

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

FREE IN : BALMACLELLAN ~ CARSPHAIRN ~ MOSSDALE ~ NEW GALLOWAY ~ ST. JOHN'S TOWN OF DALRY

February/March 2005

ISSUE 26

www.glenkensgazette.com

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face, Great Chieftain o' the Puddin-race !

CARSPHAIRN BURNS SUPPER

On Thursday 20th January, both local residents and visitors paid their annual homage to Robert Burns, by way of celebrating the bard at the 36th Annual Burns Supper to be held at Lagwyne Hall Carsphairn. The Committee of the Hall had put together an excellent array of speakers and musicians, several of whom this year were from the Stranraer area.

After the haggis was piped in by Andrew McCartney, Mr Harry Monteith gave the Address to The Haggis, followed by our own Arnold Sharp with the Selkirk Grace. The gentlemen of the committee, then deftly served the excellent meal of haggis, neeps and tatties, to almost a hundred guests, while the ladies of the committee kept the service brisk.

Chairman, Anna Campbell, introduced Mr Val Plant to propose the toast to The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. Mr Plant's oration was as educational as entertaining and provided the audience with an insight in to the bard's life and work. The toast was proposed with the enthusiasm and knowledge that only a true scholar of Burns can exhibit. Mrs Frances Wright entertained us with two of Burns' songs, sung beautifully and unaccompanied, followed by an enthralling rendition of 'Tam o'Shanter' recited by Harry Monteith. The audience was suitably appreciating of both.

Following the Interval it was back to local talent with Tommy Edgar proposing the 'Toast to The Lassies'. His speech took us through many stages of both Burns life, and Tommy's, and the impression 'the lassies' had made. The audience enjoyed his poems and banter immensely. For 'the lassies', Shelagh Neil gave an apt and witty reply, dramatically presented in poem and song, both she and Tommy ably providing the audience with a light hearted conclusion to the evening.

Community singing, led by Tommy, rounded off the entertainment and David Gibbon thanked all who had taken part and attended. Robert Burns' song, Auld Lang Syne, sung by all, brought proceedings to a close. JG

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Above: from left to right Ewan Shaw (Piper) Robert McTurk (address the Haggis and the toast to the Lassies) Anne Prentice (Reply to the lassies) Brian Edgar (Chairman) Alex Fergusson (The Immortal Memory) Emma Thomson and Aaron Edgar (Singers)

PARTON BURNS SUPPER

We've missed the bus tae hae a richt guid blawoot, because Friday nicht should hae been the comin' o' age o' the Parton Ha' Committee's annual celebration o' the Bard's existence. Hooever, that dinna hinner aboot seventy fowk getting' set doon tae enjoy a nicht o' sang, spell, broth, haggis, neeps an' tatties, alicakes an' Kebbuck, washed doon wi' tea or coffee afore gaun' on tae the stronger stuff. Due tae unforeseen circumstances, Brian Edgar frae the Royal Burgh wis hied bummer an a richt couthy job he made o' it. Maister Euan Shaw piped in the haggis, borne alaft bi' Maister Ron Fletcher, an' ably addressed bi' Maister Rubbert McTurk (nearly ca'd aff somebody's heid). The main toast wis weel hauneled by Maister Alex Fergusson M.S.P. The



Euan Shaw piping in the Haggis, Ron Fletcher carrying the Haggis but hiding behind Euan !!

Lassies toast wis proposed bi' Rubbert an' replied tae bi' Mistress Anne Prentice, while entertainment wis in the hands o' Miss Emma Thomson and Maister Aaron Edgar. Watch out! They lot are a' frae the Glenkens - we'll hae tae keep an e'e on them or there could be a full take ower.

S Callander

KELLS SCHOOL BURNS SUPPER

One hundred and thirty three guests attended the Kells School 12th annual Burns Supper on Friday 21st January. As always, the event was organised and run by the pupils. P4, 5 and 6 were the hosts for the evening and the P7s, who were seated at the top table, wrote and gave the speeches. Euan Shaw, an ex-Kells pupil who is now in S5, piped in the haggis, and the guests were entertained by school choir and Molly Tulloch on her accordion.

The whole event was filmed by the BBC who was there to do a profile on the community. The programme will be broadcast on Sunday, March 13th and the final for the Songs of Praise Junior Choir of the Year will be broadcast on Sunday, March 20th.



LOCAL ARTISTS

Anne Hughes, Balmaclellan

Anne Hughes is a potter and ceramic artist who works from her studio in Balmaclellan where she produces decorative domestic stoneware in unusual and colourful designs. Originally from Northern Ireland, Anne studied Ceramics at Liverpool School of Art. She began visiting the Glenkens regularly in 1971 and eventually settled here permanently in 1984.

"I'm very lucky that I am able to do something that I enjoy so much," says Anne, who has exhibited at many prestigious galleries around the country, including Kelvingrove Museum & Art Gallery in Glasgow and the Festival Hall in London.

Anne's Pottery, which is situated on the A712 between New Galloway and Corsock, is open from Easter until September / October from 9.00am-6.00pm, or by appointment at other times. Anne welcomes commissions. You can contact her on 01644 420205.



As a regular item, the Glenkens Gazette will be featuring local arts & crafts people in each edition. If you are a local artist and are interested in appearing here, get in touch with Karen on 01644 420374



BLUE IS THE COLOUR . . . Cathy Cassidy's New Book



It's been a brilliant year for local author Cathy Cassidy (aka Cathy Gilligan, the postie's wife!). Since the launch of her first children's book, *Dizzy*, she's been busy with school visits, book festivals and workshops all around the UK.

Things aren't about to let up, either - Cathy's new book, *Indigo Blue*, is out now, and 2005 looks set to be busier still!

'Indigo Blue is about a girl called Indie who loves to daydream,' Cathy told us. 'But when one thing in Indie's life goes pear-shaped, a whole bunch of other stuff follows - and no amount of daydreams can fix it all.'

For Cathy, February kicks off with a launch dinner in London and a week touring bookshops around the UK. On 24th, she's

at the Aye Write Festival in Glasgow, and on 25th, Designs Gallery, Castle Douglas, is hosting *Indigo Blue*'s local launch.

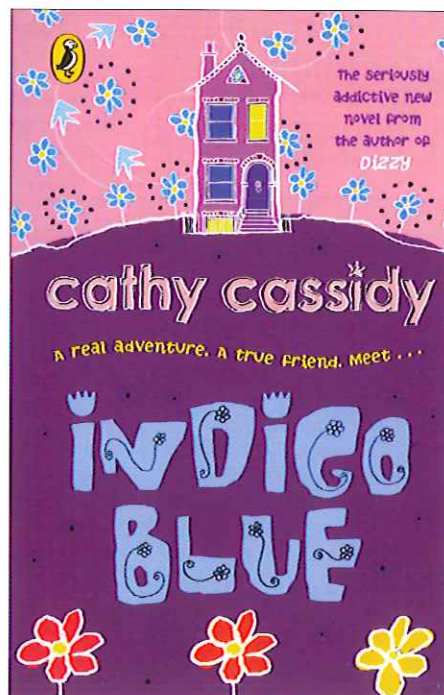
'I've just finished my third book, *Driftwood*, about four kids in an imaginary Galloway high school,' Cathy explained. 'Now I have to start my fourth. I'm not short of ideas, just time!'

Cathy began to realise *Dizzy* was doing well when she started getting letters and emails from kids around the country who'd read and loved the book. After a while, emails and letters from as far afield as USA, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Brunei and Singapore began to appear. Cathy answers every letter.

'It's amazing to think that my book has made an impact on children all around the world,' she told us. Cathy also writes the advice column for *Shout* magazine, and still teaches art two days a week in local primary schools.

'I'm very lucky,' Cathy admitted. 'I love what I do - to be a published writer is a dream come true, and teaching never fails to put a smile on my face. Best of all, I live in the Glenkens, which has to be the best place in the world - what could be better?'

Indigo Blue by Cathy Cassidy (Puffin, £4.99) is aimed at children aged 9-12. It is available in the GCAT shop and Designs Gallery, Castle Douglas, as well as all major bookshops.



BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Having had the usual Christmas break, the latest meeting of the Balmaclellan Community Council to be reported is that held at the end of November.

The Out of Hours Medical Service was again discussed, and it was agreed to issue a public notice asking for people's experience of the scheme so far. It was also proposed that, after liaison with the other community councils, a similar notice be included in the Glenkens Gazette. (See elsewhere in this issue.)

A progress report was made on the proposed Blackcraig windfarm. DP Energy said that they expected to have their proposals ready by the end of 2004, and further open days would be held at Balmaclellan and Corsock to display and explain the finalised scheme. They hoped to be able to submit an application for planning permission in about March or April. It was agreed that a survey circular would be sent out to determine the views of the community as soon as the finalised proposals were known.

A proposal for an alternative community windfarm had been brought to the attention of the chairman, but, on the basis of the available information, the meeting did not see this as being a practical proposition.

A letter had been received proposing that Balmaclellan should seek to become a Conservation Village. Having received advice from D&G Council on the advantages and constraints, inherent in this, it was decided not to proceed with the proposal.

In December, 37 senior citizens enjoyed an excellent Christmas Lunch at the Ken Bridge Hotel. For a widely dispersed community, extending beyond Corriedoo and as far as Corsock, this annual event provides a good opportunity for a social get-together.

Alan Pallister

THE ROYAL BURGH OF NEW GALLOWAY & KELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch was held in The Kenmure Arms Hotel on 12th December attended by over 40 people. The food was much enjoyed by all and excellent musical entertainment was kindly provided by Jim McPhee and Peter Birch.

The Christmas Trees had been erected again by the council workers and had added festive cheer to the street although the wet and windy weather had continually led to fused bulbs particularly at the Town Hall. It was agreed that next year we would try to obtain more decorations for the Town Hall/High Street area.

PC Wilson reported that the festive period had been quiet in the Glenkens with no major incidents reported. Previous incidents involving local youths targeting some house windows with eggs etc had now been resolved. He also suggested that, in the first instance, we submit a report to the Environment & Infrastructure Dept at the council regarding the removal of yellow lines and general parking and road safety issues in and around the Burgh, the council would then request an official police report on the relevant problems.

The Youth Shelter development has not been completed as quickly as we would have liked, however the funding is now fully in place and a sub committee has been formed to be responsible for the construction. Any help from youngsters and parents would be greatly appreciated, please look out for date of informal discussion meeting to be held soon.

All Community Councils have been asked by the Stewartry Convention of Community Councils to provide feedback, both good and bad, on the new Out of Hours medical service. Posters will be displayed inviting responses by the end of

February. Please contact any Community Councillor if you have any experiences of the new service to report.

Congratulations were accorded to Kells School on their wonderful achievement in reaching the British Final of the Songs of Praise Junior Choir competition. It was felt that we should mark the occasion by providing commemorative items e.g. shirts or bags, to each of the choir members. This would be discussed with Mrs. Plummer, Headteacher and progressed by the Chairman and Secretary as necessary.

Mr. Ewart Muir had intimated to Dumfries & Galloway Council his intention to retire as the 'Burgh Flagman' and appreciation was expressed for his many years of loyal service to the community. We are therefore on the lookout for a community minded volunteer who would be willing to take on this duty, please contact Gordon Lindsay (tel. 420367) if you are interested in helping out.

We warmly welcomed our new secretary, Mrs. Cathy Hinton, Mavis Grove, Balmaclellan, to the January meeting and thanked her for volunteering for the post which has been vacant for some time.

Brian Edgar

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Among matters discussed at the meeting on 10th January was out-of-hours medical cover. The public notice requesting information from residents had not, as yet, led to any feedback. One positive experience was reported to members at the meeting.

Members addressed a variety of concerns relating to local amenities. Discussion took place regarding the siting of the proposed Youth Shelter, the provision of timetable information at the bus shelter, the repair and maintenance of street signage and litterbins within the village and plans for clearance of the scrub area on the Motte. Council members agreed that they would propose that the village enter the next Britain in Bloom contest. A map delineating the revised area for the Planning Relaxation Scheme would be circulated to members.

The matter of the proposed windfarm at Blackcraig was raised. The Chairman had been in touch with Balmaclellan Community Council with a view to a shared initiative to establish the views of residents. It was reported that several meetings which might affect any proposed windfarm developments will be taking place in the near future. Feedback from these meetings will be given to the next Community Council meeting.

Members were interested to hear about progress on Phase 1 of the network of walks in the Glenkens area. It is hoped that the signage can be put in place and the walks be launched by the end of March 2005.

A report on Police Matters was given by PC Wilson. With regard to concerns raised on the subject of timber lorries, several posters will be displayed in local shops detailing the relevant telephone number for residents to call. New guidelines will be released shortly regarding the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. PC Wilson will be contacting local NWS Coordinators and the Scheme will be reviewed and revamped over the next few months. The question of the misuse of bothies in the area was raised. The Police are aware of the issues and would welcome assistance in identifying the bothies involved.

Members were very pleased to hear that PC Wilson will be based in the police station in the village for the majority of his duty now that improved communication and computer systems are in place.

Members were also pleased to hear that the architect of the recently completed studio/workshop in Kirkland Street had won a prestigious award.

GLENKENS HOUSING GROUP

The Glenkens Housing Group, comprised of local people who are concerned about the housing situation within the Glenkens area is fast approaching its first birthday. The group is taking the opportunity to review the full extent of its successes and continuing projects from its first year which have included an immensely successful Open Meeting, participation in the setting up and support of the Dumfries & Galloway Small Communities Housing Trust and the implementation of a study by consultants funded by Communities Scotland into the housing situation within the Glenkens area.

At the first meeting of the group, it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the local council Housing Services Department indicating that the group would like to "facilitate affordable housing as a precursor to recreating an inclusive and positive community in the Glenkens" and it has certainly covered a lot of ground towards this goal.

One of the first projects undertaken was the planning and delivery of an Open Meeting, in conjunction with the Shelter Housing Action with Rural Communities Project, which was held in Dalry on Friday the 23rd of April 2004. Chaired by Brian Smith, this event attracted over 60 residents of the area and was attended by representatives of DGHP, Loreburn Housing Association, D & G Council Housing Services and included presentations by the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust, Community Self Build Scotland and Matt Hickman, group member from Carsphairn. Several important issues were raised during the meeting and as a result an Action Plan was drawn up which has been developed on an ongoing basis.

One issue in particular which was raised was the lack of Rural Home Ownership Grants within Dumfries and Galloway and through the contact of the group with Communities Scotland, in particular Lyndy Renwick, chair of the group, a working group was set up named the Dumfries & Galloway Affordable Housing Option Group. Through

the financial assistance of Communities Scotland, a feasibility study using consultants appointed by Communities Scotland was set up and is currently on-going within the area. The results of this study should be available during the middle of March and could contribute to the allocation of more assistance towards affordable housing within the Glenkens.

Members of the group were also instrumental in the setting up of the Dumfries & Galloway Small Communities Housing Trust which is an agency for promoting housing investment and the provision of affordable housing in small villages and settlements. Several members of the Housing Group attend meetings of the Trust and also took part in the Study Trip to the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust in November 2004.

As well as all of the above, the group are working on several more projects including the following:

1 Investigation and research into cross compliance, second and holiday homes.

2 A Community Self Build Project.

3 Researching the Local Area Plans to identify areas for possible future development.

Lyndy Renwick, chairperson of the group stated "we are extremely pleased with the progress which we have made over the last 12 months and are looking forward to the continuing development of all the projects which we are currently working on. Our main aim is to realise our original aim of recreating an inclusive and positive community within the Glenkens and feel that we have begun to make inroads to our objective through all the hard work of the group".

If you would like any further information, please contact Lyndy on 01644 420242
Wendy Jesson

BELLAMY SUPPORTS GLARE IN DALRY

Galloway Landscape And Renewable Energy is pleased to announce that Professor David Bellamy, the well-known naturalist and TV personality, is to speak at GLARE'S Renewable Energy Question And Answer Coffee Morning to be held in Dalry Town Hall on Saturday February 12th 10.00-12.30.

In addition to having experts like Professor Bellamy on hand to answer questions there will be displays and information from Energy Efficiency and the Energy Agency for householders on how to access part of the recently publicised grant aid of £6.6 million to help individual householders invest in renewable energy technology for themselves. Information will include, solar tubes and panels, photovoltaic array, biomass, anaerobic digester, hydro electric and many more.

Refreshments will be available courtesy of GLARE and it is hoped that people who attend will contribute generously to the Victoria School Fund in Uganda. This is a school which has had also to become an orphanage after the parents of all the children died of Aids. The children have no light, heating or cooking facilities and Solarsense, one of the exhibitors at Dalry, are giving their time, expertise and equipment to erect a photovoltaic array on the roof of the school. All contributions will go to the project which it is hoped can be extended to other schools in the area where the need is very great.

If you would like to see photovoltaic array in action - it works off daylight rather than sunlight - then Scroggie Hall Organic Farm, the home of Alison and John Chapman, will be open to visitors to see the array and how it works for the week beginning February 12th-19th 2.00-4.00pm daily.

GLARE will be pleased to welcome you to Dalry Town Hall on February 12th. If you are unable to come but would like further information about renewable energy technologies and how they can be used, with government assistance, to heat and light your home then please contact GLARE at PO Box 7479 Castle Douglas, DG7 3WX

Glenkens Gazette Advertising Rates 2005

Advert	Format	Size	Price per issue	Discount for Block of 3 ads
Basic Small	Black & white	6cm x 6cm	£15.00	10%
Basic Small	Colour	6cm x 6cm	£30.00	10%
Quarter page	Black & white	9cm x 13.5cm	£35.00	10%
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NEW GALLOWAY - *Our Historic Burgh*

by Helen Bolton PART XXIII
Old Customs And Superstitions

If New Years Eve night wind blows south
It betokeneth warmth and growth;
If west, good milk and crops we will see;
If north, much cold and storms there will be;
If east, the trees will bear much fruit;
If north-east, flee it, both man and brute!

Before we take leave of the 19th century it may be interesting to look at some of the customs and superstitions which lingered on in Kells parish, and in other parts of Galloway. Indeed, some were still kept up until fairly recent times.

Hogmanay has always been a special time in the Scottish calendar, the celebration of the start of a new year, and in pagan times it roughly coincided with the Winter Solstice when many ceremonies were performed to ensure the return of the sun from its winter quarters, and to encourage the earth to provide good crops in the coming year.

In Kells parish great care was taken to keep the fire burning over Hogmanay – ashes were collected and put outside and the fire was covered over for the night. It was bad luck to sweep the floor or put out ashes on New Years Day, lest the luck of the house should go out with them. It was extremely bad luck on a household if the fire did expire, and no neighbour would dream of giving kindlers or peats to restart a fire on New Years Day. To do so would be bad luck for both houses.

Local farming folk believed that all tasks that were started during the old year had to be finished before midnight on Hogmanay, as they would never be completed successfully in the New Year. Bad luck would befall the farmer before the tasks were finished. All adults were in bed by 11.30pm – to be up and about at midnight was most unlucky.

Children were washed and put into clean clothes before bedtime, and each one had an oatmeal bannock baked for him or her, and marked with the child's initial. Great care was taken not to break the bannock, as this would foretell illness, or even death, for the child in question.

The old Hogmanay was held on 12th January and children from the poorer families in the hill district of Kells would go out wrapped in big white sheets with the fronts doubled over to form large pockets. They called at the houses of better-off folk to get a piece of oatcake. They would cry "Hogmanay" as they approached the house, and the door would be opened. Each child received a quarter of an oatcake. Sometimes the children would chant as they approached the door....

"Get up, Guid wife, and shake your feathers,
An' dinna think that we are beggars,
We're but wee bairns cam oot tae play,
Get up an' gie's oor Hogmanay!"

Candlemas Day (2nd February for the uninitiated!) was a day of relaxation in the schools in the Glenkens. "Cannelmas Bleeze" was a day when each child would take a candle for the dominie, this later became peats, or sometimes coal money, his fee for heating the school room. Refreshments were given to the pupils, then the desks and stools were pushed back against the walls, and games were played. The dominie organised competitions and oranges were given as prizes.

Many readers will be familiar with the old rhyme regarding the weather;

If Candlemas Day be clear and fair
The half o' winter's tae cam an mair,
If Candlemas Day be weat an' foul
The half o' winter is gane at Yule

And just for the record, if I remember rightly, the wind was in the west on New Years Eve night!

I wonder what will happen this year?

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Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

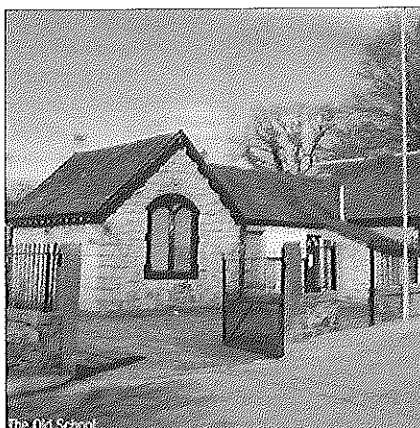
LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

BIG LOTTERY GRANT FOR GLENKENS CENTRE

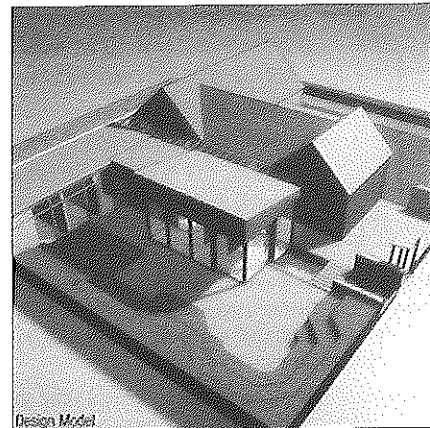
GCAT received exciting news in December when it was announced that The Community Fund (part of The Big Lottery Fund) had awarded The Glenkens Centre a grant of £95,000 towards the capital costs of developing the Old School in New Galloway.

Project Development Manager Andrew Ward said: 'This award from The Community Fund is great news that brings the project ever closer to fruition. We are now on track to start building work on site next summer and aim to open the doors by Christmas 2006.'

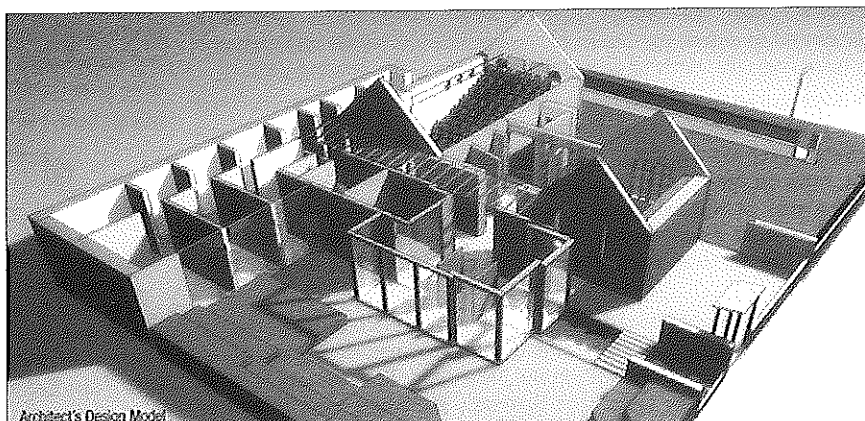
Right: Pictures of The Old School showing the Architect's Design Model projections which were produced by local computer animator Michael Dowsell using 3D modelling techniques.



The Old School



Design Model



Architect's Design Model

INVITATION TO A PRESENTATION OF ARCHITECT'S PLANS



GCAT Project Manager, Architects and Public Artists at work on the designs.

The Chairman and Directors of GCAT cordially invite you to a Presentation of Plans for the Old School on Saturday 19th March 2005 in the Town Hall, New Galloway. Coffee and biscuits will be served from 10.30 a.m. and the formal presentation will take place at 11.15 a.m. It is an opportunity for the residents of the Glenkens and those from slightly further afield to learn more about the detail of the plans for the building from the architects. Members of GCAT's Steering Group will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Please confirm your acceptance of this invitation by contacting the GCAT shop in person, by telephone on 01644 420374 or by email: info@glenkens-arts.com

Easter Monday Puppet Show

The Amazing Adventures of Sindbad

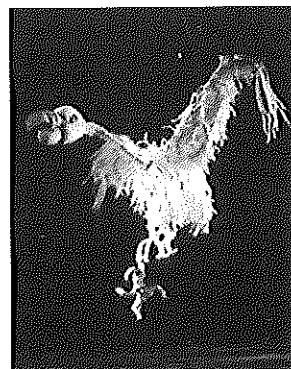


GCAT is bringing the Devon-based puppet company PuppetCraft to The Glenkens in March for the now annual Easter Monday puppet show. Their production, The Amazing Adventures of Sindbad is based on The Thousand and One Nights, one of the world's most enduring and popular collections of stories. It features music of the East, with light and shadow, exquisitely carved string puppets and a world of giant birds, hidden treasure, genies and magic carpets.

This year's show is part of the Scotland-wide Puppet Animation Festival. It is suitable for children (and adults) of four years upwards and will take place at Balmacellan Village Hall on Monday 28th March at 2.00pm. Tickets, which cost £3, are available on the door but to guarantee your seat you can purchase them in advance at the GCAT Shop in the High Street in New Galloway or by phone on 01644 420374

THE PUPPET ANIMATION FESTIVAL

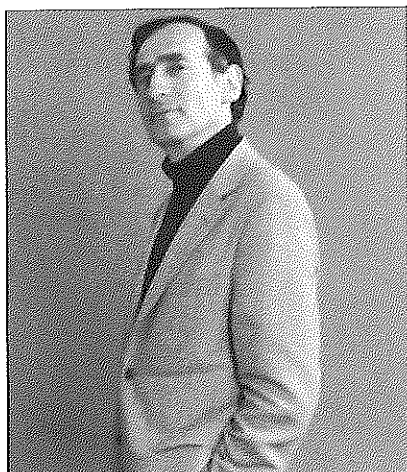
For the first time the annual Easter Monday puppet show will be part of the Puppet Animation Festival. This is a Scotland-wide festival which lasts for over a month and which presents more than 250 performances, workshops and films throughout Scotland, provided by leading puppet companies from the UK, Europe and the rest of the world. If you would like a full programme of events (many of which are in other venues around Dumfries and Galloway and Ayrshire) please call GCAT on 01644 420374 or you can pick one up in the GCAT Shop, in the High Street, New Galloway. You can also view the programme online at www.puppetanimation.org.



Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

ARNOLD BROWN Balmaclellan Village Hall



Anyone who knows comedy knows Arnold Brown; he is the grand-daddy of alternative comedy and one of the last of the masters still appearing live. One of the finest gag writers in Britain, Arnold's unhurried delivery and laconic style masks a lightning-fast wit that's as sharp as it is sure.

Having long since mastered the art of comedy club performance, Arnold has played on some of the biggest stages in the world today, including London's massive Dominion Theatre, major international comedy festivals – from Edinburgh to Montreal – and even supporting Frank Sinatra at Ibrox Stadium. In addition he has a wealth of broadcast experience, including his own TV special, "The Brown Man," (BBC2) and radio series "Arnold Brown and Company" (Radio 4). He guested on "Life according to Fred" (BBC1 Scotland), and featured in major films including "Personal Services" and "Comfort and Joy" and more recently "Young Adam". Don't miss this unique opportunity to see him live!

Arnold will be appearing at Balmaclellan Village Hall on Friday 1st April at 8.00pm. Tickets, which cost £8 (concessions £7), are available in person from the GCAT Shop in the High Street, New Galloway, or by phone on 01644 420374

Cathy Cassidy Writer's Workshop

To coincide with the launch of her new children's novel, Indigo Blue, local author Cathy Cassidy will be running a "writing for young readers" workshop, aimed at motivating, inspiring and getting started in writing.

It will take place on Saturday 5th March at Dairy Community Centre from 10.30am until 12.00 noon. The workshop is open to all adults as well as secondary school pupils with an interest in creative writing. No previous experience is necessary. To book your place, which costs £2 (free for unwaged) contact GCAT on 01644 420374.

GTI Bus News

A team of hard-working enthusiasts are working on proposals to tackle the challenge involved in rural transport locally, following the research carried out last Autumn with D & G Accessible Transport Forum.

At a meeting held on 20th January, plans for improving local bus services, developing new transport options, transport for target groups, and developing the community bus, were shared.

What follows next is a local Transport Action Plan for the Glenkens. Watch this space!

The community bus is available to everyone. Contact the GCAT Shop on 420374, if you have a group that needs transport help, or a plans for a day-trip. Maybe we can help you.

Meantime, if you are a film enthusiast, keep a lookout for information about cinema trips in your local post-office or GCAT window. And register your interest for personal mailings re Glenkens Cinema Club with June Hay, 430318.

Glenkens Business Group

A meeting of the Glenkens Business Group took place on Monday 17th January at the Ken Bridge Hotel. The group is keen to pursue the idea of developing The Glenkens as a brand name and will begin working on a marketing exercise to see how to best achieve this.

The group is increasing in size with nearly 40 members. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Andrew Wolfe on 01556 505124.

GTI MINIBUS TRIP TO LOCHSIDE THEATRE

Essential Scottish Opera

GCAT is running a mini-bus trip to The Lochside Theatre in Castle Douglas on Tuesday 8th February to Essential Scottish Opera's Concert Tour of Operatic Highlights. The production, by four of Scottish Opera's top performers, will feature a fast-moving medley of arias, duets and ensembles accompanied by piano. Essential Scottish Opera promise that this will be a hugely entertaining way to experience live opera in a relaxed and informal setting.

Tickets for the performance are £10 (£8 concession) and for the bus, £2 return. Tickets for the performance and bus are available from GCAT on 01644 420374 (or you can call into the GCAT Shop in the High Street in New Galloway). The performance starts at 7.30pm. Glenkens departure times and places will be confirmed once the bus bookings have been taken and we have a better idea of where pick ups are required.

GCAT News by e-mail

Would you like to receive regular updates and information on GCAT events by e-mail? To join our growing e-mailing list contact Karen on 01644 420374 or send an e-mail to karend@glenkensbb2.co.uk asking to join.

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

EVENING BUS SERVICE FROM THE GLENKENS TO DUMFRIES

The Community Bus now runs a regular evening service to Dumfries on the second Monday of every month. The times allow you to visit at the hospital or leave just over an hour for other possible activities e.g. swimming, ice skating, golf range, meet friends etc. It can be arranged with the driver to drop off/pick up at other points in Dumfries, however a small extra fare would be payable if this involved going off the designated route.

PLEASE NOTE –

To be sure of your seat it is advisable to pre-book by contacting the GCAT Shop (420374) – THIS CAN BE DONE RIGHT UP TO 5pm ON THE DAY OF TRAVEL. Otherwise you can board the bus at the advertised stops provided there are unreserved seats available.

This service will continue to operate on the second Monday of every month excluding Public Holidays. Adults £4 return, children £2 return NO OTHER CONCESSIONS.

Stop/Location	Outward	Return
CARSON'S KNOWE, N.G.	17.45	21.25
ST. JOHNS SEAT, DALRY	18.00	21.10
P. OFFICE, BALMACLELLAN	18.09	21.01
D & G ROYAL INFIRMARY	19.00	20.10

200 CLUB WINNERS

DECEMBER

1st 73 Isobel Ellis
2nd 157 Tom Marr
3rd 32 June Newby

JANUARY

1st 152 Sheila Turner
2nd 165 Elizabeth Nicholl
3rd 156 Gavin Marr

FEBRUARY

1st 44 Kate Maxwell
2nd 106 Ian MacDonald
3rd 131 Tom Plummer

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

GOOD LUCK KELLS SCHOOL CHOIR !

Kells School Choir will be competing in the final of the Songs of Praise Junior Choir of the Year Competition at The Symphony Hall in Birmingham on 26th February. The Glenkens Gazette would like to take this opportunity to wish them the best of luck!

Shouting for Scouting

The GCAT Shop window for January featured a display by the Glenkens Scouts, who offer a range of activities in the area for children and young people from 6-18 years old.

The Beavers, for 6-8 year olds, take place on Tuesdays from 6.30pm-7.45pm. The Cub Scouts, for 8-10½ year olds are on Wednesdays from 6.45pm to 8.00pm and the Scouts, for 10½-14 year olds are on Mondays from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all take place at the New Galloway Scout Hut. The Explorers, for 14-18 year olds take place at a variety of locations throughout the Glenkens and offers a huge range of exciting and interesting activities. If you would like more information on Scouting or you are an adult who is interested in helping the Scouts create more opportunities for young people in the area, you can visit the website at www.scouts-scotland.org.uk or contact Hannah on 01644 440212.

RUSSELL BROWN 'IMPRESSED' BY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AT DALRY PRIMARY



Russell Brown, Labour MP for Dumfries Constituency, has praised Dalry Primary for environmental based projects their pupils are involved in. The MP recently visited the primary school to witness first hand the innovative projects the pupils are piloting which include collecting environmental data for NASA, a recycling school and a household waste project.

Commenting on his recent visit Russell Brown said:

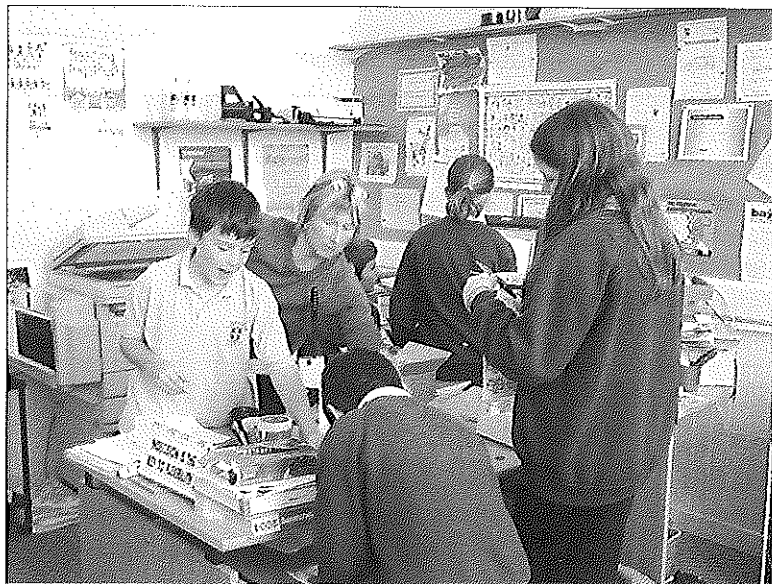
"All the projects the school is undertaking are fantastic. They are making a real effort to recycle as much of the school's daily waste as possible, be it materials which can go on the compost or cardboard & paper which can be recycled. This has now expanded into the pupils' homes with the kids bringing in cardboard & paper to be recycled in the same way as the waste from the school. They are also measuring data on Dumfries & Galloway's weather and sending the information to NASA scientists to study the effects of global warming"

"But what really impressed me was the enthusiasm of all the pupils involved. The atmosphere in the class which the teachers at the school have fostered is great, and is bringing out the best in the pupils.

"Most importantly the kids are being taught from an early age the importance of recycling and energy conservation, which are invaluable lessons as we are looking to meet national targets on emissions and energy conservation. Although the UK is on track to go significantly beyond its Kyoto target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012 it is important that on a local level each person takes responsibility to help Britain reach our targets."

ENTERPRISING WEATHERWATCHERS AT DALRY

Lorna Purdie (Science Development officer for Dumfries and Galloway) saw the badges that the Dalry Weatherwatchers had made for their visit to the Glasgow Science Centre when they represented Dumfries and Galloway at a teachers' conference, and asked where they had got them. When she heard that we had made them ourselves she asked if we could make enough for all the schools taking part in Weatherwatchers. We created an enterprise company, while Mrs Purdie created a competition for the schools to earn a badge. The photo shows Roy, Rosalind, Zoe and Alastair (assisted by Liz Brinkmann) our Badgers making the badges. We earned £140. "I really enjoyed it" said Roy "It was better than work!"



Balmaclellan Community Council

Public Notice : Out of Hours Medical Service

The new out of hours medical service has now started throughout Scotland, and anyone who becomes ill after 6.30 in the evening, and at weekends will have to use this service.

The Community Council wishes to monitor the service as it affects us locally, and will greatly appreciate the help of you - the users - who can provide information from their experience of using the service.

It will be of great help to the Community Council in this appraisal if residents will contact any of their Community Councillors listed below, with their experience of the revised service - GOOD or BAD between now and the end of February. Callers can be sure that the confidentiality of identities will be completely respected.

Margaret Cannan	5 Holmside	420728
Sandra Dempster	7 Holmside	420222
Jane Douglas	The Hill	420686
Joyce Harvey	Lochside Cottage	420763
Fiona Mackinnon	Burnbank	420658
Alan Pallister	The Old Smithy	420423
Godfrey Smith	Clog & Shoe Workshop	420465

REGULAR USER GROUPS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE DALRY

Monday 1.30 - 4.30pm Paint and Art
Bill Hines - 01644 430224

Monday - Friday 9.15 - 11.45am Glenkens Playgroup
Julie Moore - 01644 460687

Wednesday 1.30 - 3.00pm Glenkens Mother & Toddlers Sarah-Jane Mackenzie 01644 430429

Tuesday 2.00pm - Good Neighbours Club
Mabel Young - 01644 430472

Thursday 2.00 - 4.00pm Craft Class
Jean Maltman - 01644 430497

Drama Club

Harvey Hamilton 01644 430398

For further details on booking the Community Centre or any other information needed please contact Bill Hines 01644 430224

(Very reasonable rates for private hire)

Fire Cadet Group formed for Glenkens Area

Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade have formed a fire cadet group at New Galloway Fire Station, providing membership to young people throughout the Glenkens Area.

The group is fully subscribed with 15 youngsters from various parts of the Glenkens. Age is restricted between 12-17 years old. The group first started in September 2004 and meet on a Wednesday evening.

The introduction of a Fire Cadet Scheme is intended:

- 1 To establish a uniformed youth organisation associated with, and aspiring to the inherent qualities of the British Fire Services in general and Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade in particular.
- 2 To assist youths to develop themselves mentally, physically and socially.
- 3 To promote self discipline, self consciousness and awareness of their responsibilities to their community.
- 4 To develop a spirit of adventure and qualities of leadership.
- 5 To encourage team working and self confidence in their own abilities.
- 6 To enhance their practical abilities and knowledge, to enable them to play a full and constructive part in society.
- 7 To encourage attitudes and actions to assist those in most in need of help within society.
- 8 To improve knowledge and practice in relation to Fire Safety and their personal well-being.
- 9 To participate in charitable fundraising activities for the benefit of others.
- 10 To provide an opportunity for members to obtain meaningful qualifications, eg Duke of Edinburgh Schemes, First Aid Certificates etc.

The cadets are currently practicing hose and hydrant drills similar to the activities carried out by the New Galloway firefighters.

On Saturday 22nd January 2005, the cadets took part in a fundraising Car Wash to raise money to support Kells Primary School to achieve their target funds for their participation in the Songs of Praise finals. The sum of £211.50 was raised and presented to the Headteacher, Mrs Plummer.



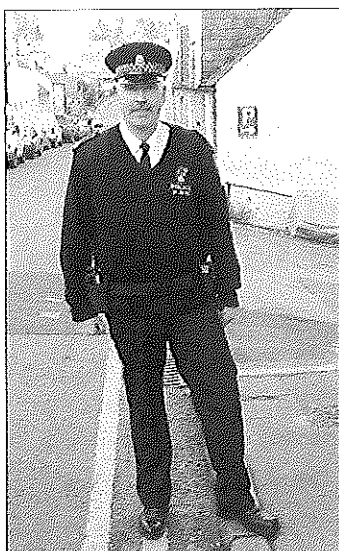
Community Fire Safety Message

DO YOU HAVE A WORKING SMOKE ALARM IN YOUR HOUSE?

Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade recommend that 10 year approved battery type smoke alarms, are the minimum standard you should provide for your home, with at least one alarm per floor.

If you are 60 or over, or disabled, you can request a free Home Fire Safety Check by calling 01387 252222. The Firefighters from New Galloway Fire Station will survey your home and give you safety advice.

The Brigade also has many safety leaflets and people who burn coal and logs should ensure their chimneys are regularly swept, at least twice per year. If you would like a leaflet sent out to you please contact us on the above number.



ON THE BEAT : Community Police News with PC Ian Wilson

WINTER SAFETY & SECURITY

With the festivities now passed the dark nights still linger and I would ask you all to consider your own safety and security!

When going out for a walk at night wear something bright. This applies to adults as well as children! Carry a torch, for example, as this will give the driver of the car coming towards you a few more seconds to slow down to avoid you!

Drivers check ALL your vehicle lights AND use your dipped headlights in bad weather.

Check those tyres as well. It's all too easy to let the tread fade away and at this time of year you often need all the grip you can muster from your tyres!

Many of you will have received new bikes and other electrical equipment for Christmas. SECURITY MARK THEM with a UV pen!

At home leave a light on outside to deter persons from targeting your property! When going out, even during the day, leave a radio and a light on inside. It will deter opportunist thieves! Honestly!

Telephone and Internet Scams are all the rage these days. Every day we read in the papers about someone being ripped off by giving out their bank details to some complete stranger over the phone or internet so DON'T DO IT!! Just hang up!!

If you need any further advice with any of these issues just give me a call and I will try and help.

All the best for 2005!

P.C. Ian Wilson

GLENKENS BROADBAND

Glenkens Broadband Ltd has been set up as a private business specifically to install and administer rural (community) networks in SW Scotland as a WISP (Wireless Internet Service Provider) using satellite systems.

Broadband offers significant benefits to businesses through cost-effective, fast and immediate access to Internet resources. One of the great benefits of broadband is the permanent always-on Internet connection it provides.

We are currently installing equipment at business and domestic premises around Dalry, Forrest Glen and Upper Glenkens, Balmaclellan, New Galloway, Parton, Laurieston and Moniaive.

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**TO SIGN UP FOR THE SERVICE OR
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TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays

Balmaclellan	12.00 noon	1 st
Carsphairn	10.30 am	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th
Dalry	12.00 noon	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th
Kells	10.30 am	2 nd 3 rd 4 th

Special Services

4th Mar, 7 pm, Balmaclellan Church
World Day of Prayer Service

25th Mar, 7.30 pm, Balmaclellan Church
Good Friday Service with Glenkens Church Choir

27th Mar, 7 am Dawn Service outside Dalry Church
Friday 18th Feb, 7 pm.

Dalry Church Beetle Drive in Dalry Town Hall

Kells Church is up Kirk Road above New Galloway

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E)
St. Margaret's, New Galloway
10.30am Holy Communion
Every Sunday and Wednesday

Easter Services

Palm Sunday 20th March 10.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 23rd 10.30am Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday 24th 6pm Holy Communion
Good Friday 25th 12 noon-1pm Devotion Service
Easter Day 27th 10.30am Holy Communion

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES
Please phone 01556 610358

J & M SLOAN

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Glenkens Playgroup

in partnership with



*Dumfries
& Galloway*
COUNCIL

Education Department

managed by a local committee of Mums
For more information please contact
Mrs Julie Moore 01644 460687



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BAFTA NOMINATION FOR AMY NEIL

"Can't Stop Breathing," Amy Neil's short film has been nominated for a prestigious UK BAFTA Award for "Best Short Film"! The 12 minute long film, which was shot almost entirely on the Garroch Estate and at Loch Grannoch in the Glenkens last September was both written and directed by Amy. It focuses on the relationship between a woman suffering from Alzheimer's Disease and her daughter who is her primary carer. The film also features Jane Lapotaire, one of the country's most distinguished actresses.

"Can't Stop Breathing," was supported by Scottish Screen and the South West Scotland Screen Commission. Celia Stevenson, Head of Corporate Communications at Scottish Screen, said, "We are delighted that this new, young talent has been deservedly recognised by the BAFTA audiences, and we wish Amy Neil every success. I am sure she is someone that we are going to be hearing a lot more about in the future."

There are plans for a screening soon at The Robert Burns Centre in Dumfries and hopefully a local Glenkens screening will take place at some point in the future too!

The UK BAFTA Awards Ceremony takes place at The Odeon in Leicester Square in London on February 12th. Good Luck, Amy!



Cross Keys Hotel
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 Grandstand Tickets Include 2 Course Supper £10
 Paddock Bar Tickets £2.50
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GCAT - BRINGING GREAT ENTERTAINMENT TO THE GLENKENS FEBRUARY - MARCH PROGRAMME



GLENKENS PLAY IT BY EAR

When - 2nd Monday of each month, 1.30pm
Where - Balmaclellan Village Hall
 Music, song and percussion workshops for pre-school children and their carers. Contact Alison Caldwell 01644 420272
Tickets - £2.00 (£8 per adult/child combo)

GTI MINIBUS TRIP TO ESSENTIAL SCOTTISH OPERA

Tuesday 8 February, Performance starts at 7.30pm
 Lochside Theatre, Castle Douglas
 Essential Scottish Opera's Concert Tour of Operatic Highlights promises to be a hugely entertaining way to experience live opera in a relaxed and informal setting.
Tickets £10 (£8) for performance, £2 for bus

CATHY CASSIDY WRITING FOR YOUNG READERS WORKSHOP

Saturday 5 March, 10.30am - 12.00noon
 Dalry Community Centre
 A workshop, aimed at motivating, inspiring and getting started in writing.
Tickets £2 (free for unwaged)

THE GLENKENS CENTRE PRESENTATION

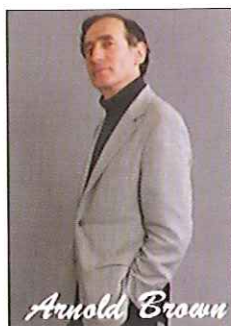
Saturday 19 March, 10.00am - 2.00pm
 (Architect's presentation at 11am)
 New Galloway Town Hall

PUPPETCRAFT THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF SINDBAD

Monday 28 March, 2.00pm
 Balmaclellan Village Hall
 Easter Monday puppet show featuring music, with light and shadow, exquisitely carved string puppets and a world of giant birds, hidden treasure, genies and magic carpets.
Ages 4+ £3

ARNOLD BROWN, LIFE TIPS

Friday 1 April, 8.00pm
 Balmaclellan Village Hall
 Whatever you do, don't miss this very special evening of entertainment with the grand-daddy of alternative comedy.
£8 (£7)



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GAZETTE

Any contributions to the Gazette are always welcome by anyone and everyone, and all articles, cartoons or photos are considered for publication. We are very keen to receive contributions from a wider area. Please remember that we try very hard to remain politically impartial. Although we encourage you to express your views on subjects of interest to the local community, sometimes an editorial decision is taken not to print an article because it might jeopardize that impartiality.

If you are submitting an article the preferred format is by e-mail to Jonnie Dowswell at [ensys@glenkensbb.co.uk]. He prefers to receive your article as an attachment in text or rich text format (.txt or .rtf files). If you can't email it the next preferred method is on disc which you can post or drop in to the GCAT Shop. Again ideally it should be .txt or .rtf. If you want to submit a printed document then this is OK. Please keep fonts plain so that your text can be recognized by the scanner software. (Ideal fonts are Arial, Times, New Roman, Courier. No bold or italic please).

For those of you who have no idea of what we are talking about, we are still very happy to receive hand written articles which we will happily type up for you.

Karen Donald is our chief co-ordinator so if you have a good story but aren't able to write it yourself please get in touch with her. She will be very happy to carry out interviews and undertake research to get your story written. Telephone 01644 420374.

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Lunch with Jim McPhee: music from the 20s, 30s and 40s
 Cross Keys Hotel, New Galloway, £7 for two courses
 Sunday 6th February, 12.30pm-3.00pm, £7
 Call 01644 420494

Not Guilty

Dalry Town Hall
 Saturday 12th February, 8.00pm-1.00am
 £4.00 (tickets available from local firemen or call 01644 420377)

MARCH

Charity Race Night

Cross Keys Hotel, New Galloway
 Friday 4th March
 £2.50 (£10 including supper)
 Proceeds to National Fire Service Benevolent Fund

Glenkens and District Music Group

Kandinsky Trio (piano, violin, cello)
 Dalry Town Hall
 Saturday 5th March, 8.00pm
 Call Isobel Jackson on 01644 430352

Kells School Choir Concert

New Galloway Town Hall
 Wednesday 30th March

REGULAR EVENTS

Aerobic Classes

Dalry Community Centre, Every Wednesday, 7.30-8.30pm, £2.50
 Contact Sam Hood on 01644 420631

Mother & Toddlers

New Galloway Town Hall Tuesday 9.30 - 11.00 am £1.00 per session

Scouts

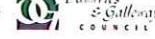
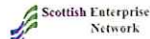
Mondays, 7.00pm - 8.30pm New Galloway Scout Hut

Beavers

Tuesdays, 6.30pm - 7.45pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Cub Scouts

Wednesdays, 6.45pm - 8.00pm, New Galloway Scout Hut



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

BOX OFFICE: GCAT Shop, Monday-Friday, 9.30am-4.00pm or, if available, on the door.
TICKETS BY POST: Send full payment by cheque made out to GCAT with s.a.e. and contact telephone number to : GCAT, The Old School, New Galloway, DG7 3RN.
FURTHER INFORMATION: Tel. 01644 420374. (Answerphone outside office hours)

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 APRIL / MAY ISSUE 27:

FRIDAY 11th March 2005

e-mail : editor@glenkensgazette.com