

GLENKENS GAZETTE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Good Neighbours Club</i>	2
<i>Local Recipes</i>	3
<i>Local History</i>	4
<i>Playgroup details</i>	5
<i>Carsphairn School News</i>	6
<i>New Galloway Initiative</i>	7
<i>Church News</i>	8

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SWINGS & ROUNDABOUTS AT DALRY PLAYPARK

Having got off to a good start with a grant from Groundbase Ltd to fence off the site and prepare the entrances, the Dalry Playpark Project is currently being held up by a number of factors outwith the control of the Project Committee. After planning permission had been awarded, the question of the long-term maintenance of the Playpark was raised. For Dumfries & Galloway's Department for Community Resources to take on the maintenance of the facility an agreement had to be reached between the Education Department and the Property Management Sub-Committee about the use of the site.

The maintenance issue has now been satisfactorily resolved allowing the Stewartry Area Committee (S.T.A.) to reconsider a previously delayed funding application.

At a recent meeting the S.T.A. awarded £4,000 to the Play Park Project. The award of this sum will help applications to other funding bodies who require their grants to be matched.

BBC Children in Need are in the process of revising their application procedure and form, and have suggested that the Project Committee re-submit a previously rejected application when the form is available. This should be in the very near future.

Applications will take several months to be considered, so it is hoped that it may be the spring before progress is made.

Some donations continue to be made via the collecting large businesses. All contributions will be of great assistance and the end result is a Playpark worth waiting for.

25 years

GLENKENS
GAZETTE

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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CONTENTS

Gazette 25th Anniversary:
p2-11

News:
p12-15

Community:
p16-21

Environment:
p22-27

People:
p28-29

Arts:
p30-31

History:
p32

Information:
p33-37

Events:
p38-39

Twenty-five years of the *Glenkens Gazette*

This edition of the *Gazette* marks our 25th anniversary, and also the 150th issue.

For a little community newsletter that started as a few sides of A4 printed on a home printer, this is a pretty big achievement.

Credit for this success goes to the amazing, active, vibrant communities of the Glenkens and the people who work so hard to ensure they survive, and thrive.

Included on the following pages are the very first edition of the *Gazette* in full (including this issue's front cover), followed by some then-and-now reminiscences and entertaining anecdotes and photos spanning the last 25 years of life in the Glenkens.

From p12 *Gazette* usual content resumes, perhaps with a little foray here and there into the past...

We hope you enjoy reading this issue, and reminiscing, as much as we've enjoyed

putting it together. Also, please do come along to our anniversary celebration on Thursday 27 November at 7pm in the CatStrand - we'd love to see you!

The Gazette Team



Pictured here are some members of the Gazette Steering Group, past and present

Glenkens Archive launches for *Gazette* anniversary

We're delighted to be able to say that the Glenkens Archive is now live, just in time for the *Gazette*'s 150th edition and 25th anniversary!

Currently holding all the *Gazette* back issues and Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership documents, the Archive will eventually also be a repository for photographs, recordings and documents from projects and organisations across the Glenkens.

You can browse the latest items, have a look at collated collections or visit

online exhibitions where more context is given about items. There is also a map where records pertaining to a specific location can be found.

It's easy to search inside records and to give you a taste, why not try our fun Headlines Quiz to the right! To search for the headlines, visit the Glenkens Archive using the QR code here, or visit www.glenkens.scot/glenkens_archive. Use the search bar at the top of each page to find which issue the following headlines came from. Try using the Advanced Search if you get stuck or have a look through the *Gazette* collection for inspiration.

The first person to email the *Gazette* with

correct answers wins a £30 voucher for the CatStrand. Good luck!

- 1) New Surgery to Open
- 2) CatStrand Home and Dry At Last
- 3) A Concert on the Loch
- 4) Fond Farewell to *Gazette* Founder
- 5) Red Alert



25 years GLENKENS GAZETTE

Come along and celebrate 25 years of the amazing Glenkens Gazette!

27th November 2025

7pm onwards, CatStrand

Glenkens Gazette | Glenkens Hub
Glenkens Archive | Our Glenkens

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DALRY GOOD NEIGHBOURS CLUB

Once again another full programme has been put together by the Dalry Good Neighbours Club Committee. The schedule is listed below and for further details / confirmation call Hilda McAdam 01644 430383. New members always welcome at the meetings held in Dalry Community Centre, Kirkland Street. Meetings start at 2.00 pm prompt unless soup & sandwiches served.

November	7th	Soup and Sweet Lunch	1 p.m.
	14th	P.C.Dick Henry	Security etc.
	21st	With The Guild	Altacane Soap Making
December	5th	Soup and Sweet Lunch	1 p.m.
	12th	Steve Harfield	Local Health Visitor
	17th	Christmas Lunch	Lochinvar Hotel
January	13th	Gaiety Theatre	
	16th	Soup and Sweet Lunch	1 p.m.
	23rd	Burns Supper	Lochinvar Hotel
	30th	Local Slides and Videos	
February	6th	Soup and Sweet Lunch	1 p.m.
	13th	Cards and Dominoes	
	20th	With The Guild	Experiences Abroad
	27th	Members Entertainment	
March	6th	Soup and Sweet Lunch	1 p.m.
	13th	Bob McSporran	About Dunaskin
	20th	Andrew Bielinski	African Wild-life slides 7 p.m.
	27	End of Season Party	Lochinvar Hotel
April	24th	Afternoon Drive	

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

New Galloway & Kells

There were twelve nominations for the twelve places on the Community Council and so no election took place. The members are:

Chairman	Brian Edgar	Vice Chairman	Gordon Lindsay
Secretary	Jim Hopkins	Treasurer	John McGaw
Councillors	Roy Hooker	Vic McIntosh	Jimmy McKenna David Turner
Shelagh Neil	Margaret Sainsbury	Maybell Thomson	Roy Woolhouse

St. John's Town of Dalry

Chair	Marion Bone	Vice Chairman/ Treasurer	G. Bell
Secretary	Glen Murray	Councillors	Liz Brown Eric Wilson
Christine Rae	Mr. Merry	Susan Currie	Mrs. Woodley

Balmaclellan

Chair	Allan Pallister	Secretary	Godfrey Smith
Treasurer	Jane Douglas	Councillors	Doreen Wood Natalie Vardy
Douglas Carson			

Carsphairn

Chair	Silvia Sinclair	Vice Chairman	Margaret Richmond
Treasurer	Anne Rutherford	Secretary	Anna Clark-Kennedy
Councillors	David Donnelly	Simon & Liz Holmes	Bill Wiseman

Local Recipes

There are two recipe books available in your local shops, both great gifts for your friends at this time of year and both will provide funds for good causes. The original Glenkens Cookery Book has been re-published from 1981 and profits go to the Dalry Town Hall. (Priced £3). Light as a Feather is a collection of recipes from South West Scotland compiled by Cathy Agnew in aid of the Leonard Cheshire Fund (Priced £5).

Reprinted below is a recipe taken from Light as a Feather by Jean McMurdo, Dumfries.

Rich and Light Christmas Pudding (Makes 4 Puddings in 2 pint bowls)

1lb currants less raisins	1 lb sultanas 4 oz mixed peel	1 lb seed-
3/4 lb suet	1 lb soft brown sugar grated rind & juice of lemon	5 eggs
6 oz s/r flour	1 teaspoon mixed spice	
1teaspoon nutmeg	4 oz golden syrup	
1/4 pint rum	6 tablespoons milk	

Well grease 4 x 2-pint pudding basins. Place grease-proofed paper in base of each. Place all dried fruit in a large bowl. Mix in chopped peel, suet, flour, mixed spice, nutmeg, brown sugar and bread crumbs.

Add grated rind of lemon and strain juice, golden syrup, beaten eggs and rum. Stir, adding milk to make moist. Divide mixture between bowls and cover with foil. Allow to stand overnight in a cool place. Place in pot with water on plate or saucer. Simmer steadily for 2 hours. When cool cover with fresh tops and store in a cool place. Re-heat, as above, for 1 1/2 hours.



- Do You Have Concerns About
- The Safety and Quality of the
- Food You Eat ?

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NEW GALLOWAY. OUR HISTORIC BURGH. PART 1

Those of us who have the good fortune to live in the beautiful parish of Kells may feel a certain and justifiable pride in our little town of New Galloway, for it has the distinction of being the smallest Royal Burgh in Scotland.

Prior to 1630 the district consisted of the Castle of Kenmure, a number of scattered farms and a few tiny cottages. The settlement, such as it was, was situated in an area just north of the Castle and was called The Roddings. Then, in the early 1630's things began to change.

Sir John Gordon of Lochinvar, who owned the land in this area, obtained from King Charles I a charter authorising him to erect houses and buildings on a portion of land and create a Royal Burgh. The original intention was to build at St. John's Clachan of Dalry but due to some disagreement between Sir John and the inhabitants of the Clachan, this was abandoned. A second charter ratified by Act of Parliament in June 1633 was drawn up and a site for the new Burgh was chosen on lands west of The Water of Ken, close to the Castle of Kenmure. Just one month prior to this, Sir John had been raised to the Peerage and was created Viscount Kenmure, Lord Lochinvar.

The building of the Newtown of Galloway commenced almost at once but unfortunately the First Viscount died at a very early age on the 12th September 1634 and his project was never completed. The Burgh was destined to remain a village forever.

However, the Royal Charter had given Newtown of Galloway the right to hold "one market weekly on Wednesdays and three Fairs yearly" on the 1st April, 16th June and 28th July unless these dates fell on a Sunday, in which case the Fair would be held on the following day. One Fair was to last the space of three days.

The tiny Burgh also boasted its own Town Council, composed of local Gentlemen. The Council originally numbered 19, namely a Provost, four Baillies, a Dean of Guild, a Treasurer and 12 Councillors. In later years this was reduced to 17, possibly because it was felt that such a large council was not necessary in a very small town. Or maybe they just had difficulty in finding 19 "Gentlemen"!

*Part II of "Our Historic Burgh" will appear in the next issue
Helen Bolton*



Glenkens Playgroup

Meets

9.15

to

11.45

Monday to Friday

In the Community Centre Dalry

3 - 5 year olds are Government funded
6 month - 3 year olds cost just £2.50 a session

Please feel free to contact one of us below

For further information

Gillian Hillsley 01644 420230

Jean Jones 01644 420870

Kate Maxwell 01644 420328

Nancy White 01644 430423

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New Galloway

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Tues & Thurs 6.00 - 6.30pm

FOR APPOINTMENTS AT BOTH SURGERIES OR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY AT
ANY TIME PHONE THE NUMBER BELOW

01556 502263

VETERINARY SURGERY, OAKWELL ROAD, CASTLE DOUGLAS

The following article is submitted by Anna Campbell who has been teaching evening classes on "The Unexplored History of Glenkens". For more information on other Dalry & Glenkens Adult evening classes, contact Pat Loughlin on 460668

Over the last 250 years there have been at least 19 schools in the Glenkens. From around 1870 log books have been kept for the schools and the older volumes are held at the Ewart Library in Dumfries. Written through the eyes of the head teacher they are a fascinating account of school life. Attendance, the curriculum, the H.M.I. annual inspections and the weather all feature prominently.

The Inspector at Monybuie in 1910 wrote in his report *"The work professed in class subjects is meagre in quantity and only fair in quality"* and at the Dee School (Clatteringshaws) the teacher wrote *"In view of the fact that some of the pupils come 5 miles to school and one or two even further the attendance is wonderfully good."* The Head Teacher at Mossdale which opened in 1876 complained frequently for the first few years about the condition of the building and at Kells the Head Teacher recorded meticulously the names of the songs that the children learnt between 1870 and 1872. In 1887 the Head Teacher of Carsphairn wrote *"Work during the week very oppressive. The New Code has added considerably to the work required from such a school where there is only one teacher"* On the outbreak of World War 1 the teacher at Balmaclellan couldn't get to school because *"of interruption of traffic caused by war"*. Dalry logbook contains details of epidemics of mumps or "branks" in 1878 and whooping cough in 1928. Modern technology reached the Deuch School (Moor) in November 1935 when the teacher wrote: *"The installation of the wireless on Thursday 21st caused some diversion from work. Children heard lessons on Nature Study, Geography, Speech Training and Music"*.

Space does not permit me to continue with this wonderful insight into education but the resolve and passion for education was clearly put into practice in the Glenkens. I finish with a comment from the Dumfries and Galloway Standard of May 1st 1891. *"We continued our walk thinking this (Corseglass) as a splendid example of Scotland's determination to provide education for her 'children'."*

Carsphairn School P.T.A. Sponsored Walk

Report by Carsphairn Primary School Pupils

Recently fourteen children and their parents took part in a sponsored walk around Dundough Hill. Two grandparents and our Headmistress and teacher, Miss Rutherford came along too. Most people took dogs along with them.

The day started off quite hot, then a slight breeze came, which helped to cool people down. After a while it became very tiring because it was getting hotter again. Some people washed their faces in a tiny stream at the side of the forest road to cool down. It was about a three mile walk. Most of the boys ran ahead and left everybody behind. Alastair McMorran found a bird box lying on the ground, next to a tree. His dad hung it back up. We passed Kendoon Loch and saw a man swimming about. At the side of the loch we saw Glenkens Fish Farm. We also saw the surge tower at Kendoon.

Because some of the girls found the sun too bright, Jessie MacKay made bracken hats for them and found sticks to help them walk. Some of the boys had to wait for quite a while for everyone else to finish the walk because they ran most of the way.

Agnes Holden, the secretary of the PTA, brought refreshments for everyone to have after the walk. The Holden family could have walked to the start as they lived very close, but they went in the car because they had refreshments to carry. The boys had a juice fight at the end. Harry shook a bottle of cherry-ade and Daniel opened it because Harry said he couldn't get it open. The cherry-ade fizzed up and squirted out all over Daniel's face. This made him very sticky and attractive to bees, which followed him everywhere!

After refreshments, most of the kids and dogs either went to play in the river or in the forest. Daniel got soaked again when Kerry MacKay threw a stick into the water for the dog and it landed right next to him with a splash! Whilst the kids were off playing, the adults were being boring and chatting. The money collected will go to the PTA funds to help Carsphairn School.

New Galloway Community Horizons Initiative Update

The initiative has progressed well since the last open day held in June and specific projects have now been identified as priorities by the three action groups.

The Youth Action Group has targeted improved sports facilities and is currently looking at costs and plans. The Tourism and Environment Group has decided to concentrate on promoting tourism in the area and to this end has secured the funding to employ a researcher on a temporary contract to research and collate the tourist and historical information to produce a brochure and leaflets dedicated to the Kells area. Mr. Ronald Russell of Greenhead, New Galloway has been appointed to the post and will be starting in November. Mr. Russell has a great deal of experience in researching and writing books and a keen interest in local history. Another interesting aspect of the job will be to collect oral history and folklore and record it in some way for future generations before it is lost forever; so if you know of any legends (true or otherwise !) please let us know.

There are many skilled craft workers in the area who would possibly benefit from a common retail outlet during the tourist season and if appropriate premises could be found this would provide employment as well as another tourist attraction. Possible community and/or business uses for the Old School building were also discussed, and further enquiries are being made into this.

The need to reform the Gala Committee was highlighted to help provide events throughout the year for locals and tourists. Considerable interest has been expressed at the open day and a meeting will be called in the near future in the hope that enough volunteers will come forward to reform the committee in time for events next year.

A comprehensive overall community initiative plan will be produced as soon as possible detailing all the aims mentioned, together with other longer term objectives.

Meantime the Youth Projects will move forward together with the tourism issues which will be progressed by the appointment of Mr. Russell.

The plans already in place provide an exciting opportunity for our area and prove that if the community work together they make a difference.

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KING ARTHUR GLENKENS '73

Our local drama club brings tales of sword and sorcery, intrigue and chivalry to Dalry School when 'King Arthur' and his court bestride the stage on December 8th and 9th. All the traditional elements of the annual pantomime are on show (*Oh no, they're not! Oh yes they are!*) with magic, mystery, seriously bad guys and truly heroic heroes. Rehearsals have been underway for some weeks but there are still opportunities for would-be thespians to join the chorus and a vacancy for a 'person of stature' to play a fierce, scary dragon! Back stage assistance, particularly with construction of set and props, would be welcome. If you could lend a hand, please contact Barry Etheridge at rehearsals, Mondays and Thursday evenings in Dalry Town hall. 01644 430625

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND SERVICES

3 Nov	7.30pm	Concert with Gallovidians New Galloway Town Hall
5 Nov	6.30pm	Songs of Praise Carsphairn Church
25 Nov	7.00pm	Dalry Church Party Dalry Town Hall
17 Dec	6.30pm	Carols by candlelight Balmaclellan
24 Dec	11.30pm	Watchnight Service Kells Church
25 Dec	11am	C of S Unity Family Service Dalry
31 Dec	11am	C of S Unity Service+Choir Carsphairn

REGULAR SERVICES

Carsphairn	10.30am every Sunday
Dalry	12.00 noon every Sunday
Balmaclellan	12.00 noon every 1st Sunday in month
Kells	10.30 am every Sun. except 1st in month

DALRY CHURCH PARTY

Dalry Church is organising a party in the Town Hall on Saturday 25th Nov. It will be a time for dance, fun and games, with musical items led by Tommy Edgar. There will be a buffet supper midway through the evening, £1 admission charge, children are free. 7 - 9.30 pm. All welcome.

GLENKENS CHOIR

The Glenkens Church Choir was formed about 18 months ago and during that time has performed in various churches at Harvest, Easter and Christmas services. They are currently working on a programme of Christmas music for "Carols by Candlelight" which will take place in Balmaclellan Church on December 17th at 6.30 pm. At present the choir has 24 members and practises in Dalry Session House between 7.30 and 9 pm on Thursdays. If you would like to come and sing, please call Jean Mason - 01644 420889 - or just turn up.

BLYTHSWOOD CARE COLLECTIONS

Since January, Blythswood Care has been able to send 56 loads of aid to Eastern Europe and Africa. They have now begun a monthly collection circuit around the South of Scotland. Our nearest collection point is Castle Douglas. Donations of food (rice flour pasta cooking oil etc.) clothing bedding and household goods are appreciated. Items can be dropped off at the Manse or collected from your house.

GLENKENS MOTHER AND TODDLERS

Meet every Wednesday
(excluding school holidays)
Dalry Community Centre
1.30 pm to 3.30 pm
90p per session
Refreshments available

LOCAL EVENTS ROUND-UP

GLENKENS CHRISTMAS FAYRE

In Aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief
Dalry Town Hall
2 pm Saturday 25th November
Stalls & Grand Prize Draw

**SALTIRE DISCO
LOCHINVAR HOTEL**
Saturday 18th November
Friday 1st December
Admission Free

**AUTUMN FAIR
LOCH ARTHUR
COMMUNITY
BEESWING**
Saturday November 11th
12.30 - 4.30 pm
Crafts Gifts Home-made Produce
Children's Activities
Plants & Books

DALRY SCHOOL
Primary Christmas Show
Thursday 21st December
Primary Party
22nd Afternoon
Joint primary / Secondary
Christmas Service
22nd Morning

EDITORIAL GROUP

Anna Campbell 460208
Brian Edgar 420288
Jean Lindsay 430529
Matthew Newton 430225

Deadline for next issue is 15th January.

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial group. The group reserves the right to encourage the expression of a variety of views on subjects of interest to the local community

ADVERTISING RATES

HALF PAGE	£50
QUARTER	£30
THIRD	£20
For Sale items	£1

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

Mr. & Mrs. Fisher
On the arrival
Of
Craig Stephen Fisher
8lb 8oz

Favourite Poem

Do you have a piece of poetry
you would like to share with
us?

Contact one of the editorial
board and you could soon be
in print!

RED CROSS COFFEE EVENING

Despite a low attendance on
Thursday 26th October £380 was
raised at Dalry Town Hall. Thanks
to all those who came and made
the evening a success. See you
next year!

GLENKENS SCOUT PACK

Every Wednesday evening from 6.45 pm to 8 pm the Glenkens Cub Scout Pack meet in the New Galloway Scout Hall. If you are aged between 8 years and 10 1/2 years why not come along and give it a try? See what Scouting is all about. *We are currently looking for someone to help out at pack meetings.* If you are interested please contact: Heather McIntosh 4200375 or Jean Fisher 430493. Joke from the Cubs: Why couldn't the viper vipe her nose? Because the adder 'ad 'er hankie!!

The evolution of the bus: GTI to GCT



Pictured above left is the photo from the front page of Issue 12 of the *Gazette*, back in 2002, showing the first Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) minibus with Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) facilities manager and founder Board

member, Brian Edgar, GCAT founder patron, Cathy Agnew, local councillor George Prentice and visiting author Pete McCarthy. In the photo on the right we tried to capture the same shot, 23 years on, with Brian and Cathy (Brian still in post at the CatStrand, of course!) plus Jon Betts, Glenkens Community Transport (GCT) manager, and Jason Wilding, GCT operations coordinator. GTI is now GCT,

and the bus pictured is one of their most modern vehicles, a low-emission diesel 16-seater, purchased with support from generous private donors.

When the original photo was taken, what was then GTI had one vehicle, no staff (volunteer drivers only) and covered the Glenkens.

Today GCT has six vehicles, including two eVehicles, three part-time members of staff, and covers an area from Carsphairn to Kirkcudbright, Newton Stewart and west Dumfries, providing minibus

hire to members, Patient Transport, school services and registered routes.

It has a large roster of volunteer minibs and Patient Transport drivers.

A huge "thank you" goes out to all the volunteer drivers over the years; we wouldn't be at this point, 25 years on, without you! Thanks also to the many funders, Dumfries & Galloway Council Transport department and SWESTrans who have supported us over the years.

The GCT Team

Natural Power celebrates 30th birthday

Natural Power is currently celebrating its 30th birthday, in perfect timing with the *Gazette's* 25th birthday.

Natural Power moved into the area in 1999, when the first of the team moved into the Forrest Estate offices while we consented and built The Green House, which remains our international head office until this day - although it is now four times its original size.

The team could not move in straight away, however, as the

foot-and-mouth epidemic was in full swing, and we did not want any of our contractors or staff to assist its spread.

Since then, the office has grown from 10 employees to over 80 today (peaking at just over 100 around 2015).

We have been proud to be an early sponsor of the *Gazette*, and have been happy to support its

important role in telling the story of our local communities.

Well done and good luck for the next 25 years! *Jeremy Sainsbury, Director, NaturalPower*

Below left: Early days at The Green House. Below right: Stuart Hall and Ted Leeming, founders of Natural Power, pay The Green House a visit, 25 years on





**Kells Primary School 'Millenium Photograph',
submitted by Heather McIntosh.**



Pictured here is Matthew Newton, founder of the *Glenkens Gazette* and former owner of Wright's Shop in Dalry.

Despite having moved to pastures



new over a decade ago, Matthew is still an avid Gazette reader and often sends in words of support and appreciation.

Pictured above left is Matthew in his shop in Dalry for the fifth anniversary edition of the Gazette, and above right is photo of him now up in Aberdeen, where he and his family moved to in 2013.



Knockengoroch festival has been running since 1998, bringing roots and dance music from Scotland and across the globe to the Carsphairn hills.

The festival congratulates *Glenkens Gazette* for reaching this milestone. Included below is a photo from back in the early years of the festival; a bit of a change from today's event!

Festival producer, Katch Holmes, said: "We've grown from a couple of hundred people in the field to become one of Scotland's best-loved and most established music festivals, bringing artists and creatives from across the world to our extraordinary corner of Scotland."



1ST GLENKENS CUB PACK WOULD LIKE TO WISH THE GLENKENS GAZETTE A HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY AND 150TH EDITION OF THE WONDERFUL LOCAL PAPER!

cubs

Below left is a photograph from Loch Ken at 7am 25 years ago, renewing Cub Scout Promise with the Reverend David Bartholomew conducting a short service.

That year we also attended the Millenium Camp, with Cubs from all over Dumfries & Galloway. There was a giant buffet stretching the length of the field, and the highlight for the youngsters was when a helicopter flew right down the field above us.

Below is a photograph of today's Cub Scout group, with leaders Heather and Hannah in the back row.

Yours in Scouting, Heather



A new chapter for Carsphairn village shop

Over the past year Carsphairn Village Shop Committee (CVSL) has been working hard to secure the future of our much-loved shop and café.

Following two community surveys, it became clear that residents wanted a model that was both sustainable and supportive of local needs.

After listening carefully and weighing up the options, the committee is delighted to share that the shop and café will soon be run by employed staff rather than an independent business.

This is a big step forward for the community. Employing staff ensures consistent opening hours, a reliable service and the chance to offer a wider range of household essentials and café food.

Just as importantly it means creating local jobs, something that benefits not only those employed but also the wider community.

The shop will continue to be a place where people can meet, connect and support each other, but with the added reassurance of long term stability.

Bringing this vision to life would not have been possible

without the generous support of funders.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd (CREFL) and the National Lottery Community Fund, whose grants are enabling us to carry out essential renovation and modernisation works.

Thanks to their backing, both the shop premises and the adjoining three bedroom property are being brought up to date. These improvements will make the building more accessible and welcoming for everyone.

The refurbishment project is already underway and the results are beginning to take shape thanks to David Mason Joinery of Balmaclellan.

Once complete, the shop will not only be better equipped to serve daily needs but will also provide a brighter, more comfortable café space for meeting friends, enjoying a coffee and welcoming visitors to our beautiful part of the world.

We know how important it is to have a shop at the heart of Carsphairn. It's more than just a place to buy groceries, it's a hub where a small community can thrive.

By choosing to run the shop with employees, we are taking steps to ensure this hub remains strong and resilient for



The photograph shows Helen Lawrence outside the adjoining property of Carsphairn shop circa 1940, courtesy of Carsphairn Heritage Initiative Archives

years to come.

Looking ahead, our goal is to open the shop and café doors during the winter period. While there is still plenty of work to complete, the committee is excited about this next chapter.

We are confident the renewed shop will bring a sense of pride to the village and offer a service that reflects the needs and hopes expressed in the community surveys.

Finally, we would like to thank all of you, the residents of Carsphairn and surrounding areas, for your patience,

encouragement and ongoing support.

Every idea shared, every volunteer hour given and every survey response has helped guide us to this point. Together, we are not only preserving a vital service but also investing in a stronger, more connected future for our community.

We look forward to welcoming you back very soon, to shop, to chat, and to celebrate this exciting new chapter for Carsphairn village shop.

Emily Wall

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 p28, with a bit of information and food for thought about that location.



Flavours of the Glenkens: A month-long feast of community, creativity and local food

This year marked the seventh Glenkens Food Month, and it's been another brilliant year of community groups and local businesses pulling out all the stops to co-create a diverse, interesting, and fun programme.

Things kicked off with the Pop-up Café at Balmaclellan Village

Hall, organised by Cupboard of Joy.

All the food on the menu was either surplus – redirected from potential food waste, or donated by local producers. The hall was jam-packed, and funds were raised for local community pantries and foodbanks.

That certainly set the bar high! Other events included the Famous Fungal Forage with local mycologist Emma, who took a group on an adventure to a secret location. Together they found and identified

over 15 different mushrooms.

At time of writing, we've still got a few events to go...

New Galloway Community Shop opening its doors for an evening of local food tasters, inviting people to hear how the shop supports local businesses while offering a true taste of Galloway. The annual Carsphairn Community Market is returning, this time partnering with Bairn Banter to increase the fun! Local crafts and produce, home baking, tea and cake, plus games and laughter will all help the day go with a swing.

The Thistle Inn in Crossmichael have contributed several events to the programme, including a special charcuterie night – guaranteed to be a big hit, thoroughly enjoyed by all, with delicious flavours, good

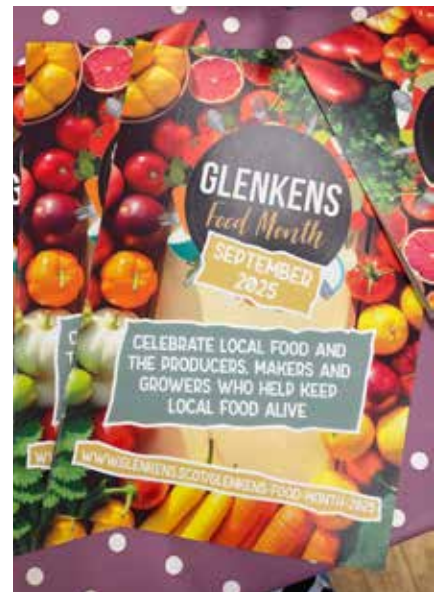
company, and plenty of smiles all round.

Other highlights at The Thistle include a Greek night with local chef Nikos, which will round off Food Month in style at the end of the month.

Thanks to everyone who contributed an event this year!

Glenkens Food Month 2025 has been coordinated by Abi from Propagate, on behalf of Glenkens Community & Arts Trust, and was funded by the Glenkens & District Community Fund through the Glenkens & District Trust and Foundation Scotland.

Abi Mordin, Glenkens Food Month Co-ordinator



Housing news and free logs



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
help with housing in the Glenkens

Planning permission for the new development of two flats and one house on the old filling station site in Balmaclellan has now been granted.

The Pamela Young Trust (PYT) trustees are delighted to have the go-ahead but it is still early days. Over the next few months, the plans will be put out to tender, and once that has been done there will be a lot of work behind the scenes applying for funding for the project.

One aspect of the development concerns the large beech tree on the north end of the site. It is an old and beautiful tree, with a TPO (tree preservation order) and great care has been taken with the architectural plans to ensure that the

roots will not be compromised.

However, a tree surgeon's report has expressed concern about its size and situation: it is quite top heavy, on a slope and leaning towards houses and the road, and the storms we are now experiencing are a worry.

The recommendation is that it is pollarded once the leaves have fallen. As it has a TPO, permission has been sought and granted for this. It may look a bit strange initially but it is necessary for the tree's long-term health. New growth in the spring will quickly emerge and it will continue to give pleasure to everyone in the village.

Alan Smith, Chair of the PYT, said: "Many trees were lost in the Glenkens during Storm Eowyn earlier this year and we were nervous about this tree before the report came in from the tree surgeons.

"So we feel sure that pollarding is the

right thing to do to preserve it for many more years. When the work has finished there will of course be lots of logs, wood chip etc and these will be left on site – please folks, help yourselves!"

Nicolette Wise, PYT Trustee



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Balmaclellan's pop-up cafe

We were shocked when we found out how many people we served across the day at the pop-up cafe at Balmaclellan Village Hall.

With over 130 visitors, I think we can safely say this was a success.

The event was set up to support three organisations - Balmaclellan Village Hall, Glenkens Community

Larder and Stepping Stones Community Larder and Food Bank.

People came from all over Dumfries and Galloway to have a taste of the wonderful food and meet up with friends.

There was a variety of foods, all homemade by volunteers, from a plethora of local food suppliers, including Torr Organic Dairy, Galloway Farmhouse cheese, and locally grown fruits.

There was food from toast to

mac and cheese to meat and potato pie, and then there were the desserts... rhubarb crisp and apple pie, to name just a couple.

Not only that, the sales table had even more delights to choose from, such as chocolate courgette cake and apple turnover meringues.

There was such a buzz in the hall, and at one point, people were queuing out of the hall to get a table. Once they got



in, and they were seated, they were looked after by the many volunteers who helped run the day.

Everyone, from the volunteers to the visitors, had such a good time; it was an excellent start to the Glenkens Food Month (even if it was in August!).

Joshua Wells

Murphy's Army Purple Poppy campaign

With Remembrance Day approaching, we will be thinking about those who served in the past conflicts and those who still serve, both human and animal.

This photo, taken during World War 1, is of the Royal Field Artillery on Salisbury Plain, where my grandad was stationed before being shipped off to France.

The image reminds us of the horrors faced by men, women and animals, both in the past and today.



Murphy's Army works to support the various charities that provide a safe, comfortable retirement for animals that have served not just in the military, but also in the fire service, prison service, border force, police service, etc, by making grants available to help with their care.

You can find out more and donate online at www.theyalsoserved.org, or if you would like to make a bank transfer, the details are: Murphy's Army, account number 03967034, sort code 20-78-42 and please quote Murphy's Army Purple Poppy Campaign as a reference.

Sue Wiseman

Mixtape party nights return to Dalry

Mixtape dance night returns to Dalry Town Hall on Saturday 11 October.

The night will run from 8-11pm, and entry is £5 cash on the door. Come along for a proper shindig and a

chance to shake your tail feathers to an eclectic mix of dance music that is selected by you.

The idea is that people choose their favourite dance tunes from any era or genre and they're put together in a playlist. To choose a tune or two, get in touch with on the Mixtape WhatsApp group by

messaging me on 07811 957 578.

The Mixtape nights following this will be 8 November and 13 December

Kath Peters



Kendoon to Tongland Reinforcement Project

Galloway Without Pylons (GWP) is a local action group set up to voice concerns over the impact on our area of the erection of the proposed Kendoon to Tongland Reinforcement Project - 118 huge pylons over 32.5km between Glenlee and Tongland.

This project has been proposed by Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN), who are owned by the Spanish energy conglomerate Iberdrola, and cuts through the Galloway Forest Park close to major tourist attractions such as the Queensway Crossing, Raiders Road, Loch Stroan, the Otter Pool, the Red Kite Trail, Kennick Burn (and the ancient beech avenue), the Bannan, Slogarie and Laurieston Forests, and Barstobrick visitor/riding centre.

SPEN applied for a 132kV overhead pylon line (OHL) from Kendoon to Tongland. Dumfries and Galloway Council objected

to their planning application so the application went to a public inquiry.

GWP want the section between Glenlee and Tongland undergrounded and argue that the extra cost this would incur should be spent to preserve the environment, wildlife and the local tourist industry.

SPEN state "it is acknowledged by SPEN that the underground option is, in each case, technically feasible and, on balance, environmentally preferable having regard to landscape and visual as well as forestry impacts".

Undergrounding takes place all over the world and has been done in the UK in many areas of outstanding natural beauty.

We believe that the Galloway Forest Park, the second most visited attraction in Dumfries & Galloway, should be awarded the extra funds that could be made available.

The Scottish Government received almost 1,000 objections with not a single representation of support. GWP is supported by 23 Community Councils, Finlay Carson MSP, Emma Harper MSP, Colin Smyth MSP, Oliver Mundell MSP, the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire

Biosphere, RSPB, Scottish Forestry and many other businesses and institutions.

GWP raised £26,000 to pay for legal representation at the Public Inquiry on 7 February, at which the reporters' recommendation was "consent should not be granted under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989". The reasons were:

- (a) Landscape and visual amenity: We conclude that there are a number of significant residual effects which cannot be mitigated.
- (b) Forestry: We conclude that there are a number of significant residual effects which cannot be mitigated.
- (c) We conclude that there are a number of significant residual effects which cannot be mitigated, in relation to groundwater and cultural heritage.

On 14 February, the Scottish Government overturned the decision of the Public Inquiry and said:

"There are significant adverse environmental impacts which will arise. Scottish Ministers consider these to be acceptable in consideration of the need for and benefits of the proposed



development, which are significant considerations that strongly support the decision to grant consent for the applications".

GWP's only course of action was a Judicial Review (JR). A petition was lodged against the Scottish Ministers and SP Transmission plc as the interested party. This petition was successful and the JR was allowed to go ahead.

So far we have raised £12,000 from the local community. We are being charged an extremely reasonable rate but still need to raise another £10,000 through the crowdfunding campaign, so that the JR can go ahead and pay the legal team which includes a high profile KC.

The JR is to take place at the end of September, so we will update you as to the outcome in the next edition of the Gazette.

*Paul Swift,
Galloway Without Pylons*

Carsphairn's fundraising bake sale

Carsphairn Community Council and local children's group Bairn Banter jointly hosted a bake sale event on Saturday 20 September.

Funds raised will help support the annual children's halloween party taking place next month. The relaxed café-style environment and extensive bric-a-brac sales table ran alongside the regular children's stay-and-play session at the Lagwyne Hall. There were also tables offering locally-grown vegetables,

produce, preserves, eggs and a wide selection of beautifully handcrafted cards for visitors to browse after their tea and cake.

The organisers said: "We would like to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone who came together to support this wonderful community event. Thanks to all the helpers, volunteers and stall-holders. There were so many contributions of baked goods, soup, sweet treats and produce, which were very much enjoyed by all who attended.

"We are delighted to announce that the grand total raised from the combined sales table and tea/cake



sales came to a tremendous £385.67!"

Melissa Ade from Bairn Banter added: "This will make a huge difference to our upcoming children's halloween party which takes place on 1 November at the Lagwyne Hall.

"The party is open to all children, but we do ask that they are supervised by an adult during this spooktacular event!"

See poster on p33 for details of the children's halloween party.

Search for a new Glenkens minister...

There have been many challenges and changes within our churches over recent times.

Our churches are now joined under one minister, with those of Crossmichael, Parton and Balmaghie and the grouping is referred to as Galloway Dee Parish Church linked with Glenkens Parish Church.

Glenkens Parish was formed through a union of the four parishes of Balmacellan, Kells, Dalry and Carsphairn.

Galloway Dee Parish was formed from the three parishes of Crossmichael, Parton and Balmaghie.

On 1 January 2025, the two

new parishes were linked. We now share a locum minister (Rev Judith Huggett) and an Interim Moderator (Rev Val Ott).

Glenkens Parish Church has been without a permanent minister since the retirement of Rev Dr David Bartholomew and Galloway Dee even longer, since the sad death of Rev Sally Russell.

But now exciting times are ahead as we start the formal search for a new minister.

The charge is now listed on the Church of Scotland website Vacant Charges section and we await applications.

A nomination committee of nine people has been elected from the two congregations,

which we have given the nickname of the "NomCom".

This group is tasked with receiving applications and informal queries, which will hopefully lead to being able to interview candidates and also to hear them preach elsewhere.

When this committee has found the person they think best suited to our area, they will invite them to preach here as "sole nominee" and at that point the congregations will be able to have their say.



Pictured is the interior of Carsphairn Church courtesy of the Carsphairn Archive

Obviously, the work of the NomCom is confidential but we will do our very best in seeking the right person for the area and the people in our community.

Irene McCreath, Session Clerk, Glenkens Parish Church



This little fellow was being mobbed by about 50 house martins outside my house a couple of days ago, so much so that he crashed into our window.

After a minute or two of being stunned he soon recovered and flew away, but was again seen off by the house martins! The photos were taken at my house in the Glenkens.

Mo Smith at Old Crummyspark

Carsphairn Primary School consultation

There is a copy of the current consultation paper regarding the formal closure of Carsphairn Primary School, and the response form for anyone wishing to give feedback, at Dalry Library.

"If anyone wants to see the consultation and fill out a response, they can pop into the library," says Angela, librarian at Dalry Library.

You can also respond to the econsultation online at www.tinyurl.com/carsphairn-school-september25

The consultation ends at 5pm on 29 October.

Raising money for the Scottish Air Ambulance

The St Margaret's Guild held a most successful raffle at this year's Alternative Games in New Galloway, with all proceeds going to the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance.

The Guild were grateful for all the prizes that were

generously given by members of the congregation, as well as the main prize of a food and wine hamper kindly donated by Bill and Val Chalmers from their shop in Dalry.

Mindful of the number of children present at the Games, we also had a 'Guess My Name' competition for a soft toy – the jury was out on whether the toy was a cow or a bull until the draw when we learned that the winning name was Belle!

Christine Rankin, St Margaret's Guild President, said: "We were delighted to have raised just over £290 for the SCAA which is Scotland's only charity air ambulance and is funded entirely by members of the public, enabling SCAA to respond to time-critical accidents and emergencies throughout Scotland".



A seat with a view on Waterside Hill

As part of the 'Woodlands Plus' project, Dumfries & Galloway Woodlands has been working with Dalry Community Council and the wider local community to add access improvements along the Southern Upland Way on Waterside Hill.

Thanks to funding from Glenkens & District Trust, and with the support of Scottish Woodlands and Earlstoun Estate, new information boards have been ordered and a new picnic bench has been

installed near the summit, giving views southwards down the valley and looking north into the Galloway Hills.

This recent partnership work formed part of discussion on the Waterside Hill Walk, part of the Land Notes festival (see p20 for more).

The walk was led by Dumfries & Galloway Woodlands and Dalry Community Council, and included tantalising mentions of other attractions arriving on the hill in coming months...

Laura McNabb



Summer of fun for Glenkens Youth Group

In early summer we were delighted to hear that the youth group had been awarded funding from the Dumfries and Galloway Summer of Play Fund.

We were delighted with the news, which enabled a group of sixteen youngsters to enjoy a fantastic day trip to Belfast in July.

We set off from the CatStrand in a minibus and one car, arriving at the ferry terminal in Cairnryan in plenty time to board the Dodds of Troon coach.

landmarks and various sea creatures – mainly jellyfish!

On arrival at Belfast we boarded the coach again and made our way to the Titanic Experience benefitting from the knowledge and banter from the Tour Guide.

The Exhibition Centre was amazing, with numerous displays, models and visual effects including a cable-car ride which immersed you in the shipbuilding world at the time of the disaster. Before boarding the ferry home, we had time in Belfast City to visit the Titanic Memorial Gardens, scanning the names of those who were lost in the disaster and wondering if we were related to any.

A short shopping trip was enjoyed by some of the group and some bargain purchases were worn home.

On the ferry back we all enjoyed a meal together, chatted about our day and watched an amazing sunset over Ireland. What a brilliant day.

A few weeks later, in August, once again we were very grateful to be able to have another exciting excursion, this time a little closer to home. We spent an afternoon at the Galloway Activity Centre with funding received from the Glenkens Community Shop.

Twelve youngsters took part in two chosen activities - archery or the water slide park for the first half of the afternoon, and then a whole group battle in the Laser Quest woods!

It was great to have the opportunity to catch-up again as the summer holidays can be quite isolating for some in our rural area.

Again we had lovely weather, great fun, and thanks to very generous donations, a chance to make special memories.

Sue Curtis,
Youth Group Deliverer

Glenkens Youth Group's term-time weekly meet-ups are core funded by the Glenkens & District Community Benefit Fund and are therefore free to all attend for all P7 - S3s in the Glenkens.

To find out more, email glenkensyouth@gmail.com



The ferry was very busy that day and we had quite a wait until we could board. However, we were soon able to relax and enjoy the sail over to Ireland.

For many this was their first experience of a ferry trip and a first visit to Ireland. We spent the journey exploring the ship and trying to identify





Carsphairn Community Woodland Ltd.

There's been a lot happening over the summer at Muirdrochwood!

Open day A huge thank you to everyone who came and volunteered at the Woodland open day in August. There was wonderful baking, pony walks, stalls, banner making, children's activities by Bairn Banter, alpacas and a fantastic BBQ.

The event was really well attended, and many thanks to everyone who came out to

support us. We hope to get some more community events going soon, as well as more regular volunteer days again. Watch this space...

Tree planting

Thanks to our forestry funding grant, the first round of tree planting of locally-grown hardwood is complete.

The saplings in the poly-crub have all come on nicely – most have been re-potted and are quickly outgrowing their home.

Andy has been busy harvesting seeds from the woodland and

they'll be sown to provide the next round of provenance saplings. There are still areas of replanting to be done so seedlings will come in useful then.

Firewood and sawn timber

Firewood season is upon us again and logs are flying off the shelves. The team have been very busy harvesting and processing this year's supply. So, there's plenty of wood ready to keep you all toasty this winter – get in touch with Davey on 07710124 255 if you would like to place an order. And there's sawn timber available from the community sawmill too.

Rural Skills Centre

The long-awaited Rural Skills Centre is now under construction – phase one is complete and we hope to begin phase two of the build soon. Pop down to the woodland to check it out, or

play on the swings, walk along the mossy paths and spot some wildlife!

Pre-apprenticeships

This month we said farewell to our most recent pre-apprentice – he has gone on to find local employment and we wish him all the best in his new job.

We hope to be on the lookout for a new pre-apprentice soon, but are waiting for funding to be released.

New development worker

Welcome to Harriet Whitty, who has taken over from Alison Macleod as Development Officer for the Woodland (see CCT article on page opposite). Harriet is employed by Carsphairn Community Trust thanks to funding from Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd (CREFL).

The CCW Team

Glenkens Cub Scout update

The Glenkens Cub Scout Pack would like to thank everyone who donated to our Alternative Games stall and to those who purchased items.

We raised an amazing £127.32 for our funds. What a lovely happy atmosphere the Games team created – thank you for a fun day!

MESSAGE FROM A LONG-DISTANCE GAZETTE READER

I saw your lost Croc listed in last issue's Freecycle section... Found it on the creek bank behind my house. It floated a long way! Unless it was picked up by a dog... still a long walk for a dog. Didn't see any teeth marks on it though. Come and get it when you can.

Jamie, New York State, USA

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

St Margaret's Guild and Glenkens Churches Guild are holding their annual Christmas Coffee Morning on Wednesday 3 December in New Galloway Town Hall.

The event will run from 10.30am to 12noon with coffee, shortbread, mince pies, a raffle, and a stall with home baking.

Nicolette Wise

Photo of the Issue



*The Stockbridge
Mac & Cheese Co.
Richly Awarded!*

This issue's winner is Melissa Ade, with her photo Winter Donkeys.

Melissa wins two portions of mac 'n' cheese from our competition sponsors, the Balmaclellan-based Stockbridge Mac & Cheese Co. Company owner and competition judge, Hannah Gould, said:

"The donkeys win by a nose...or maybe an ear!"

To enter you can send in any photograph taken in the Glenkens to glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk
Winning photos will be added to the Gallery on the Glenkens Hub - www.glenkens.scot

Pop along to the Glenkens community shop

The Glenkens community shop, referred to locally as the charity shop, continues to go from strength to strength.

The shop is very well supported by locals, people from the wider community and visitors to the area. We currently have 20 volunteers working in the shop, seven of whom are trustees.

A broad range of items is generously donated. Stock is rotated regularly, and there is always something different for customers to buy. We offer a low-cost way of buying clothing, books, footwear and an extensive array of exciting miscellaneous items.

Like many charity shops, there are certain items we can't accept for safety, hygiene and legal reasons eg electrical goods, large items such as furniture, and clothes that are

dirty, stained or ripped.

We can only accept goods that are clean and fit for purpose to ensure they are in the best condition for their next owner.

The shop storage area is small, so there is a limit of four bags of donated items per household at any one time. Regrettably, volunteers may have to refuse donations owing to the above-mentioned reasons.

Any profits generated through the shop go back into the community through our grant scheme. We have two grant allocations over the course of the year, in June and December.

Volunteer opportunities are available to anyone over the age of 16 – there's no upper age limit. Wages are a chocolate biscuit and a cup of tea.

The shop is not only about buying and donating. We aim to offer a safe, friendly and

warm space where anyone is welcome to pop in for a chat and a bit of company, and on occasions a cup of tea or coffee.

During the summer there are additional evening openings which are posted on the shop Facebook page @ **Glenkens community shop (Charity shop)**

The shop entrance and shop floor are accessible to all. Do pop in and have a browse, and a chat if you fancy - we look forward to seeing you!

Noreen Bell



SHOP OPENING TIMES

Monday: 10am-1pm

Wednesday: 10am-4pm

Friday: 10am-4pm

Saturday: 10am-4pm

An update from Carsphairn Community Trust

Welcome to Harriet Whitty, our new Development Officer for the Trust.

Harriet has recently moved to the Carsphairn community from Parton with her family and we are delighted to be able to offer her local employment, thanks to funding from Carsphairn

Renewable Energy Fund Ltd (CREFL).

The Trust are busy preparing the 2026 annual Carsphairn calendar, to be released November. It will be distributed free of charge to all residential properties in the Carsphairn area.

Surplus calendars will be sold to raise money for a local charity

(any recommendations of local charities are welcome).

The Social Mondays will be up and running again in October, so pop in and for a games, a chat and a bite to eat in the Lagwyne Hall.

The trust has enjoyed continuing to run social nights including Play Your Cards Right, Bullseye and a mock-casino night, which have

all been well supported. Watch this space for upcoming social evenings (see article below for the latest Faux Casino Night).

The Trust has recently acquired a new property which we are pleased to announce is now tenanted to a family, who we would like to welcome to the community!

Carsphairn Community Trust

Faux casino night

Thank you to everyone who attended the Faux Casino Night in Lagwyne Hall.

This was one of a number of community events run by Carsphairn Community Trust.

It was lovely to see so many people come out to spend time together with neighbours and friends.

The human fruit machine went down well (with both adults and the children being great fruit selectors).

Well done to the winners who managed to keep some chips at the end of the evening too.

An idea for the next social evening was made as a curry-and-quiz, and a Halloween-themed event was also requested, so



Bryan Cockburn needs to get planning!

Catherine Ann

Pictured is the human fruit machine, a popular choice of activity on the night



Parents' plea to Dalry dog owners

Due to local residents allowing their dogs to foul on the Dalry School playing field, parents would like to ask dog owners to please avoid taking their dogs into the school grounds.

One parent said: "If people absolutely have to take their dog onto the school playing field, please could we request that they are kept on a lead and that owners clean up after them."

Another parent added: "There are serious health risks for children coming into contact with dog mess, and the playing field is used for all ages - from Nursery right up to Secondary."

"Children don't just walk on the grass - they kick

balls which then get picked up, dive onto the grass, sit down to chat and picnic on nice days, and the wee ones will roll around on the ground, playing. Our kids are coming home with dog poo on their clothes and shoes on a daily basis at the moment, which is a really concerning situation."

It was also commented that there is often dog mess on the pavement outside the school.



James Brander, 14, found this interesting stone in the Image Pool by Stroanfreggan Schoolhouse, where he was on holiday with his family.

James wonders what it might have been - is it historically significant perhaps? It looks like there are marks carved into it. Was it an iron age club? Or a sign of some kind perhaps?

If anyone has any thoughts on this, or would like to take a closer look at the stone, please get in touch with us here at the Gazette at glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

Wee Mixtape disco party

On Saturday 18 October at 4.30pm, Dalry Town Hall will be hosting a family-friendly, kids-oriented afternoon disco.

You might be aware of the local Mixtape nights, run by Kath Peters, which takes over Dalry Town Hall with the aid of a PA, Smoke Machine and a whole bunch of Disco lights.

How it works is folk attending join a WhatsApp group and submit a tune or two in advance, which Kath compiles into the nights playlist (see article on p14).

Wee Mixtape was inspired when Kath got together with Baby Loves Disco, a London-based organisation which runs clubbing events for parents and their kids, and offered to run a family-friendly version of the Mixtape events. Wee Mixtape was born!

To get involved, join the WhatsApp group and submit your tunes at www.tinyurl.com/weemixtape, and you can book tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/weetickets>

Peter Renwick






New Galloway Golf Club

Founded 1902
www.nggc.co.uk
- 01644 420737 -

Buggies now available for hire

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Family and friends coming to stay?

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Carsphairn Place Plan officially approved

Carsphairn's Local Place Plan was one of three adopted by Dumfries and Galloway Council's Stewarty Area Committee meeting on 17 September.

Councillor Lowe (vice-chair) commended the local place plans and wanted the community groups to know their hard work and resilience had been noted.

The plan was drawn up by the community to help support Carsphairn's aims to create a thriving, multi-generational society and to give the area a statutory voice in land use decisions.

The Local Place Plan covers the coming decade until

2035 and will be included in Dumfries & Galloway's third Local Development Plan.

Carsphairn Community Council and the LPP working group would like to thank everyone who submitted their views and ideas and who contributed to the production of the plan.

You can read the plan and how the community council hope it will support community aspirations at www.glenkens.scot/local-place-plans/carsphairn-local-place-plan or scan the QR code here:



CARSPHAIRN LOCAL PLACE PLAN

2025 – 2035



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Inaugural Glenkens Land Notes Festival

The inaugural Glenkens Land Notes Festival took place from 13 to 18 August, blessed with sunny skies and soaring temperatures.

Across six lively days there were 15 events, as well as banner-making workshops and creative sessions at community gatherings in the run-up.

Kerry Morrison and Morag Paterson, together with Jo Jackson from Cultural Glenkens, led banner-making activities at the Dalry Farmers Market, the Alternative Games, the Upper Urr Environment Trust, the Loch Ken Fun Day and the Carsphairn Community Woodland open day.

They also worked with the Balmacellan Sewing Group, the Dalry Library Summer Craft Group, and the Dalry Pollinators project, while supporting others with materials costs. In total, 30 amazing banners were created, showcasing all the

elements of our landscapes that are important to us.

The Land Notes programme was wide-ranging and imaginative, moving fluidly between reflection and creativity, indoors and under open skies. Topics included Treasured Places, River Stories, Mapping and Formative nature experiences.

There was also a dazzling programme of music and performance from CatStrand Arts, with a much-enjoyed Ceilidh and Mixtape night at Dalry Town Hall drawing large crowds. Over the course of the festival, almost 550 people took part, with many more joining in through banner-making.

On the Sunday, numerous local community groups came together for a finale parade and picnic. Led by local piper Ollie Rigg, participants processed around Dalry School playing field, enjoying sweeping views before settling into a shaded picnic accompanied by music and song from local performers.

Kerry, Morag and Jo would like to offer a huge thank you to

everyone who got involved - whether by leading, volunteering, creating banners, performing, or simply showing up and joining the celebrations.

The first Glenkens Land Notes Festival wove together creativity, community and a deep connection to place, setting a joyful precedent for the years ahead.

A huge thank you as well to the funders that made it possible - the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Creative Scotland, NatureScot and Inspiring Scotland. It was a brilliant partnership project between CatStrand Arts and Dalry Community Council and we hope to do it again one day!

Morag Paterson & Kerry Morrison



Top - Anne Errington performing watery tales from around the world



Above - Build Your Own Nature Reserve, Cuckoostone

New Galloway's community garden

Last year, Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) secured a piece of unused land in New Galloway's park to make way for our community garden.

Since then, trees were planted - thanks to a grant from D&G Woodlands - and we erected an impressive pergola with help from some capable local craftsmen.

Regular garden days with multi-talented volunteers as well as many community donations have transformed a derelict area into a burgeoning garden. Although only six months have passed, the transformation is visible and has been welcomed by the community.

At the heart of it are our volunteers who generously watered the young plants through several heat waves; who lovingly built benches, potting tables, cane stands and ingenious water collection systems; and who diligently weed, plant, paint, and donate,

bringing life and colour to the garden.

The community garden is a place to share, whether that's time, work, a cup of tea, a chat, or knowledge. It is based on permaculture principles, the methods of which are not widely known but are so easy to replicate at home - and we learn all about these techniques and more from experienced gardeners in the community. You may not have heard of hugelbeds or lasagne beds but having self-sustaining beds is invaluable when time is limited.

Children from Kells Primary School have been visiting monthly, learning hands-on about growing potatoes, pollinators, planting trees and more. And their favourite activity? Wait for it... digging! The garden is a great space for any community group, the Biosphere and Propagate both having held workshops there as well as a permaculture design group and a bat box building session.

If you would like to be part of the community garden, you can be notified about our regular garden days by checking our Facebook page @ngcommunitygarden where you can also find a link to our WhatsApp group. Also, if you

have any gardening tools gathering dust in your shed or spare plants or seeds you would like to donate, please do get in touch!

We invite you to come along to the garden, have a rest on a bench, and enjoy nature at its best...

*Bianca Leder,
Community Garden Co-Ordinator*



Get pollinating with fruit and nut trees

Propagate is leading on an exciting project for Dalry Community Council that will see around 130 fruit and nut trees planted in people's gardens and community spaces all across the Glenkens.

Scottish Power Energy Networks have provided this funding to create a network of pollinators across the area, boosting biodiversity and habitats through extra planting.

You can read about the link of this project with the Glenkens Nature Networks project and our future plans (article below), but it's got off to a great start.

We took part in this year's Land Notes Festival parade, working with local creative Sarah McCusker to make a banner

and various parade props during a session held in Dalry Library.

Following this, Malcolm from SWSEIC led a Pollinator ID workshop in New Galloway Community Garden.

This was



attended by 12 people who learned all about the diverse range of these tiny but mighty garden friends.

An information session was then held online on 9 September for those looking to take some trees to plant. We welcomed NatureScot's Pollinator Strategy Manager, who shared an insightful presentation on the national context for pollinators.

Also present was Lynsey Payne, who co-runs Appletreeman in Perthshire – the source of

the fruit and nut trees for our project.

Lynsey gave a visual tour of the nursery and how she produces the trees.

This is a fantastic project that is making a real difference on-the-ground in the Glenkens, and we look forward to seeing it develop over the coming months and years.

Abi Mordin, Propagate

Find out more at www.glenkens.scot/projects/glenkens-pollinators-project



Local birds in words and song

Join us on Sunday 2 November to enjoy your local birds on a walk around Dalry starting at 10.30am at Dalry Town Hall.

The Glenkens is home to many birds which locals and visitors may not be aware of. A guided walk with local experts will hopefully open participants eyes to what can be seen and heard.

Following the walk there will be music in the town hall at

11.30pm. Bird song is a great stimulant for music-making, and hearing Peter Cowdrey of Planet Birdsong, Jo Miller, a Dalry-born Scottish musician, and Dalry resident Andrew Bielinski will give listeners a quite different perspective on birds from the norm.

Listening to what Glenkens artist and bird expert Donald Watson (1918-2005) said in his writing, and what others have written about him, will bring his words nearer to people, as will listening to extracts from the biographical essays about him written by those who knew him well.

There will also be an opportunity to view some of Donald's paintings, and to purchase cards and posters of his work and copies of the recently published book about him.

Roger Crofts





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Building nature networks in the Glenkens

Do you want to play a part in helping nature in the Glenkens?

Dalry Community Council (DCC) has received Inspiring Scotland money to explore the possibility of establishing Nature Networks in the Glenkens.

Supported by the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT), the Land Use sub-committee and the GSA Biosphere, some really interesting work is going on about how we could improve the connectivity of habitats around Dalry and beyond to better support our wildlife.

The work will also include opportunities for members of the community to learn how to monitor changes in biodiversity and land use around them.

In a separate project, DCC has received funding from SP Energy Networks (SPEN) for a Glenkens Pollinators Project, which will see around 130 fruit and nut trees planted in people's gardens and community spaces right across the Glenkens.

So what are Nature Networks?

Nature Networks are corridors and 'stepping-stones' of wildlife-friendly habitats that connect existing nature-rich areas. They are important to help nature cope with land use change and the climate crisis, and also provide a network of easily accessible natural spaces for the local community.

Barriers and Opportunities

The project's first 'strand' builds directly on the work done by the Glenkens communities in the past few years on Land Use, captured in the Land Use Vision: www.glenkens.scot/land-use. The big goal is to establish Nature Networks in the Glenkens over the next few years; the first step is to see if this is possible. This work is being led by Steve Connelly, a land use and planning consultant based in Dalry, who will be having conversations with landowners, farmers and community groups between now and Christmas. By the end of the year, we'd love to have a small group of people ready to start a pilot on the ground when further funding is hopefully secured next year.

It would be great to also have a larger group of land managers and communities who are interested in doing more work to develop Nature Networks, and by then we should have a good scientific understanding of where the opportunities are to make the most difference with the smallest interventions. It could be as simple as planting a short 'corridor' of trees and scrubby vegetation along a field edge – a

'hedgehog highway' – to link existing woodlands. Or reducing grazing pressure on grassland in the spring to allow scarce plants to flower and seed before allowing cattle in to graze. Or planting fruit trees to create a network of food sources for pollinating insects – of which more below!

If you are interested in talking about possibilities on your land, please email Steve Connelly at stephen.connelly@gmail.com.

Monitoring and Citizen Science

The second strand will focus on nature monitoring and citizen science. Niki Inglis, an engineer and sustainability consultant based in Carsphairn, is leading this work and said: "This is an exciting opportunity for members of the community to get involved in citizen science and help record the impacts of our changing world on nature and biodiversity."

A handful of locations across the Glenkens have been selected as pilot sites for nature monitoring this year, from forestry and agriculture such as Carsphairn Community Woodland (CCW) to local public spaces such as New Galloway Community Garden; all habitats are valuable to wildlife and biodiversity. We hope to hear from other communities, networks or sites which may be interested in getting involved.

Volunteers from the pilot sites will be attending a citizen science training on 2nd October in Dalry, led by Malcolm Haddow from South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC). They will learn best practices and record their observations on apps such as iNaturalist. Places are available for members of the public to join the training – spaces are FREE but limited so please get in touch with Niki soon to reserve your place.

Partnering with the Glenkens Community Spaces Network (GCSN), we are also looking at ways to embed Citizen Science in our communities, starting with a series of citizen science talks at Halls across the Glenkens – more details to follow as the programme develops.

Keep up to date with all of this and more at the Glenkens Hub www.glenkens.scot. Please also get in touch on Niki.Inglis@protonmail.com if you know of a community, network or site which might like to get involved or if you have any questions.

Glenkens Pollinators Project: The Dispersed Orchard

The Glenkens Pollinators Project is already well underway. Led by Abi Mordin from Propagate on behalf of DCC, the project plans to get around 130 fruit and nut trees planted across the Glenkens. This will create a nature network and pollinator corridor – boosting



biodiversity while also providing a source of healthy food for humans.

There was a fabulous response to the call for sites, with over 40 people nominating areas from their own gardens to community spaces. **The map here shows the spread of the 'dispersed orchard'** and already we can see some great pathways and clusters emerging.

The next step for the Pollinator Project is to hold a community planting day and hand out the trees! This will probably be on 8 November at Dalry Library, where we will create a new micro-orchard. There will be a demonstration on how to plant, stake and protect your trees, plus a host of fruit and nut themed activities. Details will be confirmed on the Glenkens Hub.

Going forward, the Pollinators Project is joining forces with Glenkens Nature Networks to increase impact – we'll be encouraging recipients of fruit and nut trees to get involved in the Citizen Science project and record biodiversity quite literally on their doorstep.

So it's an exciting time for the Glenkens as we work across communities and organisations for the benefit of our wildlife and environment. Watch this space for more!

Niki Inglis and Steve Connelly

(See article on p23 for more on the Glenkens Pollinators Project.)

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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

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Electric Cars - Part Four

Battery Health (continued)

Our car battery is one of the most common at this time - lithium with nickel, manganese and cobalt (NMC). Here are some ways to maintain your battery health:

1) Don't use rapid chargers too often; this has been shown to be detrimental to battery life, just like red-lining your combustion engine.

This is one of the reasons why mobile phone batteries tend to degrade relatively quickly.

Your vehicle's battery management system (BMS) takes care of battery temperature and charge rates etc to help maximise battery life and efficiency. However, limiting rapid charging to only when you need to will reduce stress to your battery and budget.

2) Keep the battery between 20% and 80% most of the time.

This doesn't mean that if you charge to 100% (like we do before we go on a long journey) and end a journey with 5%, you are damaging your battery.

Just try not to leave the battery for days at those extremes. Interestingly, recent iPhone and Android devices allow you to limit the charge on your mobile device for exactly this reason.

3) Conversely, charge to 100% periodically; this allows all the individual cells to equalise their charge level, known as 'cell balancing'. It only occurs if you are AC charging, eg at home or a public AC charger.

Once the charge reaches 100%, let the vehicle stop the charge itself (another hidden feature of the BMS).

Advice and opinions vary on how frequently you should do this, but once a month is often suggested.

Don't stress about this, just do it occasionally - preferably before a reasonable length journey so you are not leaving the car stood for days above 80%.

4) Taking power from and adding to the car battery regularly has been shown to prolong battery life.

Don't worry, you will soon get into a routine.

Other battery chemistries

Lithium iron phosphate



The Johan Cruijff Arena in Amsterdam has Europe's largest energy storage system

(LFP) and sodium based chemistries, are now rapidly coming onto the market.

BYD's Blade batteries are set to be very popular - they have been shown not to catch fire if squashed, folded, hammered or stabbed.

Check out the best way to treat your battery. Whatever type is used, the data suggests that the battery will outlive the bodywork of the car.

Of course, there will always be rare failures as there have always been some combustion engine failures, but with EV battery guarantees of seven years upwards, this should not be a worry.

After all, how long was the

guarantee on your last combustion engine?

Old car batteries

When your battery's storage capacity is too low for your car, usually below 80%, you could use it at home or sell it.

Companies use these batteries for homes, eg for backup power or to make use of off-peak electricity, build into large scale grid storage systems or to rent out to businesses for specific projects or events.

Johan Cruijff Arena in Amsterdam (pictured) has 148 used Nissan Leaf batteries permanently installed for this purpose. More uses are being developed all the time.

Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

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Loch Ken Trust Family Fun Day



The sun shone for The Loch Ken Trust Family Fun Day 2025, with local and national organisations gathering to promote water safety during the summer holidays.

The event is now in its third year and saw many locals and visitors head out to enjoy a day of family fun on the shores of beautiful Loch Ken, whilst learning how to stay safe on and around the water.

The day showcased a host of rescue demonstrations and activities for all with the chance to meet the local branches of the emergency

services and the Loch Ken community ranger service.

Galloway Activity Centre were on-hand for mini water safety sessions and rafted canoe trips which were open to all.

New for this year was the inaugural Loch Ken Stone Skimming Championships, which will also run as an annual event.

It was great to see so many people out to enjoy a day by the Loch and learn about water safety. The Trust would like to thank everyone involved in making the day such a success.

Plans are already underway for 2026 - watch this space for details.

*Lindsay Stewart,
Manager, Loch Ken Trust*



A new Chief Executive for GCAT

After a diligent recruitment process, the Board of Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) is delighted to announce that they have appointed Andrew McConnell as the new Chief Executive of GCAT.

Andrew will lead GCAT into its next chapter, building on the last 24 years of delivering high quality arts and community development.

Andrew grew up on a farm in the Machars and attended the Douglas Ewart High School before leaving to study Architecture at Strathclyde University in Glasgow.

He brings 20 years of experience of the built heritage and charitable sector, having experience as an architect in private practice;

a conservation officer with Glasgow City Council; a project development officer and then Director with Glasgow Building Preservation Trust.

In 2021, Andrew joined the National Lottery Heritage Fund as Senior Investment Manager, looking after large complex capital projects (including the National Galleries in Edinburgh, Citizens Theatre in Glasgow and the Galloway Glens scheme) and organisational resilience projects.

Andrew returned to Galloway in 2023 and is slowly renovating a house in Wigtown. Since November last year he has been supporting the Wigtown Festival Company as Interim Chief Executive.

He will be starting in post in early November, and will be carrying out an extended handover with Helen Keron before she leaves in early December for pastures as yet

unknown!

Andrew is very much looking forward to joining the staff, freelancers and volunteers who make GCAT and the Glenkens such an amazing place to live, and will be out and about as much as possible after he starts.

Helen Keron said: "I am delighted with this appointment and feel that Andrew is exactly the right person to take GCAT and CatStrand into its next chapter.

"I'm looking forward to working with him to build on



Andrew in the Galloway hills

everything we've achieved so far and to support him in taking the next important steps for GCAT and the Glenkens."

We look forward to introducing Andrew to the GCAT and wider team as soon as possible - and do say hello if you see him around!

The GCAT Board

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Name the place

(from page 4)

Site Name: Woodhead lead mines

Location: Carsphairn parish

The only constant is change. Today, the upper Glenkens are best known for their conifer plantations, farmland, and open moor. Yet in 1838, lead was discovered in those very

hills, and by the 1850s more than 300 people had brought the landscape to life. The lead rush lasted little more than three decades before fading, and the land returned once again to farming.

Traces of the old workings can still be found if you follow the track at Garryhorn Farm.

The final house there was abandoned in 1954.

Did you know..? We're all familiar with some of lead's traditional uses: in building materials such as windows, roofing, and pipes, and in household goods like pewter or to refine glass. But did you know it was once used in cosmetics, and even as a sweetener in wine - despite its toxic nature? Some lessons, it seems, take us a long time to learn.

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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 the Balmaclellan Boy Scouts.



This metal plaque was found in Balmaclellan Village Shop roughly three years ago and coming across it once again, I decided to write an article about it.

Reading the historic message on the plaque, you may be left confused - just as I was - because in the present day there are no Balmaclellan Boy Scouts in the village. The closest Scout group is in New Galloway; the Glenkens Scouts Group.

To fully understand the mystery of this local youth group, we must first picture the history of the Scouts and their practices.

It's 1907 Britain or, more specifically, Brownsea Island, and an experimental group was set up by Robert Baden-Powell. Twenty boys took part in this groundbreaking experiment, which tested Baden-Powell's ideas on youth training and outdoor activities.

Not long after what some would call the 'Scouts beta test' in 1908, Robert Baden-Powell published a book titled *Scouting for Boys*. In the same year, the first Scout patrols began to emerge, and the movement officially became recognised. The Scout movement quickly

gained publicity and in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was officially founded. Twelve years later, the 'World Organisation of the Scout Movement' (or WOSM for short) was established, today bringing together 176 national scout organisations.

Back in Britain, after the Second World War, Scouts were seen as brilliant contributors to the nation because of their war efforts, which included stretcher-bearing and working as coastguards.

This helped raise their national reputation, increasing local demand. That demand probably led to the formation of a Balmaclellan scout group.

However, the Balmaclellan Boy Scouts weren't the only facilities for young people in the village. A school, often recalled by locals, offered education to the children of Balmaclellan, running for 200 years, from 1781-1981.

At the start of its run as a school, it was a private school. In 1795, Edward Murdoch created a Mortification Fund for the parish school, donating £500. That sum bought land, which then produced an annual salary of £36 for the teacher.

Due to the fund, students no longer had to pay to go to Balmaclellan School, because according to the fund's rules, the teacher could not accept any extra fees from students.

After doing some research on *Memories of the Glenkens*, a Facebook page on the history of the Glenkens area, I found that there used to be a coal fire within the school before the school was improved and provided with central heating.

Around this time the school would have had an outdoor toilet. However, some schools were not so lucky as to have a fireplace inside the school; instead, according to another comment on Facebook, many children used to keep baked potatoes in their pockets to keep warm on cold winter days.

However, getting back to the point, a member of the village, and a local customer of the shop, recalled a great celebration of the late Queen Elizabeth the Second's coronation.

Large bonfires were lit one by one from Parton to Balmaclellan to New Galloway and so on and so forth, like a long chain, uniting all of the citizens of Dumfries and Galloway to celebrate.

Official meeting minutes, from much before the coronation of the Queen, from 1914, shows the decrease in members of the Balmaclellan Boy Scouts.

Towards the end, meetings were organised with no-one showing up, for example on 9 March 1914, seemingly no-one attended the Scouts meeting.

At the end of the historic notebook, the last meeting's minutes only recorded two people showing up.

The decreasing numbers were most likely due to young patriotic boys believing it is the right thing to fight for their country even though they were too young to enter.

Unfortunately, the reality of this is that the boys never came back from the war, and never saw their family again.

In the same book, multiple pages were titled Nature Notes, where all the natural beauty

seen would be written down. Things were noted such as when the wild strawberries were out or blooming Scottish thistles; even snowfall was noted down in November.

Around the same time, on the 19 August 1914, the Balmaclellan School log book shows that two Boy Scouts who attended the Balmaclellan School, most likely being part of the Balmaclellan Boy Scouts, went away to Carsphairn on duty.

Not only has the village changed in the educational sense, but also according to a local who came into the shop, allotments for the houses opposite could be found, where an out-of-commission water pump stands today, at the crossroad in the middle of the village just by the shop.

These allotments are also a plausible place for the Boy Scouts' coronation tree to have been planted, as it is in the heart of the village for all locals and even visitors to see.

The tree, however, could have also been planted at the Balmaclellan school, this is because the most likely case is that members of the Balmaclellan Boy Scouts were also in the Balmaclellan School.

Another believable place for this tree to be is by Balmaclellan Village Hall.

As with photos of the hall without trees as evidence, it is clear that the trees found there now, have not been there for too long. This makes it easier to believe that a tree could have been planted there in 1953.

With no evidence to help or any knowledge of a commemorative tree, it seems that the mystery of this historic plaque may never be solved.

However, if any local history buffs have any knowledge of this plaque or even any history on the Balmaclellan Boy Scouts, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Turning to art in a time of strife

While innocent children are being killed in Gaza and Ukraine, it feels as if we're helpless to make any sense of today's world.

But local composer Geoff Davidson and writer Larry Winger have teamed up to present a story for today that has resonated down the ages, from the Torah to the Old Testament.

A story that seems to have been a warning from a wise people to succeeding generations.

The life of the biblical David is such a salutary story.

The trope of the underdog and the bully, as we might rephrase the David and Goliath interaction, is so

engrained in our own culture that almost automatically we cheer when the tables are turned.

But how do we feel when that very underdog arrives in power and exhibits an overweening hubris that cannot be constrained? Conflicted, certainly.

The God Stone, a retelling of David's story, in song, explores unexpected avenues of compassion, before considering betrayal.

It's highly likely that we're familiar with the romance of King David and Bathsheba, but perhaps that familiarity does not extend to the subterfuge David may have used to eliminate her husband Uriah from the scene.

Confronted by the prophet over his actions, David incriminates himself, as he understands the error of his ways.

The concert musical developed by these local friends is, they hope, not only a compelling story in itself, but also a powerful metaphor for our times.

The event is premiering at the CatStrand in New Galloway on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 November.

There is a cast of seven soloists, including guests Nia Howe as Bathsheba and Elliot Hunter as the adult David, Nicola Junor as the prophetess Neviah, Robert Lind as King Saul, Mariella Petrucci as the boy David, Neil Webster as Uriah and Davy Brown as the prophet Samuel. There is also a chorus of some twenty local singers, conducted by Geoff Davidson.

The concert promises to be a revelation of the simple power of story, and an operatic treatment of a salient issue for today.

Larry Winger, New Galloway



FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

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107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

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From the Bookroom

In 'From the Bookroom' Glenkens-based author of the novel *The Road From Damascus* and co-author of *Burning Country: Syrians in Revolution and War*, Robin Yassin-Kassab, takes readers on a journey into his world of writing, reading and general thoughts on life.

//Last night,
I saw the
Machine rise up
again. It stood
on the prow like
a door opened
against the
vastness of a sky
that was already
carrying the
scent of land."

That's the opening line of *Explosion in a Cathedral* by Alejo Carpentier, a French Cuban, who wrote the book in Spanish in the 1950s. The Machine is the guillotine, the mechanism of forced progress and regress, carried across the ocean from the Old World to the New.

As the novel opens, Carlos, Sophia and Esteban, a brother and sister and their sickly cousin, all orphans, are living in a huge rambling home in late eighteenth century Havana.

The house is piled with the exotic objects bought and sold by the company

they have inherited from their father.

They construct their own New World wonderland in this labyrinth of things and thoughts. All the furniture and fabric, along with paintings and books, food and drink, vegetation and architecture, the sea and

the weather, and the people in the city streets, are described in lush, luxurious, extended sentences which don't disrupt but tug the reader on in their flow.

Then Victor Hugues, a French merchant older than the orphans, arrives on the scene with the force of the age. He cures Esteban with modern science, -hints at the secrets of Freemasonry, and preaches the ideals of the French Revolution.

He prompts the young people to travel across the Caribbean to San Domingo. They experience the aftermath of a slave uprising in Haiti. (This reminds me of two more excellent books, the novel *All Souls Rising* by Madison Smartt Bell, and *Black Jacobins* by the Trinidadian historian CLR James).

Esteban ends up accompanying Hugues all the way to France itself, and lives in a Paris which is by

Hugues implements the directives of the day with unswerving consistency, however inconsistent the directives.

turns something like Tehran in 1979 or Phnom Penh in 1975, though with many more bottles of wine.

As the revolution (or counter-revolution) progresses, "the Day of the Trees of Liberty gave way to the Day of the Scaffolds." Hugues rises within the



government and then is sent back to the Caribbean, this time to Guadeloupe, and to rule. Esteban accompanies him, but now watches

through a critical eye. The guillotine gets to work. God is banished,

then brought back as the Great Architect, who soon dissolves back into the traditional God of the Catholic church. Before too long slavery is re-established, in a great deal of blood. "To think that more than a million men died to destroy what's been restored

today," says somebody. Hugues implements the directives of the day with unswerving consistency, however inconsistent the directives.

But Esteban and Sofia are not made cynical by the cynicism of others. They end their lives fighting for their revolutionary ideals.

This is a novel of capital cities and sea ports, of continents and the voyages between them. The blurb on my copy calls it a "swashbuckling magical realist masterpiece," but I think that's sales talk. There's no Marquez-style magic here, only plenty of reality delivered in baroque and sumptuous prose.

Galloway Retold with Angela Miller

Carsphairn village and its surrounds

I've lived in every village in the Glenkens apart from Balmaclellan over the years, and each village has different charms of its own, but Carsphairn has a lot of memories for me.

Unfortunately, I didn't really get to understand the past of the village until much more recently, and I wish I had known about it all sooner, because it's got a pretty fascinating past.

I've done three videos in and around the village, but there are other stories to be dug up there. (Quite literally at Stroanfeeggan! Check out the dig that's going on there on the Glenkens Hub, and see the article on the back page

of this issue of the *Gazette*).

My favourite story about Carsphairn has to be the story of how it came to be a parish. What is now Carsphairn parish now was made from parts of Dalry Parish and Kells Parish.

In the mid-1600s, more and more people were living in the area, and in and around Polmaddie too. This led to an issue when it came to the matter of burials. Imagine for a second what it would be like to move your dead relative by horse and cart from Carsphairn to Dalry Kirk, or from Polmaddie to Kells? How long would it take? What might that be like in bad weather?

If you thought about that very hard, you've probably come to the conclusion that it's not something you'd like to have to do! Well, neither did the folk of Carsphairn, Polmaddie and

the surrounding areas. So they began to bury their dead in the local fields instead.

Once word got out about this it was, unsurprisingly, deemed unacceptable, and Carsphairn parish was duly incorporated. It's a pretty gnarly reason to get your own church!

Another area of interest around Carsphairn is, of course, that the Green Well of Scotland is situated there too. This is a very odd wee place, with some odd associated stories too, including the tale of a gold coin forger who threw all of his equipment into the well to avoid being caught.

The well is supposedly bottomless, but since that can't actually be true, there could be a wealth of weird and wonderful things (and some much less savoury things too) at the bottom...

But, the single most fascinating place in Carsphairn parish, for me, is Woodhead mine. Just over a mile off the A713, along a very easy-going track, the remains of the lead mines really take you back in time.

The old school and bits of the workers' cottages that remain are eerie, and it's easy to imagine life going on around them when you stand in the doorway and look out over the wee glen at Woodhead.

The old chimney still stands, which is an impressive sight, and parts of the forge and area where the ore was cleaned are still there too, making it quite easy to picture the industry going on back in the day there.



Lead was discovered in the hills in 1838, and Col McAdam Cathcart, the landowner, moved very quickly to build the mine and the village at Woodhead. Inspired by the philanthropy of the time, he built a school and a library there too, ensuring the workers had access to education to further themselves.

The school had as many as 46 pupils in the 1840s, and had a good reputation. Unfortunately though, the lead didn't last very long, and by the turn of the 20th century it was mostly unworkable. The last people left Woodhead in 1925.

You can find three videos covering these topics on my channel, Galloway Retold, as well as extensive information about it on the Carsphairn Heritage Initiative website, and in the Carsphairn Heritage Centre there too, which is always worth a wee visit!

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'.



Looking out through the doorway of one of the old workers' cottages at Woodhead lead mines

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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Galloway Food Hub Ordering and Collection Dates 2025

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Delivery/Collection Dates



Order online at gallowayfoodhub.org.uk

*Shop Opens midday Friday and closes midday Tuesday.

January	February	March	April
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DALRY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TEAM



- In an emergency always dial 999 when there is a risk to life or property.
- Dumfries & Galloway Council Contact Centre - Dial 030 33 33 3000 (this number is monitored 24hrs a day / 365 days a year, when calling "out of hours" press 1 for Care Call).
- Police Scotland - Dial the 101 the non-emergency number to make local Police aware of any policing issues in your area.
- NHS 24 - Dial 111 for provide urgent care advice and mental health support day or night from NHS 24.
- Scottish Power - Dial 105 to report or get information about power cuts in your local area.
- BT Openreach - Dial 0800 023 2023 for Openreach to report issues related to telephone services in your area.
- Scottish Water - Dial 0800 077 8778 for Scottish Water related issues.
- Scottish Gas - Dial 0800 111 999 for Scottish Gas related emergency issues such as a gas leak.
- Loch Ken Ranger Service Dial 07918300889 / 07539029175 Email: Lktranger@protonmail.com

DALRY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TEAM



Please contact Dalry Community Council if you would like to be involved with emergency resilience preparations for Dalry:

sjtdalrycc@gmail.com

If you would like to have a member of the Resilience Team check on you in an emergency please email the Community Council to register.

Bairn Banter's
BUFFET
and
BOOGIE
FAMILY DISCO
Saturday 11th October 4-6pm
FREE ENTRY
Bring a contribution to the buffet and your dancing shoes!
Lagwyne Hall Carsphairn

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE

The 55th Carsphairn Burns Night Supper
Save the Date
Friday 16th 7:00PM
January 2026
Lagwyne Village Hall, Carsphairn
more information will be released later in the year
tickets must be booked in advance

Happy HALLOWEEN
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SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER
10.30am - 12.15pm
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Lagwyne Hall Carsphairn
FANCY DRESS SENSORY PLAY
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EST. 2007

CatStrand

AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS



**AN TOBAR AND MULL
THEATRE: NIGHT WAKING
THU 16 OCT 7:30PM**



**CIRQLATION ENSEMBLE
PRESENTS JOURNEY
SAT 25 OCT 2:00PM
DALRY TOWN HALL**



**SMITH & MCCLENNAN
SAT 25 OCT 7:30PM**



**GEOFF DAVIDSON'S
THE GOD STONE
SAT 1 NOV 7:30PM &
SUN 2 NOV 2:00PM**



**ÒRAN
THU 6 NOV 7:30PM**



**DALAHAN
FRI 21 NOV 7:30PM**

USEFUL GLENKENS CONTACTS

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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
- McQueens Dairies: 0330 555 5588
- 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 hello@gallowayfoodhub.org.uk

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: Oct 5, 12, 19 (communion), 26; Nov 2, 9 (Remembrance), 16, 23, 30

Balmaclellan, 11am: Oct 5, Nov 2

Carsphairn, 11.15am: Oct 12, Remembrance; Nov 9, 10.30am

Kells, 11am: Oct 19 (communion), Nov 16

Dalry, 11am: Oct 26, Nov 23, Nov 30, Remembrance; Nov 9, 12.30am

SPECIAL EVENTS - Remembrance; Nov 9, 2pm at Parton War Memorial. New Galloway service details to the right.

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

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Rev Dawn Matthew

Sundays: 10.30am, Holy Communion, refreshments after.

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' Challock. Please contact Dawn for the link.

SPECIAL SERVICES - Pet Blessing Service (outdoor), 4pm, Sunday 5 Oct. Whole community invited to bring their pets along - bring a photo if you can't bring your pet!
Remembrance, 9 November, joint service with Church of Scotland, 10.50am, New Galloway War Memorial followed by service at St Margaret's.

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

Glass Recycling Points

- Balmaclellan Stores, Balmaclellan
- Carsphairn, in layby on A713
- Memorial Hall, St Michael's Road, Crossmichael
- Kirkland Street, St John's Town of Dalry
- New Galloway, Carson's Knowe Car Park
- St David Street, Kirkpatrick Durham

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- D&G Council: 030 33 33 3000

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

Local Job Vacancies

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



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GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT 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

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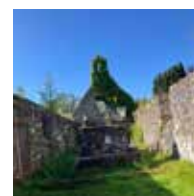
email: gct@catstrand.com / gctadmin@catstrand.com

phone: Jon 07841 512449 / Jason 07704 662925

OCTOBER 2025 – NOVEMBER 2025**UPCOMING EXCURSIONS****FRIDAY 17/10: THE WICKER MAN FILMING LOCATIONS TOUR**

Join us for a ride out to Whithorn, Kirkcudbright & Gatehouse for a guided tour of locations used in the cult 1973 folk horror movie *The Wicker Man*. The film itself is being shown at the CatStrand, New Galloway, in the evening @ 7.30pm

For price and further details email: gct@catstrand.com

**SATURDAY 25/10: THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW @ THE SEC**

This excursion offers the choice of either spending the day in Glasgow shopping, enjoying the restaurants or visiting the Museums; or immersing yourself in the Creative Craft Show at the SEC.

Bus fare: £19.00 / see our website for details and ticket link

**TUESDAY 09/12: CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TRIP TO CALEDONIA PARK & CARLISLE**

Join us for a Christmas shopping day out, travelling in our comfortable heated excursion minibus. We will call at Gretna Caledonia Park and then Carlisle for shopping.

For price and further details email: gct@catstrand.com

**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

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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 October/November

OCTOBER

Wed 1, Galloway Shorts Film Festival Skill Sharing Session, 6.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 1, Dalry Film Club: A Complete Unknown, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 3, Stroanfreggan Dig Open Day, 11am & 12noon, see back page

Sat 4, SWSARF Archaeological Symposium: Wigtownshire Early Prehistory, 2.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 5, NT Live: Inter Alia, 4pm, CatStrand

Tue 7, Hercules The Bear by Tenterhooks Theatre, 6.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 9, Ken Words: Writers' Cafés, 7pm, The Smiddy

Thu 9, Martin Simpson presents Skydancers, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 11, Glenkens Story: A Talk on Viscount Kenmure and the Kenmure Burial Aisle, 3pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 11, Voices from Gaza, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 11, Mixtape Dance Nights, 8pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 11, Bairn Banter's Buffet & Boogie Family Disco, 4-6pm, Lagwyne Hall, see p33

Wed 15, SIMEON WALKER: Pianist & Composer, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 16, An Tobar & Mull Theatre: Night Waking, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 17, Deer of Dark Waters Field & Picnic Trip, 11am, CatStrand

Fri 17, Corpse Bride, 4.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 17, The Wicker Man, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 18, Wee Mixtape: Family Dance Party, 4.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 19, Galloway Song Sessions with Kate

Howard, 10am, CatStrand

Sun 19, Trad Folk Music Skills Session, 1pm, The Smiddy

Wed 22, Dalry Film Club: Small Things Like These 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 24, Wild Goose Ceilidh with Shore Road, 7pm, NG Town Hall

Sat 25, GCT Bus Trip: Creative Craft Show, see p37

Sat 25, Cirquation Ensemble presents JOURNEY, 2pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 25, Smith & McClennan, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 29, A Wolf Shall Devour The Sun, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 30, Heritage Spooky Halloween Trail, 7pm, NG Park

Town Hall

Wed 12, Remembering Glenkens Heroes, 5.30pm, CatStrand

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

Sat 15, 150th Anniversary Gala Ball, NG Town Hall

Wed 19, Dalry Film Club: The Brutalist, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 21, Dalahan, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 22, Galloway Conversations: The Paddy Line, 3pm, CatStrand

Sun 23, Galloway Song Sessions with Kate Howard, 10am, CatStrand

Thu 27, Glenkens Gazette 25th Anniversary Celebration, 7pm, CatStrand, see p2

NOVEMBER

Sat 1, Bairn Banter Halloween Party, 10.30am, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Sat 1, Festive Craft Fair, NG Town Hall

Sat 1, The God Stone, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 2, Birds of the Glenkens, 11.30am, Dalry Town Hall, see p23

Sun 2, The God Stone, 2pm, CatStrand

Mon 3, Beginners Social Dancing in the Glenkens, 7pm, NG Town Hall

Mon 3, Improvers Social Dancing in the Glenkens, 8pm, NG Town Hall

Wed 5, Galloway Shorts Film Festival Skill Sharing Session, 6.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 5, Dalry Film Club: Mr Burton, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 6, Òran, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 8, Mixtape Dance Nights, 8pm, Dalry

DECEMBER

Mon 1, Beginners Social Dancing in the Glenkens, 7pm, NG Town Hall

Mon 1, Improvers Social Dancing in the Glenkens, 8pm, NG Town Hall

Wed 3, Galloway Shorts Film Festival Skill Sharing Session, 6.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 3, Dalry Film Club: The Apprentice, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Wed 3, Church Guilds Christmas Coffee Morning, 10.30am-12noon, NG Town Hall, see p18

Thu 4, Galloway Conversations: The Highways and Byways and Stories of the Glenkens, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 5 (7.30pm), **Sat 6** (3pm & 7.30pm) & **Sun 7** (2pm), CatStrand Players Panto: Babes in the Wood, 3pm, CatStrand

Glenkens & District Community Councils

Balmaclellan Community Council: Bi-monthly, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall - contact Martin on 07939 261 391

Carsphairn Community Council: Last Monday each month, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn - contact carsphairncc@gmail.com or 07531 035 824

Dalry Community Council: First Monday each month, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall - contact sjtdalrycc@gmail.com or 07940 313 445

New Galloway & Kells Community Council: Second Monday each month, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council: contact mcnaablaurie@hotmail.com or 01644 440 200

Balmaghie Community Council: contact balmaghieccsec@gmail.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

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, monthly on a Thu, 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

Tai Chi, Wed, 2-3pm

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

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

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

Art Explorers, Sat, 10.30am, fortnightly

New Galloway Town Hall

Community Cafe, Mon 12.30-2pm

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

Dance for Wellbeing (adults), Mon 2.30pm

Wet Felting, Tue, 10am-12.30pm

Tai Chi, Tue, 3.30pm-4.30pm

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

Community Larder, open whenever the town hall is open

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

Glenkens Community Centre

GROUPS WILL RETURN ONCE REFURBISHMENT ON THE CENTRE IS COMPLETE

Glenkens Charity Shop

Opening Times:

Monday: 10am-1pm

Wednesday: 10am-4pm

Friday: 10-4pm

Saturday: 10-4pm

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



Archaeological dig gets underway

Carsphairn Heritage Initiative (CHI) are excited to report that this long-awaited excavation has actually started!

The volunteers and professional archaeologists from AOC Archaeology were fortunate to have a nice calm dry day to start.

In the photograph here, they are removing the grass turf from one of the trenches to be opened up.

This trench will hopefully yield evidence as to the date of

construction of this enigmatic hill-fort (variously estimated previously as dating from the Iron Age to the medieval period).

CHI and AOC would like to invite any locals interested to come along on the three open days

to see the progress for themselves - see poster to the right for details.

*Michael Ansell,
Carsphairn Heritage
Initiative*



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Firewood logs & Wood Products for Sale

From

Carsphairn Community Woodland

A range of products are available from our community sawmill -

Contact us with your requirements

✳ Free local delivery ✳

Enquiries to:

Tel: 07710 124 255



Carsphairn Community Woodland Limited is committed to acquiring, developing and managing local woodlands in a sustainable and environmentally sound way for the long-term benefit of the local community.

Website: www.carsphairn.org/CCWL

Company Limited by Guarantee SC591976

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

DEC/JAN COPY DEADLINE: 5 NOV



Editing & Design:
sarah.ade@gmail.com

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