

GLENKENS GAZETTE

August/September 2025

ISSUE 149

FREE

Stroanfreggan fort archaeology project

Carsphairn Heritage Initiative, in conjunction with the Glenkens Story, have launched the Stroanfreggan

Community Archaeological Research Project (SCARP).

This is a new project investigating the ancient sites of Stroanfreggan fort and the nearby Smittons

Bridge kerbed cairn.

The sites will be excavated in September and October 2025 with AOC Archaeology, and you are invited to help on the excavation.

Continued in the History section on p23...



Conjectural part reconstruction as to how Stroanfreggan fort may have appeared, created by Fearrann Alba

Skills and jobs fair showcasing Glenkens-based opportunities

This September will see the rollout of a local skills and jobs fair, designed to boost awareness of employment and training opportunities in the Glenkens.

There is a broadly held opinion that rural areas only offer employment opportunities in a very limited range of sectors; however, we know that this is not the case for us!

On 30 September, Dalry High School will host a 'Skills and Jobs Fair' where young people (P6 and over), career changers and people looking for new

opportunities will have the chance to talk with employers from a range of sectors about Glenkens-based careers, qualifications and relevant skills training.

The idea of the event is to raise awareness of the careers, qualifications and relevant skills training available on our doorstep.

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New benches at community woodland

...turn to p5



All new Glenkens Land Notes Festival

...turn to p8



Glenkens Food Month is our annual celebration of all things food across the Glenkens, now in its seventh year and bigger and better than ever!

Throughout September there will be a whole raft of exciting events and activities - keep your eyes peeled for the programme in local shops, and visit the Glenkens Hub for up-to-date info www.glenkens.scot/glenkens-food-month-2025

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

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Exploring employment and training in the Glenkens

Continued from front page...

Land use change, the advent of remote working, and changes to the forestry and renewables sector have all had an effect on the availability of roles in rural Scotland, potentially increasing opportunities to access careers in new sectors.

The Skills and Jobs Fair aims to offer support and advice to those considering setting up as self-employed, as well as highlighting avenues of local employment. It will be a great chance to come and see the opportunities in the area, whether you're taking your first steps into employment, are considering a career change, or looking to expand your local business.

The Glenkens Communities and Arts Trust is organising the Fair in partnership with

the Glenkens Community Action Plan Steering Group, Dalry Schools Parent Council and Dalry Secondary School, and the project has been made possible thanks to funding from DG Works.

Save the date: 30 September, 4-6pm, Dalry School Hall

For more information visit www.glenkens.scot/community-events/skills-and-jobs-fair

Becca Nelson



Pictured is Phoenix Lord, one of the young people to benefit from Carsphairn Community Woodland's pre-apprenticeship scheme

EMPLOYERS/LOCAL BUSINESSES

If you would like to have a table at the fair, or have any questions, please contact Becca Nelson at GCATProjects@gmail.com

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Jo Jackson

Project Lead Cultural Glenkens
jo@catstrand.com
01644 420374



**Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust**



Glenkens Cub Scouts

The Cubs went that extra mile with an amazing display for their Easter egg competition.

Presented were a Formula 1 track, racing cars and a stand full of spectators (eggs), football pitch which resembled Queen of the South, a well kitted-out gym, lambs, a garden with a nest in the bushes, ninjas, and much more.

Christine Rankin, chairperson for the Galloway District Scout Council, judged the eggs and couldn't believe the high standard of entries.

After this event I had a fall, and have been out of action since. I would like to thank all who sent good wishes, cards and flowers - I am now on the road to a full recovery

We are hoping to have our **fundraising stall at the Alternative Games on 3 August, in New Galloway Park at 2pm**. Please come and say hello!

Pack meetings will resume on 3 September in the Scout Hall, New Galloway, from 6.15-7.30pm. If you are between eight and 10 years old and would like to try Cubs, please come along and you will be made most welcome.

We have a very strong Cub Pack and are keen to let the youngsters aged 10½ to 14 continue their Scouting, but we have no leaders for this group. If you are interested please call me on 01644 420 375 or get in touch with Hannah at mcandrew.hannah@yahoo.co.uk

We are also looking for Beaver leaders, which entails working with ages six to eight. If you can help, do let us know - I'm sure there is someone in the Glenkens who would be interested!

Have a good summer holiday, stay safe and have fun.

Yours in Scouting, Heather

Clatteringshaws CAMpRA AIRE status

The car park next to Clatteringshaws Loch visitor centre - soon to be the location of the new Scottish Dark Skies Observatory - has been granted Campaign for Real AIREs (CAMpRA) 'AIRE' status.

The term aire comes from the French word for 'area', and is used in this context to describe a motorhome stopover site.

Europe has long realised the benefits to tourism achieved by encouraging motorhome and campervan visits, but they can

only stay if they can access fresh water and facilities for black and grey waste disposal every few days.

Here in the UK there are not enough facilities for self-contained motorhome and campervan stopovers, so CAMpRA co-ordinates a central source of information on how towns and small businesses can apply for AIRE designation to provide simple overnight parking and waste points and thereby benefit from this year-round

revenue stream.

CAMpRA's aims are to promote the year-round recreational use of motorhomes and campervans through the provision of AIREs in order to:

- encourage mental and physical wellbeing of motorcaravan owners
- support the UK tourism industry
- encourage spending in the local economy
- enable motorcaravan owners to enjoy local shops, cafes, bars,

restaurants, etc

CAMpRA works in association with 'Search For Sites' and 'AIREStop' - two online resources which provide an easy way to identify the locations of, the services available at and a booking platform for fully registered AIREs

Fi McClelland, business and operations manager for the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory which is soon to be situated on the banks of the loch, said: "The AIRE at Clatteringshaws Loch already benefitted from a black and grey disposal unit and has a large and level car park with great views over the water.

"We knew that Forestry and Land Scotland previously operated overnight motorhome parking there, and at a number of other locations within the Galloway Forest Park, under their 'Stay the Night' scheme, so it seemed like a natural move to continue to offer the amenity at Clatteringshaws."



Alison's aquabike update

Time has flown by; it's been a busy and exciting first half of the season for me, with plenty of racing, driving, training, and some great results that I'm proud to share with the local community.

I kicked off the season at the British Age Group Aquabike Championships in Burghley, where I was pleased to come away with a fifth place finish in a very competitive field. With this being the first race of the season there were certainly plenty of lessons learned.

Shortly after, I raced the Outlaw Nottingham Sprint Triathlon, securing third place and earning my qualification spot for the 2026 European Age Group Championships.

One of the highlights so far was taking 2nd place at the Deva Triathlon Aquabike in Chester, which also confirmed my

qualification for the 2026 World Age Group Championships.

Swimming being my favoured event has meant I've also been keeping up my open water racing, and was thrilled to finish as the 1st overall female at the Coniston 3km Open Water Swim.

In addition to racing, I recently took part in a warm weather training camp in Majorca with my swim club, Dumfries ASC, which was a fantastic opportunity to focus on endurance and consistency. Over the nine days, I managed around 60km of swimming, plus plenty of bike and run sessions to round it out. Though the hot

weather was tough it gave a really good indicator to how I might cope with racing in Australia.

With the first half of the season now behind me, I'm back into a tough

training block as I prepare for what's ahead - representing Team GB at the World Age Group Aquabike Championships in Australia later this year.

Outside of all the fun training and racing I have also been working hard with friends to do various fundraising events. We managed to visit Tesco in Castle Douglas, and I got to speak to so many lovely people. We have also had a local coffee morning which was so well supported.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported me so far - your encouragement means the world. Next on the calendar is a Prize Bingo Night on Friday 22 August at Threave Rovers Social Club. Doors open at 6.15pm, with eyes down for 7pm, and I'd love to see you there!

I would also like to shout out a massive "thank you" to Stewartry Sports Council, who I am delighted to say are supporting me this year. As well as that to my sponsors; Natural Power, Ian Bendall Funeral Directors, Threave Rural, JLN Engineering, Sharon's Bakes and Ark Vet Centre.

Alison Pringle



Far left: biking at Outlaw Sprint triathlon. Left: the finish at Coniston

The Great Corsock Show approaches

Make sure to mark Saturday 23 August in your diary as this is the day of the Great Corsock Show!

This Galloway institution is now approaching its 20th year, with this year is shaping up to be a bumper event...

Show programmes are in local shops, or available online including on the Glenkens Hub (www.glenkens.scot). Entries can

be dropped off on the Friday night or on Saturday morning until 10.45am, when the doors are sealed for the judging to take place.

At 1pm the ribbon is cut and all are welcome to assess the entries, enjoy the café, BBQ and bottle stall.

Last year's Judge's Challenge category ('Cake Containing a Vegetable') was so wildly popular that it has been incorporated into the regular running order.

This year's Judge's Challenge is 'An Individual Cheesecake', with

'Local Wildlife' the photography theme.

At 2.30pm awards prizes will be presented, with time then for the famously feisty and competitive auction. All welcome!

Do come along to experience first-hand the most lemon curdin'-veg growin'-traybake-makin'-craft knittin'-scarecrow stuffin' action that is possible on a single day in Galloway...

Nb This year's event will not be televised.

Laurie McNabb



Carsphairn lands resilience award

Carsphairn community has received the D&G Council Bronze Award for its resilience efforts.

This is an excellent start on efforts to ensure our little village has a cohesive response to any issues.

Cathy Cockburn



Success for Our Glenkens project

The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust's 'Our Glenkens' project - a series of short videos highlighting some of the amazing young people living and working in the Glenkens - has received another boost.

Funding from the Scottish Government's Climate Engagement Fund will be used to create more reels, this time highlighting work on climate change in the Glenkens.

More details to follow, but this



is another vote of confidence in the innovative work so many in our communities are carrying out, and more investment into our area. Follow @ourglenkens on FB, Insta or TikTok, or visit glenkens.scot/our-glenkens

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.



Local artists featured in Earth Photo world exhibition

Local artists Morag Paterson and Ted Leeming have been selected for the prestigious Earth Photo world exhibition.

Their work, chosen from over 1,500 entries worldwide, will be showcased at various venues across the UK, including Forestry England sites and National Trust properties, until Spring 2026.

Ted and Morag travelled down to London for the exhibition launch and awards ceremony and were treated to a fascinating presentation from polar photographer Martin Hartley.

Morag Paterson is working with

forester Andrew Macqueen on a collaborative project, Curious Conversations, and the selected series focuses on airborne forest life or 'aerobiome' in Crofthead forest.

They laid out specially prepared 'settle plates' in the forest and then watched the collected fungal spores and bacteria grow. The photographs were taken at Ascus Labs in Edinburgh. Curious Conversations is funded by EcoArt Charity and Dumfries and Galloway Woodlands.

Ted Leeming's pieces in the exhibition, On Food, examines global food system complexities, and form part of his portfolio submission exploring urban and rural land use across Scotland.

Highlighting issues such as



sustainability, balance, and consumption, his compelling imagery invites viewers to consider the environmental and social implications of how we use and manage land.

The Earth Photo World Exhibition is currently on display at the Royal Geographical Society in London until 20 August 2025.

Additionally, selected works



are being exhibited at Forestry England sites and National Trust properties across the UK, including Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire, Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire, and Basildon Park in Berkshire.

These exhibitions offer a unique opportunity to engage with art that addresses pressing environmental issues.

New benches unveiled at community woodland

There are three new benches at the Glaisters Bridge Community Woodland, crafted by Auchencairn's Phil Daube and inspired by the local landscape.

The Glaisters Bridge Community Woodland is a bit special - it is the first time part of a commercial woodland creation scheme has been leased to the community.

Foresight Group, the owners, have leased the four hectare site to Upper Urr Environment Trust, unleashing a range of community

activities over the last year. This has included the establishment of paths and wildlife scrapes, planting of trees with school groups and community events. But there was nowhere to sit...

The new benches are made from larch, Douglas fir and oak, all sourced from within Dumfries & Galloway, and provide a new focus for visitors to enjoy the views around the site.

The benches were 50% funded by Glenkens & District Trust as part of the 'Woodlands Plus' project, and 50% by EJD Forestry and Foresight Group.

The unveiling ceremony included performances by Helmut Lemke, with his *Ode to the Midge* and

a Navaho-inspired piece.

Next up for Glaisters Bridge Community Woodland is the installation of signage and a car park.

In the meantime, the site is open to all visitors; it is located just by the River Urr, off the Corsock to Moniaive road (What Three Words: lofts/plausible/bends) - a perfect spot to go for a seat. For more visit www.uuet.co.uk

McNabb Laurie



Sienna Laurie goes head over heels for one of the new Glaisters benches

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Glenkens Youth Correspondent

Joshua Wells, aged 16, is our *Gazette* youth correspondent and in each edition he will be writing about topics which interest him. In this issue Joshua discusses summer holidays.



The time for sunny weather and clear skies (well not so much for Dumfries and Galloway) has once again come around.

Summer holidays...relaxing, having barbecues or even going abroad.

In Dumfries and Galloway, school summer holidays are about seven weeks long.

However, if you think that's long, you may be shocked to hear about the length of summer holidays in Iceland.

In Iceland, summer holidays can be over 13 weeks long, although it is reasonable to say that their summer holidays may be a bit different to ours.

Historically, our tradition of

a long school holiday stems from the need for rural parents to have their kids help on the farm, during the harvest season.

However, these school holidays became more important after 1872, when the Education (Scotland) Act was passed, as the act made it compulsory for kids ages five to 13 to go to school.

Helping on the farm was so common at the time that a two-week holiday was held in the 1930s, known as the 'tattie holidays', which continues today, with children getting two weeks off in October. This is often now used as a last-minute getaway before the weather gets too bad.

With agriculture becoming a bit less ingrained within today's culture, and farms becoming more mechanised, children did not have to help

out as much. People often spend their summer holidays going abroad, or staying home and doing local activities. For example, this year the CatStrand ran Arts Award Explore for those aged eight to 11, and for those aged from 12 to 18, an Arts Award Bronze.

The CatStrand are giving young people the opportunity to go to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, a brilliant showcase of people's talents on stage or on the streets.

There is also a trip to the amazing Sky Arts Studio in Glasgow, showing young people the real versions of what they might see on TV.

At the end of the Arts Award week, those who participated get to present their work. Unsurprisingly, I'll be doing this by writing a critique on one of the plays at the

Edinburgh fringe.

Some people also choose to go to the Galloway Activity Centre, where you are able to take part in archery, do some laser-tag, or even go on the 'Wobbly Water Park' on Loch Ken.

And for those who want a more relaxing event, you may be interested in Youth Work's 'Amazing Summer Roadshow 2025', where you are able to take part in gaming, sports, crafts and music. Or at New Galloway Town Hall you can get involved in their community gardens.

So, whilst many people across Dumfries and Galloway won't be taking part in the long-standing tradition of farming over the summer break, there is a lot to keep locals and as well as visitors occupied during the holiday season.

Changing times at GCAT

It wasn't an easy decision to make, but I know it's the right time for me to move on from my role at the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT).

I've had a great three-and-a-half years here, enduring the arduous five-minute commute and the live music accompaniments to our work in the back office.

But with the support of the whole team, from staff to freelancers to volunteers to board members, we've made huge strides over the last few years, and the organisation is now the most stable it's ever

been. With multi-year funding sourced for most of our key projects and a clear strategic vision of our work in arts and community development, I'm hoping that leading GCAT into its next chapter will be a really attractive proposition for my replacement.

GCAT and CatStrand were never going to be something that I could just walk away from, so that's why we've agreed an extended timeline. I'm planning to be in place until the board appoints a new person and they start, so that we can do an in-person handover for a few weeks. After that - who knows?

It's quite exciting for me personally, not knowing what I'll be doing in the New Year... Who knows?

I'm not going anywhere just yet, but I would like to thank all the many members of the Glenkens communities who make it such a special place to live and work.

I really think it's astonishing how much expertise and effort people are prepared to bring to bear on making life better for all of us. And if GCAT is better able now to support you in your efforts, then I will count that as a job well done!



Helen Keron, Peter Renwick (CatStrand Creative Director) and Brian Edgar (GCAT Facilities Manager) outside the CatStrand

Look out for the board's announcement of my successor in the next edition!

*Helen Keron,
GCAT Chief Executive*

Evolution of a Glenkens Archive

We are excited to announce the creation of a new online Glenkens Archive which will encompass the existing *Glenkens Gazette* archive, along with a wider aspect of historical information from across the Glenkens.

The *Glenkens Gazette* archive was created in 2021 by Oli Sturm, with input from Paul Goodwin, who uploaded all the pdf files of past *Gazettes*, and David Bartholomew, who had a complete archive *Gazettes*, right back to the first edition.

Oli says: "We moved to the area around eight years ago,

and a few months before then we visited the property we were about to purchase and picked up a *Gazette* in the Post Office in Dalry. It seemed a great idea to learn a bit about the area and the community we were going to move to.

"After moving in, the *Gazette* was a source of more local information and we were surprised to be neighbours to Sarah - *Gazette* editor! The idea of a searchable archive was born when I became more curious about the Glenkens and wanted to easily find past issues on topics I wanted to look into."

Considering the new Glenkens Archive project, Oli continues: "I'm looking forward to seeing the new archive that will make it even easier to discover the region and its past. It's great that the *Glenkens Gazette* has played such an important role in this area and I am happy that

I was able to add a little bit to the success story."

Gail Challis, Glenkens Hub editor and creator of the new Glenkens online archive, says: "I'm excited to show everyone the new Glenkens Archive which will build on the brilliant work Oli has done for the *Gazette*. The new archive will be able to host documents, images and recordings from Glenkens organisations as well as an interactive map. It will be



going live this autumn - keep an eye on the *Gazette* and Glenkens Hub for updates!"

Glenkens Gazette & Hub Team

Happy golden wedding anniversary!

Thank you Val Edwards for all you have done over the years.

For raising two children who are now exceptional adults, and for being there for me through the good and bad times.

with much love from Nick xxx



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Inaugural Glenkens festival of land

The Glenkens Land Notes festival will be a community celebration of place, creativity and connection - a vibrant and joyful celebration of our relationships with land and place.

The festival will offer a chance to reflect on the land that surrounds us - not just in terms of ownership or use, but in terms of meaning, memory, belonging and future care.

Across the weekend, the Glenkens will host a rich mix of events that speak to this connection: music and talks, hands-on workshops that invite creativity and craft, walks that explore the land on foot and in thought, and talks that open up space for listening and dialogue. And of course, no celebration would be complete without a ceilidh.

One of the most exciting and visible parts of the festival is the invitation for individuals and community groups to create banners. These banners can celebrate place, honour local stories, express hopes, or simply mark a personal or communal connection to land or place, however small or complex that may be.

You don't need to be an artist to make one. The banners are for everyone, whether you're already deeply engaged with land, cultural or environmental connections or just starting to think about what land means to you.

In the weeks leading up to the festival, people are encouraged to display their banners in windows, gardens, public spaces or community halls—turning the Glenkens into a patchwork of voices and visions.

Then, during the festival weekend, the banners will be gathered for a collective parade and picnic—a joyful coming-together to walk, talk, and share

food under a canopy of colour, accompanied by a local piper.

At its heart, Land Notes is about making space: for expression, for listening, for connection and for new perspectives. It invites us to step outside of the usual frames of land as property, policy or problem, and into a more playful, personal and communal relationship with it.

Whether you're a farmer, a student, a parent, a walker, a neighbour or someone who's never really thought about land much at all - this festival is for you.

Kerry and Morag, the co-curators behind the festival, along with the creative team at the CatStrand, and Dalry Community Council, bring years of experience working with communities, art, ecology and place.

Their vision for Land Notes is rooted in care, inclusion and curiosity - asking not just how land is used, but how it is felt, shared, shaped and honoured.



Kerry Morrison making Land Notes banners at the Dalry Farmers Market

So come along. Make a banner. Hang it up. Bring it to the parade. Join the music, the walk, the talk, the making, the dancing. Let's celebrate what land means when it becomes not just a backdrop, but a living part of the story we all share.

Land Notes is made possible by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with thanks to National Lottery players and supported by Creative Scotland, Nature Scot, Inspiring Scotland and DGArts.

Land Notes

Glenkens Festival of Land

Wednesday 13 to Monday 18 August



A new Glenkens festival of art, live music, talks, poetry, film, and events celebrating our cultural richness, land connection, intangible heritage, and treasured landscapes.



Sarah Jane Scouten
Exploring Treasured Places
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Waterside Hill Walk
My Nature Experience
Museums of the FutureNow
Land Notes Ceilidh & Mixtape Party
Banners and Words Workshop
Michael Russell on Werner Kissling
The Galloway Agreement
Banner Parade and Community Picnic
River Rights
Helmut Lemke
Fire Bowl Conversations
Tim Stead - A Magician With Wood

To find out more, or to get involved, please contact Kerry at:
glenkenslandnotes@gmail.com

Many events are free but space is limited

Tickets & Info - gcat.scot | 01644 420 374 Catstrand, New Galloway



The Optimistic Environmentalist

Electric Cars - Part Three

Common myths that we have not had to worry about (continued)...

3) EVs are not reliable:

As with any piece of technology, some are not perfectly made. Remember, all new technology and manufacturing techniques improve as time goes on.

One of our friends had problems with her second-hand EV, and after 18 months of trying to find out what was wrong because the car was not holding its charge, she was recommended a well-thought-of EV garage.

It turns out her original garage had been the real problem and her car works well now!

As with the transition from horses to motor vehicles, there are many changes and improvements to go through, but bringing in clean energy to people's homes to reduce costs and climate change demands makes this transition important to work through as quickly as we can.

In fact though, EVs are much more reliable than you may think. An RAC report from January found "EVs are just as reliable for drivers who have traditional vehicles over a long period of time."

4) EVs are so heavy that they damage the roads and car parks:

Generally, cars are bigger and heavier now due to modern safety features and our demand for space and comfort. EVs are heavier proportionately because of their batteries, but the difference is not that much and certainly not as great as has been publicised.

After all, they don't have engines or fuel to carry.

Newer designs and technology are also meaning that battery capacity is improving so battery sizes are reducing.

Regardless, there are heavier ICE cars eg large SUVs and pick-ups, than most EVs. Also, be reassured, car parks are designed to hold large numbers of big cars and vans, so don't worry.

5) EV batteries use materials like lithium and cobalt:

As for ICE cars, materials need to be dug up for EVs. However, they do not need the mining and transporting for oil that ICE cars require which they then burn - once.

There is some confusion around rare earth materials - batteries do not use, and never have used, rare earth minerals.

Some EV batteries do use



EV chassis cutaway

cobalt but ICE vehicles have always used cobalt - it is used to remove sulphur from petrol and diesel.

Lithium and often cobalt, can also be found in the batteries of laptops, smartphones, watches and cordless power tools.

EV designers and recyclers are constantly improving what and how materials are used and cobalt is being phased out of the latest EV battery technologies. Estimates show that 85-95% of materials can now be reclaimed from batteries and reused again.

The companies that exist to do this though, have found that EV batteries are going for longer than expected so have been having troubles sourcing them.

Battery health

This is a measurement of how much power a battery holds now compared to what it had when first made. A battery health test tells you how much charge it can hold and, depending on the type of tests, how the different packs in the battery are performing.

Our car is two-and-a-half years old and has done 27,000 miles without any perceptible change in the battery state of health, and thus, range.

Battery technology and life is improving all the time - MG have just announced in some countries, although not the UK yet, that batteries in some of their vehicles will have an unlimited mileage, lifetime warranty.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan




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Living with bees

Living with Bees was an Exposition at The Byre, Corriedoo, by artists Kerry Morrison and Helmut Lemke.

The aim was an exploration and sharing about the natural life of free-living bees and the ways we can support feral and wild honeybee colonies.

Kerry and Helmut began practising natural beekeeping in 2010. Natural beekeeping is about providing hives (or nests) that allow the bees to go about their business in a near natural way, with low or no intervention from a beekeeper.

It allows the bees to live their natural life cycles and be the primary beneficiaries of what they produce: honey, wax, propolis, pollen, royal jelly and venom, which are all essential for the health and wellbeing of honeybees.

Over the years, Helmut and Kerry have been continually learning about the lives and health of honeybees, through observing

the colonies in their garden and reading the ever-growing literature that is now available about natural beekeeping and free-living bees. This research is evidencing that supporting bees to live in a near-natural way enables them to thrive and manage diseases and pests without chemicals or human interference.

Living With Bees brought together Kerry and Helmut's understanding and knowledge as honeybee observers and nest providers alongside reference books, drawings, photographs, installations, film and live sound streamed from outside a hive, creating a buzz through the whole of The Byre.

Many interesting conversations were had with visitors to the exhibition, and the tree trunk hive generated a lot of interest. A tree trunk hive, which is a hollowed-out log on stilts, provides a near natural nest cavity for free-flying bees. Honeybees are forest dwellers and, ideally, they would build their nests in cavities in veteran trees. By having



a tree trunk hive you are proving a nesting place in the absence of big old trees with cavities.

Given the interest generated, Kerry and Helmut are now planning a workshop in the autumn to make tree trunk hives for different locations across Galloway.

The Byre, at Corriedoo forest, is Kerry and Helmut's studio.

Pictured are Kerry and Helmut at the Living with Bees exhibition in The Byre, Corriedoo, photographed by Kate Foster



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Are you looking to plant trees this winter?

We have grants available for small-scale native planting schemes.

For full info, visit:

www.dgwoodlands.org.uk

Registered as a SCIO, no 052525

GLENKENS ORAL HISTORIES



Have you a tale to tell or an ear to listen?

Calling for volunteers to recall their stories and recorders to record those memories. To be uploaded onto a digital archive for present and future generations to enjoy

To get involved or find out more - jo@catstrand.com | 01644 420374
We look forward to hearing from you!

**Glenkens
Community
& Arts Trust**



Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by
natural power

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

FREE

20 chairs with arms, free to collect from Mossdale Village Hall. Surplus to requirements. Contact: 07538 821764

Seagrass matting, made up from squares, 3ft x 6ft. Not new but still useful. Contact: Sue, Dalry, on 07563 718 011

Central heating radiator. White. H72cm, W54cm, D11cm. Contact: 01644 420267

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

Double/single bunk bed, double at the bottom, single on top, metal frame. Contact: 07727 127 997

WANTED

LOST: Camouflage print Croc (clog-type shoe) lost in the river at the High Bridge of Ken. Has likely floated downstream...if found, please contact Sarah on 07727 127 997

Garden bench. Contact: 07727 127 997

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

FOR SALE & OFFERS

PONY AND RIDER RELATED ITEMS. Saddle rack, bridle work (all leather) bits, stirrups, leathers, crupper, Cashel bareback rubber saddle, rug, travel boots, etc. All small cob size (Fell). Ladies size 10 clothing, some brand new. Riding/hunting/in-hand showing. Boots, spurs. Any reasonable offer. Ring me for full details and to arrange to come round for a browse (and a cuppa). Contact: Sue on 07563 718 011 (please note I do not have the internet)

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



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
help with housing in the Glenkens

Affordable housing for people living or working in the Glenkens whose circumstances would benefit from the provision of reduced rent.

Tenancy applications welcome from anyone, young or old, single or with a family, who qualifies under the terms of the Trust.



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

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POP IN FOR A CHAT AND A BROWSE



What's on over summer with the Loch Ken Trust



Loch Ken Family Fun Day

The Loch Ken Trust is excited to be holding our annual Loch Ken Family Fun Day on Tuesday 12 August, from 11am-3pm, at Parton (in the field next to Loch Ken Holiday Park).

There will be loads to do for all ages, including rescue demonstrations, kids' activities and crafts, free rafted canoe trips, mini water safety sessions, a wild swimming group, and a chance to meet local branches of the emergency services. There will be local caterers Ballards Butchers and Glen Urr Ice Cream.

Glenkens Cardiac Responders Group

Loch Ken Trust are launching the Glenkens Community Cardiac Responders Group. Community Cardiac Responders are members of

the community trained and supported by the Scottish Ambulance Service to respond to Out-Of-Hospital Cardiac Arrests, on behalf of the Scottish Ambulance Service, as a first response to provide life-saving CPR and defibrillation to build resilience in our rural communities.

If you are interested, please get in touch. No previous experience is required as all training will be provided by Scottish Ambulance Service.

Requirements

- Must be 18+
- Full Driving Licence
- PVG Disclosure (Assistance Provided)
- One days local training with Scottish Ambulance Service-Friday 29 August.

If you are interested, please get in touch for further details at Lindsay@lochken.org.uk

Joint patrols with Community Police

Police Scotland have embarked on joint patrols with Loch Ken Trust Ranger Service in a bid to put a stop to irresponsible behaviour.

The purpose of these joint patrols is to ensure that persons visiting Loch Ken for whatever purpose are aware of their rights and responsibilities afforded under the Land Reform Scotland Act 2003 and adhere to the guidance provided in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Any persons who are not acting responsibly not only spoil the enjoyment of the area for other visitors, but put themselves and others at risk, and can be prosecuted accordingly.

Our Head Ranger Leanne Pumpur urges everyone to act responsibly and follow the guidance by not lighting any fires during restricted periods.



Constable Lucinda Copland and Head Ranger Leanne Pumpur on a water patrol on Loch Ken

"Our key objective is to educate and promote responsible access and 'leave no trace' to all who visit Loch Ken. It is great to be working in partnership with the community police so we can make sure all those enjoying Loch Ken have a positive experience."

A spokesperson from Police Scotland stated: "Police Officers will be carrying out regular patrols of the Loch Ken area, both independently and with local Rangers, as well as other popular tourist sites throughout the summer. Should they find persons acting irresponsibly, be under no illusion that appropriate action will be taken against those who are identified as having done so."

With the Summer holidays and peak visitor season in full swing, the joint patrols will continue. It is hoped that this presence will inform the public on responsible access and discourage any irresponsible behaviour.

*Lindsay Stewart,
Manager, Loch Ken Trust*

Could you be a Loch Ken Volunteer Ranger? Get in touch with Lindsay at lindsay@lochken.org.uk

COMMUNITY CARDIAC RESPONDERS

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Must be 18+
- Full Driving Licence
- PVG Disclosure (Assistance Provided)

No previous experience required, full training and support will be provided

TRAINING

To find out more or request an application e-mail-
sas.wildcat@nhs.scot

Community Cardiac Responders attend Out-Of-Hospital Cardiac Arrests, on behalf of the Scottish Ambulance Service, as a first response to provide life-saving CPR and Defibrillation.

LOCH KEN FAMILY FUN DAY

**Tuesday 12th August 2025
11am-3pm**

**Field next to Loch Ken Holiday Park,
Parton**

Free entry and open to all

Emergency Services **Rescue Demonstrations**

First aid and safety advice

Kayaking Demonstrations

Wild Swimming Demonstrations

Kids Activities and crafts

Water Safety Obstacle Course **Facepainting**

All children must be accompanied by an adult. For further information please contact Lindsay@lochken.org.uk

New community orchard for Balmaclellan

Following the redevelopment of the Smiddy and the Men's Shed in Balmaclellan, there are now further plans to help the village become a more attractive and vibrant place to live.

A full planning application has been submitted by Pamela Young Trust for the building of three new-build properties on the old filling station site and a decision on that is imminent.

In addition, any visitor or resident can't have failed to notice the excellent work that has been done both internally and externally at the village hall. A lovely new outdoor

space has been created and this is both a great place for people to sit and relax, as well as presenting an attractive introduction to the village.

Just down from the hall, a building plot has been on the market for a long time and it has got progressively more unkept.

This has now been purchased by Alan and Fiona Smith, with the intention of creating a community orchard which will be available for anyone to access and use.

Alan commented that he and Fiona had noticed that this site had remained un-sold for a very long time and it was starting to spoil the look of the village, so took the decision to buy it.

Without a clear vision for its use, and with no intention to build a house, the site itself ultimately supplied the answer. There are currently

two lovely mature apple trees, so it seemed obvious that these should be retained, added to and a community orchard created for the use of everyone in the village.

Initially the site is just being tidied up and made stock proof until a planting scheme has been decided on.

Thanks go to Robin Jardine for assisting with the fencing to the rear of the orchard. Volunteers may be required in due course!

Alan Smith



Photograph of the orchard plot taken by Anita Garnham

Stewartry Birdwatchers upcoming talks

Stewartry Birdwatchers meetings will again be held in the comfortable and well-appointed Balmaclellan Village Hall.

Their programme begins on the evening of Thursday 11 September, at 7.30pm, when Ian Bainbridge will give his talk, 'The East Atlantic Flyway for Coastal Birds'.

Ian will explain that in the autumn and winter, the UK is visited by many migrant waders and wildfowl and how they depend on specific places and habitat which need to be conserved to protect these species.

All are very welcome to come along to

our meetings. Stewartry Birdwatchers are a branch of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and our talks are in no way scientific, but hopefully are always interesting and enjoyable.

Halfway through any meeting we break for refreshments with time to chat, pass on any news and have a word with the speaker.

The afternoon meetings begin on 9 October, with a talk by Teresa Frost about waterbirds and their monitoring.

Teresa is responsible for managing the monthly Water Bird Surveys and the Goose and Swan counts which are both carried out by many volunteers throughout the UK.

The amazing rediscovery of the Madagascar pochard and the concerted

effort to give this unique duck a chance of survival is the subject of the talk by Glyn Young on the 13 November. Glyn, who has worked with some of the world's rarest birds, failed to find the duck in 1989 and did not see it until 17 years later.

'New Zealand - a Hotbed of Endemics, Fighting for Survival' will be the last talk for 2025, on 4 December.

This is an account of a trip to New Zealand in 2019 when the speaker, Sarah Wood, travelled from North Island to Stewart Island in the south, in search of the country's very special birdlife and how it fares under the onslaught of invasive species.

Joan Howie

Pictured are two species of waders which winter on the U.K. shores, photographed by Maisie Welsh



Exploring place planning in Dalry

A new research project led by Lucy Jenner is shedding light on how people in Dalry and surrounding areas engage with land use and local place planning.

, a PhD student at the University of Edinburgh, in collaboration with the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere,

Lucy, a PhD student at the University of Edinburgh, worked in collaboration with the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere to research environmental land use changes - how our landscapes are evolving and how communities are responding.

One key aim of the project was to understand how residents interact with local place planning initiatives, particularly in relation to Dalry's Local Place Plan, and whether these efforts help people better understand land use in their area.

To explore this, two similar surveys were shared within Dalry and the wider Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. It reached a diverse range of

groups, including local yoga classes, gardening clubs, readers of the *Glenkens Gazette*, and subscribers to the Biosphere newsletter.

Lucy and her team also visited Dalry in person to gather responses directly from the community. In total, 98 people took part in the survey (a map of the survey responses is included here).

The results were both insightful and encouraging. A significant 78% of respondents said they think about land use change either frequently or more than once a week. Nearly 80% expressed concern or strong concern about land use in their area. These figures highlight just how important this issue is to local people.

Even more striking, 93% of respondents said they wanted more information about land use changes and planning in their communities. This shows a clear appetite for greater transparency and communication around how land is managed and developed.

When it came to Dalry's Local Place Plan, the findings were particularly promising. Among those who had been involved in developing the plan, 57% said it had changed the way they

thought about land use. This is powerful evidence that involving communities in planning and decision-making can genuinely shift perspectives and deepen understanding.

These findings support a growing body of research suggesting that when communities are given the tools and opportunities to engage with land use data and planning, it can lead to a stronger sense of empowerment and connection to place.

The research is currently being written up, and Lucy is keen to hear from anyone who would like to learn more or get involved in future work. You can reach her at l.jenner-1@sms.ed.ac.uk.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who took part in the survey and supported the project. And congratulations to the lucky respondent who won the £25 voucher to the Clachan Inn!

Lucy Jenner

Below is a map of survey responses

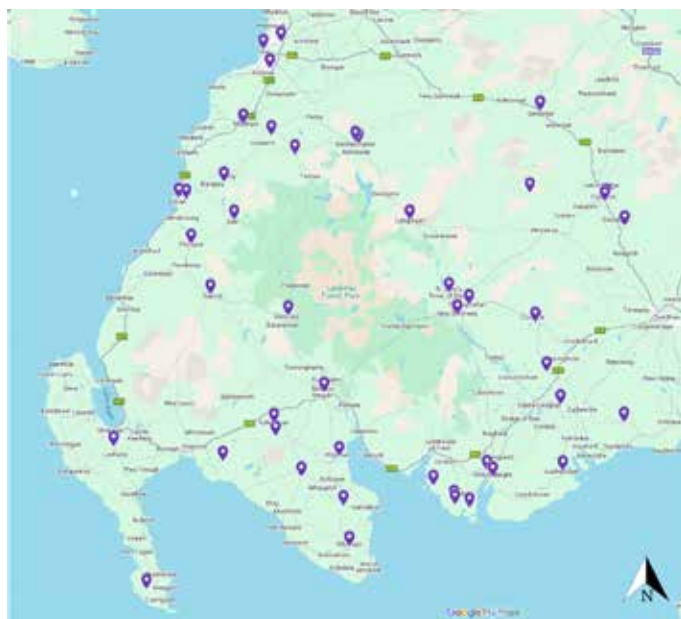


Photo of the Issue



This issue's winner is Kirsteen Currie, with a photo of a small loch that she and her family affectionately term Giant's Foot 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: "This is just such a lovely photo...with the heron, the lilly pads and the rhododendrons...very mystical!"

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



GALLOWAY AND
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE
BIOSPHERE

Out and About in the Biosphere

Summer this year has had a 'green health' focus for the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire (GSA) Biosphere Partnership.

The charity works in collaborative projects that build closer connections between people and nature, and the team strives to support accessible outdoor experiences, especially those that centre wellbeing and community.

Green health is the umbrella term for nature-based activities that improve mental and physical wellness. It is increasingly being integrated into health and care plans through 'green prescribing', meaning that more and more GPs are proactively identifying and signposting green health activities that would work well for their patients.

Health authorities and third sector partners are likewise establishing 'green gyms' and running digital marketing campaigns to promote local outdoor activities. Raised awareness of the immense positive impacts that nature can bring have led to the development of blue health initiatives as well, describing activities connected with rivers, lochs and the sea.

Here in the Glenkens, New Galloway was the venue for

one of the GSA Biosphere Partnership's launch series of Green Health Workshops (Colmonell, Whithorn, Glentworth, Girvan and Ochiltree were also in the summer calendar).

The concept behind the workshop is to bring local people for a sociable event, providing a safe space for discussing barriers

no requirement to be overtly physical!

The GSA Biosphere Partnership aims for its Green Health initiative to help break down some of these barriers, create new social connections, and share the vast array of opportunities available in the UNESCO region.

Green Health Workshops typically include an indoor session where people can exchange

...it's not just about hiking in the wilderness or running upland trails...

to participation and an opportunity to find out more about activity groups operating locally, many of which are very small collectives run by volunteers and don't have the capacity to advertise as extensively as they might wish.

"Spend more time outdoors" may seem to be a simple instruction but there are often significant barriers to fulfilling this goal. Whether or not there is an existing health condition (which may impact energy, mobility, or ability to travel), other factors may include lack of free time, difficulty accessing information, or untenable transport and equipment costs.

Confidence can also be a big issue, especially for those without family members or friends to join in as companions or offer support in other ways. Green health has an encouragingly expansive coverage; it's not just about hiking in the wilderness or running upland trails, but in fact includes gardening, tai chi in the park, and much more –

experiences and ideas, plus a gentle outdoor activity in local green space.

This often incorporates nature recording using the iNaturalist mobile phone app, which the Biosphere team promotes far and wide as one of the most inclusive and accessible ways to spend more time outdoors with the added advantage of learning new skills – eg, how to ID a wonderfully varied population of bugs!

The app actively supports the wildlife and habitats of the UNESCO Biosphere as all records submitted are added to a global database to be used by scientists, researchers and conservationists working on projects ranging from protecting pollinator flight paths to ameliorating roadkill hotspots.

All the GSA Biosphere Partnership's upcoming events, including Green Health Workshops, are advertised on their social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and BlueSky – follow



#gsabiosphere) and most are bookable on the organisation's Eventbrite page. All are free to attend though donations are warmly welcomed.

The GSA Biosphere Partnership is a registered Scottish charity (SC044137) and has recently launched a JustGiving page to make it easier for supporters to donate (www.justgiving.com/gsabiosphere). Every contribution helps keep the Biosphere's activity programme, educational resources, community/business workshops, Carbon Literacy training and accreditation schemes free of charge and accessible to all.

More information about other ways to get involved such as the Proud Supporter scheme and Biosphere Certification Mark for business and social enterprise, is available at www.gsabiosphere.org.uk

Top: Signage for one of the New Galloway walks. Above: Broadbar clover sawfly on a buttercup. Far left: Learning iNaturalist in New Galloway woods. Left: Green Health



A busy year for Glenkens Youth Group

The summer term has flown and we are now at the end of our third Glenkens Youth Group year.

It was lovely to welcome a few more to the group, with sixteen now on the register.

We continued to meet in Balmaclellan Village Hall, making good use of the excellent kitchen facilities with baking always a favourite activity. The lovely garden area led to impromptu circle chats under the trees and games of tig.

With the remainder of our donation from the Glenkens Charity Shop, we bought a folding snooker table. This has been a great success and some very competitive games have been played!

On wetter evenings, equally competitive games of Cluedo took place with enthusiastic use of accents to match the characters. Great fun! We even had a trial take place with a judge, jury and the accused (our youth assistant, Izak). Thankfully his driving license was returned following the verdict!

We had a very successful and enjoyable outing to Threave

Bowmen at the Castle Douglas Rugby Ground in April. We were shown the basics of archery and were supported by volunteers from the club, taking turns to aim at different targets including trying to burst balloons. Thank you very much to Threave Bowmen for a great evening.

Finally, after two cancellations due to the high wind speeds, we had an amazing session with the Loch Ken Dragon Boats. Earlier in the term, Evelyn, one of the trained helms, visited us at the hall and showed us how to hold and use the paddle, respond to instructions from the helm.

The boat was ready in the loch for us when we arrived, so after a short reminder and a warm up, we were paired up with a buddy and boarded the boat. We had a lovely, memorable time on the Loch, paddling in time to the drum (or trying to!) looking out for wildlife and joining in with the singing.

The youngsters were praised for their coordinated paddling and infectious enthusiasm and energy. Thank you very much to the helms and helpers from Loch Ken Dragon Boats.



Young people from the Glenkens Youth Group participating in the Loch Ken dragonboats trip



We have a fantastic trip planned to the Titanic Exhibition in Belfast in July, funded by the Dumfries and Galloway Amazing Summer Fund, and a day of activities at Galloway Activity Centre in August, once again made possible due to a donation from the Glenkens Charity Shop. We are very grateful to both funders. Thank you.

In August we plan to return to the Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry as our venue. We have been very happy at Balmaclellan, and made to feel very welcome, however as most of our youngsters live in or around Dalry, it makes travelling to the group more viable for them.

Many thanks to Izak Entwistle for his help and support throughout the year and also to Julian

Watson for volunteering his time to support us.

Finally we hope you all have a lovely summer and look forward to more adventures in the Autumn.

*Sue Curtis,
Glenkens Youth Group Deliverer*

Glenkens Youth Group is open to all P7 - S3s in the Glenkens who would like to meet on a Monday evening (7-8:30) for relaxed fun and chat. Contact glenkensyouth@gmail.com for more information.

With grateful thanks to the Glenkens and District Community Fund for a further two years of core funding which allows GCAT to keep the Glenkens Youth Group running and free of charge for our young people.

Community volunteers sought in Corsock area

Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council are updating their Emergency Resilience Plan and are looking for volunteers.

Residents are sought from the Corsock, Kirkpatrick Durham, Knockvennie and Old Bridge of Urr areas to volunteer to be on a contact list to assist in extreme weather events/emergencies.

There is no commitment required to volunteer, just a willingness to help in the community if you are

able. No specialist skills are required! It could be something as simple as checking on neighbours.

Could you help? There is an online survey that can be filled in www.surveymonkey.com/r/K76JWQD or email Lindsay@lochken.org.uk

When the resilience plan is complete, a final copy will be lodged with Dumfries and Galloway's Resilience Team as added assurance.

There has been a great response so far - many thanks for any information submitted.

Lindsay Stewart

I want to thank you very much for printing my notice regarding my great grandfather's lemonade bottles in the Gazette.

I am now the proud owner of one of these bottles and it's a strange, but satisfying, feeling holding something that my ancestor handled over 100 years ago.

Thank you again for your help in this matter.

Gordon McJannet



LING's Annual General Meeting

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) held its AGM in June, and we managed to break our own record for number of attendees.

While all AGMs are special, this one marked the end of Ann and Bob Glaister's tenure as trustees after an impressive 10-year stint.

By way of thanks, they were gifted a blue plaque which will soon be put up in the hall.

A highlight of the evening was having John Muir present us with a five-year plan which had its inception in various community consultations.

Over the next five years LING aims to honour the past, connecting people to place through heritage, as well as celebrating the present through bringing people together in shared spaces, and building the future with the creation of sustainable, resilient places for all.

Throughout this process we hope to feed into existing work such as the Community Action Plan, and work alongside developing projects such as New Galloway's Local Place Plan.

It's certainly an exciting time to be at LING during this period of transition – and in New Galloway more broadly. It seems changes are ever afoot!

Dominique Pope

Hedgehog greeting cards

Local Artist Sue Wiseman is creating hand made greetings cards featuring her hedgehog cartoon drawings.

Sue says: "Each one is drawn individually, with a theme suited to the recipient. They are a standard C6 size, with envelope, and will cost about £4, £3 of which will be donated to Carsphairn Wildlife Rescue."

To order call Sue on 07563 718 011.



Name the place

(from page 4)

Site Name: Stroanfreggan Bowling Hut

Location: Carsphairn parish

You can't miss this true jewel of history if you travel the road from Carsphairn to Moniaive.

Steeped in the culture of a 'once was' rural community, the vestiges and remains of which are still visible across the surrounding hillsides and glens, the hall has lain sadly empty on the road opposite the old schoolhouse since the 1990's.

A peek through the window still excites the

imagination as to what not so long ago once was, and it takes little imagination to hear the sound of a ceilidh raging deep into the night, or of a

fiercely competitive bowling competition, the 'green' still lying the length of the corrugated structure.

This centre of a community that once thrived now lies in a state of sad decay. Let's hope a level of restoration will be possible in the near future to arrest its decline and ensure its presence as a reminder for future generations.

Did you know..? Rural depopulation in our region is nothing new. The 18th century bore witness to the lowland clearances (and

the consequent Levellers rising in resistance to the changes) as Scotland's lands were first 'enclosed' towards today's structure of ownership.

With the 20th century came urbanisation and mechanisation of the countryside both in agriculture and forestry, and with them further migration of the young towards urban opportunity.

Since 2000 the population has seen a 50% increase in people over the age of 75, while the 25-44 age group has declined by over 25%.

Ideas to reverse this decline are always welcomed, so why not discuss opportunities for the future over a pint and let us know?

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info@gallowaycounselling.co.uk
07389 713 106

Second year for Glenlair Festival

Now in its second year, Glenlair Festival has been recognised by Scotland Starts Here as one of South West Scotland's most important and influential events of 2025.

Sponsored by Demijohn, Scotland's award-winning liquid deli, Glenlair Festival is a music, food and drink festival which will take place at Glenlair Steading, near Castle Douglas, on Sat 16 August, from 10am to 10pm, with overnight camping on offer.

Unique to Scotland, this boutique family-friendly festival is all about highlighting little-known Scottish musical talent, as well as the very best of local food and drink.

The musical line-up will include artists such as The Aberlady Sessions from East Lothian and local Dumfries band Pedro & the Pirates, with additional performances from a number of emerging Dumfries & Galloway young musicians, sponsored by Up Yer Airs.

Demijohn's flagship store at Glenlair Steading will be open for tastings of their unique range of handmade, sustainable food and drink.

Hungry festival goers will be able to enjoy a selection of other local artisan food producers such as Earth's Crust Bakery



from Castle Douglas and Swally & Scrان from Kirkcudbright, as well as some dangerously drinkable creations from the now famous Demijohn cocktail bar.

Angus Ferguson, owner of Demijohn, said: "As we celebrate 21 years of Demijohn this year, our festival theme has to be 'Forever Young!' We are hugely pleased that Glenlair Festival has been recognised as a benefit to our rural local economy. Our aim is to bring visitors from all over the world to enjoy Galloway and our small festival helps us to do that."

Tickets start at £25 and are on sale now at www.demijohn.co.uk/products/glenlair-festival-sat-16-august-2025

WIN TICKETS WITH OUR GAZETTE READER OFFER!

Would you like to go along to the Glenlair Festival and see what it's all about - for free?

For the chance to win a ticket for entry and camping worth £45, email event organiser Angus Ferguson at angus.ferguson@demijohn.co.uk - the first two callers to quote that they saw the article in the Gazette will win tickets!

Cultural Glenkens launch

Cultural Glenkens is an exciting new place-based, people-led CatStrand Arts project which will focus on furthering existing successful initiatives, as well as creating a range of brand new ones.

Launched in June and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the initiative is designed to foster engagement and understanding of the culture, landscape and heritage of the Glenkens, supporting and developing a variety of locally-led projects.

There are several exciting initiatives already underway; in the CatStrand Arts September events guide there will be details on how to engage with new one-off heritage events as well as getting involved with the existing grassroots heritage projects - The Glenkens Story, Dalry Film Club, Ken Words, CatStrand Singers, Watson Birds, Write On and Galloway Folk Sessions.

Keep your eye open for the Cultural Glenkens listings in the current CatStrand Arts Events Guide for the wealth of cultural and heritage events on offer.

There's a ceilidh dance interspersed with Galloway songs, poetry and stories on Friday October 24 at New Galloway Town Hall. A collaboration between Cultural Glenkens and Watson Birds will be taking place on Saturday 2 November at Dalry Town Hall, celebrating the birdlife of the Glenkens through words, music, song, art and readings.

We're also planning a 'Remembering Our Heroes' event to coincide with Remembrance Day, an evening of poetry, song and stories to celebrate the beautiful Glenkens, and a halloween heritage trail to take place in New Galloway Park. There will also be an exciting chance to explore Galloway songs and your singing voice during four monthly singing sessions at the CatStrand. Watch out for the dates and times for these wonderful happenings!

Cultural Glenkens are keen to hear from all of the Glenkens communities regarding memories and stories from the past. As well as the telling of these tales, we are looking for volunteers to record these important memories. This will be the central part of our Oral History Project, which aims to record and digitise these precious memories and store them on a digital archive.



We are also looking for any images and/or text from Glenkens past to keep safe and house on the Cultural Glenkens Digital Archive. Please do get in touch if you feel you can help with either of these projects (contact details below).

There's a full overview of the whole Cultural Glenkens project on www.gcat.scot/cultural-glenkens, which you might find interesting.

I am greatly looking forward to the experiences and opportunities the next three years brings to us all.

*Jo Jackson,
Project Lead Cultural Glenkens,
jo@catstrand.com
01644 420 374*

Support for Community Action Plan projects

As the Glenkens continues its work on the Community Action Plan, two new important roles have been filled through the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT).

Becca Nelson has been appointed as the Glenkens Community Activities Consultant, complementing her existing work with the Glenkens Community Spaces Network.

This is a National Lottery 'Awards for All'-funded role, and

will enable Becca to support the amazing town and village hall committees across the Glenkens. She will be available to support the creation of new and enhanced activity programmes in any and all of our halls.

Abi Mordin has been appointed as the Glenkens Food Month Coordinator for the seventh Glenkens Food Month. Building on the great work done by New Galloway Community Enterprises in starting this tradition, Abi has now stepped forward to take her turn at coordinating it.

Abi will be known to many of you for her passion around local food through her work with Propagate

and the Galloway Food Hub.

She's looking forward to working with community groups and food businesses to support our local infrastructure through a diverse and accessible programme of events this year.

Welcome Becca and Abi!

Helen Keron, Chief Exec, Glenkens Community and Arts Trust



Pictured is Abi in her element, discussing local food

Glenkens transport survey results

The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) and Glenkens Hub have been collecting

information about public transport in the area.

This has been done through a short survey, and the information gathered will be sent to Dumfries & Galloway

Council on a quarterly basis. Below are some of the responses received so far.

Please help us present a case for improving the service by recording the issues you have encountered with our local buses.

The survey can be found at www.glenkens.scot/public-transport-feedback

All information is anonymous - thank you for your help!

Gail Challis, Glenkens Hub

GLENKENS TRANSPORT FEEDBACK – 10th March - 10th June 2025

Couldn't get [to work] on time. Had to call favours to arrange car lifts.

There is no bus from St Johns Town of Dalry South after 5pm

The bus didn't turn up ... this was my daughter to get a connecting service from Castle Douglas to Kirkcudbright, which she then missed.

The bus did not turn up due to a road closure, they could of easily gone a different route. I would rather it be a little bit late than not turn up at all

The 521 bus service is our lifeline to getting to Dumfries 1st thing in the morning. It often does not turn up.

[The 520] does not supply a useable service for all domestic, School and work in Ayrshire

.. a Catch22 situation; the bus isn't used as it can't be relied upon and so the service is cut back more, etc. We need better and more reliable bus provision in the Glenkens.

[Buses not turning up, break-downs with no replacement service, failing to pick up passengers at bus stops] are all common and frequent issues passengers have had to put up with for a number of years now. It is preventing people who do not drive to access services as not reliable.

The bus stopping in the layby at Parton for 10mins every day on the afternoon run if they altered the timetable then they wouldn't need to do this.

There are only two buses a day that go all the way to Dalmellington at very strange times which is not conducive with travel into Ayr for Workers or School children, and extremely restrictive for free movement for D & G Residents to go to Ayr or onward to Glasgow. This is also not in line with Net Zero targets, as for many years I have had to take my son to Dalmellington 30 mile round trip to my home in D&G.

People who do drive will not be encouraged to "go green" as transport just does not function as it should in the whole of Dumfries and Galloway, particularly Glenkens. It's a shambles when people can't get to school, work or appointments on time! It discourages people from living in these areas and would rather return to live in the bigger towns to access facilities.

THIS SHOULD NOT BE HAPPENING IN THIS DAY AND AGE.

Galloway Riding for the Disabled lunch

After a period when we struggled to attract volunteers, I am happy to say we have recruited several enthusiastic and capable people to help our riders.

We are always keen to have more join us and at the present time we

have vacancies for riders with either physical or behavioural problems.

Our photo shows our volunteers enjoying the 'thank you' lunch we arranged at Rosava's in Castle Douglas, as a small reward for all their efforts.

We meet every Wednesday morning during term time, and if anyone requires further information please contact me on 01644-450 201 or gallowayrda@gmail.com

Susan Cooper (Chair)



Bumper success for the lifeboats

The Glenkens Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) fundraising group were delighted with the success of their coffee morning, held at Dalry Town Hall in June.

Glenkens folk have always been loyal supporters of the RNLI, but this year they surpassed themselves with just over £1,000 raised. With the building of the new lifeboat station in Kirkcudbright now underway these funds will be put to good use.

The committee would like to thank all who helped on the day, as well as everyone at Dalry Town Hall who were so helpful in setting everything up and taking it down again afterwards.

The hall has been quite transformed in recent years; it is now a light and airy space, and an ideal venue for a coffee morning! As well as a range of RNLI souvenirs for sale, the cake stall and raffle also proved popular, and extra tables were needed to accommodate all those wanting to enjoy a cup of coffee and some delicious home-baking.

Nicolette Wise

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

Write to:

107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

Phone: 01556 504991

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

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



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How the Glenkens could help a refugee family find a home

Communities in the Glenkens are no strangers to pulling together.

Whether it's keeping vital services going, standing by neighbours through illness, or backing local projects, this is a part of the country where community still means something. And right now, there's a quiet but powerful way that spirit could find new action, by starting a Community Sponsorship group to welcome a refugee family.

Community Sponsorship is a UK-wide scheme that enables ordinary people to offer extraordinary support. Local people form a group, find housing, raise funds, and help a refugee family settle into their new life. It's not a top-down programme or government placement; every decision is made locally, shaped by what's possible in your community.

It's already happening in cities, towns, and villages across the UK, from Edinburgh and Glasgow to remote parts of the Highlands and Islands. But so far, not in the Glenkens. The nearest group is in Carlisle. That means a family who might benefit from the warmth and steadiness of this community, who might thrive here, won't have that chance unless someone steps forward.

Why it matters here

Like many rural areas, the Glenkens is facing challenges. Local schools, GP surgeries and services are under pressure, not only because of demand, but because fewer people are here to staff or sustain them.

Welcoming a refugee family won't solve all of that, but it could be one meaningful part of a broader renewal. Families arriving through Community Sponsorship are motivated to work, contribute, and build a future. They bring skills, and determination, and most of all, they want to be part of a place.

A new family means children in the local school. It might mean a parent volunteering at the community centre, training for local jobs, or eventually launching a small business. But it also means something deeper: it's a chance to act on values many of us share, hospitality, compassion, and

responsibility to those in need.

Strengthening community from within

One of the most overlooked benefits of Community Sponsorship is what it does for the people who get involved. Groups often form through shared values, but it's the process of welcoming someone new that builds relationships across divides. You meet people you wouldn't otherwise meet. You learn alongside each other. And you make connections that stretch beyond your usual circles.

Reset offers a full suite of free training and resources to anyone involved in Community Sponsorship. These include practical sessions on navigating the UK's housing and education systems, trauma-informed approaches, working with interpreters, safeguarding, and supporting wellbeing. Many of these skills are useful far beyond Sponsorship, whether you're involved in local services, volunteering, or simply want to be a better neighbour. And

you don't need to be a professional, just someone willing to learn and contribute.

What it takes

To welcome a family through Community Sponsorship, a group of local people comes together

to support them during their first year in the UK. That includes helping them access healthcare and benefits, registering with schools, navigating shops and services, and, perhaps most important, offering friendship and belonging.

The group also needs to raise a modest amount (usually around £9,000) and identify suitable housing, typically a private rental that's affordable and available for at least two years. Beyond that, people bring whatever they can. Some might help with English practice, others with lifts to appointments, or introductions to local groups and networks.



It's a team effort, and no one needs to do everything. Faith groups often play a vital role, offering meeting spaces or helping raise funds. But groups can form through any connection, friends, neighbours, colleagues, local clubs or mutual interests.

This isn't about charity. It's about dignity, welcome, and the idea that even a small community can offer something powerful: a place of safety and the start of something new.

A quiet commitment

There's a long tradition in rural Scotland of doing the right thing quietly. Of noticing when help is needed and stepping in. Community Sponsorship fits that spirit. It just needs people willing to say: we've got room here, for one more family, for a fresh start, for hope.

If that sounds like something you along with a few people you know might want to explore, Reset can help. We're a charity that supports new Community Sponsorship groups from day one: helping you understand what's involved, building a plan, training and supporting you, basically walking alongside you all the way through.

This area has already shown leadership on so many issues like renewable energy, local resilience, community ownership. Welcoming a refugee family could be the next step. A small act with lasting impact.

Find out more by watching the animation we made with Cognitive Media on our website - www.resetuk.org

Sarah Wishart, Reset

This article is part of a Scottish Beacon initiative, a collaborative network of independent local news publications across Scotland working together to get community voices heard.

The pilgrim route through Chapelyard

North of Dalry, and just to the west of Mackilston farmhouse, the 1853 six-inch Ordnance Survey map marks a place called Chapelyard.

The accompanying *Ordnance Survey Name Book* describes Chapelyard as "the ruins of some cottages on the farm of Mackilston". It goes on "the authorities here quoted say that it is handed down by tradition that these ruins are upon the site or near to where a chapel once stood, but no information respecting the chapel can be obtained in the locality".

Nearby is the place name Minister's Moss, recording a place where the parish minister in past times had the right to cut peats. This adds weight to the idea that in earlier times the land in the vicinity belonged to the church.

Over twenty years ago, I had a brief wander around Chapelyard with my metal detector, but found nothing more than a few buttons, worn Georgian halfpennies and shotgun cartridges. But having invested in a better detector, I returned there in 2021 with Andrew Mellor.

That day we didn't find a lot, but I did turn up a mysterious fragment of a silver coin that we didn't recognise. Our curiosity was aroused and in the following weeks we returned a number of times, joined by our detectorist friends John Wykes and Tom Carlyle, and systematically covered the area around Chapelyard and the ruin of Cleughhead cottage.

We were surprised to unearth five silver pennies of Edward I, all from the Chapelyard side of the Cleugh Burn, as well as a number of artefacts of probable late medieval age. In addition Andrew found a silver coin of Robert III (c1400) down the hill near Nether Cleugh farm, and John a coin of Henry III (c1250) about half a kilometre to the south of this.

These are coins we have never found anywhere else in the Glenkens. I should highlight that to find so many Edward silver pennies at one place in the Glenkens is unprecedented. We have never found more than solitary examples at other places in the Glenkens. It indicates that Chapelyard was a place that saw a lot of passing human traffic around 1300.

The story took an even more remarkable twist when Ian Knox of Dalry's nephew Carl Savage, who is a coin expert working for the National Museum of Scotland, identified my coin fragment to be part of an Arabic silver dirham. These were imported into Britain during the Viking age and used as silver bullion, at times being cut up for smaller units of currency.

But the particularly notable fact about my fragment is that it is of a coin from the Abbasid Caliphate (754-833 AD), meaning that it came from the early Viking era and is the first example of such a coin to be found in Scotland.

These have been found in England, but all Arabic dirhams previously found in Scotland originated from later Samanid mints (895-942 AD) and came to Britain through different trade networks.

What does all this mean? The old maps provide further clues which would seem to support the existence of an early chapel at Chapelyard. Just down the burn from Chapelyard, near to the High Carsphairn road, the first OS map marks a knoll called Knockrosh. It was likely there was a cross here at some point – either wooden or stone – acting as a way marker for people travelling up or down the valley.

They would then know to turn off there and head up the burn to find the chapel, which would not have been visible from the main road. The early Blaeu map marks a place just north of Chapelyard called Pilgrymleyis.

The Blaeu map is very inaccurate regarding the relationship between places, but you can find Pilgrymleyis on the first six inch OS map under the name 'Leys' just to the NE of Mackilston hill.

The name suggests a resting place for pilgrims. These pieces of evidence suggest that Chapelyard lay on the pilgrim route down to Whithorn; and the fragment of a coin from the early Viking era suggests that the chapel was already there at an early date, well before the Galloway hoard was buried down the valley at Balmaghie.

A little to the north, at Stroanfreggan, a large standing cross reportedly once stood on a knoll near to the old Stroanfreggan Bowling Hut (see *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.* [1912], p258). At the time of the Reformation, when what were perceived to be Catholic images were often destroyed, the cross was knocked down and broken into at least two pieces which were cast into a pool in the nearby burn – hence the name Image Pool. These were later fished out of the burn and one large fragment of the cross was erected in the grounds of Hastings Hall in Moniaive, where it still stands.

The three-metre-long larger fragment at one time served as a garden bench at Manquhill, but has now disappeared. This cross probably dates to the early 8th century, from the same time as the Ruthwell cross, when the kings of Northumbria extended their reign over southwest Scotland, and is evidence for an important gathering place for worship there in the heart of the hills. This year's



archaeological dig over Stroanfreggan hillfort, which may date to the same period, is therefore very timely.

A Community Archaeology Project took place at Chapelyard in June 2022 under the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership, delivered by Rathmell Archaeology; curiously it provided no solid evidence for activity in the medieval period. However, metal detecting finds indicate that such activity definitely took place (this report can be viewed under the 'Reports and Resources Archive' under the 'Resources' tab at www.glenkens.scot).



David Bartholomew

Top: 1853 OS map showing Chapelyard

Middle: 1662 Blaeu map showing Pilgrymleyis

Above: Arabic silver dirham found at Chapelyard

Galloway Retold with Angela Miller

Elspeth McEwen

For many, many years, the name Elspeth McEwen was little more than a footnote in the history of the Glenkens.

The names of those accused of witchcraft were only really kept in kirk records and court documents, and they were certainly not on the lips of most folk who lived since those times, not until very recently.

Interest in those women and men accused of the archaic 'crime' of witchcraft began to resurge in the last 20 years or

so, and historians began to dust off those old documents, commencing the hunt for those forgotten names, and the forgotten lives of the people attached to them.

Historians like Glenkens historian Lizanne Henderson began to uncover the stories of the accused and the trials that all too often ended in death sentences.

I remember attending Lizanne's lecture on local witches at the CatStrand. That's when I first heard the name Elspeth McEwen, among others.

Now it's worth noting that Elspeth's name is written with a variety of spellings, as many names were before spelling was as standardised as it is now.

She is often also called Elspeth McGown or MacGowan, but she is clearly the same person through all of those various spellings in the records of what happened to her.

In brief, Elspeth McEwen was an elderly woman who lived alone at Cubbox near Balmaclellan.

In the late 1690's, as the witch panics were starting to fade, Elspeth was accused of Witchcraft by her neighbours.

In many parts of Scotland, this might already have been met with scepticism, but Dalry minister, William Boyd, had her brought for questioning at the Kirk Session.

Along the way, as they came over the Mulloch to Dalry (the roads were quite different then) the beadle who brought Elspeth to Dalry on his horse, claimed she made the horse sweat blood as they went up the steep brae, referred to afterwards as the 'Bloody Brae'.

His story was used alongside the testimony of her neighbours, to send her to the Tolbooth in Kirkcudbright for imprisonment. Elspeth had not confessed, so a confession was sought from her. She stayed in the tolbooth for over two years, before she confessed, was tried and then was strangled and burned at Silvercraigs in Kirkcudbright.

Elspeth was one of the last



women in Scotland to be executed for Witchcraft.

She has been on my mind a great deal again lately, as I have been talking to Jo Jackson at Cultural Glenkens about her, and because I have also been speaking with the poet Ros Ollin, who is about to publish a book of poems telling Elspeth's story.

Ros will be speaking about Elspeth and reading some of her poems at the Kirkcudbright Fringe this year, on Friday 5 September at 10am.

You can also check out the two videos about Elspeth on my Galloway Retold YouTube channel, to get a more detailed history of her death, as well as more of a sense of who she might have been in life.

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'.



On top of the Mulloch, the 'Bloody Brae' referred to in the beadle's testament incriminating Elspeth McEwen

Join the archaeological dig at Stroanfreggan

Continued from front page...

Stroanfreggan, probably Sròn a' Chreagain as its original Scots Gaelic name, meaning 'nose of the rocky place' (which describes the location perfectly), hosts the enigmatic hill-fort on boundary of Carsphairn and Dalry parishes.

Following support from the landowner, Historic Environment Scotland and the Carsphairn

Renewable Energy Fund, an excavation overseen by AOC Archaeology will take place in September and October 2025.

As the excavation will also open a trench in the (potentially bronze-age) kerb cairn at the foot of the sròn, the fun (work!) will be readily accessible to most people interested in coming along to see what's happening.

For further information and

importantly, as the project relies on volunteers for the dig, to sign up as a volunteer visit www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stroanfreggan-archaeological-research-project-volunteering-tickets

Michael Ansell

The TV programme 'Digging for Britain' will record some of the project, and although too late for the current session, will be kept for broadcast in the future.

Stroanfreggan Community Archaeological Research excavation Project (SCARP)

23.09.25 - 17.10.25

Open daily 3pm-5pm

Introduction to the excavation project
July 27th, 15:00 to 17:00 at the CatStrand,
New Galloway.

Come along to the CatStrand to hear from
Cathy MacIver, AOC Archaeology
about the fort the excavation project
and how you can join in on the dig!



Tickets are free for this event and can be booked at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/catstrand/t-oigedp> or on 01644 420 374 or in person at the CatStrand, New Galloway. As the excavation will also open a trench in the (potentially bronze age) kerb cairn at the foot of the sròn, the fun (work!) will be readily accessible to most people.



Campestral exhibition

On Friday 20 June I attended an exhibition opening from local artist Vanessa (Ness) Johnston BA (Hons) in The Maclaurin Gallery, in Rozelle House Museum and Galleries in Ayr.

Ness has been studying art for eight years, inspired by visiting a local art group in St John's Town of Dalry and being prompted by a member of the group to go to college to study art.

Eight years later, after working

her way through an HNC to MA, she delivered an exhibition titled Campestral, a word derived from Latin meaning 'of a field', drawing inspiration from not only the art of indigenous peoples in Mexico, but also the local area of Dumfries and Galloway, in which she resides and works.

Ness discusses these inspirations in her artist statement: "My surroundings of fields and the forest, it's sounds, sights and smells, and the wildlife of both the rare and the everyday such as crows and ravens have inspired these works. Yet I wanted to find a way to tell my story of rural life through my art, but I wanted to do this by travelling beyond myself."

To "travel beyond", she drew

heavily on inspiration from the techniques and stories of indigenous peoples from Mexico, finding links and personal connections between their mediums and aesthetic choices, incorporating abstraction, collage, printmaking and a use of vibrant colour to expand her work to fit her vision of rural life.

Frequent motifs in her work include animals, birds, trees and the Galloway countryside, shown through an abstract lens, skewed in various different ways to provide something fresh.

Ness said: "The works presented here are very much 'of my place', formed from my creative conversations with the landforms, wind, rain and the heavens of Galloway. I hope you enjoy them."



Vanessa Johnston at the Campestral exhibition launch

Vanessa is currently finishing her final studies and will be graduating as a Master of Art (MA) in July 2025.

Kaelan Johnston

Watson book launch

The launch of a new book about local bird artist Donald Watson was held in Dalry Town Hall.

Watson Birds Patrons Dame Barbara Kelly, the Duke of Buccleuch and Richard Agnew joined Chirs Rollie, Roger Crofts and others. Copies of the book are available for purchase at the CatStrand shop or online at www.whittlespublishing.com



Fish Wish

I must go down to the sea again, with a rod and a line and bait,
With a restless slap on a clinker hull of a tide that will not wait.
To seek the flounder, pollack, sprats, the herrings with their roes in,
The brill and ling to bring ashore at the long day's closing.

I must go back in time again to make a nice fish meal,
With coley, whiting, thornback, skate, monkfish or conger eel.
A fishmonger with 30 different types that we could choose,
And *rock and chips on a Friday night wrapped in the Evening News

by Sue Wiseman

* rock was a term for 'rock salmon' or dogfish



Excerpt from the RNLI publication All About Fish: The Healthy Dish, 1986

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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BUSINESS in the SPOTLIGHT

We're Brandecosse, a small family business proudly based in St John's Town of Dalry.

We specialise in high-quality walking boots, footwear, and workwear – built to last and designed for people who value craftsmanship. We believe in doing things properly: quality over quantity, always. And for us, there's no better place to live and work than this corner of Scotland we call home.

The Glenkens has been our home for nearly 30 years, and it's shaped everything we do. The landscape is not only where we live – it's where our boots are tested, refined, and worn.

Being based in the Glenkens means we're surrounded by endless inspiration whether that be those who work in the outdoors or the brutal yet beautiful landscape.

Brandecosse was founded in 2008 by our directors, Jane and Mark Trueman. At the time, our entire operation ran from a very cosy shed behind Wright's (then Newton's) shop in Dalry.

Mark brought with him a wealth of experience from his years at Dunlop,

followed by Hunter, at the Gates Rubber Factory in Dumfries. After a time spent as a consultant for rubber footwear production around the world, the opportunity arose to create something of our own – a collection of country boots that combined Italian craftsmanship with Scottish practicality especially curated for the fieldsports community. And so, Brandecosse was born.

In 2021, we moved into our current home – the old bank building just across the road from where it all began. From here, we now welcome and ship to customers from across the country (and beyond).

Fast forward to today, and Brandecosse has well and truly grown arms and legs. Jane and Mark's sons, Ben and Josh, have now joined the business. What began as a small country boot brand has grown into

the hiking and outdoor living markets, while continuing to earn a reputation for 'bombproof' footwear among the hunting community.

Our work has also taken us further afield, forging strong ties with international brands who share our values. Through our brand development work, we've partnered closely with two Kiwi icons - Swanndri Clothing and Skellerup Footwear - both with rich farming heritage and a commitment to making gear that lasts.

Visit us

While our office in Dalry is very much a functioning office, our kettle is always on and our boot room always has a space for you to find your next trusty pair.

Whether you walk your four-legged pals down the Ken or are in quick pursuit of your tea in the Galloway hills, we have something for you.

Pictured are Brandecosse founders Jane and Mark Trueman outside their premises in The Old Bank on Dalry's Main Street



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CatStrand

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS



JOHN HEGLEY – FOLKTELLING

FRI 8 AUG 7:30PM

'AWESOMELY MUNDANE' – THE INDEPENDENT.

WRITING, DRAWING AND DRAWING OUT
THE CREATIVE WORKSHOP

SAT 9 AUG 11:00AM – THE SMIDDY



VOLOSI

RAW EMOTION AND WILD ENERGY; A
THRILLING STRING-POWERED SOUND

SUN 10 AUG 2025, 7:30PM

VOLOSI ARE A REVELATION. COMPELLING
PERFORMANCE AND ENERGY – MARY ANN KENNEDY.

Land Notes

Glenkens
Festival
of Land

15–17 AUG

CATSTRAND & DALRY TOWN HALL

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SUN 31 AUG 7:30PM

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Glenkens Medical Practice
- 01644 420 234

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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

07769 647 702

• Kirkpatrick Durham: Heather - 07551 639 629

• Crossmichael: Richard Middleton - 01556 670 691

• Dalry: Michele Owen - 07940 313 445

• New Galloway: 07741 656 601

• Parton: Tom - 07835 821 976

FOOD DELIVERIES

• Galloway Foodbank - 07730 788 335

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

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

• Grierson's Butchers:

01556 502 637

• Henderson's Butchers: 01556 502 654

• Mitchell's Greengrocers: 01556 502 077

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

• Roan's Dairy - 01556 620 374

• Harris & Co: www.harrisandco.uk

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS

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

Glenkens Scout Group: Contact Heather McIntosh on 01644 420 375

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

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

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

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

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

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

into New Galloway Community Shop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GLENKENS CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday Services

Crossmichael (Church Hall), 9.30am: Aug 3 (Crossmichael Church); Aug 10, Aug 17, Aug 24, Aug 31, Sep 7, Sep 14, Sep 21, Sep 28,

Balmaclellan, 11am: Aug 3, Sep 7,

Carsphairn, 11.15am: Aug 10, Aug 31, Sep 14

Kells, 11am: Aug 17, Sep 21,

Dalry, 11am: Aug 24, Sep 28 (Harvest Festival)

SPECIAL EVENTS - Aug 3, 2pm, Guild Stall at The Scottish Alternative Games, New Galloway

For further info contact Ian Knox on 07840 506 516 or at i.knox29@bopenworld.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

Sundays: 10.30am, Holy Communion with refreshments after the service.

Tuesdays: 10-12noon, come for private prayers or to chat with Dawn when the 'church is open' sign is outside.

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

SPECIAL SERVICES - Harvest Festival, 10.30am, Sunday 21 September - all welcome!

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

Glass Recycling Points

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

USEFUL NUMBERS

- Pothole Hotline: 0845 276 0000
- Police, non-emergency: 101 or email stewartryCPT@scotland.police.uk
- Doctor: 01644 420 234
- NHS 24: 08454 24 24 24
- D&G Council: 030 33 33 3000

MINUTES/REPORTS OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT SPENDING

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

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

Local Job Vacancies

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



The *Glenkens Gazette* is a member of independent UK press regulator, Impress. To find out more about our complaints process you can visit www.glenkens.scot/complaints-and-corrections or scan the QR code here.



GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

You can now apply for a Garden Waste Collection Service permit at £40 per bin, for regular collections from March to November 2025.

Apply online at www.dumgal.gov.uk/wasterecycling or in person at a customer service centre such as Dalry Library.

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

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Please get in touch further details including small business/charity rates and series discounts.

Email glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk or call/WhatsApp 07727 127 997

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GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT WEDNESDAY ROUTE SUMMER BUS TIMETABLE

Outward		Return	
Kendoon	18:00	Castle Douglas Aldi	20:25
Dalry	18:20	Castle Douglas Tesco	20:30
Balmaclellan	18:25	Ringford	20:43
New Galloway	18:30	Laurieston	20:58
Mossdale	18:42	Mossdale	21:08
Laurieston	18:52	New Galloway	21:20
Ringford	19:07	Balmaclellan	21:25
Castle Douglas Tesco	19:20	Dalry	21:30
Castle Douglas Aldi	19:25	Kendoon	21:50

THE STEWARTRY VETERINARY CENTRE

CASTLE DOUGLAS SURGERY HOURS
Mon-Fri 8.30am-6pm

DALBEATTIE SURGERY HOURS
Mon, Wed, Fri 3-3.30 pm
Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

FOR APPOINTMENTS AT BOTH SURGERIES
OR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

01556 502263

VETERINARY SURGERY
OAKWELL ROAD
CASTLE DOUGLAS

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

**AUGUST 2025 – SEPTEMBER 2025**

**GCT EXCURSION: GARDENS OF EXCELLENCE
DUMFRIES HOUSE AND GARDENS
THURSDAY 21ST AUGUST 2025**

Dumfries House is set in 2,000 acres of parkland which contains riverside gardens, an ornamental arboretum, a significant walled garden and numerous areas of buildings which includes craft centres and cafes.

The arboretum contains more than 500 specimen trees, in addition it contains many hundreds of native shrubs. The arboretum links the Robert Adam designed Avenue Bridge with the walled garden.

The Queen Elizabeth walled garden is the flagship project of the estate renovation. The five acre walled garden is one of the biggest in Scotland and contains formal terraces, greenhouses, herbaceous borders together with a fruit orchard and vegetable gardens.

Bus Fare: £18.50
Entry to gardens: £5.00 (payable on entry)
Optional entry to the house costs £16.50 and must be booked 24 hours in advance at: <https://dumfries-house.org.uk/visitors/tours>

Pick ups:
0900 Kirkcudbright Harbourside
0025 Castle Douglas Market Hill
0940 Dalbeattie opp. Esso Station
1005 New Galloway CatStrand
1015 Dairy Underhill

Scan this QR code to book bus fare via TicketSource

for more info: mobile: 07841 512449 / email: gct@catstrand.com

WEBSITE: WWW.GALLOWAYCOMMUNITYTRANSPORT.ORG

MINIBUS DRIVING

We are looking for drivers to help us deliver our 517 service in the Kirkcudbright/Borgue area, paid on a self-employed basis. This will be 1 - 2 days a week. For a discussion about the role, please call Jon on 07841 512449 or email gct@catstrand.com

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

VEHICLE HIRE FOR MEMBERS

We have vehicles for hire by community organisations, ranging from 4 seat capacity to 16 seats, including wheelchair accessibility

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

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

REGULAR SERVICES

Please see the Gazette's Info page for details of our regular timetabled routes

WHAT'S ON August/September

AUGUST

Sat 2, Crossmichael Graveyard Tours, 1.30–5pm, Crossmichael Heritage Centre in the Church Hall

Sun 3, Scottish Alternative Games, New Galloway Park, *see back page*

Fri 8, Glenkens Pollinators Project banner making workshop, drop-in 12noon–5pm, Dalry Library

Sun 10, Carsphairn Community Woodland Forest Wildlife Family Fun Day, 11am–3pm,

along the B729 between Carsphairn and Dalry (DG7 3TD)

Tue 12, Loch Ken Family Fun Day, 11am–3pm, Parton, *see p12*

Wed 13 to Mon 18, Land Notes: Glenkens Festival of Land, *see p18*

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

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

Sat 16, Glenlair Feastival, 10am–10pm, Glenlair Steading, *see p18*

Thu 21, GCT Bus Trip: Dumfries House and Gardens, *see p29*

Sat 23, Great Corsock Show, *see p4*

Sun 24, Pollinator ID Workshop, 2–4pm, New Galloway Community Garden, contact abi@propagate.org.uk

Fri 29, Glenkens Community Cardiac Responders Group training with Scottish Ambulance Service, *see p12*

Sat 30, 12.30–9pm, Crossmichael Gala Day, *see left*



SEPTEMBER

September, Glenkens Food Month, *see front page*

September & October, Stroanfreggan Community Archaeological Research Project Dig, *see front page & p23*

Sat 6, Bat Box Building, 1pm–4pm, New Galloway Community Garden

Thu 11, Stewartry Birdwatchers Talk: Ian Bainbridge - The East Atlantic Flyway for Coastal Birds, 7.30pm, Balmacellan Village Hall, *see p13*

Fri 12, Practical Permaculture Workshop, 10am–4pm, Lochhill Agroecological Farm, contact abi@propagate.org.uk

Fri 12, Cheese & Wine Evening, New Galloway Town Hall

Mon 22, Defibrillator Training, 6:30–9pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Tue 30, Dalry High School Skills and Jobs Fair, *see front page & p2*

BUS ROUTE CHANGES

Dumfries & Galloway Council and SWestrans have issued an update on bus services effective **from Thursday 7 August**. There are many changes to timetables and service destinations, including the **removal of part of the 520 service between Carsphairn and Dalmellington**, for example.

Please **check to see if your service is affected here**: <https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/roads-transport-parking/public-transport/bus-ferry-timetables>. Users can also contact the council on: 030 33 33 3000 or find paper copies of timetables in local libraries.

Glenkens & District Community Councils

Balmacellan Community Council: Bi-monthly, 7.30pm, Balmacellan 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 mcnabbblaurie@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 crossmichaelcc@gmail.com or 07803 204 433

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

Wet Felting Group, Tue 10m-12:30pm

Community Larder, Mon 9am-4pm; Tue 10.30am-12noon; Thu 9.30am-4pm, (side door open for access)

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, 5.30-9pm, all ages

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

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

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

Chasing the sun through Carsphairn

Chase the Sun North Cycle race came through Carsphairn, with roughly 350 riders streaming through the village.

The event starts in Whitley Bay in the early morning, with participants 'chasing the sun' all the way to Ayr on the summer solstice - so cycling coast-to-coast.

A number of our community groups joined forces to provide a safe rest space and, food and drink to riders and supporters.

Lagwyne Village Hall Committee, and Carsphairn Village Shop Ltd, worked as a team to organise and execute a great day of fundraising for the village hall.

Some of the children had created

a rhyme they chanted loudly and along with a freshly made bacon butty to show what was on offer in the hall, it encouraged the riders to stop and make use of Lagwyne Hall's facilities.

Using the Chase the Sun tracking app, organisers and volunteers kept a close eye on the riders progress. It became a finely tuned system of frying eggs and bacon, buttering bread rolls, and preparing drinks just in time for groups of weary cyclists to roll in and refuel!

As the evening progressed and the number of cyclists dwindled, a small team of volunteers stayed behind to clean up. But when news came in that the last four riders were still tackling the long stretch down the B729, the group agreed - the hall doors would remain open. When the final riders arrived, they were warmly

welcomed, offered refreshments, and sent on their way with cheers and well wishes as the sun dipped behind the Rhinns of Kells.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who contributed before, during and after the event for making the day such a success. From sandwich-makers to cheering children, every role made a difference.

It was a true celebration of community spirit, set against



Chase the Sun cyclists enjoying a pit stop at Carsphairn's Lagwyne Hall, photo by Sarah McCusker

the backdrop of one of the most beautiful corners of Scotland. Here's to next year's ride - and more sunshine to chase.

Emily Wall

**THE SCOTTISH
ALTERNATIVE GAMES**

**SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST 2025
NEW GALLOWAY PARK**

**2PM PROMPT
PRACTICE SESSIONS FROM 1PM**

**FEATURING: THE GIRD 'N' CLEEK WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
- SNAIL RACING - TRACTOR PULL - TOSSIN' THE SHEAF -
HURLIN' THE CURLIN' STANE - CLASSIC CAR SHOW -
PIPERS - BAR - BARBECUE AND MUCH MORE!**

ADMISSION - £6 ADULT | SENIOR CITIZENS £4 | £1 CHILD

Skills & Jobs Fair
30th September, 4-6pm
Dalry School Hall

FREE event

Employers: Looking to recruit people in the Glenkens? Book your free table to come and chat to career changers and the next generation.	Please come along if you are: A Young Person living in the Glenkens An Entrepreneur A Small Business Owner Or you want to retrain or find a new or different role
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**More details: www.glenkens.scot
Bookings: GCATProjects@gmail.com**

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust | Dalry Parent Council | DG Works
Your Local Employability and Skills Partnership

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

OCT/NOV COPY DEADLINE: 5 SEP



Editing & Design:
sarah.ade@gmail.com

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