

# GLENKENS GAZETTE

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Pictured above is firefighter Douglas Pape and wife Barbara, being presented with a painting of New Galloway by Sub Officer John McGaw and crew from New Galloway Fire Station on the occasion of his retirement from Dumfries & Galloway Fire Brigade.

Dougie became a retained firefighter in 1982 and has spent over 18 years serving the community of the Glenkens.

Dougie said that although he will miss the fire service he will be glad to be able to enjoy his dinner or take a bath without worrying about suddenly being called to a "shout".

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### **DALRY PLAYPARK PROGRESS**

The Dalry Playpark project has taken a big step forward by broadening its base within the local community.

Children's organisations, parents, local businesses and anyone else interested in the Playpark are being circulated with invitations to join the Playpark Association.

The move has two main aims: to involve the community more closely in the development of the project and to establish a basis for submitting a funding application under the Lottery Charities Board "Community involvement" scheme.

Almost £10,000 has been raised for the Playpark so far but a further £40,000 is needed to complete the project. The Lottery scheme offers the possibility of raising this sum.

Membership of Dalry Playpark Association is free and the more members the better the chance the application has.

Membership forms are available from Newton's Shop or from the Association chairperson, Glen Murray. Telephone 01644 430225

### **FREE LOVE FOR FELINES – SPECIAL OFFER FROM VALENTINE'S DAY ONWARDS!**

Now is the time to show you care – from February 14<sup>th</sup> to March 16<sup>th</sup>, you can have your cat neutered free of charge.

Stewartry Cats Protection Coordinator Roy Woolhouse said, "We spend much of our time and money dealing with unwanted cats and kittens; our full-cost neutering voucher scheme aims to tackle the problem where it starts."

Many (male) owners of tom cats are particularly reluctant to subject their pets to the "unkindest cut", thinking that the cat's quality of life is somehow poorer for being neutered. If only they could see some of the battered, bedraggled specimens of tomhood who end up in the care of charities such as Cats Protection. Un-neutered cats roam far and wide looking for potential mates – and remember, we are talking strictly one night stands here! Cats are simply following their instincts; tom cats are frequently involved in fights with other males and are statistically most likely of all cats to be the victims of a road traffic accident. A terrible price to pay for the short-lived joys of procreation!

As far as female cats are concerned, here are a couple of sobering facts: first, a female can have up to three litters per year, with five or six kittens per litter. Second, a female can be responsible for 20,000 descendants over five years.

If you have an un-neutered cat, or you know someone who does, please telephone 01644 460678 for a free neutering voucher – we have limited numbers, so it's first come, first served.

If you would like further information about the scheme, or about Cats Protection in general (perhaps you'd like to help our work?) telephone 01644 420376.

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**GLENKENS WEATHER**

We are pleased to announce that Glenlee Power Station have agreed to provide the Glenkens Gazette with reports on our weather. They can't promise good news every issue but you'll see just how wet ( or dry ) we've been.

**November Rain** 8.82 inches  
( Heaviest on Saturday 11th when 0.9 inches fell )

**December Rain** 10.31 inches  
( Plus 1 foot of snow 28/29th )  
( Heaviest on Monday 4th when 1.32 inches fell )

**January Rain** 5.54 inches  
( Heaviest on Tuesday 23rd when 1.2 inches inches fell  
& Wednesday 24th with 1 inch. )

Compared to January 2000, when 8.63 inches fell.  
January '99 had 12.6 inches the wettest in the last few years while January '97 had only 1.47 inches !

Details from Donny MacMillan Glenlee Power Station

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## NEW GALLOWAY COMMUNITY HORIZONS INITIATIVE UPDATE

Since the last update, Mr. Russell who was engaged as researcher for the project, has completed the content for the new tourist leaflet which will be of similar style to the one produced by Newton Stewart and will shortly be available for distribution through the Tourist Board and local outlets. The aim of the leaflet is to attract visitors to the area and once they are here enable them to find out about the local history and folklore. Mr. Russell has also produced a leaflet outlining the history of the burgh and its buildings. All of this information will be incorporated into the new website which is being developed in conjunction with Mr. Woolhouse. In the longer term a comprehensive history book will be published (planned for 2002) together with a condensed booklet.

Due to the volume of interesting old photographs and artefacts that have been unearthed, it is also planned to publish a collection of the photographs as part of the "Dumfries & Galloway Through the Lens" series of books (no.21), the target launch date being November 2001. An exhibition is planned for the summer in the Town Hall, so if you have any old photographs or books you would be willing to lend (or have copied) for use in the exhibition, please phone either R. Russell 420357 or B. Edgar 420288.

There was also a meeting held to reform the Gala Committee, and although fewer people than expected turned up on the night it was agreed to continue efforts to re-establish a working committee. A further meeting was planned for Monday 19th March at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall when everyone who has previously expressed an interest is asked to attend along with invited representatives from other local organisations. The Gala Committee constitution states that the New Galloway event should alternate with the Clachan Fair and it would therefore probably be next year before any major event was staged. This year's calendar is not entirely blank however as the committee have already agreed to host the famous Scottish Alternative Games, formerly held in Parton, on the first Sunday in August.

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## OPEN STUDIO EVENT

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to view recent paintings

57, Main Street Dalry



## GALLOWAYS IN THE GLENKENS

The mainstay of farming in the upper Glenkens is hill sheep production, but sheep being selective grazers, need cattle to compliment them. The cattle graze down the courser grasses thereby improving the quality of grazing for themselves and the sheep. The cattle as well as being pasture improvers, can be a useful source of income in their own right. The breed of Galloway cattle is ideally suited for grazing the poorer pasture of the Glenkens, being extremely efficient converters of second quality grass to beef of the very highest quality. Not only is the beef of the Galloway cattle second to none for flavour, succulence and tenderness, but it is raised in an animal friendly manner with the cattle browsing the hills and uplands 365 days a year. The manner in which they are managed is totally compatible with the modern beef consumers ideal of animal welfare and is far removed from the image that some may have of cattle being crammed into sheds and stuffed full of grain.

Galloways from this area have always been at the forefront of the breed when it comes to shows and sales. Last months show and sale held by Waller's Marts at Castle Douglas being no exception, with the senior champion, highest priced bull coming from Nether Cleugh, Dalry and the second highest priced bull, the champion and reserve champion heifers (the 2 highest priced heifers) coming from Blackraig, Corsock.

*P. Hunter-Blair*

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## BURNS SUPPER AT DALRY PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Pamela Walker-Namia

All the preparations for P5, 6 & 7's Burns Supper came to a head on Friday, 26th January 2001 with a splendid and most professionally produced Burns Supper; a truly suitable tribute to the famous Scottish and internationally renowned Bard.

The school's "Haggis Bash Production Team" involved every member of the three classes in more than one capacity. Such was the commitment and dedication to a fine result that the preparations spanned half a day a week over four months. During that time, every element of the day had been addressed from the design and production of centre-pieces in the shape of Burns' Cottage, candle holders, Bill O' Fares and place mats to research into Robbie's life and writing in order to create the best possible celebration!

Come the day, kilted and practised to perfection, the pupils assembled with their invited guests led by Mr. Callander and Mr. Grierson in Dalry School's atmospherically decorated cafeteria. Indeed, Robbie would have been proud of the way "Tam O' Shanter" had been depicted in art form which included murals of "the dead in their last dresses" and indeed there sat "Auld Nick, in shape o' beast.... To gie them music." Actually, Dalry has their own talented piper, Euan Shaw, who supplied the pipe music with such style and vigour that it could be heard echoing in the hills around.

With the haggis piped in, Michelle Murdoch in the role of "Poussie Nancy" led Kieran Tulbure with Tamsin Tyeson to "Address The Haggis". Andrew Kirkpatrick gave a moving reading of Burns "Selkirk Grace" before the meal of cock-a-leekie soup, haggis, neeps, tatties followed by bannocks and Scottish cheese. Everyone agreed that the traditional meal, produced in school with the assistance of staff and pupils alike had been a great success: notably the haggis was itself "warm, reekin' rich!" The menu and other items had been financed partly by funds raised by the children and by generous local contributions including neeps and tatties.

Tim McNaught had the pleasure of initially welcoming everyone and Kieran Tulbure continued as Chairperson. Kieran brilliantly met this challenge with suitable and witty comments along the way. Kim Wheeler delivered a really memorable "Immortal Memory" with the reminder that due to Burns we as Scots have nurtured a tradition to stay true to nature with our feet firmly on the ground and never to forget to "see ourselves as others see us"! This was followed by a very moving rendition of "My Love Is Like A Red, Red Rose" sung by Gordon Young.

"To The Lassies" by Matthew Smith and "To The Laddies" by Jennifer Comrie stood side by side in terms of both quality and originality. Robbie would have laughed at the modern day analogies and the respective sentiments of:

"Whilst you read your book  
And get a job  
I'll keep your house  
While you earn some bob"

And :

"If I was a football,  
They'd love me most dearly  
If I was a bit of hair gel,  
They'd squeeze me most sincerely."

The happy celebration concluded with an eloquently expressed "Vote Of Thanks" delivered by Ben Trueman followed by songs of Burns: "Ye Banks And Braes", "Scots Wa hae" and of course "Auld Lang Syne" accompanied by Kim Wheeler on the violin with Vicky McSkimming and Matthew Smith on the clarinet.

Special thanks to Morag Thomson, who guided the project along its path, were given and floral tributes were presented to numerous guests and voluntary helpers. Mrs. Thomson made presentations of certificates to the winners of The Burns Competition : P5 Tamsin Tyeson, P6 Kim Wheeler and P7 Kieran Tulbure. The overall winner was Tamsin Tyeson who was presented with a beautiful shield.

Mr. Murdo Morrison was true to his word and warm greetings were duly received from him and the friends of Burns in America. So, once again Burns has been remembered far and wide, has succeeded in joining continents and the youth of Dalry have become more closely acquainted with their heritage upon which with pride they will grow. As past meets present and children in countries communicate, an example so excellently set by Dalry Primary School, so, an optimistic future may await.

## Do You Remember When?

.....There was a shoemaker in Dalry, before the 2nd World War.

Robbie Dalziel, who was born in the original Underhill and celebrated his 85th birthday last December, was part of the family business of shoemakers, along with his father and brother. Robbie, who left school in 1930, was apprenticed to his father, who was a postman – a tradition continued by Robbie himself when between 1936 and 1940 he did a few hours as postman in the mornings, worked as a shoemaker in the afternoons then an hour or two more on the post before working long into the evenings back with his shoes. Robbie remembers that sometimes on Thursdays and Fridays, work might carry on 'till the wee small hours' so that folk would have new shoes for the weekends.

Much of the work done in the shop was the making of boots for the shepherds – a good pair cost about £3 in the 1930's and lasted 2 – 3 years, at which point they were taken back to the shop, the soles removed and the leather uppers put onto birchwood to make sturdy clogs which would then be serviceable for another couple of years. Many skills were needed – even the laces were made by hand.

In 1940 Robbie joined up and took his first train ride to Chester-le-Street, where he saw a notice asking for shoe-makers: he spent his army years at places such as Catterick, Chandlers Ford and in India at Hyderabad, making sure the men had good sound footwear to fight in, and so was able to keep his skills going even when far from the family shop.

While stationed in Kings Lynn, Robbie met his wife-to-be, "a lovely Irish lass" who was a cook in the hospital there. They returned to Dalry and were married for 53 years before she sadly died a few years ago. The shoemaking business unfortunately did not survive the economic upheaval caused by the war and Robbie worked for a while at road-building before joining Scottish Power for 33 years. Robbie has a large family of children, grandchildren (14) and great-grandchildren (3) who are all doing well and of whom he is very proud – but not a shoemaker between them !

*Interviewed by Carol Salisbury .*

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## GLENKENS DIARY

### March

**Friday 2nd** World Day of Prayer  
7 pm Kells Parish Church N.Galloway

**Friday 2nd** 7.30 pm Dalry Town Hall Keep Fit Class Margaret Sainsbury 430225

**Saturday 3rd** Moniaive Tea Room Folk Club. 01848 200131

**Saturday 3rd** The Smithy Licensed Tea Room New Galloway opening.

**Monday 5th** Dalry Community Council Meeting 7.30 pm Dalry Town Hall.

**Tuesday 6th** Good Neighbours Club Dalry Lunch 1.30 pm Dalry Community Centre.

**Friday 9th** An evening of One Act Plays 7.30 pm Dalry Town Hall. Call 01644 430625 for details.

**Saturday 10th** Music Club 8pm Scottish Guitar Duo Dalry Town Hall.

**Monday 12th** Clachan Fair Meeting 7.30 pm Dalry Town Hall.

**Tuesday 13th** Good Neighbours Club 2 pm Bob McSporran : Dunaskin Dalry Community Centre

**Tuesday 13th** Women's Guild Dalry Session House

**Friday 16th** Dalry Town Hall Keep Fit Class. Margaret Sainsbury 430225

**Monday 19th** Good Neighbours Club 7 pm African Wild Life : A. Bielinski Dalry Community Centre

**Tuesday 20th** Dalry WRI Town Hall 7.30 pm

**Thursday 22nd** SWANC Organic Food Farming. Jimmy Anderson MBE Organic Advisor 7.30 pm Lochinvar Hotel £2 Jessie MacKay 01644 430248

**Friday 23rd** Keep Fit Classes Dalry Town Hall. Margaret Sainsbury 430225 7.30pm

**Friday 23rd** Ceilidh Church Dance New Galloway Town Hall 7 pm

**Tuesday 27th** Good Neighbours End of Season Party Lochinvar Hotel.

**Friday 30th** Keep Fit Classes Dalry Town Hall 7.30 pm Margaret Sainsbury 430225

### APRIL

**Monday 2nd** Dalry Community Council Meeting Dalry Town Hall 7.30pm

**Saturday 7th** Moniaive Tea Room Folk Club 01848 200131

**Saturday 7th & 8th** Open Studio with Rosemary Gascoyne's recent paintings 57 Main Street Dalry 10-5

**Saturday 7th** Moniaive Tea Room Folk Club 01848 200131

**Monday 9th** Carsphairn Community Council 7.30 pm Hall

**Friday 13th** Good Friday Service 7.30 pm Balmaclellan

**Friday 13th** Opening date of Carsphairn Heritage Centre. 2001 exhibition "The inside Story" 01644 460653 email carsphairn\_hg@talk21.com

**Sunday 15th** Dawn Service 7 am Outside Dalry Church over looking river. Tea, Coffee, Toast, Bacon rolls Porridge (if desired !) in Town Hall afterwards.

**Tuesday 17th** Dalry WRI Town Hall Country Wildlife in Galloway: Peter Norman 7.30 pm

### MAY

**Saturday 5th** Moniaive Tea Room Folk Club 01848 200131

**Monday 7th** Dalry Community Council Meeting Dalry Town Hall 7.30 pm

**Saturday 12th** MND Dalry Town Hall.

**Tuesday 15th** Dalry WRI Town Hall Coffee evening & entertainment

**Friday 18th** Carsphairn Heritage Group Buffet Supper. Speaker :Dr. David Devereux 01644 460208

**Thursday 24th** Lifeboat Dalry Town Hall

**Saturday 26th** Glenkens Playgroup Dance New Galloway Town Hall. 7.30 pm Tickets Kate Maxwell 01644 420328.

**Tuesday 29th** Ballochmyle Ceilidh Band New Galloway Town Hall £7.50 Glenkens Playgroup. Buffet Meal Bar and Auctions.

**Wednesday 30th** Annual Glenkens Art Exhibition Dalry Town Hall. Call 01644 430225 for details.

### JUNE

**Saturday 2nd** Carsphairn Show

**Sunday 3rd** Clachan Fair Week

### AUGUST

**Saturday 25th** Glenkens Society Horticultural Section. Annual Flower Show. Dalry Town Hall. Photographic subject "Flower (s)".

Helen Bolton's third piece on New Galloway: "Our Historic Burgh" will appear in the April edition of the Glenkens Gazette.

### EDITORIAL GROUP

Anna Campbell 460208  
Brian Edgar 420288  
Jean Lindsay 430529  
Matthew Newton 430225  
( Code 01644 )

### Deadline for May issue is

14th April.

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 |
| THIRD          | £30 |
| QUARTER        | £20 |
| For Sale items | £1  |

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

**Mrs. Jean Grieve**  
**On the arrival**  
**Of her Grand-daughter**  
**Chelsea Megan Grieve**  
**6lb 2oz**  
**on**  
**3rd February 2001**

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

**Daniel and Ruth**  
**On the arrival of**  
**Christopher Daniel Newbold**  
**Sunday 12th February**  
**6 lb 1oz**  
**Great Grandson to**  
**Margaret Peacock**  
**Grandson to**  
**David & Betty Peacock**

### WELCOME TO DALRY

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**KIRKLAND STREET**

### DID WE MISS YOU OUT ?

If you would like your group or organization to be included in our listings please contact one of the editorial board. There is no charge for being featured.