

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

FREE IN: BALMACLELLAN - CARSPHAIN - MOSSDALE - NEW GALLOWAY - ST. JOHN'S TOWN OF DALRY

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N-GAGE WITH A NEW PROJECT IN THE GLENKENS

Young people in the Glenkens have got their skates on and decided to do something about a community problem that's annoying people of all generations. With very few leisure facilities available in the Glenkens, young people have literally taken to the streets. They can be seen

pavements but we all recognise it's not an ideal situation. If together with other agencies, we could secure a safe play area for all teenagers with some concrete for this activity, I think everyone would benefit".

The group recently agreed its aims which are:

- To create a closer knit community where young people and the elderly understand and support each other's needs.
- To resolve the lack of leisure and social opportunities for young people in the villages of the Glenkens.

Chairman of GCAT and initiator of the new project, Cathy Agnew is delighted with the progress made in such a short time. "The young people involved in the group understand the effect they are having in the community but they are as frustrated as anyone else about not having a safe place to play. I'm really pleased that they are starting to work together with us to solve the

problem rather than giving up and accepting the present situation."

The new name for the project can be credited to Matthew Smith from Dalry who said "We called it N-GAGE which means Needs Generate a Glenkens Enterprise because people won't forget it easily and it explains what we do". And what the group intends to do is raise the funds for a play area that's accessible to all young people in the villages of the Glenkens. Parent and adult mentor Isle Smith explains more; "Although some young people are interested in skateboarding and rollerblading at the moment we cannot focus on such a narrow activity. The aim is to develop more general facilities such as a Youth Shelter and an area they can call their own whatever their interests."

The group already put in a major funding application to the Scottish Executive's Rural Challenge Fund. Dumfries and Galloway Council's Community Development worker Adam Mitchell, who supports the group as a professional reports on progress. "With such enthusiasm and hard work, I'm confident that this group of young people will achieve its



Kieran Tulbure jumps a 6ft challenge at a skate park in France during his holidays

whizzing up and down the hills of Dalry, New Galloway and Balmaclellan on skateboards and rollerblades which is a cause for some concern. One neighbour reports; "the noise is deafening and we can't hear our television in the evening". Other elderly people report being frightened of the speed and some are terrified that there will be an accident. But young people have taken matters into their own hands and with the support of GCAT and adult mentors they have set up their own group - Glenkens Youth Group (GYG) - to find a solution.

As the Chair of the new group, Vondy Smith from Balmaclellan explains; "We don't mean to frighten people in the streets but there's nowhere else for us to go. We're not allowed to skate in the school playground, the new playpark in Dalry was designed for toddlers and the street is the only place we're legally allowed." Community Policeman Ewan Cannon, who is supporting the new project, is only too aware of the situation. "It's a difficult issue and I know that it's creating tensions because I am constantly being approached about it. The young people are not breaking the law by skating and blading on the

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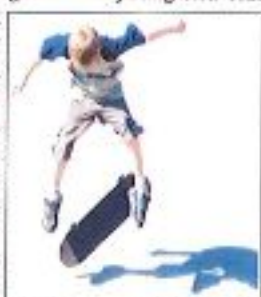
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goal. But it's important for everyone in the community to understand that one generation doesn't have to lose for the other to win. This project has the potential for all generations to work together and share the benefits of their efforts. The young people need adult mentors with a whole range of skills so that they can genuinely learn as they go along and we would welcome anyone willing to support them".

Adam had no sooner explained to the group that they would have to show funding bodies how serious they are by raising some of their own revenue than they had set to work on a Christmas project. They each designed and made up their own Christmas cards and set up an industrious production line. The cards are being sold through GCAT and local shops to raise awareness of the project and generate better understanding between young and old.

The new project is summed up by parent and adult mentor Mairi Tulbure, "We really hope that what this project will achieve besides raising money for the play area is to encourage the older and younger generations to learn from and understand each other. We all have to live together and finding positive solutions to community problems feels better than becoming entrenched in prejudiced attitudes whatever age group they're coming from."

Plans are underway to hold an Open Meeting early in the New Year where the N-GAGE project can be fully discussed by all members of the community.



Matthew Smith attempts a heelflip during his summer holidays



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



RSAMD STUDENTS AUTUMN VISIT TO THE GLENKENS

The RSAMD VISIT to the Glenkens at the end of October was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by pupils from all the schools as well as some productive workshop sessions. The photographs and the two short articles below speak for themselves in showing the enthusiasm generated by the students among both the teachers and the pupils of the schools visited.



On a beautiful morning at the end of October, we were awaiting the arrival of students from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. The visit was organised by GCAT and although this was the third time that students from the Academy had visited the Glenkens, it was the first time that they had been to Carsphairn School, and there was an air of excited anticipation amongst the pupils.

When they arrived, the students quickly set up their instruments and entertained us to a selection of traditional Scottish music. The children were then invited to have a closer look at the instruments and they were privileged to be allowed to try them out.

Looking around me at some of the expressions of interest, wonder and intense concentration during this session, made me realise how valuable this visit had been. I think that, maybe, it was inspirational, too!

Anne Rutherford

Head Teacher, Carsphairn Primary School



On Friday the 31st October some students from RSAMD came to Carsphairn Primary School to play their instruments and sing some songs. They were called Stuart, Stuart, Ali, Fiona and Dominique. The students played their instruments with skill. The instruments they played were the bagpipes, drums, fiddle, cello, harp, accordion and the concertina. The songs they sang were Katie Baird and Daphne Cochrane.

Before the students came we were all very excited. When they arrived we waited in the dining room while the students set up their instruments. When they had set up they sang some songs and then told us about themselves and then we tried their instruments. Most of us liked the harp but some of us liked the other instruments.

We would like to thank the students for coming to our school. We thoroughly enjoyed the visit and we hope they come again next year.

Skye Poole P4, Ryan McCall P5 & Rebecca Holden P5



Stripey Dog & The Urban Turban Club at Kells Primary School

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DANCE MIX SOUTH WEST

Two separate day workshops were held for secondary children during the October break where they met musician Tam Treanor and film maker Abby Burns and were encouraged to make their own compact discs and videos.

On Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th October Tam Treanor and Abby Burns from Dance Mix South West came to Dalry school to help us make a C.D. and a music video. On the Tuesday Tam came into the school. Tam owns his own company called All Ears Music and runs song writing workshops and records demos for bands all across Scotland. The majority of the morning was spent composing music, mostly everyone had to play an instrument (because there were only four of us there.) In the end though, we managed to get something together. When we had finished, it was starting to resemble part of a rhythm. After lunch we started on the lyrics. Between us we got some basic lyrics written down. We had gone for a kind of rock song and Kirsty Harvey sang the verses and I sang the chorus.

The next day Abby Burns came in to make the music video. Abby graduated from The University of Sunderland in 1998 where she gained a BSc in Media Studies. She has also worked on several short films. The turnout for this event was not great, only three of us turned up (obviously there are only a few people who can see a good thing when it comes around). This was not enough to make the video so we decided to make a story line and leave. I really

enjoyed these two days and I hope that Abby can come back and finish our video some time in the near future.

Ben Trueman

Tuesday

We started by setting up John's equipment. I missed most of that because I was at work. We then formed a bass tune which Rachel made up. We then found a drum beat and put together chords to it. By then it was lunch so we all went down the street and bought lunch. After lunch we then started to write the song words. I enjoyed this part the most. Once we had the song words we decided who was singing it. Ben was singing the chorus and I was singing the verses. (I wasn't too happy about this!). Once we had put the different parts to the track we placed them together and listened to it. I didn't mind the song in the end but I think it drifted away from what we set out to do.

Wednesday

We all went back to the school to do the video. We decided to wait for another day till there was more people to do the video. So we came up with a storyboard and left it at that. I enjoyed the two days we had making the song and I'd do it again.

Kirsty Harvie

LOCAL POLITICIANS WELCOME BROADBAND PROGRESS

Galloway and Uppier Nithdale MP Peter Duncan and MSP Alex Ferguson have today welcomed BT's announcement that 48 local exchanges are to be given trigger thresholds for broadband services. The trigger number is the number of people who have to express an interest in broadband to have their local exchange upgraded. Mr Ferguson and Mr Duncan had been lobbying BT intensively in recent weeks to introduce these triggers for Dumfries & Galloway because until now the company only provided broadband to customers in Dumfries and Stranraer. Speaking after the announcement Mr Ferguson said:

"I am absolutely delighted with today's news that over 48 exchanges in Dumfries & Galloway receive a target. At least local people now know what they have to do to get BT broadband into their community. Some of the targets are very challenging with up to 500 people required. But there are smaller targets of 100 for smaller communities, such as Drummore and New Galloway, and I think if the will and enthusiasm is there then it can be achieved. I will certainly be encouraging everybody, whether businesses or private individuals, to immediately register for these services in the exchanges affected. In discussions with BT we have argued that the large number of registrations in communities like Castle Douglas indicated clear evidence of demand, and now it is a case of BT delivering on their part of the bargain provided we can get the numbers. That does not mean to say the Scottish Executive is off the hook in the very smallest exchanges, because there is no doubt that public support will be required if everybody in our most rural communities is to have the opportunity to receive these services".

Peter Duncan MP who is a long time advocate of broadband for Dumfries & Galloway said:

"It is great news for businesses and local residents alike. Broadband services mean that people in Dumfries & Galloway have the same access to the modern communications network that people do elsewhere and that is important not just for businesses but for home entertainment and educational opportunities. I am glad that the relentless pressure that myself and others have put on BT to change their policies and include rural areas like Dumfries & Galloway in the information technology revolution is paid off. I urge everybody who is at all interested in these services to sign up so that the trigger numbers can be met".

"However I will still be pressing the UK Government and the Scottish Executive to come up with the funding to make sure all telephone exchanges no matter how small they are or how rural they are can provide broadband services. It has been possible for the Government in Northern Ireland to support the provision of broadband in every exchange there and there is no reason why this should not be possible in Scotland. This is a major step forward but the battle to make sure that everyone in Dumfries & Galloway can have access to broadband services goes on".

For More Information Contact
Alex Ferguson on 0776 721 2191 or
Peter Duncan on 07740 469 949

BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION

Balmaclellan was one of only two community areas in the Stranraer ward with an excess of nominations and a resulting requirement for an election of members to serve for the next three year term. Four of the previous council were re-elected, together with five new members.

At the first meeting of the new council in October, the officers were appointed. Alan Palliser and Joyce Douglas continue as chairman and treasurer respectively. Joyce Harvey becomes the new secretary, with Fiona Mackinnon as interim secretary. The other members are Margaret Connolly, Kirsten Collins, Sandra Dempster, Susan MacLellan and Godfrey Smith.

PROPOSED WIND FARM ON BALMACLELLAN HILLS

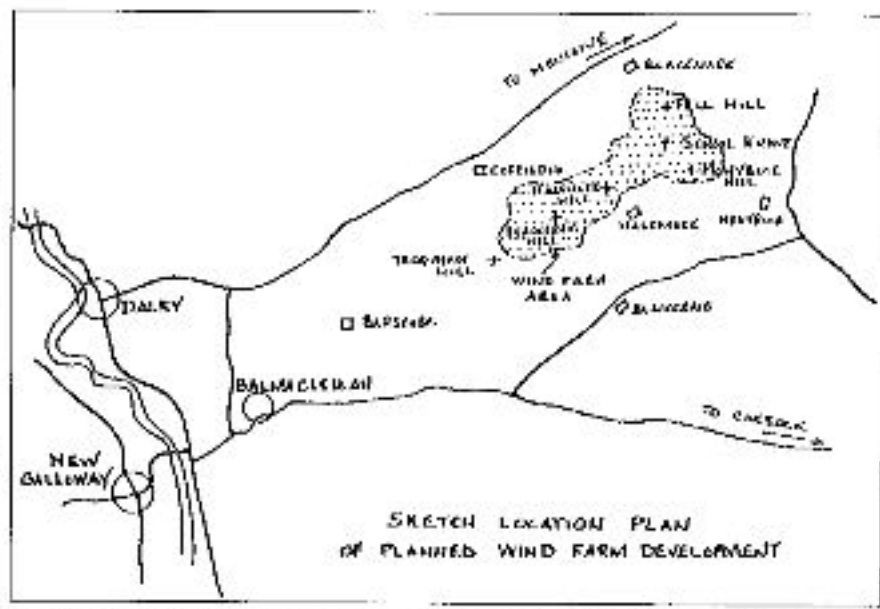
A large wind farm is proposed on the hill ridge east of Balmaclellan. The developers are DP Energy, on behalf of Scottish & Southern Energy. The scheme is in its very early stages, but outline details have been submitted to Balmaclellan Community Council for consideration before meeting the developers.

The benefits from the development need to be weighed against the obtrusive nature of the scheme and the adverse effect on the environment. The proposed wind turbines, up to 45 in number, would be over 300 feet high to the blade tips. The planned location extends over some two miles, from just east of Troghain Hill to the north of Fell Hill. The turbines would dominate the

landscape, and be visible over a wide area, particularly from the Corsock and Mossburne roads. Access roads would be necessary, and also overhead transmission lines to carry the power generated to the main supply grid.

The magnitude of the scheme and the exposed location means that the wind farm would have a very substantial impact on the Glenkens and on the region as a whole. It will therefore be necessary at the appropriate time to extend the consultation process over a wider range of communities and organisations.

In the meantime, Alan Pallister (01644-420423) would be pleased to provide any further information as may be available, and to receive any preliminary comments.





NEW GALLOWAY - *Our Historic Burgh*

PART XVII by Helen Bolton

The Railway Arrives

The coming of the railway builders must have been received with mixed feelings by the people of New Galloway. The slow, peaceful life would be greatly disturbed by the arrival of a vast number of much-travelled navvies with a strange, unconventional way of living. Near to Mossdale, the site of New Galloway Station, a group of huts was built to house workers, and a further group was erected at "Aldie", nearer to remote Loch Skerrow. For the most part the navvies were reasonably well behaved, although occasional drunkenness was recorded. Local shops and inns, and those who took in lodgers made a good "harvest" from this sudden increase in the population, and the railway provided employment for local men, also. Labourers, joiners, blacksmiths, carpenters, and many others must have been glad of the work.

Excellent weather in the spring and summer of 1855 gave the work a good start, and contractors took full advantage of this. By early September the engineers in charge were able to give a good report to the directors. The Loch Skerrow Contract, which covered 11 miles of line from Boat of Rhone to Dromore, was difficult to build, with deep rock cuttings, embankments, three viaducts, and a steep gradient of 1 in 80 for much of its length.

The good weather was not set to last, however,

and by the late autumn of 1859 heavy rain was delaying the work. Bad weather was set to continue, and it was not until Boxing Day of 1860 that the line, completed to Stranraer, could have a test run. Crowds gathered to cheer as an engine made its way along the railway with carriages to be based at Stranraer.

Much more hard work and problems followed, but eventually, on 11th March 1861, the new railway was officially opened, with a special train for the directors and shareholders leaving Stranraer for Castle Douglas at 9.00 am. The locomotives were decorated with flags and evergreens, and at each stop along the way, Glenkirk, Newton Stewart, and New Galloway, crowds lined the platforms to cheer. The line opened for public service the following day, with two trains each way.

Ten days later a public dinner was given in the Town Hall at New Galloway, with Wellwood Maxwell in the chair. Mr McNaughton, one of the contractors, was a guest, and a huge punch bowl, as large as a bushel, belonging to the Burgh, was brought in filled with steaming toddy, and a toast was drunk to the success of the Portpatrick Railway.

Mr Maxwell told the assembly that he and his fellow directors of the P.P.XL. were in favour of extending the railway to Dalry, a survey having already been made along Loch Ken, and between the loch and Kenmore Castle. However, in the event, both the funds and the enthusiasm were lacking, and the project fell by the wayside.

Helen Bolton

SMALL WORLD

Thirty years ago while a student at Glasgow University I became friends with an American girl who was spending one year among the Scottish choisters.

Five years later when living in Kinsale, County Cork with my children I met an American lady. We began chatting - she only worked for my friend's father!

Last summer Bob and I were in Ireland on our way home we met a Dutch biker, Martin, and, as bikers do, we invited him home to Dundee with us. One day turned into three and we had a lot of laughs. He was avidly reading one of Pete McCarthy's books.

When GCAT had Pete McCarthy come to Dalry of course we had to go and see him. However I'd forgotten what time the evening began. On phoning to enquire I was invited to speak to Pete himself, naturally I told him about his Dutch fan. He referred to Martin at the start of his talk.

October 2003. A letter arrived from Martin: 'We interviewed Pete McCarthy in Spring (Galloway). He remembered Dalry well, said he had a ball?' ...

Jill Beathwaite

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THE RAILWAY Some More Interesting Facts

Suits were provided for the railway staff, and the cost of some of these items may be of interest.

Station Master's suit.....	£2-5s-6d (£2.27½)
Guard's top coat.....	£1-15s-6d (£1.67½)
Goods Guard's suit.....	£2-1s-0d (£2.05)
Porter's suit.....	£1-50s-6d (£1.52½p.)

Peats were cut by the contractors for the use of the navvies who were living in the hut settlements along the railway. The moss was opened in several places between Mossdale and Gatehouse, and three cubic yards of wet moss formed a cartload of usable peat. The cost to the workers was between 2/- (10p), and 2/6 (12½p.) per cartload.

On the first printed timetable trains were advertised to arrive at their destinations "at about" and "will not leave before".

The journey from New Galloway to Castle Douglas took approximately 30 minutes, and a 1st Class return fare was 2/9 (14p). The journey from New Galloway to Stranraer took about two hours, and a 1st Class return fare was 13/10 (69p).

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Yin Yang : Impressions Of China

YIN YANG to the Chinese represents the contrasts of life and it was the contrasts of China which left the most impression on us when we travelled there in April.

Arriving in Shanghai we were transported in a modern coach passing an elevated monorail on route to a city of skyscrapers. The journey was through miles of redevelopment, huge motorways, high rise blocks and industrial estates were being built everywhere. Total demolition of the old, but as the government owns all the land, there are no protests when this happens. This was very obvious when we visited the Yangtze Gorges and the site of the new dam. Here somewhere in the region of 1.3 million people were being moved either to other areas of the country or into new cities built above the projected water level.

We were told the old resented being moved, the young relished the improved living conditions and the relocation payment. There were a remarkable number of youths on new motorbikes.

Everywhere we went construction work was booming, much of it using the plentiful labour supply, shovels and wheelbarrows. Alongside the building sites beautiful parks were being created with rock, water and mature trees. It was all being landscaped on an impressive scale.

In contrast to this modernisation the farming methods were still traditional, small strips of land with a variety of crops and not a weed in sight. A water buffalo worked a rice paddy guided by a farmer in purple wellies and ducks were kept in pens along the waterways.

China is moving with incredible speed from a third world to a first world country. Moving is not what we did sitting in the endless traffic jams. Bicycles are still in abundance but China is in love with the motor car, the mobile phone and modern technology. The sleeping dragon is not only awake but speeding. Visitors to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing will be amazed. We were there and we could already buy the T-shirts.

We rose early on our first morning and decided to walk in the park across the motorway from our hotel. Here we found the China we were expecting to see. The park was large with constructed high rock walls, waterfalls and

pools full of carp. It was very peaceful. In all the spaces Chinese were quietly taking their morning exercise. This is Taiji-Quan (Tai-Chi) in its various forms with scarves, swords and fans, all red the Chinese colour of happiness. In one corner a group of youngsters was doing aerobics with vigour and a cassette player and in another workmen were constructing a stage for an evening of karaoke. Our expectations were continually changing.

The Chinese we met were keen on exercising and were proud of their slim figures. We saw some obesity in the young, possibly because of the one child policy and the resultant spoiling, possibly due to the fact that Pizza Hut, KFC and MacDonalds have made it across the Pacific. Many people live in high rise flats and it is interesting that the government has decided that lifts can only be installed above the sixth floor. A compulsory fitness factor built into your life.

Our decision to visit China was based on our desire to see the sights and sites featured in the travel brochures. They certainly lived up to our expectations. They were very impressive indeed. We visited the Yangtze Gorges, the Terracotta Warriors, the Great Wall, Tian'anmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and Guilin. We were in awe. We were also taken to the Peking Opera, an acrobatic show, a tea ceremony, various museums, a traditional pharmacy, jade and silk factories. There were plenty of opportunities for retail therapy.

We found the small glimpses of old Chinese culture fascinating, old houses have three steps representing wishes of happiness, longevity and prosperity. Only the emperor was allowed the symbol of a dragon with five talons. The dragons of lesser beings only having three or four. The lions outside important houses represent Yin Yang a male with a ball and a female with a baby. Colours and number have significance and are lucky or unlucky. Huge sums of money exchange hands to ensure propitious number plates for cars.

Our trip was organised by China Travel Service. We were cosseted wherever we went, staying in four or five star international hotels with swimming pools and business centres. China wants tourists and does its best

to provide everything we need. Even the public lavatories have star ratings one to four, but you need a spirit of adventure and an ability to hold your breath if you venture into anything below three.

We derived great joy from our contact with the Chinese. We were greeted with smiles and hellos everywhere. Even the toddlers would rush up to us and say "ello". English is the third most important subject taught in schools after Chinese and Maths. Speaking English is considered to be the Key to success in China. Incidentally and surprisingly to us education is not free.

Tony, the Joker in our group, caused great fun and laughter by orchestrating a large chorus of hello from passing boats of Chinese tourists as we cruised the Li Jiang encouraging them to chant louder and louder. Barbara, the black member of our party was in great demand for photographs. Young people threw their arms around her in the streets - click. Mothers thrust babies into her arms - click. Whole families materialised around her - click. We were made welcome everywhere. The Chinese stood on walls and cheered when we paraded with music and dancers through the city gate of Xian in a welcoming ceremony. It was unexpectedly moving.

We were privileged to be invited to the home of a retired Professor of English from Beijing University (a friend of a friend). We discussed freely various aspects of Chinese life and politics. Things were not always as we have been led to believe in the West. During the cultural revolution she, her husband and daughters were split up and sent to work on the land. She didn't see them for five years. "Eventually we all found each other again" she said with a fatalism which we would consider typically Chinese. This acceptance did seem to be a characteristic which we noticed, but how foolish and dangerous to make assumptions about a country of millions on brief acquaintance with a handful.

Leaving China we flew to Hong Kong airport. A surreal experience. It is a huge modern space odyssey of a building, then virtually empty because of the SARS outbreak, the few people about wearing masks and the air conditioning made it chilly. Our final Yin Yang experience only an hour's flying time from the hot, noisy, crowded, friendly Chinese mainland.

Driving over the hill into the Glenkens we thought how lucky we were to live in such a beautiful place. We were pleased and a little relieved to be home.

Wendy Davis

GHOSTS & GHOULS FUNDRAISING DANCE

I would like to thank all those involved in making the Ghosts & Ghouls night a pleasurable and enjoyable evening. Special thanks to the people who gave their free time and the local businesses that gave so charitably.

The night was a great success and all the tickets were sold and everybody's costumes were spectacular, thanks to the witches, monsters and ghosts who really created the theme.

The evening started with a Happy Half Hour at the Bar, served by Mystic Peg, Countess Dracula and the Witches Cat (Val, Jan and Lyndsay), they got the spirits out and were so brave in serving some pretty scary characters.

The Live Band "Not Guilty" was excellent and the dance floor was always packed - it was great to see everyone having such a fun time.

I would like to thank personally all those who contributed to the event, special thanks to HBS Holding PLC for sponsoring the entertainment, Kitty's Tearoom for donating the delicious Buffet on



the night and BNFL for providing the Star Prize for the evening Raffle Draw. I am also grateful to the Community Council, for their support and donation towards the cost of the hall.

There are so many people who contributed to the event I'm afraid I can not mention them all, however all of their support and kindness is deeply appreciated.

During the evening there were a lot of fund raising activities. Many Ghosts and Ghouls did not go home empty handed, as there were a lot of prizes to be won. Some activities included were, Guess the weight of the Pumpkin and an Irish Auction for a magnum of Champagne. To finish the evening there was a Fancy Dress Competition judged by the Band members, "Marilyn Monroe" won best female and "Satan" won Best Male.

I am pleased to announce that the funds raised were to the amount of £1240.20. This will be divided amongst the Glenkens Playgroup and Mother & Toddler Groups for their specific needs such as new equipment, and to improve the environment where the groups are being held.

Finally my gratitude and deep appreciation to everyone who came along on the evening and kept the community spirit high. Without their support, the event would not have been so successful. Thank you very much. We appreciated everyone's generosity and kindness towards our appeal.

Julia Brown - Parent & Event Organiser

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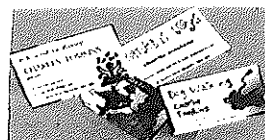
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GLENKENS DESKTOP CALENDAR



The Glenkens Desktop Calendar is largely the result of this summer's photographic activity by Michael Dowswell. Michael worked during the summer with former Gazette Editor Hannah Adcock to cover events for the Gazette. During this time Hannah had the idea that we could produce a calendar, and Michael subsequently started to build a collection of appropriate photos for it which cover most of the Glenkens. Michael missed a great deal of his secondary education due to prolonged Post Viral Fatigue Syndrome which he contracted after a bad dose of flu in his first year at Dumfries Academy. Having developed a portfolio of high quality pencil drawings during his illness, he was accepted by George Street School of Art in Dumfries for the National Certificate Art & Design Course at the age of sixteen. His interest in photography led to his undertaking the Higher National Diploma Course in Photography (also at George Street), which took two years and gave him experience in traditional darkroom and studio techniques. He then went to Cumbria College of Art and Design (now Cumbria Institute of the Arts) and spent the next three years obtaining a degree in Multimedia Design and Digital Animation.

GLENKENS DESKTOP CALENDAR 2004

The perfect Christmas present and Stocking Filler for only £5 - and easy to post. Twelve stunning black and white photographs of views of the Glenkens produced by Michael Dowswell, Jonnie Dowswell and Hannah Adcock. Copies available from the GCAT Shop.

GCAT SHOP WINDOW

We are now organising the display rota for the GCAT Shop Window for 2004. If any local societies, artists or crafts people are interested in participating, would they please contact Wendy Davis either through the GCAT Shop or phone 01644 420225.

Thanks to the skills learned at Cumbria Institute of the Arts he is now able to make full use of the "digital darkroom" methods which are currently available on most computers (if you have the know how and the right software). There is some controversy over whether these new methods are entirely valid. Some of this may stem from the idea that the computer is actually capable of producing the artwork itself. This is not the case - the computer is merely used as a tool to accomplish the same changes to the image which would normally have been applied in the "wet" darkroom. It can, however, apply them much faster and more efficiently, giving the user a second chance to get it right. As Michael is quick to point out, he has not used any technique (on the calendar images) which could not have been used in the traditional darkroom.

The CD Case format was Hannah's idea which was inspired from seeing the Dumfries & Galloway Libraries "Through the Lens" Calendar, produced by the Information & Archives Department. We owe a big thank you to Ailsa Johnston for his help and advice in obtaining the special CD cases for the Calendar.

The Calendar is being marketed by GCAT and is now on sale at the GCAT Shop, price £5.

GLENKENS BROADBAND CAMPAIGN

THE BROADBAND BUS is coming to New Galloway on Friday 5th December 4.00 to 8.00pm at the Ken Bridge Hotel, where you will be able to experience the benefits of Broadband for yourself. The bus is fully equipped with the latest satellite and wireless technology and is manned by e-business specialists to answer your questions.

Glenkens Broadband Ltd has been formed to bring a Broadband Internet service for businesses and residents into the Glenkens area.

The group is supported by Scottish Enterprise Dumfries & Galloway who have already been driving the larger town campaigns in the region.

If you would you like to see Broadband brought to the Glenkens, please register your interest with GCAT where all requests can be co-ordinated and forwarded to BT. Remember, BT only need 100 requests from each small village exchanges before they are bound to consider it seriously.

email: info@glenkens-arts.com

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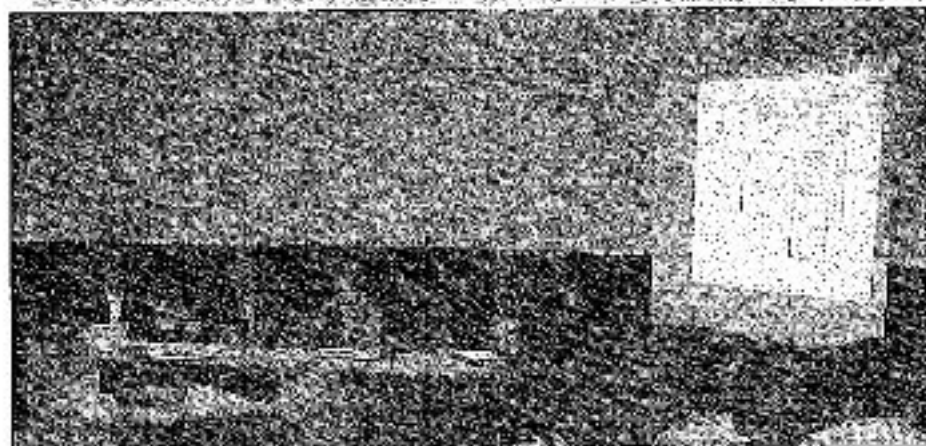
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GCAAT NEWS

THE OLD SCHOOL Architect's plans for the Old School were recently unveiled to over 30 people representing many of the region's Public Agencies. The response to that meeting and to the various GCAAT ROADSHOWS around the Glenkens has given the GCAAT Steering Committee the encouragement and confidence to go ahead with their fund-raising plans with a view to starting the first phase of the building work next spring.



Thanks to a grant from UVAF (Unemployed Volunteer Action Fund) the GCAAT Steering Group hosted a Cheese and Wine Party at the Ken Bridge Hotel to say 'Thank You' to over 80 people who have so kindly volunteered their time over the last two years to enable the wide variety of GCAAT events and activities to take place - they range from driving the Community Bus, helping with the Art Exhibition, sitting on advisory groups, manning stalls at the Youth Festival to clearing and maintaining the Old School site, distributing leaflets and fliers, selling raffle tickets, writing articles for the Glenkens Gazette - and so the list goes on. If you know of anyone else who'd like to get involved, all they need do is ring the GCAAT Shop 420374.



Cathy Agnew with architect Gordon Fleming

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

October 200 CLUB WINNERS

1st	No. 65	Mrs Irene Godfrey
2nd	No. 92	Mrs Joan M Walker
3rd	No. 139	Mrs A Clark-Kennedy

November 200 CLUB WINNERS

1st	No. 9	Mrs Amanda Stevenson
2nd	No. 39	Mrs Anna Campbell
3rd	No. 104	Mr Michael Richmond

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE First Anniversary

The Glenkens Community Minibus was officially launched in September 2002 by International author Pete McCarthy and the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) was inaugurated at the first General Meeting held in Barmacellan on 20th November 2002.

The minibus is available on a self drive basis to any club or group who register, at a cost of £10 if they are from the Glenkens or £15 if not. Hire costs are 25p per mile plus a flat rate depending on how many hours the bus is used.

There are now 33 registered user groups mainly from within the Glenkens. It was agreed that all drivers of the minibus should first attend the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme training (MIDAS) which involves some theory, familiarity training with the minibus particularly around the disabled access and safety aspects and a driving assessment. So far 38 people have successfully passed the MIDAS training and we now have our own qualified in-house MIDAS trainer in Tom Plummer.

It was accepted that the decision only to allow driving by trained drivers would lead to difficulties in the early months until sufficient trained drivers were available and this proved to be the case with the pattern of usage fairly sporadic initially. However, over the months this has steadily improved, with the exception of the summer holiday period, bookings now run at an average of 14 per month.

In order to combat the lack of cash flow at quieter times a '200 Club' monthly draw was launched in May 2003 which has proved to be popular and a useful way of raising public awareness.

The establishment of a regular registered bus route is our next priority together with maintaining/increasing the current level of user groups. This is being addressed by making an application to SCART for funding for a research programme. Once this research and consultation is completed it is hoped to introduce a regular route in early 2004 and to run some organised trips during the summer.

Overall this has been a successful first year and the future viability looks promising.

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REVIEWS CORNER

MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN

Farmers can relax. "Mad Dogs" is an award winning theatre Company from Norfolk who specialise in giving known classic stories an outrageous and quirky twist. At Dalry Town Hall on 14th November they delighted their audience by putting their individual spin on three stories by Gogol and Chekhov.

Firstly, "The Nose": a bizarre accident introduces us to a drunken and dishevelled barber and a Vani State official. This tale is unfinished as we are plunged into the next story - "The Proposal", a comic jest. The fragile thirty-five year old Ivan Vassilievich, tries to propose to his neighbour's daughter. His plans go terribly awry and lead to a major dispute. "The Overcoat"

tells how Akaky, a penniless clerk, acquires a new overcoat only to have it stolen with tragic and unexpected results. Finally, "The Nose" is resolved.

Acted with verve, enthusiasm and a wonderful sense of the ridiculous the audience were carried along with the fast and furious badinage, a real comedy of wits. The stories interweave from farce to tragedy, the changes of mood helped by the atmospheric use of lighting and music. Clever use of minimal props changed the scene without interrupting the action. Highlights for me were an energetic skit on Russian Folk Dance and a slow motion mugging.

The Glenkens is well supplied with musical events. More drama of this calibre please.

Wendy Davis

Glenkens Music Club Concert THE SUBLIME AND THE RIDICULOUS

A good audience welcomed Philomusica of Edinburgh to Dalry Town Hall on 15th November for the third concert of the Glenkens Music Club's season. The ensemble, comprising three violins, three violas, three cellos, double base, flute and harpsichord plus soprano soloist is larger than our usual performance groups and treated us to a varied repertoire of sixteenth to eighteenth century music.

The "ridiculous" of the title might be construed as the amusing works Biver (La Battaglia) and Farina (Capriccio Stravagante) where stringed instruments were persuaded to masquerade as guns, drums, and cats. Soprano Fiona Mitchell entertained in both halves of the programme with works by Arne, Dowland and Arioste. The effect of her pleasing voice would have been even greater if she had made more eye contact with her audience and been less immersed in her score.

The programme began (and was encores) by a delightful short piece attributed to William Kinloch called "Kinloch his fantassie". However, there was no doubt about the "sublime" of the title, namely Bach's Brandenburg Concertos numbers Three and Five. The group reduced to one player of each instrument for number Five, and they produced a wonderful sound, highlighted by a virtuoso performance from Stephen Doughty on harpsichord. In the better known number Three the full ensemble produced a magnificent finale to the programme.

Director, Lawrence Dunn and his team were given an enthusiastic ovation by an audience which had been royally entertained. Make a note of the final concert of the season - "The Cremona Trio" (oboe, clarinet and bassoon) - in New Galloway Town Hall on Saturday 6th March at 8pm.

Mike Davis

ONE STOP CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

Friends of Dalry School are hosting a special Men's Shopping Evening in December (date and time to be announced). Whilst enjoying a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, our menfolk can choose from a beautiful array of stylish and affordable jewellery. We'll even wrap your gifts for you! No crowded shops, no last minute panic - it couldn't be easier.

The same beautiful jewellery will also be on sale at the Dalry School Coffee Morning on 12th December. There is something for all the girls in your life from age 3 to 93 and all make lovely gifts as well as benefiting Dalry School.

For more details, please call Nicolette Wise on 01644 430218

KIRKDALE PORT 2003 Big Bad Beaver Bash



On October 14th eager Beavers and 3 leaders from the Glenkens made their way to the Big Bad Beaver Bash at Kirkdale Port along with other Colonies from the Stewarty. It was a fun filled afternoon kicked off by a picnic lunch in the glorious autumn sunshine. Then it was off to the beach for a Kirkdale Monster Hunt, several crabs both dead and alive not to mention hundreds of shells, driftwood etc. The next hour was spent on various challenges around the site including a blindfold obstacle race, pancake making, outdoors nought and crosses, foot painting, and a treasure hunt.

Mid afternoon saw us all join up together under the Flag for a rather special occasion. Along with a few other Beavers, 14 Beavers from the Glenkens Colony proudly made their promise and received their group scarves and badges, including their first challenge badge - Outdoors.

The afternoon was rounded off with a smashing campfire with lots of laughter and action songs. It was a great day and our thanks go to all involved in putting the afternoon together.

CUB SCOUT NEWS



HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Glenkens Cub Scout Pack and Beaver Colony had a joint Halloween Party recently and the picture tells the story. We took part in all the usual Halloween games and had lots of fun.

SPORTS AFTERNOON

Cub Scouts from all over Galloway Area gathered at the Merrick Centre, Newton Stewart on Sunday afternoon to try various sports, hockey, parachute games, basketball and crab football. There were so many cubs we had to use the swimming pool in shifts. Henry Sainsbury and Josh Trueman gained their swimmers badges, Stage 1. Well done!

DEREK HENDERSON & PARTNERS

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TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sundays

Balmacollin	12.00 noon	1st
Carsphairn	10.30 am	1st 2nd 3rd 4th
Dalry	12.00 noon	1st 2nd 3rd 4th (Jan)
Kells	10.30 am	2nd 3rd (Dec) 4th (Jan)
New Galloway	10.30 am	3rd (Jan)
Town Hall	6.00 pm	1st (Dec) 2nd (Jan)

Special Services:

In addition there are the following special services over the Christmas period:

Sunday 14th Dec 6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight with Glenkens Church Choir, Kells Church

22nd Dec 6.00 pm Carsphairn Church Christmas Service and Party

23rd Dec 4.00 pm Crib and Christingle Service, Kells Church

24th Dec 11.30 pm Watchnight Service, Balmacollin Church

25th Dec 10.30 am Christmas Day Family Service, Dalry Church

28th Dec 10.30 am United Service with Choir, Carsphairn Church

In the run up to Christmas the children of the churches will be involved in child-friendly Christmas services in Carsphairn Church on Sunday 14th December at 10.30 am and at Kells Church at 10.30 am and Dalry Church at 12 noon on Sunday 21st December.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E)

St. Margaret's, New Galloway

10.30am Holy Communion

Every Sunday and Wednesday

Christmas Eve: 10.30am & 11.30pm

Holy Communion

Christmas Day: 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th Dec: 10.30am Carol Service

New Year's Eve: 10.30am Holy Communion

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

Please phone 01558 610368

LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATE FOR CARSPHAIRN KIRK ELDER

After the Communion Service at Carsphairn Church on Sunday 16th November Mr Arnold Sharp was presented with a long service certificate for 50 years service as an elder in Carsphairn Church. He was ordained an elder by the minister of that time, Rev Wilfred Stevewright, on 22nd November 1953. He still continues faithfully to serve as an elder in Carsphairn church and also sings in the Glenkens Church Choir. Mr John Hastings was also ordained an elder on that day, in 1953, but sadly did not quite reach his 50 years service. John Hastings died on 7th July this year, but was still doing regular duties about the church at the beginning of this year when only a few months short of his 92nd birthday.

The Dalgarno Singers

This year's Festive Season sees the return of the Dalgarno Singers to New Galloway Town Hall following their successful Carol Concert here last Christmas. The Dalgarno Singers are based in the Thornhill area and take their name from the old settlement (Dalgarno or Dalgarnock) which preceded Thornhill in Niddale, the Dalgarno Singers were formed in 1974. Over the years the group has continued to enjoy a wide repertoire of four-part choral music ranging across the musical spectrum - Scots, Light Musical, Part Songs, Sacred, Christmas, Masses and Oratorio. The choir rehearse in the Pungent Primary School and perform several times each year in halls and churches in and around Thornhill, one of the highlights of their musical calendar being their annual Christmas Concert in which choir and solo items are interspersed with community carol singing involving the whole congregation. This year's concert on Thursday 18th December at 8.00 pm in New Galloway Town Hall, so why not come along and enjoy an evening of popular Christmas music, community carols, mince pies and mulled wine.

DAMSEL JAM

Many congratulations to local a capella group DAMSEL JAM who have just celebrated their tenth anniversary with a great concert at Kirkpatrick Durham.

Carols by Candlelight with

Glenkens Church Choir
Kells Church
Sunday 14th Dec 6.30 pm

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Carsphairn Heritage Group

Carsphairn Heritage Group recently held its Annual General Meeting, the seventeenth since the formation of the group in 1987. The chairman, Mrs Anna Campbell reported another excellent year with about 1500 people visiting the Centre. Each year visitors come from near and far and often bring surprises. This summer, a man from Germany came in with his great grandfather's diary which covered the period around 1850 when he worked at Woodhead Lead Mine with his father who was the manager there for 30 years from 1840 until 1870.

The number of Family History queries made by email had increased sharply this year. The newsletter, published quarterly is now at Issue 64 and each one includes much of interest about Carsphairn, past or present.

Carsphairn Heritage Group relies very much on its volunteers who give their time so freely. Not only is that appreciated by the committee but also by those who visit. Many comments in the visitors book acknowledge the welcome and the help given by the stewards. Mrs Campbell recorded her thanks to the stewards as well as to the committee that is talented, enthusiastic and willing to put so much into a group that is flourishing in every way.

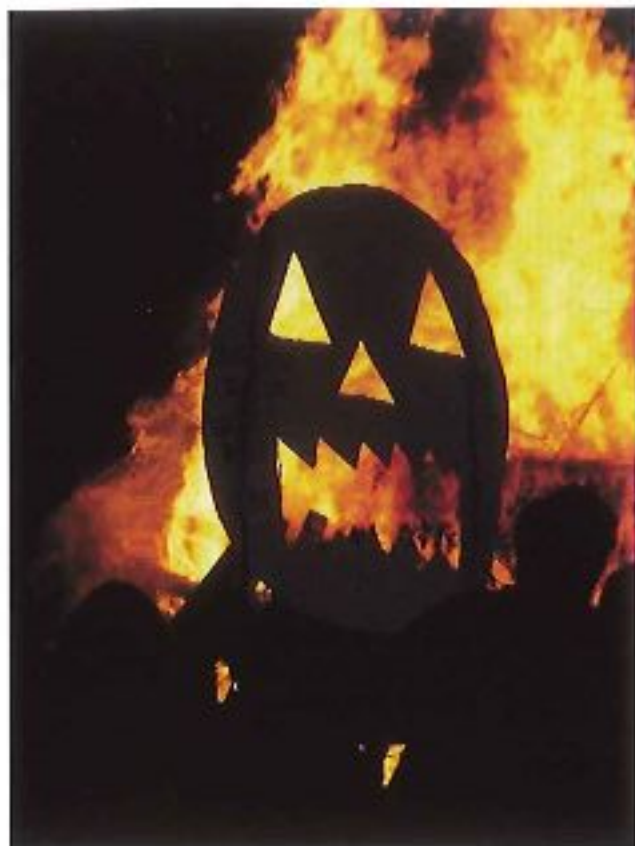
Next year's exhibition will be centred on Knockgray which will have been owned by the Clark Kennedy family for 300 years in 2004. We look forward to the Centre reopening on Good Friday, April 9th 2004.

LAURIESTON FIRE FESTIVAL

On the night of Halloween a large and excited crowd of all ages gathered at Laurieston Village Hall. Many were in fancy dress, some carrying appropriate banners of dragons or scary faces; there were paper lanterns, youths on stilts and vendors of fire torches were doing a roaring trade. A few spectacular fireworks heralded the start of festivities and the Samba Band swung into action leading the excited, rhythmically moving, procession down the main street. The night sky was cloudless and, as the bright moon set and the procession entered the darker reaches of Chapel Lane, the fire brands came into their own creating an almost medieval atmosphere.

A group of superb lanterns marked the entrance to the field where a huge bonfire was waiting, decked with a replica boat with tall mast from which hung a giant white skeleton. The almost exhausted torches were thrown onto the pyre and this was soon well alight. It took some time before the skeleton caught fire and in the meantime the hot gusts of air kept him gyrating in an eerily realistic fashion. The drumming kept our feet warmly dancing and a group of local dancers delighted us with a routine illuminated by the flaming torches they held in their hands. Tasty soup helped warm the inner man and the eye was further gladdened by a trio of fire sculptures. One depicted a running man and was particularly successful.

The whole event was well organised, good humoured and fun for all. It is 4 years since the first fire festival; we hope this will not be the last.



GUY FAWKES AT BALMACLELLAN

The first event organised by the new community council was the annual bonfire night on 5 November.

Blessed with fine weather and an almost full moon, the guy was consumed in front of a very good crowd, who were treated to an impressive fireworks display, sparklers for the children, some scintillating fire whirling by Vandy Smith, and an unsolicited low-level fly-past by the RAF Refreshments followed and were avidly consumed, with mulled wine available to finish the proceedings by the ambros.

Many thanks to Mr. Rothwell for the use of his field, and to all who contributed towards the success of a very enjoyable event.

WATCH THE BIRDIE I



This birdie was very, very small and flew into our sitting room window one afternoon with a soft thump. On picking it up to help it on its way again, I found to my surprise that it was incredibly tame, and would sit on my finger quite happily while Michael took the photos. The Bird Book tells us that it is a Goldcrest - Britain's smallest breeding bird.

Jonnie Dowdell

RED KITE TRAIL OFFICIALLY OPENED IN MOSSDALE

Anyone travelling through Mossdale recently cannot have failed to see the magnificent carving of a Red Kite. Mossdale was well & truly put on the map on 6th October when a large crowd of people descended on the village for the unveiling of the carving and the official opening of the Galloway Red Kite Trail. Everyone first gathered in the Village Hall where there were display stands about the project and light refreshments provided by some of the Mossdale residents. Chris Rolfe from the RSPB and Sarah Boyzack from the Scottish Parliament both gave short talks and then everyone went to the statue site for the unveiling ceremony performed by Sarah.

(The photograph shows Chris Rolfe and Sarah Boyzack with Kevin Duffy (Red Kite Project Officer) looking at the information board)

Jill Haslam



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GCAT - BRINGING GREAT ENTERTAINMENT TO THE GLENKENS DECEMBER - JANUARY PROGRAMME



THE URBAN TURBAN CLUB

When - Monthly 1st Saturday in month, 2.15 - 5.00pm
Where - Kells Primary School, New Galloway
What - A new club for primary school aged children. Explore African stories with *Strippy Dog*, from the land of the King whose name was forgotten. Anansi the spider-man and Karakosh the thief-catcher. Get noisy and jump about. Learn to play big traditional drums and to dance like a Bambara hunter. Part of the ARIS4US Programme.
Tickets - £3.00 per session



THE DALGARNO SINGERS

When - Thursday 18th December, 8.00 pm
Where - New Galloway Town Hall
What - Christmas Carol Concert
Come along and enjoy a concert of popular Christmas music, community carols, with mince pies and mulled wine.
Tickets - £8.00

Best wishes to all for 2004!

If you would like to volunteer to become involved with GCAT either helping to plan events or co-ordinate items for the Gazette, then please do get in touch. You'd be really welcome to join the GCAT Team.

**DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY / MARCH
ISSUE 20:**

Friday 16th January 2004

e-mail: editor@glenkensgazette.com

**Thank you to all who have
supported and contributed
to the Glenkens Gazette**

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

BOX OFFICE: GCAT Shop, Monday-Friday, 9.30-4.00 or, if available, on the door.

TICKETS BY POST: Send full payment by cheque made out to GCAT with s.a.o. and contact telephone number to GCAT, The Old School, New Galloway, DG7 3RN.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Tel. 01644 420374. (Answerphone outside office hours)



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Greystones Bar & Restaurant Carsphairn

Since taking over the Greystones Bar and Restaurant in Carsphairn the owners have made many changes. These include a completely revamped dining room and large function room in full use at the Greystones. The public bar has been modernised and the snug now boasts an open fire for the coming winter months.

The Greystones is enjoying a renaissance in its food trade. The present owner/chef Trevor Kelso intends to take the Greystones back to its roots and reclaim the trade built up by the founder of the Greystones, the late Kirby Jones.

The Greystones is now offering fresh locally sourced Beef, Chicken, Fish, Pork, Duck, Venison and vegetables in an exciting menu. The owners are now preparing to add Ostrich to their menu.

Trevor is looking forward to the winter months and the onset of Christmas. This Christmas the Greystones will be offering a full programme of facilities. The function room and dining rooms will be open for Christmas Parties and Christmas Day Lunches. However Trevor would point out that only one sitting will be offered on Christmas Day and a lot of bookings have been taken so far.

Entertainment will be offered to Parties in the run up to Christmas. Anyone interested in having a Christmas Party/Function should contact the owners and receive a Christmas Party Menu or ask for the Christmas Day Menu.

The Greystones is not forgetting it's local trade and will be offering a winter of entertainment ranging from Stars in their Eyes Nights, Pub Quizzes, Country and Western Nights and Karaoke's.

CONTACT THE GREYSTONES FOR ENQUIRIES

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