.

Pippin helped plant trees at Glaisers, Corsock, and won a cup at the Great Corsock Show for her miniature garden. Well done all!

We had a sales table at the

Scottish Alternative Games and raised £90.43. Thank you to those who bought and to those who donated, especially Agnes, who made delicious tablet for us; it just flew off the table. Agnes has been a supporter of Scouting for many years and we thank her for her kindness.

A great deal of work goes into the Games and we thank Brian and his team for making the day so special each year.

Changes in Scouting during 2024 have left us looking for one Trustee and one young person to join our team. If you would be interested, please get in touch with either Heather (01644 420 375) or Hannah (mcandrew.hannah@yahoo.co.uk).

*Yours in Scouting,
Heather and Hannah*

Forty years in the Glenkens

New Galloway resident, Robin Hood, who is experienced with fundraising in the charity sector, is offering to give talks to local groups on how to initiate a successful fundraising campaign.

Robin said: "I am offering to give an informal talk about my life in the Glenkens over the last 40 years, the challenges I have faced, my ups and downs including the birth of my daughter, Alex in 1989 and a near-fatal car crash that changed my life in 1992. Also how the wonderful people of Dumfries and Galloway have supported my family and helped me raise millions of pounds for two different charities."

The talk, which he has titled '40 years in the Glenkens', would be free and Robin asks for a time slot of at least 45 minutes.

If you feel your group or club may benefit from one of Robin's talks you can contact him at robin150656@gmail.com

Questions about the proposed Galloway National Park



With some pretty strong opinions quickly forming on the proposed Galloway National Park, I thought I might carry out a little research to help me make up my own mind, noting that as I write this I have yet to decide my position.

Whilst still in the early days of information gathering, my initial findings suggest that, above all else, not all National Parks (NPs) are the same. The way they are structured and run varies significantly and is unique to the attributes of each and the communities that lie therein. Here's a few initial discoveries as I continue my search.

On tourism, the Northumberland NP, with about 1.2 million visitors a year is very different from the Lake District NP with 22 million. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs has 4.1 million (with 150 volunteer rangers) whilst the Cairngorms NP has 2.1 million visitors a year (with 14 full time and up to seven additional seasonal rangers). Tourism generated £300m into the local Cairngorm economy in 2019, up 30% since 2009.

On housing, a report due shortly concludes that having NP status has not inflated house prices in the Cairngorms

NP compared to outside (prices have, however, risen through the Covid years both inside and out). A recent article shows that raising rates on second homes in Wales makes them less attractive. But to make this happen does not require National Park status, any local authority can deliver this.

On how a National Park is run, the Act of Parliament states a minimum 20% of Board members must be locally elected,

with 40% allocated by the local authorities and the remainder centrally. Does this mean 50% could be locally elected? And who decides? Could a NP in Galloway be structured and run by the people, for the people, the land and our future?

Once elected, one of the first duties of the Board (over 18-24 months) would be to consult locally to understand what locals want from their park. This would form the basis from which a National Park Plan is written before being authorised by the Minister, after which all Governments advisors and bodies are required to help deliver that plan. The extent to which local opinion influences the Plan I am yet to determine.

I am having to seriously ask myself if the additional funding for a national park would benefit the long term sustainability of our communities. As an example, the Cairngorms National Park has a budget of £16.2 million for 2024, of which 41% is for staff costs (Cairngorms total budget is for 2024 is nearer £28 million according to one report).

To give this local context, over five years the Galloway Glens

Park. These must be contrasted with what happens within our communities if we do not.

Before I decide which is better (not just for my own interests but for those of the wider community), it would be useful to know whether a Galloway National Park would be...

- A park run by and with local people, supported by experts in their various fields?
- A park that improves the potential of real job opportunities and training, allowing our young to remain in, and return to, our amazing local area?
- A park that can protect against house inflation, help deliver for known housing shortages and protect against 'second home syndrome'?
- A park that delivers a year-round sustainable tourism strategy, with infrastructure, services and management in place from day one to protect and enhance our unique local environments?
- A park without 'ivory towers', where the staff are embedded in, and part of, the community?

• A park with a truly sustainable transport policy, focussed towards public and low carbon

transport?

- A park that recognises local uniqueness, for both land and sea?
- A park that incentivises new thinking and innovation, without being afraid to fail?
- A park with soft borders and sensible buffer zones?
- A park that recognises all elements of our landscape,

developing voluntary partnership approaches for the greater benefit of all?

• A park that thinks towards the future and not just today or yesterday?

The formal consultation on the National Park starts in November and continues until January 2025. I look forward to finding answers in the coming months that will allow me to decide one way or the other. As such, right now I am neither yes or no, but asking "what" and "how"?

I am hoping to arrange an open meeting with Grant Moir, chief executive of the Cairngorms National Park, on 20 November. If any readers have questions they would like me to ask, please email them to me at tedleeming@me.com and I will try to include them. Or please feel free to come along.

Ted Leeming, Dalry resident

Don't take anyone else's word for it - do your own research. Here are few pointers to get you started:

Galloway National Park information hub and consultation portal run by Nature Scot - www.newnationalparkgalloway.commonplace.is

A new report has just been published looking at the socio-economic benefits of NPs for Scotland through assessment of the two existing NPs, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs and the Cairngorms, over the last two decades - this can be found at www.scotlink.org
Scottish Government info on National Parks - www.gov.scot/policies/landscape-and-outdoor-access/national-parks

...right now I am neither yes or no, but asking "what" and "how"?

Landscape Partnership delivered some 40 community led projects on £1 million a year. I hear some saying that the money should be given to existing entities, and to this I simply ask if this is possible, how, who is looking into this and why hasn't this already happened? I want to hear these alternatives as I am sure others do. I know that there will be costs, compromises and consequences if we get a

The *Glenkens Gazette*, Glenkens Hub and Glenkens Community & Arts Trust do not have a view for or against the National Park proposal. We are, however, committed to helping our communities find the information they need to make up their own mind. To support this, we host an information page on the Hub and will be publishing articles in the *Gazette* periodically. If you have any questions about the proposal do get in touch and we will see if we can find the right people for an answer!

New Galloway community larder launch

From the community, for the community,' is Local Initiatives in New Galloway's (LING) focus on helping reduce food waste and make healthy food more accessible.

At the community larder launch, visitors were introduced to the community freezer, filled with freshly cooked takeaways of soups, mains, breads, puddings and cakes. People were also shown the larder shelves stocked with dried food donations and homemade jams, chutneys, etc. As intended, most people did not leave empty-handed!

The community larder is open for anyone to pop in, browse and help themselves on Mondays from 9-11.30am, Tuesdays from 11am-3pm, and Thursdays from 9am-6pm. Everything is free, but of course donations are always welcome.

The idea of the larder grew out of the initial concept of offering a warm space with some tea, cake and a chance to socialise. Since last September, our hub hosts have been creating sit-in lunches and tea-time takeaways, making use of food donations and some low-budget staples. Recipes demonstrating how meals can be made from surplus or foraged food are available in the larder.

People drop in on Thursdays to 'Hubbub', as it has come to be known, sometimes bringing a donation, and often stay around for a chat over coffee or to share some lunch.

The larder was the next step, bringing it all together. We are using food, not only from individual donations of unwanted cupboard staples, etc, but also donations from New Galloway Community Shop, local businesses like Galloway Pasta, the Ethical Dairy, the Galloway Food Hub and even the Castle Douglas Food Bank.

Our own Garroch Estate Walled Garden project also offers a source of donations of fruit and vegetables at times of plenty and growers there are keen to support the community larder.

Things have already begun evolving beyond the larder to the creation of essentially a sharing hub that goes beyond food. A popular feature at Hubbub is the sharing table, where you bring any unwanted items for others to take away, and in turn take what you like from what others have brought. We've had all kinds of things, from children's toys to a microwave oven. Visitors can also take, borrow, share or swap a book from the bookshelves in

the lesser hall, which are stocked up with a large variety of books - always fun to browse and already being used regularly. The Town Hall is also a Period Dignity Building, with a range of free period products available.

We are always looking for donations or ideas for sharing in whatever form possible - be it your time to help out, unwanted food or other items or even a monetary donation. Every little helps to make this project a lasting one - for everyone.

Support from D&G Council has enabled our Hub Hosts to gradually put in place all that

has been needed to open up the doors of the community larder.

Thanks to a very successful book sale and coffee morning

in January, with a generously supported raffle, we were able to buy our community freezer. This fundraiser was made possible entirely through volunteer input; volunteers have been a very important part of what has helped this project to grow and to thrive.

A small grant from the council's Climate Hub fund, administered by the Biosphere, will be enabling us to begin an outdoor venture. We plan to make a small-scale

contribution to New Galloway's outdoor spaces, adding to the work that has already been done by others. At the crossroads, there are already flowers and a plant table. There are raised herb beds. There is a walled-off patch of grass, owned and mown regularly by the council, at the foot of Wylie's Brae.

Our plan is to develop these as attractive community spaces, improving biodiversity. We are again very lucky for so many donations - of seeds, cuttings, plants, and of course of skills too. In particular, we will be working to engage children and young people in this, enriching their understanding of the importance of holding onto traditional methods of growing, harvesting, and feeding ourselves.

So why not join the revolution! Help us, help your community, and help the climate by reducing food waste. Through using food that would otherwise end up in land-fill to sustain our communities, both in body and soul, seems like a perfect solution for these trying times when the cost of living is rising ever higher. So let's share - our time, our resources, our skills; the more people who make use of the larder, and whatever else is on offer, the more successful the project will be. And the more our community will thrive.

If you would like to know more or get involved please email info@ling.org.uk

Ann Glaister

THE GLENKENS HUB

We've made a few new additions to the website to help readers keep up-to-date with what's going on in our communities.

Education & Learning page

As well as details of our local schools, the page now includes education reports, current consultations, and education in

the news to help readers keep up with developments in local education. At the bottom of the page there is also a resource section for extra-curricular activities, life-long learning, courses and jobs - www.glenkens.scot/education-and-learning.

Galloway National Park page

To help promote discussion about the new National Park proposal, we've set up a new page to help gather information

and resources into one place. It includes links to the official consultation being carried out by NatureScot - www.glenkens.scot/galloway-national-park-proposal.

Crossmichael Community web pages

We're delighted to have been able to provide a new home for Crossmichael community's web site - www.glenkens.scot/Crossmichael. Please get in touch if you'd like to add to your community's general information page (www.glenkens.scot/glenkens-communities) or to create further pages for your community as Crossmichael have done.

Community Spaces Google Calendars

If you've set up a Google

Calendar to help with booking your village/town community space, we can include this in your page on the Hub. Have a look at Glenkens Community Centre and Parton Village Hall's pages - www.glenkens.scot/community-spaces

Hosting Community Council Minutes

Glenkens Community Councils are very welcome to distribute their meeting minutes and agenda via the Glenkens Hub. We'll add the minutes to your Community Council page, and add the agenda to the meeting's calendar entry.

Please get in touch if you'd like to know more about any of the above at glenkenshub@hotmail.com

Afternoon tea anyone?

Balmaclellan Village Hall comes alive with events like our afternoon tea.

This event has become a cherished tradition, bringing together residents and visitors alike for an afternoon of socialising, delicious treats, and a taste of local hospitality.

This modest yet well-loved venue serves as the focal point for many community events. The hall is a cozy haven where locals and visitors can escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and enjoy the simple pleasures of good company and homemade food. The atmosphere is warm and welcoming, with tables adorned with white tablecloths and vases filled with freshly picked flowers

from our wonderfully kept garden.

The village hall is renowned for its spread of homemade goodies, lovingly prepared by local bakers. The selection typically includes an array of sandwiches, scones with cream and jam, and a variety of cakes that would rival any professional spread. The scones, in particular, are a highlight; still warm from the oven, and accompanied by generous dollops of cream and jam, they are a favourite among attendees.

The cakes, ranging from light Victoria sponges to rich chocolate, are not only delicious but also beautifully presented, showcasing the bakers' attention to detail and passion for their craft.

A community affair is what sets the Balmaclellan Village Hall

afternoon tea apart - a sense of community that pervades the event. It is not just about the food - it is about the people. The event is organised and run entirely by volunteers, many of whom have been involved for years. Their dedication is evident in every aspect of the afternoon, from the careful planning to the warm service provided to guests.

The afternoon tea is also an opportunity for the community to come together and to do some fundraising, with the proceeds going towards the upkeep of the village hall. This adds a sense of purpose to the gathering, reminding everyone of the importance of contributing to the collective wellbeing of the village.

A tradition worth preserving In an age where modern life often feels rushed and impersonal,



the Balmaclellan Village Hall afternoon tea stands as a testament to the enduring value of community and tradition. It is a celebration of the simple joys of life - good food, good company, and the pleasure of being part of a fantastic community.

Afternoon tea is held on the first Tuesday of the month - please call to book a place 07828 185 289.

Jackie Wells

Alternative Games tombola

As in past years, the St Margaret's Guild held a tombola stall at the Scottish Alternative Games in New Galloway in August.

This year the Guild voted to send any money raised to the CatStrand Young Creatives programme - this includes a wide variety of activities that are offered to young people, such as art, drama, dance, singing or music lessons for

piano, violin, ukulele or guitar.

The weather on the day looked less than promising but luckily the rain held off for most of the afternoon and the park was packed with people, locals and visitors alike.

Despite the attractions of gird 'n' cleek, snail racing and the tractor pull, we were mobbed - people really do love a tombola! Several people came round again and again, and it was non-stop until the prizes ran out.

The best moment was when a little girl, who had set her heart

on a Paddington bear she had spotted on the stall, won it with the first ticket her mother bought - the joy on her face was wonderful.

Many thanks to everyone for their generosity in donating the large and varied selection of prizes. We are delighted to report that £250 was raised for the CatStrand Young Creatives.

*Linda and Nicolette,
St Margaret's Guild*

**See article on front page
for more on the Alternative
Games...**



It's fine just to rock up to New Galloway Town Hall on a Wednesday evening from 6.30-8pm, or you can get in touch on jason.wilding@gmail.com or 07969 379 762

Also if you're a passing musician, whether camping nearby or on a world tour feel free to 'be here now' and drop in for a jam. *Jason Wilding*

Name the place

(from page 4)

Site Name - Whether Hill Wind Farm

Location - Between Carsphairn and Moniaive

Description - Whether Hill was the second commercial wind farm in the Glenkens after Windy Standard, its neighbour to the northwest. Windy Standard was the first wind farm to receive planning consent in Scotland, ahead of Hagshaw Hill in Lanarkshire, which was the first to be constructed way back in 1995.

Consisting of 14 turbines and with an installed capacity of 18.2MW, the Whether Hill site has been operational since 2007 and is owned by Scottish Power.

Interesting fact - In 2022, 78% of Scotland's electricity came from wind energy (the figure was zero in 1995), with 113% from combined renewables including hydro, making the country a net exporter of renewable energy.

What's the story?

Well we can't quite offer you Oasis in New Galloway but we 'definitely maybe' have the next best thing.

Do you play an instrument but struggle to find a Noel or Liam to share your passion? Why not give the Glenkens Ukulele

Group a try! If you play (or would like to play) ukulele, that's great, but we would also welcome a bit of guitar, harmonica, percussion or anyone who can sing.

We're a mixed bunch of ages and musical influences and we don't take ourselves too seriously, so as the autumn comes around, why not join us; 'some might say' you'll even enjoy it!

The Reverend James Mather

In previous editions of the *Gazette* readers might remember our feature on the three headstones in Dalry Kirkyard.

Articles spoke about how the Carson headstone was restored by relatives from Tasmania, and the latest, on the Reverend James Mather (located opposite the entrance to the Kirk), describing how ancestors got involved after the *Gazette* article and have generously contributed to its repair. The final stage for the Rev Mathers headstone is that it is being cleaned later this month, and there will be a follow-up story on this in the next edition of the *Gazette*.

In March 2024 my husband Stanley and I visited the grave of the Reverend James Mather, the great-great uncle of my husband, brother of his great grandfather William, in Dalry kirkyard.

At that point we had no idea that a benefactor was making efforts to have the now unstable headstone preserved.

My husband last saw it in 2011 whilst walking the Southern Upland Way. We mentioned our visit to friends who were holidaying with us in Gatehouse of Fleet at the time. On a more recent visit they saw a copy of the *Glenkens Gazette* and pointed out the article on the Dalry kirkyard headstone repairs to us. We are so pleased to read about the repairs and will be visiting in early October to see the finished work.

James Mather was born in Eaglesham, Renfrewshire, in 1839, the eldest of six children

of William Mather, a farmer, and his wife Marion Carswell.

He was ordained at Langbank in 1867 and shortly afterwards he married his first cousin, Henrietta Monteith Mather. They had two sons and two daughters, but sadly the girls had intellectual disabilities, probably inherited. The death of Henrietta, in 1877, left him with four young children to raise and he left the ministry in 1882 and moved to Lasswade for their education.

His mother Marion, by now a widow, came to live with her son until her death aged 94 in 1902.

In 1885 James re-entered the ministry and was called to St John's Town of Dalry. He was the minister of St John's United Presbyterian Church, later the United Free Church, of Dalry for 22 years from 1885 to 1907.

Less than two years later tragedy struck. On Christmas eve 1887 there was an ice-skating accident on a reservoir near his brother William's farm in Ayrshire. William had bought skates for his 11-year-old son William and for the Rev James's 18-year-old son James, who was learning

farming with his uncle. The boy, William, fell through the ice and disappeared; father William fell into the same hole trying to rescue him and then James also fell in a few yards away trying to help them both. James struggled desperately for some time and rescuers tried to help him, but all three drowned.

William's wife had three young children and was pregnant at the time. The baby, who was born four weeks later, was my husband's grandfather, also named William.

Six months later the Reverend James married his housekeeper, Agnes Nivison, but five years on she died of a brain tumour, leaving him with his two disabled daughters and his elderly mother. At some point his elder son William went to farm in Alberta, Canada.

The Reverend James was very active, enjoying walking and climbing. An intrepid traveller, climbing Mont Blanc without a guide, cruising to Norway with three friends, touring Europe and visiting the USA and Canada for five months, where he climbed in the Rockies. He also



walked the whole coast of Arran, 63 miles, in 20 hours.

He loved the countryside and wrote two volumes of poems, many of which extolled its beauties. Other poems described his travels, his friends and acquaintances, his horses and so on. They make interesting reading as an insight into his life, but I would not describe them as great poetry.

The new church in Dalry was completed in 1901, free of debt. He was well thought of in the parish and was presented with several generous gifts on his retirement to Castle Douglas in June 1907, but he only survived another nine months, dying of heart failure on 1 March 1908.

After that his two daughters moved to the care of the Crichton Royal Institution in Dumfries, where Henrietta died in 1922 and Marion in 1935.

Margaret Franklin

Persecution, families and feuds

The Glenkens in Covenanting times – persecution, families and feuds – is the subject of the next Glenkens Story event on Saturday 30 November.

The Glenkens were at the heart of the 17th century conflict between supporters of the Crown and Covenanters battling for religious freedom when the people endured decades of

violence, military occupation and persecution.

Following publication of his book *The Covenanters of the Glenkens* last year, the Rev Dr David Bartholomew has continued to research the subject, focusing on the people and families involved.

In his talk he will describe the impact of the conflict on the people of both sides, on those who changed sides, and the feuds which festered on for generations between and within families.

The talk will be held at the CatStrand, New Galloway, at 3pm on Saturday 30 November.

Tickets are available online at www.gcat.scot or by calling 01644 420 374.

There is also a Glenkens Story event on 9 November, titled *The Woodlands of Galloway*. In a full-day event we hope to explore how our woodlands have developed and how humans have related to them and used them – and how we may want to see them in future.

Mike Brown

The covenanter memorial in Dalry





Freiya, from Carsphairn, sent in this snap of her cat Butterbean who just can't wait to get her paws on the latest issue when it comes through the door...



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CHRISTMAS PANTO**

KING ARTHUR
BY PAUL REAKES



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If you would like an appointment,
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Write to:
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Dundeugh community art project

This community art project was derived from *The Book of Surrealist Games* by M Gooding & A Brotchie.

The idea was to turn the games into photography games, asking residents of Dundeugh to participate.

Dundeugh is a small community set in the forest of the Glenkens with just fourteen houses, built a number of years ago to house Forestry Commission workers.

I have been carrying out research for two years on the rise and fall of rural communities. One of the key areas I focussed on was looking at ways to unite residents, creating a sense of community, in small villages and scattered communities where residents must, often unwillingly, face change due to cutbacks and how this can affect the people that reside in that area.

The age range of the participants in the art project was between 60 and 70 years, which is where rural isolation can have a significant impact on people's mental wellbeing. Dundeugh residents involved

were Anne Dobbing, Margaret Anderson, Andrew Johnston and Mora Macbeth; as a collective they are The Dundeugh Artists.

I decided that it was important to undertake the project as a group, to bring people together outside, and connect humans and the environment. Working alongside each other, outdoors, using the materials that nature has to offer us in these beautiful surroundings was key to the outcomes.

With the connection of rural life and the environment, it was important to include a video, which was created by Kaelan Johnston, a Dundeugh-based film student of a slightly younger demographic. Kaelan's film looked at rural sustainability, linking to our project, and this was shown alongside the artworks at an exhibition at the CatStrand in New Galloway.

This video included interviews with local artist and historian, Robin Ade; local farmer and estate worker, Joe Wray; and local student and pasta maker, Sophie Tulloch. Showing the interviews with local people alongside the art created a tangible connection



Dundeugh Community Artists, left to right, Anne Dobbing, Margaret Anderson, Andrew Johnston and Mora Macbeth

between people and place.

If you would like to view Kaelan's film, you can find it at www.tinyurl.com/ruralsustainability.

I would like to thank CatStrand and their team for making the project possible by displaying the final results and hosting the local artist workshops. Without their help, we would not have had the chance to showcase the

group's work to the public, which was a key part, offering a real sense of worth to the work as the artists gained a huge amount from seeing and hearing about people's reaction to the works. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase art by people who have never before had the chance to express themselves through this medium, and it was a real success.

Vanessa Johnston BA(Hons)

The Mossdale painters

Every Wednesday morning, a lively group of folk arrive at Mossdale Village Hall, get themselves a mug of coffee, and chat amiably as they sort out the various materials they will be using over the next couple of hours.

They are folk from all over the Glenkens, with different backgrounds, and a fair range of ages.

The one thing they all have in common is a love of

producing art, in its many and various forms. There's some who love watercolour, some who prefer pastels, or inks, textures as well as colours. Every person is encouraged, regardless of experience, and there's always someone around the table willing to offer tips, if asked. The emphasis is not necessarily on producing perfect 'works of art', but rather on enjoying the opportunity to experiment, to play, to have fun. And we do.

We welcome additions to the group, whether they have been painting for years, or have never picked up a paintbrush - the ability to draw is not necessary, as the

wealth of ideas, materials, and techniques will give everyone the opportunity to express themselves.

If you're intrigued, or even just mildly curious, please feel free to drop in for a coffee and chat, and see what kind of things we do.

Our new 'term' begins Wednesday 11th September, and runs until 11 December. You'll be very welcome.

If you don't have transport, a lift may be possible.

For further details contact Carol Salsbury at mothermalarky@hotmail.co.uk or 07785 277 708.



CatStrand Young Creatives 2024

The CatStrand Young Creatives summer programme recently concluded, leaving a trail of inspiration and creative energy in its wake.

The programme, designed to engage and nurture young talents in various artistic disciplines by providing fun and engaging activities, proved a real hit with our Glenkens young people.

The workshops catered to a diverse range of interests and age groups. For the under-12s, activities included sessions on storytelling, drama, flower

pressing, eco art, needle felting, dance and animation.

Meanwhile, older young people delved into more specialised workshops such as music technology, where they learned to use industry-standard equipment like Logic Pro to produce their own tracks from scratch. There were also painting and textile workshops designed to give them new skills and confidence in different art mediums.

One of the highlights of the programme was a trip to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. We watched the musical *Legally Blonde* and immersed ourselves in the vibrant festival

atmosphere. Despite some unfavorable weather conditions, the experience was memorable for all involved.

Noteworthy success stories emerged from the programme, including the collaboration with young musician Josh White, a talented singer and songwriter, and a five-piece band RHELM. Through the Young Creatives 'Stranded Cat' project, they worked alongside professional artist and tutor to develop their music, culminating in plans to record their debut album in the studio in the coming months.

The programme bid farewell to Fiona Edgar as she heads off to University in September. Fiona

has been a fantastic intern who contributed significantly to the Youth Music Initiative project. She will be missed but we wish her all the best. Ella Campbell will be the next intern – welcome Ella!

The CatStrand Young Creatives 2024 summer programme not only offered a platform for budding talents to thrive but also facilitated valuable experiences and connections that will resonate with participants for years to come. Thanks as ever to our funders, The Holyrood Trust and Creative Scotland for their support, and here's to next summer!

*Catherine Corfield,
CatStrand Young Creatives
Project Lead*

Glenkens Jazz Weekend

Jazz is back! And not just in the Glenkens, either.

With the 2023 Mercury Music Prize going to jazz ensemble Ezra Collective, and Dumfries boy, Liam Shortall, being nominated for the 2024 Mercury Music prize for his group corto.alto, jazz is well and truly on the comeback trail.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow "explores jazz in the broadest possible terms", and so it proved at the 2024 Dark Skies Jazz Weekender, held at the CatStrand, where several of its alumni performed

to appreciative audiences.

Friday night saw the visit of the five-piece, Modern Vikings. Led by composer and drummer Stephen Henderson, and featuring Jazz royalty Fergus McCreddie on piano, and Konrad Wisziewski on saxophone, Modern Vikings played with a sensuous commitment to melody, together with the added urgency of grooves redolent of the American jazz tradition.

The sheer volume of sheet music everywhere, especially on Fergus McCreddie's piano, was testament to just how hard these guys work at their craft. Their new album, *Tales of the*

Scald, is a must-listen.

Saturday was party night, as Glasgow singer Kitti came to the CatStrand. Winner of the 2020 and 2022 Scottish Jazz Awards Best Vocalist, Kitti put on a fulsome display of her vocal dexterity,

through a range of jazz, soul and RnB bangers, nearly all penned by herself. The unerring ability to sound like Janis Joplin and then Aretha Franklin in the same breath, never mind the same song, had the crowd roaring for more. Kitti and her band built to a stunning encore, saving the best of the show right at the end, leaving the audience utterly thrilled.

Sunday night saw innovative and talented globetrotters, Atlantic Road Trip. A trio from Scotland, Chicago and The Hague, they consist of Scottish composer and saxophone player Paul Towndrow, a member of Scotland's flagship jazz orchestra, the Scotland National Jazz Orchestra, Trumpeter Chad McCullough from Chicago, and



Composer and drummer Stephen Henderson with The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow

vibraphonist Miro Herak, from Slovakia, but now resident in The Hague, Netherlands. This trio tour the globe, matching up with local rhythm sections in each locality, to unearth new sonic pleasures. Their ability to take simple melodies, twist and warp them out of shape before bringing them all back together again, was simply magical.

My guests from London, both committed classical music buffs, were dragged along to each evening, but thanked me for doing so afterwards! "I had no idea music could be so interesting in so many different ways", was the agreed verdict, as the curtain came down on another stunning and successful Dark Skies Jazz Weekender.

Anthony Bird



Clock winders required

Dalry Town Hall is putting together a volunteer team of clock winders for one of the few manually operated municipal clocks left in the South of Scotland. Volunteers require a small level of fitness and also an ability to climb some steps to the tower.

For further details contact Gary on 01644 430521 or email: garyblissett51@gmail.com

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, however, Robin discusses a little of his current work with the newly-created ISIS Prisons Museum...

In 2017, as soon as ISIS retreated from its positions in Syria and Iraq, a small group of local journalists entered all the buildings which the organisation had used as prisons.

They were looking for their colleagues who, like tens of thousands of other people, had disappeared into these dark sites. They never found them, but they did find over 70,000 documents.

And the buildings themselves were documents leaving clues as to the fates of the missing, not least because prisoners had sometimes scratched their names on the walls. ISIS had repurposed every conceivable kind of building as a prison: family homes, churches, a secondary school, a gym, a shopping centre, a sports stadium. When the team explored these structures, they found some bomb-damaged and at risk of collapse. Others were being

reclaimed by their owners, and restored. The buildings provided evidence of crimes committed, and this evidence was about to disappear. So the team filmed every inch of every room. Then it tracked down survivors of these prisons, and filmed hundreds of hours of interviews.

These included 'security' prisoners, people ISIS considered a military or political threat. But many other people who had nothing to do with politics or fighting were detained and tortured for their personal behavior – for smoking cigarettes, for example, or wearing tight trousers.

Based on the 360 degree photography and the witness interviews, the journalists built virtual 3D tours of every prison. These are crime scene reconstructions to be used in war crimes trials, and also by the general public. On October 11th they will be available for view on the internet. Look up the ISIS Prisons Museum after that launch date.

The website will publish special investigations too. These cover topics ranging from the ISIS massacre of the Shaitat tribe, and its genocide of the Yazidis, to the destruction of Old Mosul's

architectural heritage.

And the IPM is gathering a library of accounts written by former detainees in a variety of prison systems, from Moscow to Guantanamo Bay. Because ISIS didn't arrive from nowhere. Its terror came as part of a cycle of oppression and social breakdown in the region and globally. Its surveillance, detention and torture techniques are intimately linked to those of the Baathist regimes in Syria and Iraq, and even to American prisons like Abu Ghraib. Specific forms of abuse can be traced back from ISIS to Assad to the East German Stasi to the Nazis... These horrors cross ideological borders very easily.

I'm the chief English editor of the project. That's why I keep writing here that my



work reading is grim. I edit traumatic texts, and read reports of abuse, and write to bring darkness to light. And as background I read endless books about ISIS specifically and prisons in general. Including recently Foucault's *Discipline and Punish* (more readable and less academic than expected) and Tahir Hamut Izgil's *Waiting to be Arrested at Night: A Uyghur Poet's Memoir of China's Genocide*.

But I'm going to line up some comical, light-hearted books to balance things out, I swear...

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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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: Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1 - 11am

Carsphairn: Oct 13, Harvest Festival & Lunch, 11am.
Nov 10, Remembrance Sunday, 10.30am, Dalry 12 noon

Kells: Oct 20, Nov 17 - 11am

Dalry: Oct 27, Nov 24 - 11am. Nov 10, Remembrance Sunday, 12noon Remembrance Sunday, 10 Nov: joint service with St Margaret's Church - see right

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

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St Margaret's Church, New Galloway, DG7 3RP

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' Challock. Please contact Dawn for the link

Remembrance Sunday, 10 November: joint service with Church of Scotland, 10.55am at the New Galloway War Memorial followed service at St Margaret's Church.

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

Glass Recycling Points

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

USEFUL NUMBERS

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- **Doctor:** 01644 420 234
- **NHS 24:** 08454 24 24 24
- **D&G Council:** 030 33 33 3000

MINUTES/REPORTS OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT SPENDING

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

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

Local Job Vacancies

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



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GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

www.galloway-community-transport.org

email: gct@catstrand.com / gctadmin@catstrand.com

phone: Jon 07841 512449 / Jason 07704 662925

**OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 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.

DRIVER NEEDED

On a self-employed basis, to provide regular cover for our contracted Bridge of Dee > Castle Douglas School Route, term time, approx 20 hours per week. For more details call Jon: 07841 512449

MINIBUS DRIVING

Minibus drivers are needed to do volunteer and paid driving for our wide range of member community groups.

PATIENT TRANSPORT

We also urgently need drivers with their own cars for our patient transport service. Our volunteer patient transport drivers receive a generous mileage reimbursement and the satisfaction of providing a vital service to vulnerable people in our communities.

Interested?

Email gct@catstrand.com or phone 07841 512449 / 07704 662925

EXCURSIONS**GCT EXCURSION****DAWYCK BOTANIC GARDENS**

Saturday 12th October 2024



Located in the hills of the Scottish Borders, 65-acre Dawyck enjoys an almost continental climate comprising warm dry summers followed by cold, snowy winters. Plants from the mountainous regions of Europe, China, Nepal, Japan and North America thrive here.

Dawyck offers woodland and burnside walks, themed tree trails and visitors can follow the adventures of plant explorers such as David Douglas, after whom the Douglas fir is named.

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Pick ups:

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0840 New Galloway CatStrand
0855 Crossmichael Shop
0920 Kirkcudbright Harbour Square
0945 Castle Douglas Market Hill
1000 Dalbeattie (opposite Esso Station)
1030 Dumfries Wickes Car Park
1115 Moffat Market Square
1200 Arrive Dawyck Gardens

**MOBILE:
07841 512449**

**EMAIL:
[GCT@CATSTRAND.COM](mailto:gct@catstrand.com)**

**FURTHER INFO:
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/GALLOWAY-COMMUNITY-TRANSPORT**

WEBSITE: WWW.GALLOWAY-COMMUNITY-TRANSPORT.ORG

WELCOME!

To Jason Wilding, the new GCT Coordinator Jason will be on hand to help with all your enquiries as well as helping to keep our fleet on the road, and handle all the usual GCT daily duties

MEMBERSHIP HIRE

GCT has a 15, 16 and 8-seater minibus and a fully wheelchair accessible electric car available for hire by community organisations.

For information about membership and terms and conditions of hire see the GCT website or phone 07841 512449 / 07704 662925

www.galloway-community-transport.org

WHAT'S ON October/November

OCTOBER

Tue 1, Cooking for Health & Wellbeing (runs every Tue), 6.30-8pm, Glenkens Community Centre

Wed 2, LKT Ranger Group meeting, 6.30-8.30pm, The Crannog, Lochside Park, Castle Douglas

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

Thu 3, UP: Visible Fictions, 7.30-9pm, CatStrand

Fri 4, Galloway SangStreams, 7.30-9.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 4, Kells School coffee morning, NG Town Hall

Sat 5, Café Bridge, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 5, CCW Volunteer Day, 10am-3pm, Muirdrochwood, Carsphairn

Mon 7, Coffee Morning, 10.30am-12noon, Parton Village Hall

Wed 9, Dalry Film Club: Napoleon (Cert 15), 8-10pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 10, Batsúkh Dorj - Workshop, 2pm, CatStrand

Thu 10, Batsúkh Dorj & Johanni Curtet, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 11, LING AGM, 7-7.30pm, NG Town Hall

Fri 11, Cheese & Wine, 7.30-10pm, NG Town Hall

Sat 12, GCT excursion: Dawick Botanic Gardens, see p33

Sat 12, Bob's Bingo, 4-5.30pm, NG Town Hall

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

Sat 12, Lady Maisery, 7.30-9pm, CatStrand

Sun 13, Glenkens Churches Harvest Lunch, 11am, Carsphairn Parish Church then Lagwyne Hall, see p6

Mon 14, Dalry Town Hall Management Meeting, 7-9pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 17, Carsphairn SWI: Hands-on Crafting, 7.30pm, Lagwyne Hall

Fri 18, Six-five Special, 7.30-10.30pm, NG Town Hall

Sat 19, Glenkens Crafters Stash Busting Sale, 10am-2.30pm, Balmaclellan Hall

Sat 19, John McCusker Trio, 7.30-9pm, CatStrand

Fri 15, 70s/80s Half 'n' Half DISCO, 7.30-10pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 26, Simon Thoumire & Dave Milligan 7.30-9pm, CatStrand

Oct 26, Pop-up Pub, 7pm, Balmaclellan Hall

Wed 30, Dalry Film Club: Poor Things, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 30, FoDS Kids Halloween Party, Dalry - location tbc

NOVEMBER

Fri 1, Botanical Casting Workshop, 6-9pm, £55, Balmaclellan Hall

Sat 2, CCW Volunteer Day, 10am-3pm, Muirdrochwood, Carsphairn

Sat 2, Bairn Banter Halloween Party, 10-11.45am, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Mon 4, Galloway Glens legacy scheme applications closes, see p15

Nov 5, Afternoon Tea, Balmaclellan Hall, see p23

Tue 5, Kris Drever, 7.30-9pm, CatStrand

Thu 7, LT Lief, 7.30-9pm, CatStrand

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

Sat 9, Exploring Land Use Change Workshop, 2-5pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 9, Exploring Land Use Change Talk, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 9, Sew Special Saturday, book ahead - julia.higgins55@outlook.com

Sat 9, Glenkens Story: The Woodlands of Galloway, CatStrand

Mon 11, Dalry Town Hall Management Meeting, 7-9pm, Dalry Town Hall

Tue 12, Loch Ken Trust AGM, 7pm, The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Thu 14, Anthony Fidler: Heart Touch Workshop, The Smiddy, Balmaclellan, £90, email to book - lucy@lothlorien.tc

Thu 14, Family History & Heritage, 7-9pm, Crossmichael Church Hall

Fri 15, Rebecca Carson & Anne Chaurand: Flute & Guitar Recital, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 16, Bob's Bingo, 4-5.30pm, NG Town Hall

Sat 16, Evie Ladin & Sophie Wellington, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Tue 19, Men's Shed Open Day, 10am-1pm, Glenkens Men's Shed, Balmaclellan, see p5

Wed 20, Dalry Film Club: Dune Part 2, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 21, Carsphairn SWI: Wreath Making, 7.30pm, Lagwyne Hall

Sat 23, Risto's Pop-up Restaurant - A Finnish Smorgasbord Feast, NG Town Hall

Sat 23, Book Week Scotland - New Scots: Old and New Connections, 1pm, CatStrand

Sun 24, Held on the High Wire, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 24 & Sat 30 Nov & Sun 1 Dec, Make Your Own Christmas Wreath Workshop, Galloway Flowers, Balmaclellan, 01644 420 407

Sun 24, Wreaths & Rushes workshop, 11am-3pm, Corsock Village Hall

Sat 30, The Glenkens Story: The Glenkens in Covenanting times - persecution, families and feuds, 3pm, CatStrand

Sat 30, Rob Heron & The Tea Pad Orchestra, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 30, Yuletide Fair, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Sat 30, St Andrew's Day 'The Motte' pop-up pub, Balmaclellan Village 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 mcnaablaurie@hotmail.com or 01644 440 200

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

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

Crossmichael Community Council: Second 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

Exercise Class, Tue, 6-7pm

Tai Chi, Wed, 2-3pm

Zumba, Fri, 6.30-7.30pm

Glenkens Crafters, Wed, 10am-12noon, julia.higgins55@outlook.com

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

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)

Soup & Sandwich, Sat, 12noon-2pm, Oct-Mar

Men's Shed, Balmaclellan

General Opening Times: Mon, Wedn & Fri, 9.30am-12noon

Stick Making - Mon, 7-9pm

Art Group, Thu, 2-4pm

Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Monday Morning Social, 11am-2pm, 07710 124 255

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, 10am

CatStrand, New Galloway

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 11.30am

Musical Misfits, Sat, bi-weekly, 10am

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

Art Explorers, Sat, 10.30am-1.15pm, fortnightly

New Galloway Town Hall

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

Dance for Wellbeing (adults), Mon 2.30-3.30pm

Modern Dance (children), 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

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

Mossdale Village Hall

Mossdale Painters, Wed, 9.30-11.30am

Yoga, Fri, 2.15pm

Soup Saturday, last Sat each month, 1-3pm

Various

Bumps, Babies & Beyond, every 2nd Mon, 10.30am, Kirkpatrick Durham Village Hall

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 2-4.30pm

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

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

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

Baby & Toddler Group, Thu, 9.30-11.30am, Balmaghie Public Hall, Laurieston

Crossmichael Youth Club, Fri, Crossmichael Memorial Hall



CATSTRAND WINTER OPENING HOURS

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATSTRAND WILL CHANGE TO WINTER OPENING HOURS FROM 27th OCTOBER.

OPEN: TUESDAY - SATURDAY 11.00AM - 4.00PM
CLOSED: SUNDAY & MONDAY

MONDAY	CLOSED
TUESDAY	11AM - 4PM
WEDNESDAY	11AM - 4PM
THURSDAY	11AM - 4PM
FRIDAY	11AM - 4PM
SATURDAY	11AM - 4PM
SUNDAY	CLOSED

Dung Beetles Won't Vote For You

Dear Politicians

I need your help. This is an emergency. Please listen to my concerns and take action. That's what you're employed to do. To whom else can I turn?

I want you to represent me. I want you to represent every constituent you have, including the ones who arrived yesterday after their dangerous and terrible journeys. In fact listen to them the most. They know what it's already like out there - what it's going to be like here if no one acts.

Ask them what they went through after their village had no more water. Ask them what it was like when their crops failed and their flocks starved. Ask what it's like to live in a world where there's no more food. Ask how it was when fires or floods swept away their homes. Ask them how they started walking, who they carried, and who died along the way. Ask who violated them and tried to kill them on their journey. Ask them a lot about the bombs, the raiding parties. Find out

what the soldiers did. These are your constituents. They can tell you where we're headed.

I live in a country, which you represent, whose fertile land is being sold off to foreign investors as part of a carbon-offset hoax. Why are you allowing this to happen even as our climate inexorably changes? How can we adapt in time if you don't do anything? In your constituencies ordinary people can't find a home to live in, local schools for their children, or get work that is crying out to be done. As people leave the land generations of knowledge leaves with them. What are we going to eat when global markets collapse? This is an emergency. Who will lead us through it, if not you?

I'm asking you to think about the children. They'll be here long after you've gone, if they survive the coming times. Ask them what kind of world they want. Would they like to have food, water, shelter? Would they like to find a living here? Would they even like to learn and grow in peace? I think

you'll get more simple honest answers from them than you will from all your colleagues in the corridors of wealth.

I'm writing on behalf of those who have no voices that you can hear: the ones who are wholly innocent, who have never colluded with any of humanity's disastrous mistakes. I'm speaking of all the other living beings who live here too. How many species inhabit your constituencies, do you think? They were here long before you. Trillions? Zillions - you haven't even heeded the ones creating the soil under your feet right now. We can't live for a day without them - how can you possibly ignore your responsibility to care for them?

Dung beetles won't vote for you; bees won't promote you; worms won't donate to your party funds, but without them, we're dead.

*Yours truly
a concerned citizen*



MNE

Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by



This issue's winner is Joe Ade with this late summer shot of 'tiny hammocks'.

Joe wins two portions of mac 'n' cheese from our competition sponsors, the Balmaclellan-based Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Co.

Company owner and competition judge, Hannah Gould, said: "Since we're on holiday at the moment, the thought of lazing in the sun in a hammock really appealed...I hope those spiders are soaking up some much needed sunshine!"



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

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

DEC/JAN COPY DEADLINE: 5 NOV



Editing & Design:
sarah.ade@gmail.com

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