

WATSON BIRDS



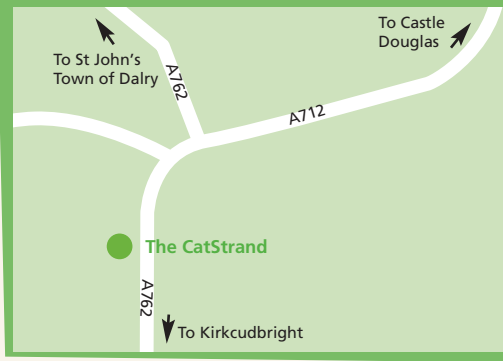
Watson Birds is a community project which aims to celebrate the life and work of Donald Watson, ornithologist and bird artist who lived and worked in St John's Town of Dalry and his son Jeff. The project seeks to raise funds to buy Donald's former home and turn it into a bird centre. We run a programme of events throughout the year to engage and involve people in birds through the arts and through a programme of science events. We work in local schools, with the local community and with bird and art experts from around the world.

Our project is led by Roger Crofts. This project has been funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, LEADER, Awards for All and The Cooperative Membership Community Fund. It is an initiative of the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT).

St John's Town of Dalry



New Galloway



Contact Us

Lynsay Bradford, *Project Officer*
E: lynsay@watsonbirds.org T: 07718 700978

Roger Crofts, *Project Director*
E: roger@watsonbirds.org T: 07803 595267

visit us at www.watsonbirds.org

Our Supporters



Galloway and Southern Ayrshire biosphere project
www.gallowayandsouthernayrshirebiosphere.org.uk

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A component project of The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT), a registered charity: No.SC032050, Company No. SC222083.

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WATSON BIRDS FESTIVAL 2014

19-21 SEPTEMBER 2014

Across the Glenkens...



LIVE MUSIC



ART EXHIBITION



LECTURES & DISCUSSIONS



PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS

GUIDED BIRD WALK



www.watsonbirds.org

WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S WATSON BIRD FESTIVAL

It is my pleasure to welcome you to another Watson Bird Festival. As my first year as project officer I am delighted with the opportunities available at this year's festival. The aim of the festival is to celebrate the work of Donald Watson, once a local artist to St John's Town of Dalry, and bring together the magic of science and art.

With the help of local business CatStrand, we have managed to amalgamate an impressive array of activities for all ages and abilities. Including wildlife and landscape artists for an awe inspiring exhibition at Dalry Town Hall, a moving art display by Sara Lockwood and CatStrand children's dance class, photography workshop by talented Michal Šúr and not to mention the presentation of the Watson Raptor Science Prize with lead authors of published scientific journals, plus lots more!

The festival will run from Friday 19th - Sunday 21st September. There will be an additional exhibition with more Donald Watson art work at the CatStrand, this will be held from the 1st - 27th September.

No matter what your interests; music, art, wildlife, science or photography, Watson Bird festival 2014 has it all, so come along and support us at this year's festival.

Lynsay Bradford
Project Officer

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Patrons:
Duke of Buccleuch KBE DL
Dame Barbara Kelly CBE DL
Richard Agnew of Glenlee

WATSON BIRDS FESTIVAL 2014



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

This year's festival builds on our experience of the three previous years. Some old favourites return and some new activities have been added. This year we will hold all events in Dalry, largely in the excellent facilities of the Town Hall. We have new events to engage children and hopefully attract their parents and relatives. We have our Watson Raptor Science Prize talks and debates as the Saturday afternoon centre piece: a must for all birders and, of course, the general public. The guided walk and guided bus tour by Chris Rollie is a must, so book early to gain from his great insights into Donald's paintings around the area. And on Saturday evening, come and listen and get involved in our musical entertainment.

Now that we have secured the purchase of Donald Watson's former home, including the studio just as he left it, we have included the plans for the refurbishment, plus a wry look by some of the school children, and will conduct guided tours of the house and garden to give you an insight of what we hope to achieve. We are actively seeking funds needed to carry out the work. We have a strong team, led by Cathy Agnew, working on this and we are all hopeful of success.

Roger Crofts
Project Director



ART EXHIBITION

EXHIBITING ARTISTS



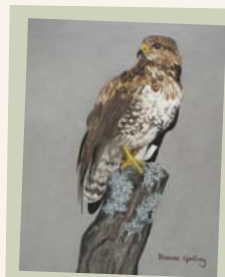
Amanda Jones

Amanda's preferred medium is water colour, with her work particularly reflecting her love of birds and the fauna and flora of the region. Her inspiration for her ornithological subjects comes from volunteering as a bird ringer with the North Solway Ringing Group and her admiration for the paintings and style of the 19th.

Century artist John James Audubon. She is passionate about detail and strives to make a subject as naturalistic and lifelike as possible. Amanda has successfully exhibited at several venues in the region and is a member of Dumfries Fine Arts Society.

Frances Godfrey

Frances trained in oil painting and figure drawing under Ronald Thursby at Nottingham College of Art in the 1970s. She is passionate about wildlife and a keen bird watcher and is a volunteer for the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). She was elected a Fellow of the Nottingham Society of Artists in 1985. Her work has strong elements of design and has been included in the SOC Journals here and in the Midlands of England. She and her husband settled in Balmaclellan in 1994 and she had her first solo exhibition in the Ottesburn Gallery in 1998.



Glenkens Art Group

Glenkens Art Group is composed of a small group of enthusiastic, amateur artists that meet twice weekly within the Community Centre in St Johns Town of Dalry.

The group ranges from teenagers to octogenarians and has been running for at least 15 years. The individuals meet and work informally Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings, helping each other as they go along. A variety of mediums are experimented with including watercolours, oil, pastel and gouache. Each member works on their own project with techniques and advice openly shared amongst the group.

The Glenkens Art Group creates a relaxed, fun atmosphere to help inspire people to get creative and express their artistic flare. Quite often they work in conjunction with the schools art competition and are responsible for the Glenkens Art Exhibition. New members are always welcome so come along and see what you can achieve!

Please contact Tom Leach 01644420386 or Christine Rhodes 01644430070, if you require further information about the group.

www.glenkensart.co.uk

Participating Artists

- Susan Bielinski
- Christine Rhodes
- Ann McLaughlin
- Rob McLaughlin
- Bill Phillips
- Tom Carlyle
- Tome Leach
- Ned Maxwell

Jo Gallant

Jo has lived in Galloway for over twenty years and has recently moved from Kirkcudbright to the Glenkens. Her work is very much inspired by the colours and textures of the surrounding landscape and its changes through the seasons, and by the local wildlife and farm animals.

She makes wall-hangings, scarves and a range cushions from velvets, linens, cottons and silks, using dye-painting, appliqué and machine embroidery. While some of the designs are abstract, using blocks of richly coloured and textured fabrics, others feature landscapes or quirky birds and animals.

www.jogallant.co.uk



John Threlfall

John Threlfall is a member of the Society of Wildlife Artists (SWLA) and is a previous winner of the Bird Artist of the Year award. He is a member of the Artists for Nature Foundation and participated in their 2010 project to Sark in the Channel Islands. He has recently completed work on his second book '*Drawn to the Edge*', a study of the coastal habitats and wildlife of the UK due to be published by Langford Press in August this year. He has contributed to a range of other publications including The Artist magazine, Bird Art and Photography magazine and a number of other books. He is an invited tutor on ArtSafari tours, Field Studies Council workshops and John Busby's Seabird Drawing Course.

He has a long association with Donald Watson having been invited to visit his studio at Barone some 30 years ago whilst working in the area. John moved to Dumfries and Galloway 10 years later and renewed the acquaintance admiring Donald's ability to capture a sense of time and place in his paintings. Like Donald, John's work is based on many hours spent in the field sketching and painting direct from nature. He now lives in Rockcliffe on the Colvend Coast.

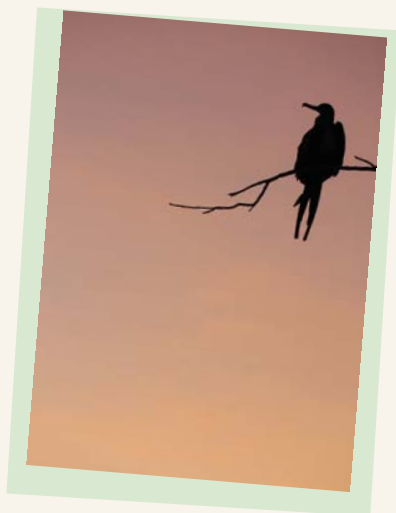
www.johnthrelfall.co.uk



Michal Šúr

Michal Šúr is a Slovakian born wildlife and landscape photographer. He focuses on contrast, pattern and simplicity in the natural world; trying to capture wildlife as a part of its environment. He often uses infrared black and white photography for landscape and landscape detail. Michal finds infrared ideal for enhancing contrast. It could be the dark sky with bright trees in the foreground or blurred movement of clouds or leaves against the stillness of the rock. Wildlife photography requires patience, field craft, good knowledge of the subject and often a good amount of luck. Infrared, on the other hand, is more about slowing down, watching the movement of clouds and angle of the sun. Sometimes returning to the same place several times in order to capture the right image by using long exposures.

www.michalsur.smugmug.com



Paul N Collin

Paul is a keen ornithologist and bird artist. He has exhibited at a number of local and national exhibitions, including galleries in Devon, Norfolk and the National Exhibition of Wildlife Artists.

Paul uses a number of different mediums including watercolours, acrylics and oils he has also had several paintings selected for the use as cards and calendars by some of the large London publishing houses.



Sheena McCurrach

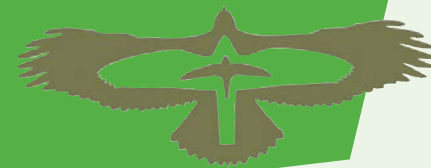
Sheena McCurrach has been painting for most of her life. It was a few years ago when she passed through Galloway as a traveller, she decided she would come to live here.

Resident beside the ruins of Girthon Kirk, the area has now become her world; the lanes that wind across the fields, the light that plays endlessly on Cairnharrow and the woods that straddle Bar Hill- all of which form the landscape. Sheena describes the view from her window frame "I've viewed them in every season now. Each day they seem fresh and different and the light ripples and changes a thousand times. And then, there is the wind which shifts and blows bringing its own movement, bending and gnarling the coastal hawthorns".

The experiences of Galloway, the rugged coast, the estuaries, softer hills and gentler rivers and yet there is still loss. All make their mark on the canvas and bring inspiration each day.

www.sheenamcurrach.net

WHAT'S ON?



Donald Watson Art Exhibition

Mon 1st - Sat 27th Sept, The CatStrand, High Street, New Galloway, **FREE**

This exhibition celebrates Donald Watson's work with a selection of paintings, held in local collections, over his long and successful career. And, it brings to a wider audience the Watson Bird project being developed through purchase and refurbishment of his original studio and home and the annual Watson Bird Festival to be held 19th to 21st September 2014 in Dalry.

FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2014

Informal reception & opening of art exhibition

6.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, **FREE**

Informal reception and opening of art exhibition at Dalry Town Hall.

Information on festival events and Barone development plans on display. Tours of Barone can be booked at the Town Hall.



SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2014

Children Follow Swallows Migration Journey

10am, Dalry Town Hall, **FREE**

Sara Lockwood dance teacher & choreographer performance with CatStrand children's dance group. Using techniques from **Margaret Morris Movement**, the group shall perform an enchanting piece of 'moving art' that will show the migration journey of the European Swallow.

A bird woven from willow

11am, Dalry Town Hall, **FREE**

Geoff Forrest, Sustainable Willow craft designs, will be weaving willow to create a wonderful sculpture outside of the Town Hall in Dalry. Come along and watch the sculpture take shape and guess which bird species he is creating.

T Ticketed Event. Call CatStrand Box Office on **01644420374** to book



Donald Watson Bird Walk

11am - 1pm (timings approx & weather dependant), meet at Dalry Town Hall, **FREE**

Join Chris Rollie on a Donald Watson Bird Walk around St John's Town of Dalry. Spot scenes and bird species captured by Donald in his paintings. Walk 1-2 hrs and does involve some hills, appropriate walking footwear and waterproof jackets advised.

Visits to Barone

11am - 1pm, meet at Dalry Town Hall, **FREE (booking essential)**

Witness the studio in which Donald Watson created many wonderful pieces of art. One hour timeslots are available from 11am, **booking is essential** at the Town Hall, maximum of 8 persons per visit.

Rolf Buwert Storytelling

11am - onwards, Dalry Town Hall, **FREE (donations welcome)**

Story teller and children's author of *Beatrix the Bad Fairy*, Rolf Buwert will be telling funny stories for all ages throughout the day. Rolf is a self-taught woodturner, toy maker and story teller. Come along and hear the wonderful tales that will brighten up your day!



Watson Raptor Science Prize Presentations and debates on the theme 'novel scientific advances through satellite tracking raptors'.

2pm - 5pm, Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry, **FREE**

Join us for the presentation of the Watson Raptor Prize 2014 at Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry. Chaired by Professor Des Thompson.

Talks include lead author of the winning paper Raymond Klaassen, discussing findings of published research **When and where does mortality occur in migratory birds? Direct evidence from long-term satellite tracking of raptors.** *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 83: 176-184. doi: 10.1111/1365-2656.12135.

Followed by a discussion on 'why we need to track raptors - new insights and a call to arms', by Roy Dennis.

Then scientific author Ben Koks will discuss the findings from the runners up publication **A Palaearctic migratory raptor species tracks shifting prey availability within its wintering range in the Sahel.** *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 82: 107-120. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2656.2012.02036.

Live music **T**

8pm - onwards, Dalry Town Hall, **£3 entry**

Come along and support talented local musicians during a music session. Acts include vocalist Marion Adam, guitarist Anne Chaurand and the Glenkens choir. Opportunity for more performances with an 'open mic', just turn up with your instrument or your voice!



T Ticketed Event. Call CatStrand Box Office on **01644420374** to book

Bird ringing demonstration by Andrew Bielinski & colleagues

9am - 10am, Barone House Garden, Dalry, **FREE**

Bird ringing or bird banding is a technique used in the study of wild birds, by attaching a small, individually numbered, metal or plastic tag to their legs or wings, so that various aspects of the bird's life can be studied by the measurements taken during the capture, such as molt, fat content, age, sex, wing and tail. An added bonus is the occasional ability to re-find the same individual later. This recapture or recovery of the bird can provide information that includes migration, longevity, mortality, population studies, territoriality, feeding behaviour, and other aspects that are studied by ornithologists. Andrew Bielinski, representing the North Solway Ringing Group, will be running a drop in session on Sunday morning between 9am - 10am allowing you to get involved and ask any questions you might have.



Owl Magic, Ayrshire's premier owl display

10am - onwards, New Field Farm, Dalry, **Free**

Come see and get a photograph with a collection of beautiful owls. Including the Tawny owl and barn owl, with a few rare surprises!



Visits to Barone House

10.30am - 12.30pm, meet at Dalry Town Hall, **FREE (booking essential)**

One hour timeslots are available from 10.30am, **booking is essential** at the Town Hall, maximum of 8 persons per visit.

Watson Art Bus Trail **T**

10.30am - 1pm (timings approx), meet at Dalry Town Hall, **Tickets £5**

Book your seat in the minibus to join Chris Rollie on the Watson Art Trail around the Glenkens. Witness key locations where Donald painted outdoors and discover the changes of the landscape through time.

T Ticketed Event. Call CatStrand Box Office on **01644420374** to book

Wildlife Photography **T**

12 noon - onwards, Lochinvar hotel, Dalry, £3

Join nature photographer Michal Šúr for an informative display talk on wildlife photography. Michal in his photography focuses on light, pattern and contrasts in the natural world and is photographing wildlife as a part of its environment. Michal will share some techniques and advice on how to capture stunning photographs. Suitable for all ages.



Art Workshop by John Threlfall

2pm - 3pm, Dalry Town Hall, **FREE**

Join the renowned wildlife and landscape artist to learn skills and techniques as he demonstrates his art. Watch the colours and patterns emerge to create a stunning work of art before your eyes!

Visits to Barone House

3pm - 5pm, meet at Dalry Town Hall, **FREE (booking essential)**

One hour timeslots are available from 3pm, **booking is essential** at the Town Hall, maximum of 8 persons per visit.



Live music at the Clachan

5pm - onwards, Clachan Inn, Dalry, **FREE**

Finish the festival with a drink in cosy local pub and help to create a great atmosphere.

sounds natural

Audio Book CD's of Natural Sounds, Birdsong and Countryside Sounds will be available to buy during Sunday's events.

www.soundsnatural.net

T Ticketed Event. Call CatStrand Box Office on 01644420374 to book

EVENTS AT A GLANCE



ONGOING EVENT Page 7

Mon 1st – Sat 27th
September

Donald Watson Art Exhibition, The CatStrand

FRIDAY 19 SEPT Page 7

6.30pm

Informal reception and opening of art exhibition, Dalry Town Hall

SATURDAY 20 SEPT Page 7/8

10am

Children Follow Swallows Migration Journey, Dalry Town Hall

11am - onwards

A bird woven from willow with Geoff Forrest, Dalry Town Hall

11am - 3pm

Donald Watson Bird Walk, meet at Dalry Town Hall

11am - 1pm

Visits to Barone, meet at Dalry Town Hall

11am - onwards

Rolf Buwert Storytelling, Dalry Town Hall

2pm - 5pm

Watson Raptor Science Prize Presentations and Debates, Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry

8pm - onwards

Live music, Dalry Town Hall **T**

SUNDAY 21 SEPT Page 9/10

9am - 10am

Bird ringing demo by Andrew Bielinski & Colleagues, Barone House Garden

10am - onwards

Owl Magic, Ayrshire's premier owl display, New Field Farm, Dalry

10.30am - 12.30pm

Visits to Barone House, meet at Dalry Town Hall

10.30pm - 11.30pm

Watson Art Bus Trail, meet at Dalry Town Hall **T**

12noon - onwards

Wildlife Photography talk with Michal Šúr, Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry **T**

2pm - 3pm

Art Workshop by John Threlfall, Dalry Town Hall

3pm - 5pm

Visits to Barone House, Dalry

5pm - onwards

Live music at the Clachan Inn, Dalry

T Ticketed Event. Call CatStrand Box Office on 01644420374 to book