

GLENKENS GAZETTE

June/July 2025

ISSUE 148

FREE

Alison heads down under for World Championships

Late last year, Crossmichael's Alison Pringle secured a place to represent Great Britain in the Aquabike World Championships.

This was achieved through qualification to join the GB World Age-Group Aquabike Team, with whom she will head to Wollongong, Australia, in October 2025 for the World Championships.

For those unfamiliar with the term, 'aquabike' is a multisport event that combines swimming and cycling. While it includes one discipline less than a typical triathlon, it is by no means less demanding.

The journey to qualifying for the world championships didn't happen overnight. As a former junior swimmer, Alison stepped away from the sport for five years while studying at university and settling into work life.

When the Covid pandemic began, she took up open water swimming with the local group in Crossmichael, and later joined the Masters Club at Dumfries Amateur Swimming Club.

"I started competing in the water again in 2023 and quickly rediscovered my love for the sport," said Alison. "A good friend then encouraged me to try triathlon - and, as they say, the rest is history."

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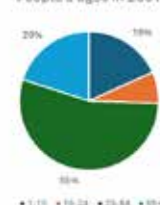
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Celebrating our special places with brand new Land Notes Festival

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People's ages in 2001



What the Scottish Census tells us about the Glenkens

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Young voices bring the Glenkens to life



Our Glenkens is an exciting new project designed to highlight the voices of young people around the Glenkens.

It showcases nine residents, each of whom share their personal connection to the area and what life in the Glenkens means to them.

Their stories mark the first step in an ongoing initiative to celebrate rural work, life and community in this active and beautiful part of the world.



The project is being run by the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT) and is part of GCAT's broader work delivering the Glenkens Community Action Plan.

It responds directly to the pressing issue of rural depopulation by showcasing the contribution young adults are making across the Glenkens.

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The High Bridge wagtail

A number of readers have sent in photos of the High Bridge wagtail.

For the last couple of years, if you have driven across the High Bridge of Ken (on the B7000 'high road' between Carsphairn and Dalry), you may have come across this unusual bird yourself.

During spring and early summer, the High Bridge wagtail can frequently be found landing on the wing mirrors of cars as they drive across the bridge, and holding on admirably as they build up speed!

Does anyone have any idea what he's up to? Is he looking for a mate, and hopefully chases his reflection? Or perhaps he has a nest and is seeing off rivals...or just having fun, car-surfing! Let us know if you have any ideas - glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk



Glenkens Scouts go potty for Mother's Day

There have been lots of exciting things happening at our Pack meetings.

Steph, ably assisted by Elliot, made pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.

We had lots of yummy fillings to choose from, and the pancakes were delicious - well done both.

We started our DIY activity badge and built a puppet

theatre with guidance from Julian. The group were given a talk regarding the dangers of not using tools properly and having adult supervision at all times.

We learned about measuring accurately and the correct use of various tools, which we did in twos for safety reasons.

While this was taking place, the youngsters chose an animal puppet to sew.

After Easter they will make scenery, write scripts and

perform sketches to the Pack. Bagheera (Hannah McAndrew) has a workshop locally and is a renowned international potter with a great number of accolades under her belt. She has been a Cub Scout Leader in the Glenkens Pack for a good number of years.

Bagheera brought in clay for the Cubs to make a flower pot for Mother's Day. The Cubs decorated the pots using potters' utensils, which took up the entire Pack meeting.

I have never known the Cubs being so focussed. Bagheera explained that she would take the pots away to fire them in the kiln.

When the pots returned, the Cubs filled the pots with compost and planted beautiful primulas. We hope the mums enjoyed the gift - they were certainly made with love.

We are so lucky to have such talented Leaders in our midst. Thank you all!

Yours in Scouting, Akela (Heather)



Plans progress for Balmaclellan affordable housing development

The Pamela Young Trust is pleased to report that their planning application for the old filling station site in the centre of Balmaclellan

has now been lodged with Dumfries and Galloway Council.

The plans are for three energy-efficient properties with low running costs - one family home (three bedrooms) and two cottage flats (two bedrooms).

The Pamela Young Trust purchased the site several years ago after a Housing Needs and Demand Assessment

carried out by South of Scotland Community Housing highlighted a major shortage of affordable homes in the area.

The trust's core charitable objective has always been to provide affordable housing in the Glenkens.

The trustees also recognise the importance of having low carbon, energy efficient homes in order to help address fuel poverty and mitigate against climate change.

Anyone interested in viewing

the plans can do so via Dumfries and Galloway Council's planning register, reference 25/0638/FUL

at www.eaccess.dumgal.gov.uk/online-applications

Alan Smith, Chair of the Pamela Young Trust, said: "We are delighted to have now lodged the plans for our Balmaclellan site but we are still a long way from starting to build.

"The next step is to find funding for a contaminated land survey - we had carried one out in

2014 but as part of the new planning process this needs to be refreshed".



Hedgehogs at Carsphairn Wildlife Rescue

Carsphairn Wildlife Rescue are asking if anyone has any tapas/baking cheese dishes they no longer need.



These kinds of dishes are an ideal shape and height for the hedgehogs to feed from.

If you've been following Carsphair Wildlife Rescue's stories on Facebook, you might remember Jigsaw, the baby hog

that was chewed up by a German Shepherd dog and glued back together. Jigsaw, now recovered, and is nearly ready now to be released back into freedom.

Pictured to the right is a rather disgruntled Crossy, being put in her release box then into a pen for the first time.

It didn't put her off coming out in the evening for her dinner though. She is now well settled into her new home and ready to go to a release site.

Crossy was picked up by the school bus driver in Crossmichael, who was waiting at some temporary lights and noticed a small "dead" hedgehog in the gutter. Luckily she moved a leg so he got out picked her up, wrapped her up, and put her in the glove compartment for warmth.

Crossy weighed just 319g when she was found in September, and now weighs more than double at 700g.

She has also developed a bit of an attitude, which will stand her in good stead and we think she'll do ok when she goes back into the wild.



It has been a busy couple of weeks in releasing hogs back to the wild, but also helping the poorly ones that haven't done so well over the winter and are now coming in to be treated. One example was on Saturday someone brought in a hog who had been lying out on some one's lawn for two days, and which they had then picked it up and taken to the vets. The poor

thing had severe fly strike.

No hedgehog will ever sunbathe - if you see one out during day, there is always something wrong. This one sadly didn't make it.

To contact Carsphairn Wildlife Rescue you can email thecockburns@hotmail.com

Catherine Ann Cockburn

Alison puts Crosssmichael on the map

Continued from front page...

But choosing to pursue multisport events hasn't been an easy journey for Alison. It involves long days and often multiple training sessions, which have to fit around full-time work. Alison said: "It's taken a lot of commitment and self-discipline to get to where I am today - though I will admit that summer training is far easier than training through the winter."

"Last year marked my first attempt at Aquabike, and I entered one of the three British Age-Group qualifiers. This turned out to be a great decision as I managed to finish second, and secured one of the sought-after qualification slots."

Alison feels that representing Great Britain - and Crosssmichael - on the global stage is a tremendous honour. However, being part of the Age-Group team also comes with challenges. Athletes are expected to fully

self-fund their participation, including travel, accommodation, kit, and race costs.

"Because of this," said Alison, "the Crosssmichael community has come together to support me by helping to organise several fundraising events to make this opportunity possible."

Alison will be documenting her journey preparation over the coming months and sharing her progress through social media, and also regular updates in the *Glenkens Gazette*.

If anyone is curious about Aquabike or would like advice on getting started, Alison would be happy to talk them through what's involved.

She continues: "I hope my journey might inspire others to give multisport events a try. Thank you to everyone who has supported me so far!"

If you would like to help Alison through sponsorship



or a donation, the QR code to the right will take you to her JustGiving page - every little helps!



Pictured is Alison at the British Aquabike championships in May 2025

Our Glenkens, Your Glenkens project

Continued from front page...

Drawing inspiration and support from the Uist-based community development organisation CoDeL, and their successful Uist Beò project, the aim is to shift the narrative away from decline and towards opportunity - showing that young people can and do thrive in rural places.

Helen Keron, GCAT Chief Executive, said: "It's been so

great to be able to bring this fantastic project to life. Thanks very much to South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) for the support that's made it possible.

"We've worked with a great team of people from Uist Beò and across the Glenkens to showcase some amazing young people who are making their lives here."

Uist Beò, now in its fourth year, shares authentic stories

of island life and reaches tens of thousands of people each month. It has contributed to more young people choosing to move or return to Uist than other Scottish islands. Our Glenkens follows in these footsteps by extending the Glenkens Hub website and launching new social media platforms that celebrate the rewards of rural living for all

ages.

This first phase of the project has been supported by SOSE, aligning with their ambition to drive inclusive growth throughout the region.

This funding enabled the creation of engaging new content and a dedicated web page featuring young working people from the Glenkens - resources that will also feed into wider regional research on effective strategies to combat depopulation.

Russel Griggs OBE, Chair of SOSE, said: "It is vital we allow young people who want to stay and work in the south of Scotland to do so, rather than moving elsewhere."

"That is why this project by the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust is so important, letting us hear first-hand what young people think the opportunities are of living in a rural area such as the Glenkens."

You can explore the stories and meet the young people of Our Glenkens at www.glenkens.scot/our-glenkens or follow the journey on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok @OurGlenkens.

The Glenkens is a brilliant place to live for all ages.

The people, the scenery, the opportunities for outdoor living, and the range of jobs available, all contribute to making this a place that many can't imagine leaving.

But don't take our word for it - let's hear what people who live here have to say about the Glenkens...



Crossmichael Gala is back with a splash

Get ready for a fantastic day out as the Crossmichael Gala Day makes its much-anticipated return since 2019.

On Saturday 30 August the beautiful field beside Crossmichael Marina will become a hive of activity for the whole family.

This year's Gala promises an action-packed day, starting at 12.30pm and running into the evening, right up to 9pm, full of entertainment, activities, and community spirit with something for everyone.

The festivities kick off with a children's fancy dress competition and walking parade leaving Crossmichael Primary School at 12.30pm, winding its way down to the main event area by the water. From there, attendees will be treated to an exciting line-up that includes live bands, food stalls, a licensed

bar, laser tag, a dog show, bouncy castle (for the wee ones!), face painting, viking encampment with mock battles and kids' 'Shield Wall', the ever-popular Red Barrows, children's sports competitions and much more!

This year's gala also proudly features the Crossmichael Flower Show, adding a floral flourish to the day's attractions.

Behind the scenes the dedicated team of organisers have worked tirelessly to rejuvenate this much-loved annual event and bring it all together. Special thanks go to Graham, Kyle, Michelle, Anne-Marie, Amanda, Fiona, John, Jim, Keith, Lyn, Ed, Grant, Angelique, Steph, Dawn, Jeff, Caroline, Laura, Natalie, William, Cindy, Lindsay, Caroline and Caireen and many others, whose hard work in



raising funds and sense of community spirit are at the heart of the Crossmichael Gala Day.

Whether you're a local or just visiting the area, come along for a day of music, laughter, and unforgettable memories in one of the region's most scenic settings. The Crossmichael Gala Day is truly a celebration of what

makes this community so special. All activities are free! We look forward to seeing you there.

Crossmichael Gala Committee

Pictured are some of the hardworking team of event organisers with a backdrop of Crossmichael Marina

Kendoon to Tongland Reinforcement Project progress update

The *Gazette* wanted to make sure readers are kept in the loop regarding the progress of the proposed Kendoon to Tongland (KTR) pylon line.

Paul Swift, spokesperson for the group Galloway Without Pylons, has confirmed that a petition was presented to the Scottish Government on 14 May and they are now waiting to see if a Judicial Review can go ahead. More details will follow in the next edition of the *Gazette*.



SATURDAY 30TH
AUGUST 2025
12.30PM - 9PM

CROSSMICHAEL GALA DAY

FEATURING CROSSMICHAEL FLOWER SHOW

LIVE BANDS
FOOD
LICENSED BAR
DOG SHOW
LASER TAG
BOUNCY CASTLE
FACE PAINTING
VIKINGS
RED BARROWS
KIDS SPORTS
AND MUCH MORE

WALKING PARADE LEAVES THE PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 12.30PM FOLLOWED BY A FUN DAY FOR ALL OF THE FAMILY IN THE FIELD BY THE WATER.

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 Joshua discusses wildfires.



Summer is understandably some people's favourite season.

The birds are out chirping, the trees are as green as can be, and most obviously, the sun is gleaming down with full power. It is, from some perspectives, perfect.

However, with all these amazing pros, summer has to include some cons. Recently, one of these disadvantages of summer has made itself known in our humble region of Dumfries and Galloway: wildfires.

Wildfires have become more and more common over recent years, and there are many causes for this, such as the everyday barbecue. Yes, something as usual as having a summer barbecue can have harsh effects on our surroundings. Any remaining heat from the barbecue or any smouldering embers can set the (increasing amounts of) dry plants alight.

Something as simple as a lit cigarette being thrown on the

floor can also have shocking consequences, and even very locally, campers' bonfires, on any flammable spot, not being put out properly, have been causing horrible wildfires spanning Dumfries and Galloway and Ayrshire.

Every year, people camp beside Loch Ken, leaving lit fires that need to be extinguished by others.

These wildfires and our local wildlife do have a horrible relationship. Birds are killed, the trees that some animals call home are burnt black, and the harsh smoke blocks natural sunlight from hitting the ground for little creatures to enjoy.

And if the disastrous effect on nature does not convince you to fight against the unforgiving wildfires, the

economic consequences may change your mind. Wildfires cost millions to put out and sometimes even more, due to the costs of vehicles, machinery, repairs, and pay for firefighters. For example, in the famous case of the Los Angeles wildfires, it cost the government \$135 billion.



Not too long ago, I participated in the Loch Ken Ranger Service's 'sausage sizzle' where you were able to be shown how to "build a fire, cook your tea and safely leave no trace". We were shown

how to extinguish a fire by pouring water over it until it was cold.

According to Leanne Pumpri, head ranger with the Loch Ken Trust: "Loch Ken Trust ranger service received guidance from Scottish Fire & Rescue Service on the level of risk of

wildfires. This year, this region has already experienced a wildfire, which has had a devastating impact on the land and the wildlife within it.

"Wildfires pose a risk to life, property and wildlife. As Rangers, we continue to educate on campfire safety, we place 'No Campfire' signs around the loch when the risk is high, and we urge members of the public to act responsibly when accessing our beautiful environment.

"This time of year, our landscape is particularly vulnerable after a long dry spell, and spring is just about to bloom; vegetation becomes tinder. Let's together protect our environment for all of us and all those to come in future years."

Dumfries and Galloway has been hit catastrophically by the shock of wildfires highlighted by a BBC website which states, "in Galloway Forest Park, an estimated 65 sq km burnt, nearly a quarter of the UK total for the period from 2 to 8 April" and it is only going to get worse unless we stay diligent against wildfires.

A new face for the CatStrand Arts team

CatStrand would like to welcome Alia Nelson-Riggott to the team.

Alia will be joining the CatStrand Arts team as the Visual Arts & Events Intern for three days a week, contributing to both our Touring Arts and Young Creatives programmes.

Her post is funded by the Holywood Trust, and she is the latest in a long line of young people that we have been able to offer great employment experiences to thanks to their support.

One of Alia's first jobs will be to

convene the Glenkens Gig Forum, a way for younger people (under 35) to add to the CatStrand Arts programme.

There are still a few places on the Forum, if you'd like to join in too - call the CatStrand on 01644 420 374.

In the mean time, we can't wait to see the creativity and fresh perspectives that she brings. Welcome Alia!

CatStrand Arts Team





Preventing wildfires



**LOCH KEN TRUST
RANGER
07539 029 175 /
07918 300 889**

Dumfries and Galloway has seen prolonged sunny weather for weeks now, with temperatures reaching 24°C.

Although residents are making the most of this unusual weather and enjoying the early summer, the effect the heat as well as the lack of rain is having on the land is increasingly worrying.

Stewart Gibson, head of the Galloway Mountain Rescue Team, has been called out to many of the recent wildfires. He explained that wildfires have become more prevalent in the last 15 years due to the hotter spring and summer weather. Due to these spells of dry weather "more and more people are coming outdoors and having barbecues or camp fires, and due to the weather outside being so warm and dry, fire spreads more easily," Stewart reported.

Most wildfires are started by mistake and once they spread, they are very difficult to stop. Muirburning can also be a cause of wildfires as they can easily get out of control, which is why strict regulation has been issued to farmers looking to do this traditional method of land management.

The main contributor to the spread of wildfires is the wind, which is a factor that is impossible to control.

The local Mountain Rescue Team urges the public to be alert to smoke and not to assume that it's been reported - the sooner it gets flagged up, the quicker it is to get it under control.

Glenkens resident John Innes reported a large campfire was lit by wild campers on the banks of Loch Ken in May, which

he felt was dangerous due to the extremely dry weather. John urges responsible fire practice by highlighting that it is important campers are educated and aware of wildfire risks when doing such activities.

Wildfires not only have a considerable impact on the environment and natural habitats, but also social and economic impact. A moorland or forest fire can take a large number of fire fighters days to control, which reduces their availability to deal

with other life-threatening situations like motor collisions or house fires. Paul Munro, from Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), highlighted that Scotland's forests are an ideal environment for wildfires. FLS suggests members of the public call 999 if you spot a wildfire, and follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code's advice.

Paul Munro went on to say that when they are made aware of any wildfires, they call the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and assist them by providing "local knowledge on the lay of the land, access routes, and potentially calling in helicopter support if required".

The SFRS are currently urging the public to avoid lighting fires outdoors across all of Scotland during this period of hot dry



The crew of Coastguard Rescue Helicopter R199 evacuate campers as wildfire rages © HMCG R199 - Prestwick

weather, as well as fully extinguishing cigarettes, picking up litter and removing glass from direct sunlight and picking up any broken glass you see lying about.

"At this time of year, we typically have a large volume of dead, bone-dry vegetation across the countryside, which provides all the ingredients for fire to take hold and spread."

So as the Glenkens basks in this unusually long spell of sunshine, our communities must confront the growing threat posed by wildfires. From damaging our beautiful landscapes to societal consequences and strain on emergency services, authorities urge everyone to take these preventive measures seriously.

Georgiana Grimwood

The Loch Ken Trust Community Ranger Service have been working tirelessly carrying out extended patrols around Loch Ken during the extreme wildfire warnings.

We have had to extinguish multiple campfires, and our Rangers are working hard to advise and educate visitors

and locals on the risks of fires during the warnings, liaising with landowners, Community Police and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).

On some occasions this advice has been met with hostility, with some members of the public not understanding the risks associated with lighting a fire during the extreme dry weather and not complying with the guidance.

One camp fire on the shores of Loch Ken was so large and out of control, SFRS had to be called in to extinguish it. As a Ranger Service, we educate through our schools based ranger-led programme, and each year we hold an annual cookout event to educate on responsible access and how to protect the environment.

We would urge everyone to act responsibly and not light ANY fires during restricted periods.

Galloway National Park discussion continues

We are getting in touch in response to the article *A Galloway National Park: considering the pros and cons* which was published in the last edition of the *Glenkens Gazette*, as there are a few points we would like to address.

The 'No Galloway National Park' Facebook page was started by the two of us on the evening of 22 July after hearing the announcement that Galloway had been chosen to be a potential National park. Within 36 hours, five hundred like-minded people had joined. It was definitely not, as suggested, 'organised' or 'pre-arranged';

chaotic would be a better description. Two weeks later we held our first public meeting in Gatehouse, which was full to overflowing.

At the end of the meeting, we asked for donations to help cover the cost of the hall hire and collected nearly £2,000, with a promise of a further £1,000 from a local haulier, funding which enabled us to buy our first lot of banners.

All the 'No' campaign banners, which are widespread across the region, were either purchased directly from us or purchased privately using the logo provided by us. The logo itself was donated by a local graphic artist free of charge; she also provided, for free, artwork for the leaflets and posters we subsequently produced.

The article asks, in relation to the presence of 'No' campaign banners, where is the 'Yes' campaign? This is good question, given the seven years they

had to prepare and with their claimed level of public support. Where are all the banners showing support for this wonderful idea?

The article stated that leaflets appeared in every household the next day, which is untrue; the first 70,000 leaflets were purchased on 28 November 2024, four months after the announcement that Galloway was to be considered as Scotland's next National Park.

The money for this, and for subsequent purchases/distribution costs, came from donations via our Facebook page, as well as the small profit we made from the sale of banners and car stickers. Donations have come from people from all walks of life and, of course, include farmers.

The *Ferret* piece referred to in the article claimed we were being 'bank rolled' by wealthy farmers. The term 'bankrolling' implies that there is an anonymous

donor directing the campaign behind the scenes, and we wish to make it absolutely clear that this is far from reality.

The 'No Galloway National Park' campaign are calling for an independent review of existing parks before a new park is considered, a view shared by the petitions committee in Holyrood. We also called for a local referendum, which was supported by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

One thing we would agree with the authors of the article on is that NatureScot's consultation process has been deeply flawed. The fact that NatureScot have commissioned the Scottish Development Community Centre to carry out a review of their consultation process seems to reflect that they recognise that mistakes have certainly been made.

*Denise Brownlee & Liz Hitschmann,
No Galloway National Park
campaign*



Dalry biodiversity project

Dalry Community Council is delighted to announce the launch of a new biodiversity project.

This initiative is supported by a small grant from SP Energy

Networks, and is being run in partnership with Abi Mordin of Propagate. Running throughout 2025 the project will focus on supporting pollinators by giving out fruit and nut trees to local residents.

These trees will not only provide tasty harvests in years to come, but they'll also help

create better habitats for bees, butterflies and other important wildlife.

Look out for more information in the coming months! If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to get in touch with Abi on abi@propagate.org.uk

Dalry Community Council

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 p17, with a bit of information and food for thought about that location.



The Optimistic Environmentalist

Electric cars - Part Two

TEETHING TROUBLES

At first, Richard found driving the car strange - you don't have gears and don't normally need to brake.

The car stops accelerating and slows to a halt with regenerative braking (commonly referred to as 'regen' braking), unless you use the brake to decelerate more quickly than the regen provides. This is similar to engine braking in a combustion-engine vehicle, but is stronger and can usually be set by the driver.

The difference though, is that regen braking converts the energy of the car decelerating into electrical energy to put power back into the battery.

By the time he had had a test drive, like most EV drivers, he was in love with them, finding them easier to drive, and has never wanted to change back.

Squeaking rear brakes

Sometimes when we had been parked up for a while: not a general EV thing and certainly not the mythical brake wear (see Part 1 in the last issue of the *Gazette*) - ironically, you need to actively brake occasionally to stop brakes squeaking through lack of use! Our

squeak was resolved by the garage.

Back door not opening from inside

This was found to be a disconnected mechanical linkage in the door, which can happen on all types of cars, and again, the garage resolved it.

Charging at home

Once set up to how we wanted it, our home charger was reliable. After about a year though, it developed a fault which was quickly resolved by the manufacturer fitting a replacement, under warranty.

We have a Zappi charger from Myenergi. This allows us to charge the car when and how we want to, eg overnight, using surplus solar generation, etc.

As with an ICE car, you will get to know your particular charging needs; what you will need and when there are cheap or green (ie comes from a renewable source) times from your energy provider.

COMMON MYTHS THAT WE HAVE NOT HAD TO WORRY ABOUT

1) *Electric cars/batteries bursting into flames*

An Australian database,

www.evfiresafe.com, have verified a total of just 511 EV battery fires globally between 2010 and June 2024. The latest International Energy Agency data shows there are now more than 40 million EVs on the road.

By contrast, UK government statistics show that there were an astonishing 6,840 accidental (ie not started deliberately) passenger car fires in England in the 2023/24 financial year alone.

2) *EVs are so quiet no-one hears them*

Being quiet used to be a selling-point; Rolls Royces would "quietly purr". As a number of people I know are blind, as I am myself, I can reassure you that this is not a problem.

Since July 2019, in the UK all new EVs (and hybrids) have needed to produce a sound when going at under 12 miles per-hour. Over that speed, they make plenty of noise naturally with the sound of tyres to not need anything added.

When we've driven in quiet



An example of a Myenergi 'Zappi' EV charger

areas, people walking their dogs look behind them when they hear us coming in plenty of time to move.

I think that many people are not used to hearing the noise, rather than that it cannot be heard, which will change as the numbers of EVs on the roads increases.

We do, however, agree that it is harder to hear them in heavy traffic because diesel and petrol engines are noisier. But they can still be heard though when you are near enough to get out of their way.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan




New Galloway Golf Club

Founded 1902
www.nggc.co.uk
 - 01644 420737 -
 Buggies now available for hire
 VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Family and friends coming to stay?

Country cottage set in beautiful gardens available for holiday lets all year round (sleeps 5)
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Eileen Campbell

Empathy foot health



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To arrange a visit in the comfort of your own home please contact 07515 168 963 or empathyfothealth@gmail.com

Eco Feature

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Celebrating our special places

Do you have a treasured place in the Glenkens landscape, somewhere that is special to you?

Land Notes Festival is a new festival of art, live music, talks, poetry, film, and events celebrating our cultural richness, land connection, intangible heritage, and treasured landscapes.

Recognising that the Glenkens

is experiencing rapid land use change, Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT), Dalry Town Hall and the CatStrand are working together to try a new approach that amplifies our connections with land and place.

The festival will explore how we are connected to our landscape and why this landscape is valuable to us. Places do not have to be officially designated to be valued and protected; a single tree may hold huge significance, or a view be treasured.

There are so many examples of treasured spaces, significant for us both as individuals and communities. Let's celebrate the importance of these often overlooked places, illustrating how we are rooted in, and connected to, our Glenkens natural environment.

Land Notes Festival will run from Friday 15 to Sunday 17 August at the CatStrand and Dalry Town Hall. To find out more, or to get involved, please contact Kerry at glenkenslandnotes@gmail.com

Galloway Food Hub seasonal recipes

CARBONARA-STYLE PASTA

Galloway Scottish Pasta is made in the heart of the Glenkens, in New Galloway.

It uses traditional methods, such as bronze dies and slow drying, combined with the addition of Scottish organic oats. The resulting pasta has a unique taste and a texture that is ideal for sauces such as this to cling to.

All the ingredients for this recipe are available from the Galloway Food Hub, where they are sourced either from local suppliers (within a 30-mile radius of the Glenkens) or they are organically certified goods.

This is a recipe for carbonara-style pasta, made with bacon and eggs, and it is enough to serve four.

Ingredients

- 320g Galloway Pasta Gemellioati
- 4 eggs
- 4 slices of back bacon, chopped finely
- 160g hard cheese, such as Ethical Dairy Laganory, grated
- 50g unsalted butter
- freshly ground black pepper

Method

- Put a large pan of water on to boil and cook the pasta according to the instructions
- While the pasta is cooking, melt the butter in a large frying pan on a medium heat (it needs to be a large pan as you will add the cooked pasta later)
- Add the bacon to the melted butter and fry until crisp, then lower the heat

- Whisk the eggs in a bowl and add half of the cheese and pepper to taste

- When the pasta is cooked, remove from the water with a slotted spoon and add to the bacon; keep the water as you may need some of it later

- Remove pan from heat and add the egg and cheese mixture, stirring constantly so that the egg coats everything but doesn't scramble; add a little pasta water if the mix seems too dry

- Serve with the remaining cheese on top and freshly ground black pepper to taste; perfect accompanied by a mixed green salad

Andrew, Galloway Scottish Pasta



RHUBARB AND GINGER CORDIAL

A deliciously refreshing drink for warm spring and summer evenings...

This recipe makes over 500ml of cordial. Mix it with three parts water, sparkling water or tonic to one part cordial.

You can also add a shot or two to your favourite gin, add some tonic and have a delicious summer cocktail!

Garnish with a sprig of mint to complete your beverage.

Ingredients

- 500g rhubarb roughly chopped into around 1cm pieces
- 20g fresh ginger roughly chopped – no need to peel, or 1tsp ground ginger
- 300ml water
- 280g runny honey or caster sugar

Method

- Place all the ingredients into a saucepan
- Bring to the boil then simmer for around 30 minutes, until the rhubarb is soft
- Place a sieve lined with muslin over a bowl and pour the rhubarb mixture into



the sieve; you can do this without the muslin but you will get a cloudier cordial

- Leave the mixture to strain for an hour or so, then remove the sieve with the remaining pulp.

- Pour the cordial into a sterilised bottle and store in the fridge and use within four weeks.

Beth Webb, Cree Valley Herbs

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

FREE

Steam cleaner, quite old but hardly used, and a large fan. Collection from Mossdale. Contact: 07842 629 118

Single divan bed base with headboard. Contact: Anita on 07547 301 321

Rabbit hutch and all rabbit-related bits to go with it (indoor hutch, litter tray, water bottle, some food and hay and treats). Contact: 07727 127 997

Ladies gardening gloves, very strong leather. Small size. **Blackcurrant bush cuttings**, rooted. **Black peppermint**; will dig as required. Contact: Sue, Dalry, on 07563 718 011

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

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Garden bench. Contact: 07727 127 997

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

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Shed clearances - any shed cleared, large or small; get in touch for further info or to arrange a visit. Contact: 07765 034 841



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

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POP IN FOR A CHAT AND A BROWSE

BUSINESS in the SPOTLIGHT

Originally from Kirkcubright, I moved to the Glenkens after meeting my wife, Katie, who is from the area.

Katie works as a ruminant nutritionist for a local agricultural firm.

We bought our first property here and got the bug for renovations. Fast forward seven years and we are now on our second project home (the forever home) on the hidden road, Balmacellan.

We now have a little boy and are expecting our second child within the next month!

What inspired your business, and what do you enjoy most about it?

I felt ready to go self-employed in 2018 after gaining 11 years of experience in the trade. I have always loved carpentry and enjoy the challenge of project managing different jobs. I was driven to



provide a quality, reliable service and build a well respected business.

I'm proud of how the business has grown over the years, I started out on my own and now employ three full-time workers, who all live within the Stewarty and are each a credit to the company.

I've always wanted to be able to pass on the craftsmanship/skill and get young people involved in the trade. I'm therefore thrilled to say one of the team is an apprentice and I would like to be able to keep offering apprenticeships in the future.

I love meeting and working with lots of different people. It's amazing being able to make customer's visions become a reality. I love that no project is the same and I get the pleasure of working on several different and exciting projects.



David with his wife Katie and their son, at their home on the Hidden Road

Are you happy you chose to live in the Glenkens?

I genuinely feel that the Glenkens is an amazing place to live and work. I feel it has the best countryside - a complete hidden gem - and feel so lucky to be able to raise a family here. The Glenkens has a brilliant community and I'm passionate about using and promoting local business to ensure our area thrives.

To find out more about David's business, or to get in touch, see contact details in the ad below.

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A recipe for success



Dalry's AA Rosette rated restaurant, the Clachan Inn, is a favourite eaterie amongst Glenkens locals and visitors alike due to the superb quality food on offer combined with a cosy, lively atmosphere.

The establishment has recently welcomed two new chefs to the kitchen. Craig Little and Matthew Gillies are already making waves, with regulars being impressed with new dishes like the venison kofta puri bread, served with salad, curry aioli, hazelnut dukkha and fries.

Previously Craig worked in a few local restaurants, and Matthew worked at restaurants on Islay, both at similar Rosette-level establishments.

Their previous experience and fresh ideas are having certainly a positive impact on the Clachan kitchen. Head chef Phil said: "I think the main reason things work well is that, in a hospitality setting, you're generally working with people with similar ideas,

who are good natured, and there is mutual respect." Phil expressed that he has been impressed with both Craig and Matthew's skill and genuine interest in preparing food from source to plate.

Both of the new chefs discussed their journeys with regard to their culinary careers. Craig said that while working in the Co-op in Castle Douglas, he mentioned to a restaurant owner who was buying produce that it would look eye-catching on a plate. He was offered a job then and there, and has stayed in the industry ever since.

Craig said that he "loves the lifestyle" and the work, which was similarly mentioned by Clachan head chef Phil, who said that Craig has a good eye for detail, which is one of the aspects that stood out to him.

Craig described working at the Clachan as energetic,

"dichotomy of eternal frustration and blue skies", highlighting the highs and lows of his experience so far. He positively described working as a chef at the Clachan as "more blue skies than frustration" which comically highlights the positivity surrounding his experience.

Phil explained that Matthew's previous experience was impressive and that he has strong skills in working with whole fish and also meat butchery, which stood out to him.

When asked what makes the Clachan stand out from other venues in the local dining scene, Phil highlighted that simplicity is key and "trying to source as much as possible locally" is important to him.

Some key ingredients of recent dishes have been free range rare-breed pork from Dundrennen, as well as Monkfish brought in by

boat to Kirkcudbright. These choices for produce show the care and passion for not only creating seasonal dishes using local produce, but also care for their customers and their dining experience.

After a short period of uncertainty with staffing in the kitchen, which resulted in cutbacks regarding larger



Top: Lamb loin, potato terrine, lamb fat beetroot, salsify, carrot purée & burnt shallot main course.

Above: buttermilk pancotta, garden rhubarb and gingerbread dessert

...simplicity is key and "trying to source as much as possible locally"...

saying that "it's great to work somewhere where people care, and where they share recipes and ideas". He also commented that the energy in the kitchen is "brilliant", as it shows real passion for the food and commitment to customer satisfaction.

Matthew described his culinary career as a

tables, the Clachan has now returned to normal working order, which has been positively received by customers who have expressed their satisfaction with the quality of food and the overall experience.

Georgiana Grimwood

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Fundraising for Glenkens schools

Children at Dalry and Kells primaries have been hard at work raising funds to support school trips and other activities.

KELLS SPONSORED WALK

The Pupil Council at Kells Primary suggested a sponsored walk to raise money for new things for the school.



On 13 May, children and staff set out to walk six miles in six hours. We actually walked almost eight miles!

Harriet said: "I really enjoyed being outdoors!"



the children raised an incredible £900!

If you would like to support Kells' fundraising activities, scan the QR code to the left to donate.

DALRY P7 CYCLE-A-THON

On Monday 12 May all the P7s did a cycle-athon.

We were cycling for the entire day to raise money for the P7 hoodies and the Edinburgh trip. We have a report from the P7s saying that they thought it was really fun.

If you want to donate, visit www.gofundme.com/f/tour-de-dalrys-cycleathon or scan the QR code above.

Please donate because it would be a great help and if you have already donated, thank you for helping!

by Finn and Unti, P7



Artem said: "We don't do sponsored walks in Ukraine."

Marla said: "At the end I was exhausted! I just really enjoyed getting outdoors and exercising and it was fun to stop at the park for a break!"

Amy said: "We saw a frog and a low-flying helicopter and a horse."

The children at Kells want to say a big "thank you" to everyone who has already sponsored us.

Teacher Erin Welsh said: "The pupils absolutely excelled, walking 7.8 miles in the allotted time and 24 degree weather! We are so proud of them!"

Through their sponsorship forms,

The importance of volunteering

Are you someone who can help us to change lives for the better?

Dumfries & Galloway Citizens Advice Service (D&G CAS) is facing unprecedented demand

for its services and is looking to recruit more local volunteers, to help continue changing lives.

Sonya Fitzsimon, Volunteer Coordinator, explains: "The cost-of-living crisis has significantly increased the demand for our services, while volunteering is declining.

"As a charity, volunteers are our lifeblood and we need people from all across the region."

Volunteering is evolving

Volunteering with D&G CAS offers something for everyone, regardless of age (although volunteers must be over 16). Whether you're looking to stay active in retirement, are a young person wishing to gain some experience for

your CV or are a working-age individual who would like to dedicate some time to a good cause, we have a place for you.

Jake, a young volunteer in the Dumfries bureau, says: "This is a service that helps regular people and I'm glad to be a part of that. I help to support advisers who are making a real difference to people's lives. Volunteering with D&G CAS has helped me develop my skills with a view to gaining a job in future. A lot of the skills you get from working with the CAS can be applied to other work, and it helps you gain an understanding of how a workplace works, especially for younger people."

Sonya adds: "Young people looking for work experience can enhance their CVs and anyone keen to learn new skills can benefit greatly by volunteering with us.



"We are specifically looking for new volunteer advisers and triagers, for which full training is provided. In addition, we offer a wide range of other roles and are keen to ensure we have volunteers for our outreach services across the region."

Join us and make a difference!

Visit the 'Volunteering' page at www.dagcas.org, call Sonya on 0300 303 4321, or email sonya.fitzsimon@dagcas.org to learn more about how you can get involved.

Pictured is Jake Cherry, a young volunteer at Dumfries & Galloway Citizens Advice Service



My name is Gordon McJannet and I live in Cumnock, Ayrshire.

My great grandfather, James McJannet, had a sweet shop in New Galloway, in the early 1900s. He sold homemade lemonade, and I'm trying to find one of his lemonade bottles.

If anybody in the New Galloway area has one, I wonder if they would get in touch with me? My number is 07768 913 160.

Thank you, Gordon

Keeping New Galloway clean

In April, Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) teamed up with New Galloway & Kells Community Council, Dumfries & Galloway Council, and New Galloway Community Shop to help tidy up our little burgh.

This was part of a nationwide campaign led by Keep Scotland

Beautiful, who themselves hold out a vision for a clean, green, and sustainable Scotland.

Volunteers listened to local feedback collected via the Shop about New Galloway's litter hot-spots and headed out in teams to target those areas.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, our streets and green space are looking much better already!

The LING Team



Play your cards right

Thank you to all who attended Bryan's Saturday night 'play your cards right' night at Lagwyne Hall in May.

An excellent time was had by everyone and lots of lovely prizes were won!

Catherine Ann Cockburn

Photo of the Issue



This issue's winner is Kirsteen Curry with a striking photo of Mossroddich Loch.

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

Company owner and competition judge, Hannah Gould, said: "Blue skies and blue water...what could say summer in the Glenkens better than that!"

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

Having a dabble at Balmaclellan Village Hall

Held as part of Village Hall Week, Balmaclellan Village Hall's 'Dabble Day' in March proved to be a success.

The event provided an opportunity for people to spend time together being creative, with the chance to try out making pincushions, noticeboards and pottery painting. People could pop in or spend all day, with a delicious lunch also on offer. We hope to hold another soon!

Help us give Balmaclellan Village Hall a bright future!

Balmaclellan Village Hall is an accessible community space complete with kitchen, library and office area that hosts everything from exercise classes to afternoon teas, the local agricultural show ceilidh to children's Christmas parties.

It also provides a warm, safe place in an emergency, and is a key part of the Balmaclellan community resilience plan. We have recently upgraded the heating and insulation, thanks to the Community Led Local Development fund.

The community garden outside also provides outdoor seating



in a beautiful setting, perfect for picnics and reading in the sunshine.

To help secure ongoing activities and future potential of the hall, we are looking for people to become members of the Balmaclellan Village Hall Trust.

By becoming a member you are showing support for the hall and the work that the committee puts into its upkeep and management (but you do not have to get involved in the running or other volunteering).

Good membership numbers help secure funding for building maintenance, resources and community events.

Becoming a member is free – you will be kept up to date with hall news and can also attend and vote at our annual general meeting. To get involved, email balmachallsec@gmail.com or



pick up a paper form at the hall or Balmaclellan Stores.

If you would like to book Balmaclellan Village Hall, for one-off events or regular activities, you can use our new online booking system. Follow the link on our Balmaclellan Village Hall Facebook page, or email balmachallsec@gmail.com

A treat for bird lovers at Balmaclellan Village Hall

Many may know that the hall has a community library. We boast a collection of about 3,000 books, including an extensive collection (over 100 books) on birds.

We were lucky enough to be gifted a number of books collected by Sandy Gordon, a well-known amateur ornithologist and leading expert on Scotland's golden eagles.

He lived his later years in Crocketford and the family,



knowing of our library, offered them to us.

These books are available to borrow, and the range is amazing. If you are going anywhere in the world, we have books to tell you about the bird life of that country or region, as well, of course, as a collection about Scottish birds.

If you are walking the Donald Watson tour, perhaps you might like to borrow a book to help with your identification?

The library is open from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays, or feel free to drop an email to Julia or Lynn at the emails below for a private viewing outside these hours - julia.higgins55@outlook.com or btlynnstewart1@icloud.com

Balmaclellan Village Hall Committee

Name the place

(from page 8)

Site Name: The Old Road Bridge

Location: Clatteringshaws

Tucked along the Queensway, halfway between New Galloway and Newton Stewart, the old bridge stands in quiet

repose beside its modern successor.

Rivers once carved formidable barriers across the land, but here, the worn stones whisper

of a time when this crossing pulsed with life - a vital thread stitching Galloway's rugged southwest to the wider world beyond.

Now, cloaked in heather and ferns, the bridge slumbers like a retired sentinel, its

arches a testament to slower, steadier days.

Did you know..? In medieval times, Galloway's riches - fertile fields, forests, and bustling ports - flowed eastward in a steady stream of trade and hoofbeats.

Cattle from these hills were driven the long road to the Falkirk Tryst, Scotland's great cattle market, before journeying on to feed Edinburgh's hungry streets. Centuries later, the legacy endures.

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Scottish Alternative Games 2025

Now one of the longest-running annual events in the area, the Scottish Alternative Games will take place on Sunday 3 August in New Galloway Park.

The popular event was founded in 1977 at Parton and this year marks 25 years since it moved up the valley to Scotland's smallest Royal Burgh, and in two years' time the event will celebrate its 50th anniversary!

The longevity of the quirky event is a reflection of its enduring popularity, and ability to deliver a good old-fashioned family day out with a difference.

This year will, of course, see the World Gird 'n' Cleek Championship along with

all the other well-loved events like the Tossin' the Sheaf, Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane, Tractor Pull and Snail Racing, with a few other new additions too.

Be sure to put the date in your diary, and if anybody would like to come along to the event with a stall, please get in touch as soon as you can via our Facebook page or by email to bjedgar19@gmail.com

The Alternative Games Committee



The 2024 Gird 'n' Cleek World Championship final in action

Mens' Monday coffee

Every Monday at New Galloway Town Hall, Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) hosts a Men's Coffee Morning.

This is a place for men to get together with the aim to improve wellbeing, reduce loneliness, and combat social isolation. Conversation covers a bewildering range of

topics, supplemented by occasional guest speakers.

There are also group outings to places like Bladnoch Distillery and, most recently, the Devil's Porridge Museum.

If you fancy joining them – they are a friendly bunch! – then do come and join them on Mondays, 9.30-11am at New Galloway Town Hall.



Captured on camera

Left: A photo of the Earlstoun oak, taken by Andrew Mellor. Andrew said: "Walking along the road down to the castle, past the devastation caused by the January storm, I was surprised and delighted to find this historic relic still standing."

Right: The right plant in the right place - at the doctor's surgery door! Photograph by Nicky Cruickshank



Litter picking

My husband and I went litter picking on a 300-yard stretch of road along the A713 north of Dalry.

We collected all this litter, including bottles and cans of alcohol, and even a can of petrol, in an area which is currently under a wild fire warning.

I'm totally disgusted and saddened by this, and think it's time somebody spoke up.

Jackie Dennison



The true weight of dry stone walls

If you've spent time in the catchment area of the *Glenkens Gazette*, you will likely be aware of the sheer quantity of dry stone work all around you.

It is there wherever you go and wherever you look. The 'stane' dykes that line the roads and fields seem to present themselves as part of the natural landscape and may therefore become invisible in some manner.

That which has always been present in memory perception is rarely questioned, for it seems axiomatic and obvious – in this case a pleasant, practical and peaceful backdrop to the Scottish countryside. Is it though..?

Popular understanding has it

that most of the dry stone dykes we see today came about after the clearances of the 1700s and 1800s.

The hills and glens were cleared of forests to make way for large-scale landholdings and animal farming. Stone dykes began to proliferate, marking the boundaries of fields and keeping livestock in manageable, controlled areas.

The land was also cleared of human beings! The folk who had been resident for generations were brutally turfed out of their smallholdings and sent off to the dismal factories of the 'industrial revolution' or else to the 'new' continents of America and Australia.

A deeply-embedded culture was ripped out of rural Scotland just as surely as trees are ripped out of the ground in modern-day forestry, leaving gaping wounds across a landscape where once life thrived.

The clearances were a massive

traumatic blow to the collective psyche of Scotland. The Highland clearances were brutal. The Lowland clearances which included the Glenkens, were equally brutal. Some historians maintain that they were even worse.

Such deep trauma does not go unmarked or unnoticed by the land itself, even though humans themselves may think they have moved on.

Boundaries divide and exclude the 'other'. Beneath the tens of thousands of miles of dry stone dykes found across Scotland lies a sadness – a heaviness that goes beyond just a property of large stones. What was once an integral part of 'self' was brutally 'othered'. The loss is profound and goes way beyond what words can express.

I love working with naked dry stone. I love the gypsy way of life: travelling with dog and van, rebuilding stone dykes and otherwise rearranging stone in

beautiful far-away-and-over-the-hill locations.

I get totally lost in the stone zone. I love observing and interacting with the different styles of stone wall as they match local materials available at the time of building. I love how stone wears its history transparently on its sleeve, easily deconstructed by observing what remains and how it was put together.

But something always reminds me of what was taken away. There remains a vein of sadness, heartbreak and loss echoing the experience of forced expulsion which the land and the stone have not forgotten.

I get a real buzz serving and adding to the tradition of stone but at the same time I am acutely aware of the ghosts of those who within a few generations had their way of life extinguished and replaced by tree-less sheep fields and endless walled boundaries.

Arjun Gupta



FANCY A SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECT?

If you're at school in S4, S5 or S6 and would like a summer holiday project offering a prize of £250 for the winner, look no further!

The local Antiquarian Society are running a 'Young Researcher' competition. They want to get youngsters interested in the local heritage of D&G.

The idea is that students entering

the competition will write an original piece of work on any topic relating to the human history or natural environment of D&G.

For example, you could research the career of a local historical figure, the history of a significant local building/monument, or a study – perhaps a census – of local wildlife. Articles should contain between 1,500 and 2,500 words and may contain images, appropriately captioned.

The winner will receive a prize of £250 and their paper will

be published on the society's website.

This is great publicity for anyone wishing to go on to university as if you get a prize, or take part in the competition, you can add it to your university entry form.

The competition runs from 1 June 2025, with the deadline for entries being 31 October, timing which ensures that examination studies are not affected.

Full details of the competition, including the registration form and terms & conditions, are available under the 'about' tab at www.dgnhas.org.uk



St Margaret's bumper plant and bake sale

This year's plant and bake sale, run by the St Margaret's Guild, raised just over £700 for the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA).

The SCAA is Scotland's only charity air ambulance and is funded entirely by donations, enabling them to respond to time-critical accident and emergencies throughout Scotland.

Many in the Glenkens community look forward to this annual event, and were not deterred by the rain on the last Saturday in April.

Sales of plants were brisk, and the home baking stall had sold out by the end of the morning. Many people stayed to enjoy tea or coffee and cakes, but this was held inside the church due to the weather.

The plant stall contained a variety of flower and vegetable

seedlings, as well as plants and perennials, all from local gardens and this year the Guild was particularly grateful to Dalbeattie Garden Centre and Ernespie Farm who generously donated lots of colourful annuals which undoubtedly helped boost sales.

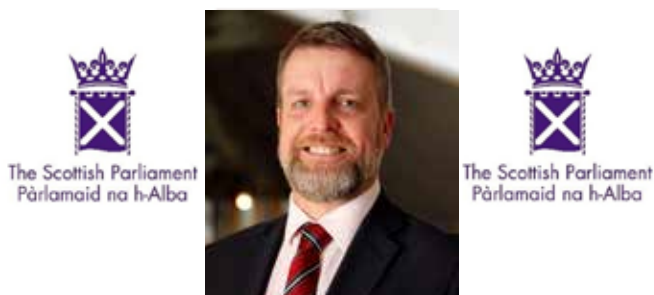
The homemade cakes and biscuits on the baking stall are always popular and this year there was a huge variety on offer, including Norwegian rhubarb cake, Victoria sponges, gingerbread, carrot cake, rock cakes, flapjacks, chocolate muffins and granary bread and, of course, the always-popular tablet and fresh fruit scones.

Christine Rankin, president of St Margaret's Guild, said: "We are very grateful to all who supported this event, and to those who helped on the day. "Being a rural area, we are all conscious of the vital service provided by the SCAA and we're delighted to have raised such a significant sum for the charity".



FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

Write to:

107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

Phone: 01556 504991

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What does the Scottish Census tells us about the Glenkens?

How many people live in the Glenkens? Where were they born? What do they do for a living? Has this changed over the past twenty years?

People may remember completing a Census form just over three years ago. The total Scottish population figure of 5,436,600 was released in 2023, and now detailed local data is (fairly!) easy to access.

I've brought together some figures for the Glenkens, and compared them to the 2001 Census. They are a snapshot of what the area was like on Sunday 20 March 2022.

That's already three years ago: since then people have moved in and out of the area, been born, died, changed jobs. But it's the best picture we have, and it will inform government planning for the area.

There is no official boundary for the Glenkens. I started with the eight community council areas covered by the Gazette, but their boundaries have changed over the years, and aren't used in the census.

So I've used the 'civil parishes' which are fairly constant for each census, and are mainly the same as the community council areas. But I've left Crossmichael out altogether (sorry!), because it includes part of Castle Douglas and has more people than Parton, Carsphairn, Balmacellan, Kells and Dalry put together.

Who lives in the Glenkens?

In 2022 there were 3302 people in the seven civil parishes that I've looked at here. This is a 3% decline since 2001 (when it was 3403), but there has been no change at all since 2011.

People tend to think of rural depopulation as a problem, but across the Glenkens

as a whole the population is not shrinking fast. However, this hides some big variations between parishes.

Over the 20 years the population fell by over 10% in Kells, Balmacellan, Dalry and Parton; in contrast Kirkpatrick Durham, Carsphairn and Balmaghie have all grown significantly.

What is happening is that as a community we are getting older. The number of young people (below age 25) has dropped by about a quarter (24%) and 'working aged' adults by 9%, but there are 43% more people aged 65 and over.

The top three employment sectors haven't changed in 20 years...agriculture and forestry are still the biggest employers...

Where do we come from?

The majority of people (55%) in the Glenkens were born in Scotland, and a third (33%) can speak, read and/or write in Scots. Well over a third (37%) are from England; nearly one in 10 (9%) comes from outside the UK. This has changed quite a bit since 2001. At that time two thirds (67%) were Scotland-born, just over a quarter (28%) from England, and only one in 20 (5%) came from outside the UK.

What do we do?

The top three employment

sectors haven't changed in 20 years. People may be surprised to see that agriculture and forestry are still the biggest employers, with one in six of the total workforce (16%), though this is a substantial decrease since 2001 (22%).

Health and social work has stayed in second place, but has closed the gap with land-based work: up from 11% to 14%.

The third category is a mixed bag of wholesale, retail, and repair work, and has fallen slightly, from 11% to 10% of the workforce.

The big change, though, is how many of us are retired. This more than doubled between the censuses, from one in six (13%) to over a quarter of the total population (28%).

How qualified are we?

Another big change has been the increase in the level of educational qualifications. In 2001 only 18% had a Level 4 (Higher National Diploma or Certificate, Scottish Vocational Qualification or equivalent) or degree qualification.

By 2022 41% had at least Level 4, with almost a third (32%) having an undergraduate degree.

How well are we?

As the population has got older there are, unsurprisingly, more health issues. Just over one in four (26%) have a long term disability or illness which limits

their daily activities, up from one in five in 2001 (20%).

On the positive side, we feel better: overall self reported 'general health' is high, and has risen very slightly from 91% to 92% of people saying their health is "fine" or better.

So what has changed?

The big changes are that as a community we are more qualified, older, and more of us have retired.

Smaller but still significant changes are that there are slightly fewer of us, we are less Scottish and more ethnically diverse, and more likely to be disabled.

Tantalisingly what we can't tell is how these things are related, though some of the links (e.g. between age and disability) are fairly obvious.

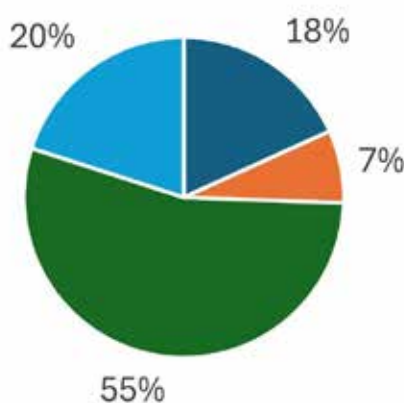
What struck me, though, was how small many of the changes have been: mainly only a few percent in either direction when averaged out across the Glenkens.

I was really surprised by the steadiness of the total population, and that agriculture and forestry still topped the employment ranking. What about you? Do these figures reflect what you thought about Glenkens people?

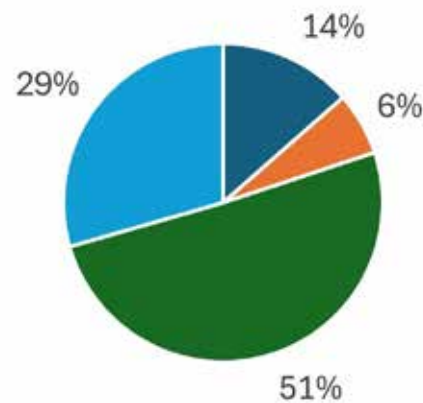
If you want to know more, and delve into the separate parish figures, go to www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/search-the-census#/search-by

Steve Connelly

People's ages in 2001



People's ages in 2022



■ 1-15 ■ 16-24 ■ 25-64 ■ 65+ ■ 1-15 ■ 16-24 ■ 25-64 ■ 65+

Galloway Retold with Angela Miller

The Dalarran standing stone

The lone standing stone at Dalarran field, by the Ken Bridge on the A713, is a familiar landmark to all of us here in the Glenkens.

The common story recounted about it, as told in Dr Robert Trotter's *Galloway Gossip*, is that there was a battle in the field during which a king was killed, and the stone is his memorial.

When I was a child newly moved to the area, it was probably the first story I heard about the Glenkens, so it was a story that stayed with me.

It was, in fact, the first video that

I recorded for my wee channel, *Galloway Retold*, and is also used for my logo (pictured to the right), and that was when I started to discover some interesting things about the story itself. In the end, I actually made two videos about the standing stone and its subject.

For a long time it was believed that this ill-fated king haunted the area around the field on horseback, in full battle regalia, with a huge sword on his back.

During one particular encounter with this ghost, a young man and his sister followed it all the way to Fintloch, on the Kirk Road out of New Galloway, where the apparition disappeared over a stone slab in the ground.

According to Dr Trotter, Lady Ashburton of Glenlee had the stone lifted. Inside lay a body in full battle regalia laid to rest with

a huge sword, but it all crumbled to dust as soon as the outside air touched it...pretty unsettling stuff!

Whether that particular tale is true or not, there have been a number of axe-heads, arrowheads and even the odd sword found when Dalarran field has been ploughed.

Ted Cowan, I'm told, thought it was likely the stone marked a market site, which would explain the items found in the field too. Since the name Dalarran literally means 'Bread Field' in Gaelic, maybe Ted's assessment is closer to the mark.

Still, it's exciting to imagine an ancient battle taking place right here in the heart of the Glenkens, with unsettled ghosts still walking the battle-ground.

You can find both of the videos



regarding the story on my Youtube Channel, *Galloway Retold*. They are called 'Is a Scottish King buried under this stone?' And 'The Ghostly Horseman of Dalarran'. Have I tickled your interest..?

Angela Miller is the librarian at Dalry Library and a keen local historian. You can view her YouTube channel by searching YouTube or Google for 'Galloway Retold'.

VJ Day: The official end of World War 2

Now that we have celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day, 8 May 1945), can I wave a flag for VJ Day (Victory in Japan Day) on 15 August, the day which marks the official end of World War 2.

Many Glenkens men fought in Burma and I note in my father's diary and letters home from that time, that they were still fighting bravely while those at home celebrated VE Day.

He (John Nelson) joined the Kirkcudbright battery of the Royal Artillery. After a period manning guns near Clacton during the Battle of Britain, they were posted 'overseas'.

My father's regiment embarked from Greenock in early 1942 sailing West, before the zig-zagging convoy turned and headed south for the Cape.

His notes recall leaving the Clyde, heading, he thought, for the North African Desert, stopping at Freetown and then Durban en route to refuel. As they left Durban, Singapore fell to the Japanese and his ship 'Strathmore,' which was much faster than the others, was ordered off alone without escort and headed towards Bombay.

He recalls a morning on deck with a dozen Glenkens boys, including his good friend JD Bell, as well as 'Cheery' McQueen, Jock Little, and many other local names - Gallacher, Jardine, McMin, McDowall, Patterson and McMath.

After landing at Bombay and unloading all their guns and equipment (now painted jungle colours over the previous desert camouflage paint) they loaded men and machines onto a train and set off for Deolali and on to Ranchi.

Then followed three years of desperate fighting against a ruthless foe in appalling jungle conditions. During that time, when given leave, my father went to stay with Jim McCrae, who

managed several coal mines in India.

Jim, who came from Sanquhar, had been the last manager of Carsphairn and Creetown mines. In mid-1944 father was posted to the Mountain Artillery, 5th Indian Division. When VE Day was announced, the Division were involved in fierce fighting around Meiktila.

Around this time (mid-May) the monsoon started and a Castle Douglas lad, Clark Corson (whose family owned Corsons bakers in CD) drowned in a flooded paddy field while trying to save some of his men.

We cannot imagine the heartache felt daily by the mothers and wives of those still facing almost certain death in Japanese slave camps, while their neighbours laughed and danced at the joys of peace at last.

After the horrendous battle of Kohima, the allies changed tactics and managed to turn the tide and push the enemy back. However, it would be another



John Nelson on the left, with two of his regiment on shore leave in Cape Town

three months, with heavy losses on both sides, before VJ Day was announced. Little wonder that those fighting in India and Burma nicknamed themselves 'The Forgotten Army'.

So let's not forget them on the 15th August!

John Nelson

My muses take care of me

Once in a long time, something comes along that moves you in a way that you can't fully explain, yet you feel compelled to talk about it.

Recently, for us, this something was *My Muses Take Care of Me*, a contemporary dance performance devised by choreographer Fleur Darkin, in collaboration with sculptor Claire-Rose Barbier.

We saw this performance at the CatStrand as part of the Move South programme 'Immersive Dance Theatre In Galloway', a dynamic programme of performances and participatory events featuring some of Scotland's most exciting touring dance companies.

We went to this event because we were excited to have the opportunity to go and see an

international acclaimed dance ensemble right here in New Galloway.

There were just six in the audience, including us. How few of us there were but how precious and exhilarating the experience. Dance, song, spoken word, and sculpture were integrated and choreographed to enchant and guide us through a liminal space of imagination and movement.

The singer danced, the sculptor sang, the dancers became the sculptures, the sculptures became the dance. The attention to detail in the choreography was inspirational.

The whole performance was punctuated by little moments where your focus was taken to the toes or an elbow, then back to the whole body and the bodies together on the stage. Little moments like when they tugged at their ear lobes. These micro moments flowed

into sequences of accomplished dance; the kind of movements that only a trained and agile body can execute.

Merging words, live chanson singing, and sculpture, *My Muses Take Care of Me* poetically layered intrigue with flickers of narrative. It was abstract, yet at the same time it was familiar. We were watching human bodies doing extraordinary and sometimes quite ordinary things in ways that made them extraordinary.

My Muses Take Care of Me was an experience that had us all smiling and totally engrossed. Transfixed. After the performance we six made our way to the bar, buzzing and talking with excitement about what we'd just seen and experienced.

The performers joined us.



They commented on how engaged we all were and that it was a delight to perform in front of such a rapt audience. On a personal level, it hadn't mattered to us that there were only six in the audience because each of us had a captivating experience.

At the same time, it's such a shame that an exceptional performance was experienced by so few. Through 'Move South', the CatStrand invited us to experience some of the most innovative work being produced in Scotland. It was made possible by support from Creative Scotland Strategic Touring Fund and, to make it accessible, the tickets were priced as 'pay what you feel'.

Move South Immersive Dance Theatre in Galloway is a partnership project between CatStrand and Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival.

It was the first of what they hope will be an annual event. We hope so too.

Kerry Morrison, local resident, and Rachel Newsome, visiting Writer in Residence

**Photographs by
Claire-Rose Barbier**



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Successful season on stage comes to a close

CatStrand Players brought their festival season to a close at The Beacon Theatre in Greenock in early April with a brilliant performance of 'It's Only Make Believe' by Mark Rees.

Against strong competition from all over the west of Scotland, the team were placed third overall and were delighted to also be awarded the trophy for 'Best Stage Presentation'.

The adjudicator praised the confident and mature performances from the

actors, James Wallace and Rose Benson. He said they performed with much energy and enthusiasm and the clear enjoyment of the actors was infectious, as demonstrated by the justified response from the audience.

In the end, the scores were very close but third place meant that the play just missed out on an appearance at the Scottish Final, with Kirkintilloch Players and 88 Theatre progressing to represent the Western Division.

As reported in the last *Gazette*, the Youth Players team also missed out by a whisker on another Scottish Final appearance, when they finished in second place at their Western Final at Dunlop in March.

However, both teams can

look back with great satisfaction and pride at their productions this year, each of them competing at a very high standard against the other winning teams from around the Western Division.

After a well earned summer break, panto rehearsals will start on Sunday 7 September, anyone aged 10+ who would like to take part welcome to come along to CatStrand at 2pm on that day.

The much anticipated annual panto will be on stage on



Friday 5, Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December.

Brian Edgar

Pictured, left to right, are Jo Jackson, Fraser Kemp and James Wallace with the Youth Players' well-earned trophies

New Cultural Glenkens project

CatStrand Arts is excited to announce a major milestone in its artistic and heritage programme.

CatStrand has long been home to many volunteer-led projects of the highest quality, like The Glenkens Story, Watson Birds, Ken Words, Write On, The CatStrand Singers, Dalry Film Club and Clachan Folk.

These projects have added significantly to

the culture and heritage of the Glenkens over many years now, and we are keen to provide even better support.

We are therefore delighted to announce National Lottery Heritage Fund support for a new three-year project called Cultural Glenkens.

Building on the work of the Galloway Glens project, Cultural Glenkens will not only support existing and new volunteer heritage projects, but also create an Oral History archive for the Glenkens and run a series of talks and events designed to bring our heritage to life.

The Heritage Lottery understands that heritage can only thrive in sustainable communities, and so the project will also create five six-month internships to support our young people.

The project includes funding for a new role of Cultural Glenkens Project Lead, and after a full recruitment process, Jo Jackson has been appointed to this position.

Many of you will know Jo from her work on 'Together in the Glenkens', and we are excited to see her bring her energy and enthusiasm for community heritage to this role. She

will start in early June and will look forward to getting out and about in this new four day per week role shortly after then.

Jo will be supported by a small Cultural Glenkens Steering Group. This group of volunteers will meet about every two months to support and guide the project as it evolves over the three years - do get in touch at peter@catstrand.com if you would like to find out more about this role.

This funding means that all three strands of the CatStrand Artistic Vision are now multi-year funded, for the first time ever in CatStrand's history.

CatStrand Touring Arts is supported by Creative Scotland to March 2028; CatStrand Young Creatives is supported by The Holywood Trust until March 2027 and Cultural Glenkens is supported by the Heritage Lottery until April 2028.

We look forward to using these unprecedented levels of security to carry on delivering great art, heritage and culture in the heart of the Glenkens. And please join us in welcoming Jo!

Peter Renwick,
CatStrand Creative Director



Jo Jackson, newly-appointed Cultural Glenkens Project Lead

THE GLENKENS HUB

Have you thought about writing for the Hub?

Just like our sister publication, the *Glenkens Gazette*, we're reliant on our fantastic community of contributors for our quality content.

- We'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to get involved with:
- ✳ writing articles, stories, poetry
- ✳ taking photographs of the area
- ✳ producing videos and audio
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- ✳ promoting your business

Getting in touch with us and submitting content couldn't be easier!

- ✳ @Glenkens Hub on Facebook
- ✳ Email: glenkenshub@hotmail.com
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Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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 on a journey into his world of writing, reading and general thoughts on life.

I went to Syria armed with books.

On the way we spent most of the night in Antalya airport (southern Turkey) so I drank bad coffee and read Han Kang's novel *The Vegetarian*, about a woman who stops eating meat, and eventually stops eating everything.

This is a story about trauma, how the pain inflicted by others is turned on the self, and it was relevant to my destination in ways I won't write about here.

We arrived in Beirut, then took a taxi to Damascus, a city which tells two different stories. The centre never slipped regime control, so remains intact.

The suburbs were controlled by the opposition, so were bombed by various powers with various weapons.

Today they are rubble, mile after mile of it. I hope whoever ends up in charge of rebuilding – if Syria is permitted to rebuild – reads the book I read on the rooftop with breakfast:

Marwa Sabouni's The Battle for Home.

Sabouni, an architect, argues (perhaps questionably) that the failure of the built environment was one of factors which led to war.

Sabouni describes how the architecture of Old Homs engineered community, concretely interweaving

relations of trade and friendship. Churches faced mosques, and shared public space (fountains, benches, trees) was as important as private.

But when newcomers arrived from usually more monocultural villages, and were settled in "concrete barracks with no shared place to belong to," conflict arose. Sabouni's is an interesting and elegant little book, whether you agree or not with its conclusions.

I was too busy talking and eating to do much more reading in Syria, but on the journey home I read Hassan Blasim's *Sololand*.

I have loved Blasim's writing since his first story collection, *The Madman of Freedom Square*. In fact, I once described him (in the *Guardian*) as being the greatest living writer of Arabic fiction.

Nevertheless, the overwhelming atmosphere, for now at least, is one of enthusiastic optimism...

I recommend *Madman* before the rest of his work for its treatment of war with the tools of surrealism and dark humour, but *Sololand* is also very worth reading. Two of its three stories



illustrate the political and social dysfunction that force people to flee places like Iraq (Blasim is Iraqi), and one depicts the political

and social dysfunction they encounter in their countries of supposed refuge (Blasim has lived in Finland since 2004).

A million and a half refugees have returned to Syria since the old regime fell, despite not having houses to live in. God knows the country has enormous challenges to

overcome after 14 years of war and over half a century of dictatorship.

There is grinding poverty, sectarian tension, and foreign states are circling like vultures (in a restaurant one night we heard a huge bang – the Israelis were bombing nearby).

Nevertheless, the overwhelming atmosphere, for now at least, is one of enthusiastic optimism, and if you ignore for a moment the warplanes and unruly militias, it's easy to see why.

Books hitherto banned are sold publically, and for the first time in several generations, everyone's talking politics freely, without fear of arrest.



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SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS



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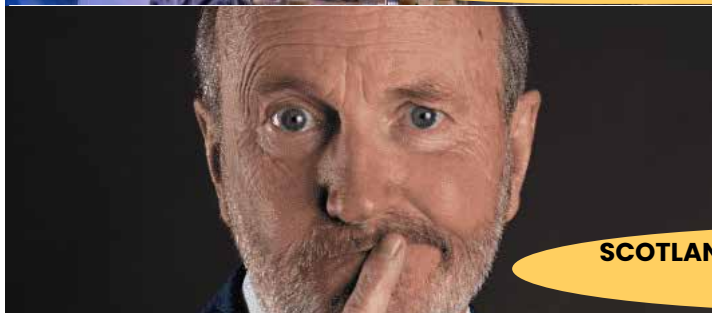
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- Corsock: Julie Garton -

07769 647 702

• Kirkpatrick Durham: Heather - 07551 639 629

• Crossmichael: Richard Middleton - 01556 670 691

• Dalry: Michele Owen - 07940 313 445

• New Galloway: 07741 656 601

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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

Crossmichael: 1 Jun, 9.30am; 8 Jun, 9.30am; 15 Jun, 9.30am; 22 Jun, 9.30am; 29 Jun, 9.30am; 6 Jul, 9.30am; 13 Jul, 9.30am; 20 Jul, 9.30am; 27 Jul, 9.30am

Balmaclellan: 1 Jun, 11am; 6 Jul, 11am

Carsphairn: 8 Jun, 11.15am; 13 Jul, 11.15am

Kells: 15 Jun, 11am; 29 Jun, 11am; 20 Jul, 11am

Dalry: 22 Jun, 11am; 27 Jul, 11am

For further info contact Ian Knox on 07840 506 516 or at i.knox29@btopenworld.com, or Irene McCreath on 07974 861927 or at irenemccreath.im@gmail.com

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Rev Dawn Matthew

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Tuesdays: 10am-12noon, look for the 'church is open' sign and pop in for private prayer or to chat with Dawn.

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

SPECIAL SERVICES - June & July: Sundays @4 - an informal service with music, readings and prayer: 8 June & 13 July

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

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- Balmaclellan Stores, Balmaclellan
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- Kirkland Street, St John's Town of Dalry
- New Galloway, Carson's Knowe Car Park
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www.carsphairn.org/CREFLArchive

Local Job Vacancies

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GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

*The Surgery
 High Street
 New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

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

phone: Jon 07841 512449 / Jason 07704 662925

**JUNE 2025 – JULY 2025****REGULAR SERVICES**

We are pleased to announce a revision to our GK2 service. From Wednesday 2nd April the service will run in the evening, until the October daylight saving time change, when it will revert to a daytime winter timetable. The 'summer' times are as below:

GK2 Glenkens > Castle Douglas
Every Wednesday (Registered Route)

Outward		Return
1800	Kendoon	2150
1820	Dalry (Underhill)	2130
1825	Balmaclellan	2125
1830	New Galloway	2120
1842	Mossdale	2108
1852	Laurieston	2058
1907	Ringford	2043
1920	Castle Douglas Tesco	2030
1925	Castle Douglas ALDI	2025

Booking not required

MINIBUS DRIVING

Minibus drivers are needed to do volunteer and paid driving for our wide range of member community groups, as well as for our contracted school services. MiDAS training will be provided. Not got a D1 on your licence? Not a problem, we have a couple of buses that do not require D1. Ask us for more details.

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

Phone: 07841 512449 / 07704 662925

EXCURSIONS
GCT EXCURSION
THE MACHARS GARDENS

SUNDAY 8TH JUNE 2025

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

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

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

Refreshments will be available

LAST FEW TICKETS!
BE QUICK!

Bus Fare: £17.00

Entry to gardens:
£3.00 Galloway House
£10.00 Woodfall (INCLUDES
REFRESHMENTS)

Pick ups:

0830 Balmaclellan Shop
0845 Dalry - Underhill Stop
0855 New Galloway Catstrand
0910 Crossmichael Shop
0930 Dalbeattie opp. Esso Station
0940 Castle Douglas Market Hill
1000 Kirkcudbright Harbour Square
1015 Gatehouse of Fleet Spar Bus Stop
1035 Creetown Clock Tower

mobile: 07841 512449 / email: gct@catstrand.com

Scan this QR code
to book via
TicketSource



WEBSITE: WWW.GALLOWAYCOMMUNITYTRANSPORT.ORG

Save the date!... we have added another excursion on 21st August to Dumfries House. Please keep checking our website for further details (and the next Gazette edition!)

MEMBERSHIP HIRE

We have 3 x 16 seat buses, a 15 seat, an 8 seat minibus and a fully wheelchair accessible electric car available (and minibus) 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.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

WHAT'S ON June/July/August

JUNE

Runs until Sept, Bairn Banter Forest Learning Sessions, last Sat of the month, *see below for booking details*

From Sun 1, Antiquarian Society 'Young Researcher' Competition, deadline for entries 31 Oct, *see p19*

Every Thursday, Summer Sports, 6pm, New Galloway Park

Sun 1, Clachan Folk Session with the Ruby Warblers, 6pm, The Clachan Inn

Mon 2, Community Engagement Day with D&G Community Safety Team, 10am-10.45, Heritage Centre Car Park, Carsphairn; 11am-12.15, Main St, Dalry; 12.45-1.30pm, near CatStrand, New Galloway, (*see right for info*)

Mon 2, Art Ambassadors, art session for young people aged 12+, 4.30-5.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 4, Dalry Film Club: Gladiator II, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 5, Firelight Trio, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 6, The Old Paddy Line: Bar Night Talk, 8pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 7, Carsphairn Show, The Crofts, Carsphairn

Sun 8, National Theatre Live 2025: A Streetcar Named Desire, 4pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 8, GCT Bus Trip: Wigtownshire Garden Tour, *see p29*

Thu 12, Ken Words Writers' Café, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 14, Billy Kay and Robyn Stapleton: Born in Kyle – A Love Letter tae an Ayrshire Childhood, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 18, Dalry Film Club: Conclave, 7pm,

Dalry Town Hall

Fri 20, Outliers: Boo Hewerdine & Jenny Sturgeon, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 20, LING AGM, 7pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Sat 21, SongWave: What do the Tall Trees Say? 4pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Sat 28, RANT, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 28, Picnic in the Park, all day, New Galloway Park

Sat 28, RNLI Fundraising Coffee Morning, Dalry Town Hall

JULY

Thu 10, Ken Words Writers' Café, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 19, Wave Blues Band, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 25, Fish and Chips social, evening, New Galloway Town Hall

AUGUST

Sun 3, Scottish Alternative Games, New Galloway Park, *see p18*

Thu 14, Ken Words Writers' Café, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 30, 12.30-9pm, Crossmichael Gala Day, *see p5*

Fri 15 to Sun 17, Land Notes Festival, CatStrand and Dalry Town Hall, *see p10*



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, (10yrs plus), weekly, Sun, 3pm

The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

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

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

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

Art Explorers, Sat, 10.30am, fortnightly

New Galloway Town Hall

Community Larder, side door open for access Mon 9am-4pm; Tue 7-9pm; Wed 6.30-8pm; Thu 9.30am-4pm

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

Dance for Wellbeing (adults), Mon 2.30pm

Creative Movement for Children, 4pm

LING Community Cafe, Mon, 12.30-2pm

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

Zumba, Wed, 6.30pm

Ukulele Group, Wed, 6.30pm

Hubbub, Thu, 12noon-3pm, drop-in

Martial Arts, Thu, 7.30pm

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

Wee Wonders, Thu, 9-10am

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 - 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 at 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, every 3rd Sat of the month, 1-3pm, contact Michele Owen on Facebook

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

Learn to Play Bridge, Mon, 7-9pm, Lochinvar Hotel

Keep Fit with Alex, 7.15-8.15pm, KPD Village Hall

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

Spalding Bowling Club Sweep Nights, Mon, 7pm, shazfish1@gmail.com

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

Glenkens Oil Painters, Wed, 10am, Corfield House Art Studio

Crossmichael Heritage Centre, Wed 2-4.30pm

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

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

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

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

Outdoor Bowls, Dalry, contact Fiona on 07500 554 751

Snooker/Indoor Bowls, contact Gary on 01644 430 521

Mum & Baby Movement Thu, 9.30-11.30am, Laurieston Village Hall

Crossmichael Youth Club, Fri, Crossmichael Memorial Hall

Carsphairn kids group goes from strength to strength

Over the past few months, families from across the Glenkens and further afield have been enjoying a range of events and activities with the Carsphairn-based children's group, Bairn Banter.

From visits from the local police and fire service, to Easter activities to growing their own veg and forest adventures, the volunteer-led group continues to grow, offering a continually expanding range of new and exciting free activities to children across the Glenkens and beyond.

The group welcomed the Glenkens' community police officer to a morning session. PC Coupland spoke about how the police can help us in an emergency and the importance

of road safety.

Sparked by the children's interest, they investigated other emergency services in the Glenkens, inviting the New Galloway Fire Station team to visit the group.

Bairn Banter hosted its annual Easter egg hunt at the Lagwyne Hall, where the children enjoyed lots of fun activities including a very special visit from the Easter Bunny herself!

As a keen supporter of this annual event, the renewable energy company Vattenfall gifted each child a large chocolate egg. Carol MacInnes from Vattenfall attended the event with a virtual reality headset which the older children and adults could try on, with a short film, in which kids experienced going up a wind turbine.

The gorgeous weather we've been having has enabled lots of outdoor play in our newly-fenced children's garden, with thanks to the Lagwyne Hall committee for



Children at Bairn Banter enjoying the new climbing frame

their support with the project.

Children and parents have expressed a keen interest in growing more vegetables and flowers (following on from our 'Seed to Soup Spoon' project last year). We have also received a kind donation of tree stumps from a local resident, which have provided fun as seats, tables and habitats for insects and beasts in our garden.

Bairn Banter has also recently teamed up with Dalry ELC to raise funds for an outdoor climbing frame. The Nursery/ELC previously owned a climbing frame (which was no longer used by the children) and it was agreed that it would make the perfect addition to the Carsphairn children's garden instead.

A sum of £200 was agreed as a contribution to Dalry ELC to go towards the costs for much-needed resources. This figure has now been raised,

and Bairn Banter would like to thank everyone who generously contributed. Any additional funds that have been raised over and above the target have been divided between both settings to further benefit children of the Glenkens.

Heading into summer, Bairn Banter have been enjoying Forest School sessions with Melissa Ade, who recently qualified as a Forest School leader. On the last Saturday of each month, for a block of six months, children and parents are welcome to Forest Schools sessions. To book a place at these sessions email bairnbanter@outlook.com (booking is essential as spaces are limited).

If you have a wee one in the Glenkens, come along and join Bairn Banter on a Saturday morning in Carsphairn's Lagwyne Hall - all ages of children are welcome; we'd love to see you!

Melissa Ade



THE GLENKENS HUB

- ✓ WHAT'S ON CALENDAR
- ✓ NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES
- ✓ GLENKENS GAZETTE CURRENT & BACK ISSUES
- ✓ LOCAL SERVICES & AMENITIES | HOUSING | TRANSPORT
- ✓ JOBS & EDUCATION | VOLUNTEERING
- ✓ COMMUNITY COUNCILS & GROUPS | COMMUNITY SPACES
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Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

AUG/SEP COPY DEADLINE: 5 JULY



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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.