

GLENKENS GAZETTE

FREE TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN : BALMACLELLAN CARSPHAIRN NEW GALLOWAY ST. JOHN'S TOWN OF DALRY

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2001 ISSUE 7

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GLENKENS ARTS AND COMMUNITY TRUST LAUNCHED



Pictured above are some of the members of the new Glenkens Community and Arts Trust outside the old school house, New Galloway. Also present are George Prentice, Glenkens Local Councillor, Chic McKenna, Economic and Community Development Manager and Helen Bell, Committee Chair. The Trust is made up of people from the four parishes and is working with Solway Heritage to develop the property. They have been awarded £4,000 towards the feasibility study by the council's Stewartry Area Committee.

Trust Chair Cathy Agnew said, "This is a very ambitious and exciting project for the Glenkens and a fundraising campaign will soon be under way. Anyone who would

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TOP MARKS FOR LOCAL SCHOOL

Galloway and Upper Nithsdale representative in the Scottish Parliament, Alasdair Morgan, has welcomed the results of a Sunday Times survey of all Scottish secondary schools. The survey which ranked schools according to their examination performance between 1996 and 1999, found that closure-threatened Dalry Secondary School was the seventh-best secondary school in the country.

The local Scottish National Party MSP also welcomed the good placings achieved by other secondary schools within the Galloway & Upper Nithsdale constituency, as Castle Douglas came in eighth with Dalbeattie High and Wallace Hall Academy, Thornhill also in the top fifty.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

like more information or can help with funds should contact myself on 01644 430212 or Brian Edgar on 01644 420288. It is hoped it will link the four parishes of the Glenkens for the benefit of residents and tourists. The fact that it will link the communities is important because we have got to market ourselves as "the Glenkens" and in the wake of the foot and mouth crisis we have to be seen as helping ourselves." The Community Horizons survey and open days found a need for a focal point for the village which was accessible to all the community. The old school building was identified as a possible venue for developing as an arts centre and a focal point for tourism in the area. The building came on to the open market for sale and the community council felt that all efforts should be made to purchase the building. The trust hopes to nurture and encourage local arts and crafts talent. Its visitor centre would provide a focal point for the Glenkens and surrounding area as well as providing links to existing tourist and leisure attractions.

The information technology business centre would provide computer and internet access, good quality copying facilities and offer space for small business units.

TOP MARKS FOR LOCAL SCHOOL

(Continued from page 1)

Commenting on the survey, Mr. Morgan said; "It is very rewarding to see local secondary schools performing so well in this survey and this serves to confirm what many of us have known for some time—that Dumfries & Galloway contains some of the best schools in Scotland. Congratulations must go to all the staff, pupils and parents at the schools that have won these plaudits. Of course, the school that performed the best of all our schools was Dalry Secondary, which by some quirk of logic, is also the Galloway secondary school to find itself on the closure list put forward by Turner & Townsend. I am sceptical of the thinking behind the whole school closure process that the council is currently embarking upon, but the Sunday Times survey really brings home the extent of the massive foolishness that is being proposed.

As a community, the people of South-West Scotland must tell the council, at every available opportunity, that we want them to build educational success in Dumfries & Galloway, not destroy it."

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Ceilidh

Saturday 24th November

Dancing to Corsock Ceilidh Band

Tickets £5 to include supper

8.00 pm in Balmaclellan Village Hall

Fresh from representing Dumfries and Galloway in a cultural exchange in Brittany, now Balmaclellan is proud to boast that the Corsock Ceilidh Band will be playing in Balmaclellan Village Hall, on Saturday 24th November. Tickets at £5, including supper, on sale in Village shop.



Alex Fergusson, local MSP, presented the prizes at the Glenkens Flower and Produce Show on 25th August to: Dennis Rugg, Nicky McMath, Jean Maltman, Ian Knox, Ruairidh MacRae and David Grieve.



Mrs. Helen Mawdsley enjoyed viewing the flower arrangements at the show and is pictured above with her daughter Helen Bolton who writes for The Glenkens Gazette.

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BLOOD BUDDY SCHEME

As readers may be aware, the Stewartry Community Safety Forum is presently running a campaign aimed at increasing the number of blood donors throughout the Region by 10%. The Campaign has met with tremendous response from the public in Castle Douglas where the numbers of donors on the first day increased by a massive 50%.

The concept behind the scheme is to encourage existing donors to bring a non donor friend or colleague to the next donor session in their area.

We in the Glenkens have our opportunity to support the scheme on 12th December 2001, when the Blood Transfusion Service visits Dalry. The session, which is based in the Town Hall runs from 2.30 pm until 8 pm. The Stewartry Community Car will be available to provide transport for donors wishing to attend from New Galloway, Balmaclellan and Carsphairn.



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NEW GALLOWAY, OUR HISTORIC BURGH PART VI THE LOCAL COVENANTERS

By Helen Bolton

Much has been written about the Covenanters in Galloway but little is known of New Galloway's connections with these cruel times.

The minister of Kells Parish in the early 1660's was Rev. John Cant and when in 1662 the Drunken Parliament, (so called because the only sober member of the Privy Council at that meeting was Sir James Lockhart of Lee) passed the Middleton Act, which removed all non-conformist ministers, Rev. Cant refused to conform. So he was ejected from his church and replaced by a "curate". However, he refused to leave his parish, remained at the manse, conducted services in the houses of his followers and carried out marriage and baptismal services in Kells.

In February 1663 a further Act was passed against some ministers in Galloway, Rev. Cant among them, for being the chief instruments in carrying on the wicked course of preaching and holding conventicles within their parishes, thus causing the newly placed "curates" to preach to an empty church. Rev. Cant was therefore ordered to remove himself, his family, servants and goods from the manse and out of the parish before 20th March 1663. He was ordered not to exercise any part of the ministerial function and charged to appear before the Privy Council to answer for his disobedience!

Yet another Act passed in 1663 ruled that anyone absent from church without good reason would be fined up to one quarter of his money and possessions and in some cases imprisoned. To enforce the Act, troops were placed in every town, village and hamlet in Galloway. With no responsible officers in charge, the troops ran amok, terrorising the poor country-folk and eating them out of house and home. Drunkenness and brutality were the order of the day. Between 1663 and 1666 the poor people of Kells were fined a total of £466 13s 6d (Scots), a lot of money in those days.

There were many uprisings against these cruel laws and in the late 1666 perhaps the best known, the Pentland Rising, led by the men of Dalry, took place. At Rullion Green in the Pentland Hills they were met by 3,000 government troops, all well armed and ready for battle. Many Covenanters were slaughtered and those who survived realised the battle was lost and headed for home. John Gordon from "Largmore" in Kells parish was seriously wounded but managed to reach home. He was ordered to be brought to Edinburgh but on hearing this, Gordon said he defied his persecutors, but forgave them. He added that he would soon be in better company and died shortly after. His son, Roger, was persecuted and hounded but managed to survive to return to "Largmore". He enjoyed a long and peaceful life after the Killing Times, and in 1714 he presented a bell and communion cups to Kells Church.

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The new Police Station in Dalry is visited by Matthew Newton, Community Councillor, George Prentice, Local Councillor and Inspector Lowther.

THE END OF AN ERA

The closure of the former police station and house in Ayr Road, Dalry, marks the end of an era of policing in the Glenkens. Most in the area still remember when New Galloway had its police station (closed 1977) but perhaps not so many will recall that Carsphairn once had its own station. Changes in the police regulations now give officers the right to choose where they live and they can no longer be compelled to live in police houses. Many officers wish to buy their own property and pay off their mortgage as quickly as possible which has resulted in a reluctance to move into police houses. This is the situation which arose in Dalry; despite being advertised throughout the force area, no suitable candidate was found to occupy the house. The Chief Constable was then faced with the dilemma regarding

the future policing of the Glenkens.

The most cost-effective solution would have been to sell off the police station and house and police the area from Castle Douglas. Whilst this may have been financially attractive, the Chief Constable decided that such an option would not be acceptable to the public and would run contrary to the force's commitment to Community Policing. Accordingly the Chief Constable directed that efforts be made to identify other property in the area which could be converted to use as a police office, and act as a centre of operations for the Glenkens community officer. What was not an option, on grounds of cost, was maintaining the existing property.

As a result a new police office will soon open at The Mottehouse, Ayr Road, Dalry. A substantial part of the ground floor of the property has been leased to the Police who have spent a considerable sum in converting it for their use. The office will be fitted with the latest IT equipment linking it to the force's main computer system and have the capability to run a major incident room. It will also be used as a base for the Galloway Mountain Rescue Team as well as Police during any major hill searches in the surrounding hills.

The public can be reassured that the police are committed to maintaining a presence in the Glenkens and indeed further reassured that there will be no reduction in services as a result.



DO YOU KNOW YOUR GLENKENS?

A well known and famous landmark in the Glenkens. Do you know where the photo was taken? Answer on the back page.

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GLENKENS WEATHER REPORT

By Donnie McMillan

August Rainfall	83.8 mm 3.3in.
Wettest Day	20th with 26.3 mm
Warmest Day	24th 21C (70F)
Sunniest Day	21st with 9.8 hr/sun

Last August we had 193.2 mm of rain (48.7 mm fell on the 27th) and the warmest day was the 25th at 23.7C (74F)

September Rainfall	12.3 mm 5.09 in.
(note: 3.4 in. fell in the last 4 days !)	
Wettest Day	30th with 34.2 mm
Warmest Day	19th 19.5C (67F)
Sunniest Day	16th 10.5 hr/sun
Last September had 197.9 mm of rain (27.8 mm fell on the 27th) and the warmest day was the 2nd at 19.8C.	

With regard to why we report so much rainfall and not enough sunshine, the reasons are two fold:

- 1 The sunshine recorder that now sits on the roof of the Glenlee Power Station has only been there a short while, having been removed from Clatteringshaws site and re-situated here. Glenlee keep no records for sunshine and any data we do collect is sent to the Met. Office at their request.

- 2 Rainfall has obviously always been an important part of the scheme here; records go back as far as 1937 and this is why we can give such accurate reports on how much has fallen over the years.

It is with regret that I cannot give much information on sunshine. Maybe back in 1923, if Messrs Maxwell, Elliot and McClellan had discussed the possibility of solar power instead of Hydro power in this area, these reports would have been a lot different and sunnier!



Gordon Macdonald was presented with a framed photo of the Glenkens by Mr. Matthew Newton School Board Chairman and Mrs. Nancy Hunter-Blair on his last day at school. He has taken up a new position as head teacher at Sir E. Scott Secondary school, Tarbert, Harris, Western Isles.

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SKATEBOARDERS UNITED

Pictured above outside Dalry Town Hall are just some of the local skateboarders who have organised a petition for support of a skateboard site in the village. Their usual evening venue has been in the school grounds but long term the youngsters would like a permanent purpose-built site. Any ideas?

ANNOUNCEMENT

On the 8th September a ceilidh dance was held at New Galloway Town Hall to raise money for the Glenkens Playgroup. It turned out to be an extremely successful event with music by the Ballochmyle Ceilidh Band and the main raffle of a weekend for two at the London Hilton Hotel being won by Mark Trueman.

Several local businesses supported the event with generous donations, which kept the expenses to a minimum. A total amount of £1,600 was raised, far surpassing all our expectations. It has therefore been decided that Dalry Toddlers, New Galloway Toddlers and the Glenkens Nursery should each benefit to the sum of £200, leaving £1,000 to go to the Glenkens Playgroup funds.

It was felt that as the community had been so supportive of the event, all of the Glenkens pre-school children should benefit from everyone's generosity

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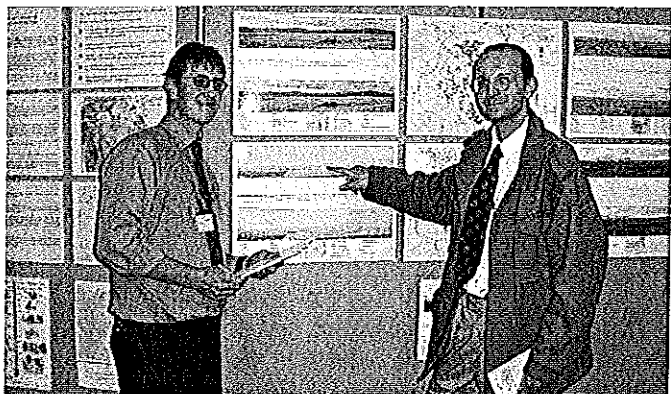
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WIND ENERGY PLANS FOR THE GALLOWAY HILLS



Pictured above are Giles Dearden, Project Manager and Neil Douglas, Wind Farm Engineer at a recent public exhibition held in Carsphairn Community Village Hall. Plans have been announced by Natural Power Consultants for a 36 turbine extension to the existing wind farm at Windy Standard in the Galloway Hills close to the East Ayrshire border.

The extended site would be capable of an additional 72 megawatts of green electricity, enough to satisfy the domestic electricity demand of 85% of households in Dumfries and Galloway. The existing 36 turbine wind farm at Windy Standard generates approximately 22 megawatts of power. The extension would double the number of turbines on the site and through improved efficiency in the technology used, the new site would provide an increase in power of 330%!

As well as providing substantial environmental benefits, the Windy Standard extension could provide up to 50 construction jobs and around £7 million of sub-contract opportunities for local contractors, during its 7 to 12 month construction period.

All members of the public were invited to the exhibitions to give members of the team their views on the proposals before the plans are finalised. Following consultation any planning application would be submitted to the Scottish Executive. All wind farm proposals that would generate more than 50 megawatts of electricity are obliged to go to the Scottish Executive for determination. Dumfries & Galloway Council and East Ayrshire Council would remain as statutory consultees.

The extended site is located in the hills above Carsphairn Forest, 8 km north east of the village and 10 km south of New Cumnock. The site consists of open hill land within an area of commercial forestry and forms a natural extension to the existing wind farm. There are no views of the extended wind farm from Carsphairn and minimal views from New Cumnock. The closest property lies 2 km from the site and there are only a handful of other properties in the immediate locale.

Director Stuart Hall of Natural Power Consultants, said "The site was originally chosen for the existing Windy Standard wind farm in the mid nineties and benefits from minimal visual and ecological impact. Since its construction in October 1996, there has been excellent feedback about Windy Standard from the local community and the site itself is ideally suited for the proposed extension". The extended Windy Standard wind farm will make significant contributions towards the Governments targets for ten per cent of all UK electricity production to come from renewable energy by 2010, to help combat climate change. To date, only two percent of the UK's electricity is generated by renewable resources. For Scotland, the proposed extension would contribute some 13.4% towards the Scottish Supplies Obligation.



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All of a sudden the summer seems to be past, autumn colours are in the trees and it's time to think of winter activities. We look forward to the start of our Guild meetings and events, and invite women of all ages to join us at all or any of our meetings in New Galloway Town Hall.

Wednesday 14th November. Cycling through Vietnam by Mr. Andrew Veitch 7.30 pm

Wednesday 12th December. Christmas meeting with entertainment by the Glenkens Choir

Further meetings will appear in the next issue. Meantime, do come along and be made welcome.

Elspeth Vincent

New opening hours for the
Smithy
During November and up to
December 23rd we are open
weekends only from
10.00 - 4 pm

**NEW DALRY POLICE OFFICE
OFFICIAL OPENING**
Chief Constable Mr. Strang will be opening
the new police office at the Mottehouse,
No.2 Ayr Road at 11 am on Thursday 15th
November

GLENKENS COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

There are four Community Councils in the Glenkens and they meet regularly to discuss issues of importance to their residents. Minutes are published and available to view in Post Offices and local shops. Did you know that they are public meetings? You are welcome to attend and free to contribute your views on the agenda items. Your local councillors are there to represent you and help with community issues or problems. Anything from litter and street lighting to transport and path maintenance.

BALMACLELLAN

The new floor in the town hall has been completed and a further grant of £3,500 has been received from the council.

Plans for the Queens Jubilee were discussed; ideas included a street party, walk and sports.

Hanging baskets, a jubilee cake and bunting in the streets were other suggestions.

Fund Raising: many cash prizes had been offered and the draw will be on Tuesday the 18th December at the Cross Keys during the senior citizens' lunch.

Bonfire Party planned for 5th November and Hall Event planned for 24th November with the Corsock Ceilidh band.

Tickets to cost £5 and include supper.

DALRY

School security was of concern, following the recent damage to the school entrance. Councillor George Prentice reported that the Council's Head Solicitor told him that conditions had been imposed on the perpetrator preventing him from entering school grounds. It was noted that a number of people had expressed concerns that the security equipment in the school had not been working at the time of the incident and that the police had taken a long time to respond when the incident was reported by

phone.

The over 12s Youth club was due to start soon and a Bus Users Group was due to meet soon.

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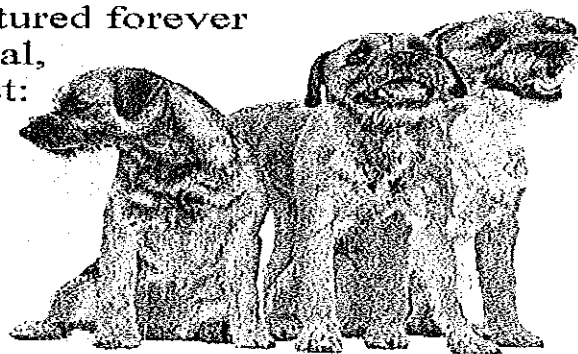
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Carsphairn recently welcomed new owners of their village shop, Dawn and Trevor Biggins. Pictured above is Dawn outside the soon to be revamped shop. New logos for the windows will be followed by a total refurbish-

ment inside including new ceiling and lighting. Dawn and Trevor took over on 29th September and have already made many changes within the shop. "We have great plans for improving the lay-out of the shop as well as increasing the range of products. We are listening hard to our customers and hope to provide them with all their needs at reasonable prices", said Dawn. Originally from Newcastle and recently from Maybole, Dawn has a catering background, and with two young sons, Ryan and Callum, she has plenty of advice as to the range of sweets to stock! Fresh milk is now delivered every day along with bread, rolls, bacon and the popular cream cakes. Long term plans centre on the tea-room to the rear of the shop and possibly a tea garden outside. Dawn says, "I want to keep a sense of the rustic for the tea-room, in keeping with the age of the property. The open fireplace is a central feature in the room and will be the focus".

A part-time staff member has been taken on allowing Dawn some time off. "It's been hectic recently but I can see things slowly taking shape. Our plans are developing nicely", said Dawn.



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PLAYPARK PROGRESSES

Good news came recently when Dalry Playpark Association were awarded £55,000 by the Community Fund. The award will form part of the funding package totalling £77,000, which will allow the association to complete its plans for a substantial landscaped park with picnic facilities on the edge of the village near the school.

Association chairperson, Glen Murray was delighted when the many months of hard work were finally rewarded with the completion of the funding package. He said, "It's been a very long haul and sometimes it felt as though we were never going to see the site developed as planned, so I am very pleased indeed that all the funding is now in place and work can soon begin. The next step is a final consultation with the children of the village to put the finishing touches to the plans. Then we decide on contractors and start the ball rolling." The Glenkens Gazette congratulates Glen and all the committee on their hard efforts.

OH YES IT IS !!

It's panto time again! The Glenkens, 73 Drama Club will stage the Christmas Pantomime on December 14th and 15th. At our first meeting on 20th September we were delighted to see no fewer than fifteen enthusiastic young people in addition to our adult members, and after discussion the traditional panto "Snow White" was chosen. Jayne Smith is producer and rehearsals take place every Tuesday and Thursday. If you would like to be involved please get in touch; if you can hammer nails, wield a paintbrush or help with costumes, we would love to hear from you. You can also help by being part of our audience; participation essential!

Tickets will go on sale at the end of November but advance orders will gladly be taken by any club member.

We look forward to seeing you!

Christine Rae

01644 430209



Brian and Mary Tweedie retired from the Glenkens Café Dalry after 15 years. They were presented with two garden ornaments by Bett McNally and Mary Coltart.

DALRY HOUSING SURVEY BEGINS

Dalry Community Council in partnership with Shelter Housing Action with Rural Communities has begun a detailed housing needs survey of the village. This will establish an accurate picture of what is needed in terms of housing to maintain a balanced and sustainable community over the next few years. It is hoped every household will complete the survey forms to assist the community receiving the type and mixed tenure of housing it needs.

If you would like more information about the survey or about how the project could help your rural community, please contact Karen on 430571.

S.M.N.D.A.

Our coffee morning held on September 15th plus various donations raised a gratifying sum of £584.00p This annual event wouldn't be possible without the support of all my friends. I very much appreciate the help received from everyone. Many thanks to all.

Sheila Merrill

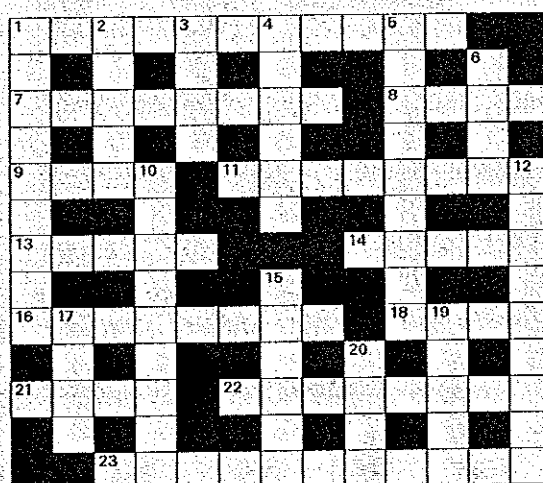
Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association

RED CROSS AWARD

Margaret Cannan of Balmaclellan recently been awarded a certificate by the Red Cross for her long service. Margaret collected around the village for the past ten years and her dedication to assisting the Red Cross in this way was considered worthy of an award. She was unable to attend the award as her mother had been unwell. Born in Balmaclellan, Margaret attended the primary school in the village and thereafter Dalry High School. She is a very keen gardener and has recently become a member of the Community Council.

Crossword

By Diane Wall



ACROSS

- 1 Excellent (11)
- 7 Domestic fowl (8)
- 8 Mountain goat (4)
- 9 Woodwind instrument (4)
- 11 Consort of King William IV (8)
- 13 Author of *The Woodlanders* (5)
- 14 Yellowish pigment (5)
- 16 Variety of apple (8)
- 18 Male deer (4)
- 21 Saintly ring of light (4)
- 22 Almond biscuit (8)
- 23 Throughout the world (11)

DOWN

- 1 Small piece of silicon (9)
- 2 Type of lizard (5)
- 3 The 15th day of March (4)
- 4 Staunton, actress (6)
- 5 Troublesome people (9)
- 6 Fermented honey drink (4)
- 10 Bedcover (9)
- 12 Unexpected occurrence (9)
- 15 Corsair (6)
- 17 Dutch cheese (4)
- 19 Goblin (5)
- 20 Sea fish (4)

GLENKENS DIARY

NOVEMBER

Friday 9th Glenkens Lion Club Accordion & Fiddle Night Lochinvar Hotel 8—11 Light Supper £4 tickets from Lion Club members

Saturday 10th Loch Arthur Autumn Fair. Beeswing 12.30—4.30

Monday 5th Bonfire night Balmaclellan 6.30pm

at Causeway Crofts Field

Tuesday 6th Dalry Good Neighbours Club

Soup & Sweet Lunch 1 pm.

Tuesday 13th Dalry Good Neighbours Club Tommy Edgar.

Friday 16th Carsphairn Heritage Group A.G.M.

Buffet Supper

A.Campbell 460208

Saturday 17th Glenkens & District Music Club

The Bridge Quartet

String Quartet 8 pm New

Galloway Town Hall

Isobel Jackson 01644

430352

Wednesday 20th Dalry

Good Neighbours Club

Tear Fund with Guild

Saturday 24th Ceilidh at

Balmaclellan Village Hall

8pm Tickets £5 inc supper

Wednesday 27th Dalry Good Neighbours Club Tommy Scott Video Show

DECEMBER

Wednesday 4th Dalry Good Neighbours Club Soup & Sweet lunch. 1 p.m.

Sunday 9th Carols by Candlelight. Balmaclellan Church with Glenkens Choir 6.30 pm

Wednesday 11th Dalry Good Neighbours Club John Caskie & Jean McConnachie

Wednesday 18th Balmaclellan Senior Citizens party to be held in the Cross Keys New Galloway

Wednesday 18th Dalry Good Neighbours Club T.B.A.

Monday 23rd Dalry Good

Neighbours Club Christmas

Lunch Lochinvar Hotel 1.15 pm

Tuesday 24th Christingle Service Dalry Church 4 pm

Tuesday 24th Watchnight Service Carsphairn Church 11.30pm

Wednesday 25th Christmas

Day Family Service Bal-

maclellan Church 11 am

Sunday 30th United Service

with Choir Dalry Church 11 am

**THIS SPACE IS BEING READ
THROUGHOUT THE GLEN-
KENS WHY NOT ADVERTISE
YOUR BUSINESS HERE?**

EDITORIAL GROUP

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(Code 01644)

**Deadline for January / February
issue is 14th December.**

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.

**CONGRATULATIONS
AND HAPPY 101st BIRTHDAY
TO MRS. HELEN MAWDSLEY
ON NOVEMBER 17th**

Crossword answers

M	A	G	N	I	F	I	C	E	N	T						
I	E	D	M								U	M				
C	O	C	K	E	R	E	L				I	B	E	X		
R	K	S	L								S	A				
O	B	O	E					A	D	E	L	A	I	D	E	
C				I				A			N				M	
H	A	R	D	Y							O	C	H	R	E	
I	E			P							E				R	
P	E	A	R	M	A	I	N				S	T	A	G		
D	D			R				B			R			E		
H	A	L	O					M	A	C	A	R	O	O	N	
M				W				T			S	L		C		
											U	N	I	V	E	R
											S	A	L	L	Y	

If it's new in The Glenkens, its 'News' to us!

Let us know about your group or event. Diary listings are free. Call one of the editorial group and we will include you **FREE** in our next issue.

You name it - we frame it !

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YOUR GLENKENS
IS
ST. JOHNS SEAT
DALRY**