

# WATSON BIRDS



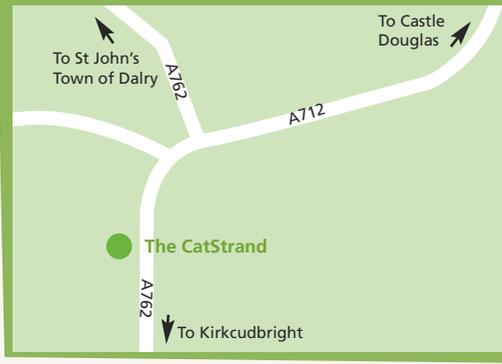
Watson Birds is a community project which aims to celebrate the life and work of Donald Watson, ornithologist and bird artist who lived and worked in St John's Town of Dalry and his son Jeff. The project seeks to raise funds to buy Donald's former home and turn it into a bird centre. We run a programme 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

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visit us at [www.watsonbirds.org](http://www.watsonbirds.org)

## Our Supporters



A project part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Dumfries & Galloway Leader 2007 - 2013 Programme.  
A component project of The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT), a registered charity: No.SC032050, Company No. SC222083.

Design by [www.eagercreative.co.uk](http://www.eagercreative.co.uk)



# WATSON BIRDS FESTIVAL 2013

## 20-22 SEPTEMBER 2013

Across the Glenkens...

CLASSICAL MUSIC  
EVENING



ART  
EXHIBITION



LECTURES &  
DISCUSSIONS



PHOTOGRAPHY  
MASTERCLASS



GUIDED BIRD  
WALK



[www.watsonbirds.org](http://www.watsonbirds.org)

# WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S WATSON BIRD FESTIVAL

In my first year as Project Officer focussing on the Events and Celebrations, I felt it important to take the festival forward by introducing something different. As a result, for the first time in the projects history, we have introduced not just one ticketed event but Four. We have teamed up with The CatStrand which will be hosting **Steven Osborne & Jean Johnson** on Friday 20th at 7.30pm and also **Gerry Cambridge** Poetry Reading and Workshop on Sunday afternoon with a 2pm start. Dalry Town Hall will be the venue for the fantastic **Whistlebinkies** - one of the most popular bands on the Scottish folk scene and we are delighted to welcome them as part of the festival. The Lochinvar Hotel will play venue to **Richard Evans** Watson Raptor Science debate on bird decline as deduced from place names.

Another first, is the Photography Weekend Workshop with **Morag Paterson and Ted Leeming** supported by renowned wildlife photographer **Laurie Campbell**. Laurie will also present an illustrated talk and discussion in The CatStrand on Saturday at 6pm.

We look forward to welcoming you all to the Watson Bird Festival 2013, and thank you for your support.

Aaron Edgar  
*Project Officer*

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

# WATSON BIRDS FESTIVAL 2013



## DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

A warm welcome to our 2013 Watson Bird Festival. Last year we had a foot fall of 750 at our festival. This year we are hoping to top the one thousand mark. We have expanded our programme considerably in the hope of attracting more visitors and locals and in the light of what you told us last year in your feedback.

We are holding a two day photography masterclass with Scotland's top rated wildlife photographer Laurie Campbell and our two local top class landscape photographers Morag Paterson and Ted Leeming. And there is a chance to hear Laurie give one of his masterly talks with superb images. We have two Watson Raptor Prize talks and debates this time round: one by this year's prize winner on the subject of birds and wind farms, and the other by our runner up Richard Evans on the fascinating subject of eagles and place names. We will formally open our walking trail around Dalry and our car and cycling trail around The Glenkens with attractive brochures to accompany them. For the final event we invite you to join local musicians for an informal session in The Clachan.

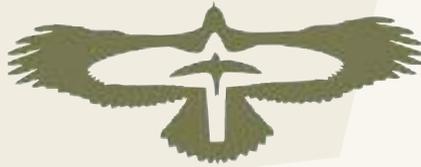
We have also kept in the old favourites. We have our annual artists' exhibition featuring some returnees and some new to our festival, along with a practical demonstration by Britain's prize winning wildlife artist Darren Woodhead. Our musical trio return with their friends as The Whistlebinkies. Bird ringing and guided walks by our local experts also feature, as does story telling for kids by Anne Errington.

I hope that you will join us throughout the weekend beginning with our opening reception when Alex Fergusson will formally launch the programme and Cathy Agnew and I will up date with all of the progress on our exciting Watson Birds initiative.

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.

## Colin Blanchard

An attendee at Wolverhampton, Farnham and Walthamstow Schools of Art in the early 1970s, Colin then completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Printmaking Technology at North East London Polytechnic. His work from that period was collected by public galleries including Manchester City Art Gallery and the RCA. He has since worked for various studios and artists whilst also part time teaching in London and Essex. Colin eventually went back to full time teaching and became Head of Printmaking at Colchester School of Art.

Colin relocated to Dumfries & Galloway with his partner, painter Heather Blanchard, in 2006. He runs a print workshop and studio at Craigshaw Barns Studio, Waterbeck near Lockerbie, where he now produces limited edition screen prints and linocuts, and is developing the etching and relief printmaking facilities. He also offers two day screen-printing workshop courses.

[www.colinblanchard.com](http://www.colinblanchard.com)



## Darren Woodhead

Darren Woodhead is a pure field painter based in East Lothian, Scotland. A Graduate of the Royal College of Art, he works direct in brush and watercolour outside: there is no studio. Concentrating on the natural world, his paintings are atmospheres, surroundings depicting birds, landscapes, butterflies and mammals - his local Scottish wildlife, as well as expeditions worldwide. His paintings are his diaries, encompassing energy, life, spontaneity and movement and using the natural white of the paper.

Darren will be doing a live demonstration at 1pm on Sunday at Dalry Town Hall.

[www.darrenwoodheadartist.co.uk](http://www.darrenwoodheadartist.co.uk)



**I CONTINUE TO BE  
FASCINATED BY THE  
POSSIBILITIES OF  
ORIGINAL PRINTS**

## Glenkens Art Workshop

The Glenkens Art Workshop are a friendly group of enthusiastic, amateur painters with a range of abilities. The group has been running for over 12 years, and is now based at the Community Centre on Kirkland Street, Dalry.

The group meets twice a week, during school term time; Monday afternoons from 1.30pm - 4pm and Wednesday evenings 7-9pm. Members go to whichever session fits in best with their lifestyle, some go to both. During the sessions each member works on their own project with advice available from each of the others when asked for. We are responsible for organising the Glenkens' Art Exhibition in conjunction with the schools' art competition.

New Members are always very welcome! Come and Join Us!

Please leave your name and contact details or phone Tom Leach **01644 420 386** or Christine Rhodes **01644 430 070**.

[www.glenkensart.co.uk](http://www.glenkensart.co.uk)



## Lisa Hooper

Lisa is a full time artist/printmaker living in Port William, Wigtownshire. Her subjects are natural history (mainly birdlife) and landscape. She uses a wide variety of print media including etching, woodcut, linocut, collagraph, and monotype. She also makes batik pictures on paper - the use of resists and layers of dye has some parallels with printmaking and the whole continuum from printing on paper to dyeing fabric is very interesting to her. She has a hobby interest in textile dyeing and weaving.

The natural environment is a great source of recreational pleasure as well as an inspiration to Lisa. Originally a career conservationist, it was the natural beauty of Dumfries & Galloway which drew her to Scotland. This double thread - the landscape and its natural history - is what speaks to her: and that is what she endeavours to record and share in her works.

[www.hoopoeprints.co.uk](http://www.hoopoeprints.co.uk)

## Suzan Malcolm

Flowers are a passion for Suzan, but recently and quite unexpectedly after a move to Portpatrick, birds with their bright eyes have crept into her work. She is enthralled by the red legged black guillemots in the harbour; the village, out of season, ringing with robin song; and when a gale gets up, so do the jackdaws in spectacular acrobatic fashion.

Suzan's bird paintings are flights of fancy. Her interest lies in going beyond the observed, to explore elements of the remembered and imagined.

Suzan Malcolm is a graduate of Edinburgh College of Art. She divides her time between painting and teaching in her bright and airy studio in Portpatrick.

[www.suzanmalcolm.com](http://www.suzanmalcolm.com)



## Participating Artists

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

# WHAT'S ON?



## FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2013

### Watson Raptor Science Prize talk and debate

6pm - 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, **FREE**

Join us for the official opening of The Watson Birds Festival 2013 Festival by Alex Fergusson and up dates on the project by Cathy Agnew & Roger Crofts, followed with talk, debate and presentation of The 2013 Watson Raptor Prize.

The emotive subject of the interaction between birds and wind farms will be the subject of our 2013 Watson Raptor Science Prize and debate. The lead author of the winning paper, Dr Miguel Ferrer from Spain will present the findings of the research published in the Journal of Applied Ecology 2012, 49, 38-46 on "Weak relationship between risk assessment studies and recorded mortality in wind farms". This is an objective analysis from actual data which should inform this often subjective debate.

### Steven Osbourne & Jean Johnson **T**

7.30pm, The CatStrand, **Tickets £15/13**

Steven Osbourne is one of Britain's foremost musicians, renowned for his idiomatic approach to a wide variety of repertoire from the mainstream classical works of Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms to the rarefield worlds of Messiaen, Tippett and Britten. He has won numerous awards and prizes including the 2009 Gramophone Award for his recording of Britten's works for piano and orchestra, as well as first prize at both the Naumburg International Competition (New York) and Clara Haskil Competition.

American clarinetist Jean Johnson enjoys a varied musical career that includes orchestral, chamber, and solo performances. Since moving to Britain in march of 2005, Jean appears regularly with all the major Scottish orchestras. As a guest principal she has worked with the Bergen Philharmonic, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and the Scottish Ballet Orchestra.



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

# SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2013

### Art Exhibition

All weekend, Dalry Town Hall, **FREE**

This year the Watson Bird Festival promises a blend of local, regional and national artistic talent. Following on from last year's festival we have another exciting line up exhibiting over the weekend. Also on Sunday in Dalry Town Hall we have a live demonstration from Darren Woodhead, one of our exhibitors. The art exhibition is the core of the 2013 Festival and we are very grateful to all artists for their generous support. All paintings will be for sale over the weekend.



### Bird Ringing

8.30am - 12noon drop in session, Barone House, 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 Saturday morning between 8:30am - 12noon allowing you to get involved and ask any questions you might have.



### Guided Walk with Chris Rollie

10.30am - 12.30pm, (timings approx and weather dependent) meet outside The Clachan, **FREE**

Join Chris Rollie on a *Donald Watson Bird Walk around St John's Town of Dalry*. Marvel at Donald's line drawings in the leaflet and see how many of the birds you can see in this summer/autumn season. The walk will take 1-2 hours and does involve some up hill from the river to the top of The Mulloch. Strong and water proof footwear and rainwear advised.

### Shadow Puppetry with Anne Errington

10am - 4pm, Dalry Town Hall, **FREE**

Come and hear the poem 'The Killing of Cock Robin' and other stories.

We will then make shadow puppets of all the birds in the poem, learn how to use them...perhaps end up with a short show on the Sunday telling the story of cock robin and how all "all the birds of the air fell a sighing and a sobbing".

Anne Errington lives in New Galloway. She is a storyteller and a member of Terramundi Theatre. Anne likes using simple materials to bring a story alive, especially shadow puppets.



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

## Photography Masterclass with Laurie Campbell, Leeming & Paterson **T**

10am - 6pm, meet at The CatStrand,  
**One Day ticket £100**



Join renowned wildlife and landscape photographer Laurie Campbell for a Photography Masterclass.

Laurie Campbell is one of Scotland's leading natural history and landscape photographers, and his own picture library of over 120,000 images is the most extensive of its kind by any single photographer working in Scotland.

Laurie will be alongside Ted Leeming and Morag Paterson to give practical expert advice on all aspects of outdoor photography. Please bring camera equipment and suitable outdoor clothing.

**To book your place call Morag Paterson on 07917 102693 or email to [info@leemingpaterson.com](mailto:info@leemingpaterson.com) participants can attend for one or both days.**

## Watson Raptor Science debate on bird decline as deduced from place names

2pm - 4pm, Lochinvar Hotel, **FREE**

Richard Evans will make a presentation and begin a discussion on the role of place names in considering the changing pattern of eagles in the UK. It is based on the paper which our independent panel judged as the runner up: Richard J. Evans, Lorcán O'Toole & D. Philip Whitfield (2012): The history of eagles in Britain and Ireland: an ecological review of place name and documentary evidence from the last 1500 years, *Bird Study*, 59:3, 335-349. This will be followed by Dr Simon Taylor of Glasgow University broadening the theme by talking about bird names and place names. We expect a lively discussion, including why at so many eagle and other bird named places these birds are not seen any more.

## Laurie Campbell Talk and Discussion **T**

6pm - 7.30pm, The CatStrand, **Tickets £3**

Join renowned wildlife and landscape photographer Laurie Campbell for a talk and discussion about his work.

Laurie was born in 1958 and developed an interest in natural history at an early age. He began photographing wildlife in 1972, initially from a desire to share his experiences and observations of the natural world. He later studied photography at Napier University in Edinburgh (1977-81), and has since worked almost exclusively in Scotland, travelling from his Borders home to all parts of the country.



## Whistlebinkies **T**

8pm - 10pm, Dalry Town Hall, **Tickets £8/6**

Formed during the great surge of interest in traditional and Celtic music and song in the late 1960's, The Whistlebinkies quickly evolved into a major force in this field. The band led the revival in the use of bellows-blown bagpipes in Scotland and were the first to combine the three national instruments: fiddle, bagpies and clarsach (small Scottish harp) in regular performance.

The Whistlebinkies have toured extensively, taking Scottish music to France, Germany, Italy, Finland, Iceland, Taiwan, Estonia and all the Celtic countries. Recent festival appearances include The Edinburgh International Festival, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Glasgow Mayfest, Festival Interceltique at Lorient, Brittany and more.



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

## Shadow Puppetry with Anne Errington

10am - 4pm, Dalry Town Hall, **FREE** See Page 7 for details

## Photography Masterclass with Laurie Campbell, Leeming & Paterson **T**

10am - 6pm, meet at The CatStrand, **One Day ticket £100** See Page 8 for details

## Car Trail **T**

10am - 12.30pm (timings approx) meet at The Town Hall, **Tickets £5**

Book your seat in the minibus to join Chris Rollie and Louise Watson around *The Watson Open Air Art Car and Cycle Trail around The Glenkens* to discover key locations where Donald Watson painted out of doors, be with him in spirit in the landscape and see the changes to it since then.

## Gerry Cambridge Children's Poetry Workshop **T**

10.30am - 11.30am, Ages 7-12, The CatStrand, **Tickets £2**

Join Gerry first on a short outdoor walk for 45 minutes, before his 90 minute poetry workshop which will focus on birds and the different ways of writing poems about these flitting, chirruping, soaring and singing creatures. Using a variety of examples and prompts, his workshop will explore how to write your own bird poems and also look at why poets have always been fascinated by these winged creatures. This will be a workshop full of unusual facts and stories about birds based on Cambridge's own experiences over many years.



image by John K. McGregor

## Darren Woodhead Demonstration

1pm, Dalry Town Hall, **FREE**

Darren Woodhead will talk and paint to demonstrate his skill and enthral us with his views as a leading wildlife artist. All of a sudden an amazing painting appears on the canvas while he is talking!

## Gerry Cambridge Poetry Reading **T**

2pm - 3pm, The CatStrand, **Tickets £4/3**

Gerry Cambridge is a poet, essayist, editor and sometime-harmonica player with a background in natural history photography. His recent publications include *Notes for Lighting a Fire* (HappenStance Press, 2012) and *Aves* (Essence Press, 2007; reprinted 2008).

Since 1994 Gerry has published and edited *The Dark Horse*, a transatlantic poetry magazine with an international reputation. He was the 1997-1999 Brownsbank Writing Fellow, based at Hugh MacDiarmid's former home near Biggar in Lanarkshire. Gerry has written that birds often seem to fly in or out of his poems, and he'll be reading examples on the day.

## Acoustic Session

4pm and onwards, The Clachan Inn, **FREE**

Join us for a drink and some acoustic music to mark the end of the Watson Birds Festival 2013.



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

# WATSON BIRDS FEATHERS FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

Watson Birds Feathers fund-raising campaign is based on the three birds in our logo: the Golden Eagle for which Jeff was an international expert, the Hen Harrier which was Donald's signature bird and the Swift which nests annually in the village.

*Watson Birds* invites you to join one of these three clubs. With your help we can build on the successful events held so far and develop an imaginative and enticing programme for the future.

## The Eagle Club



### Watson Birds request

Become a *Founder Patron* by making a donation of over £10,000.

### Donor recognition

You and your family will be invited to a reception with other Patrons at the annual Dalry Bird Festival and for a special guided visit to Donald Watson bird and painting sites. Your name will be listed on our donation board, web site and newsletters (subject to your agreement). And you will receive a certificate in the form of a primary feather of a golden eagle, and regular updates on progress.

### Your donation will, for example

- Support the acquisition of the Donald Watson archive
- Stimulate local artists by helping to fund an artist in residence
- Provide for the development of self-guided walking trails at 4 locations
- Support the annual Dalry Bird Festival

## The Harrier Club



### Watson Birds request

Donations of £1,000 - £10,000

### Donor recognition

Your name will be listed on our donation board (subject to your agreement), and you will receive a certificate in the form of a hen harrier wing feather, and regular updates on progress with the project.

### Your donation will, for example

- Fund the annual Watson Raptor Science Prize lecture and debate
- Support the storage of, and managed access to, the Donald Watson archive
- Support local art exhibitions and events at the annual Dalry Bird Festival
- Fund brochures and guides for the self-guided Watson trails

## The Swift Club



### Watson Birds request

Donations from £100 to £1,000

### Donor recognition

You will receive a certificate in the form of swift tail feather, and regular updates on progress with the project.

### Your donation will, for example

- Fund the annual Watson Raptor Science Prize lecture and debate
- Support the storage of, and managed access to, the Donald Watson archive
- Support local art exhibitions and events at the annual Dalry Bird Festival
- Fund brochures and guides for the self-guided Watson trails

## Other ways to help

### Donate or loan a Donald Watson painting

We aim to have a permanent exhibition of Donald Watson's paintings. Can you donate or loan a Donald Watson painting to help to start our collection?

### Donate your own painting for auction

There are many artists who worked with Donald or who knew him in his later years. One way of contributing to our project is to donate a painting which we can display in our exhibition, and which we can auction at the annual Bird Fair. The receipts will be used to develop new activities. Due acknowledgement to donors will be made.

## Gift Aid

If you are a UK tax payer, why not Gift Aid your donation as this will give us another 25p for every £ you donate.

Cheques payable to 'Glenskens Community & Arts Trust' marked Watson Birds.

*giftaid it*

## FRIDAY EVENING Page 6

6pm - 7.30pm	Official Festival Opening 'Watson Raptor Science Prize' with Prof. Miguel Ferrer (Presentation, Talk & Debate), The CatStrand	
7.30pm	Classical Concert with Steven Osborne & Jean Johnson, The CatStrand	T

## SATURDAY 21 SEPT Page 7/8

8.30am - 12pm	Bird Ringing with Andrew Bielinski, Barone	
10.30am - 12.30pm	Guided Walk with Chris Rollie, meet outside The Clachan	
10am - 4pm	Exhibition/Shadow Puppetry with Anne Errington, Dalry Town Hall	
10am - 6pm	Photography Masterclass with Campbell, Leeming & Paterson, The CatStrand	T
2pm - 4pm	Watson Raptor Science debate on bird decline as deduced from place names, Lochinvar Hotel	
6pm - 7.30pm	Laurie Campbell Talk and Discussion, The CatStrand	T
8pm - 10pm	Whistlebinkies in Concert, Dalry Town Hall	T

## SUNDAY 22 SEPT Page 9

10am - 4pm	Exhibition/Shadow Puppetry with Anne Errington, Dalry Town Hall	
10am - 6pm	Photography Masterclass with Campbell, Leeming & Paterson, The CatStrand	T
10am - 12.30pm	Car Trail, Meet at the The Town Hall	T
10.30pm - 11.30pm	Gerry Cambridge Children's Poetry Workshop (Ages 7-12), The CatStrand	T
1pm	Demonstration with Darren Woodhead, Dalry Town Hall	
2pm - 3pm	Gerry Cambridge - Poetry Readings, The CatStrand	T
4pm	Acoustic Session, The Clachan Inn	

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