

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

August/September 2005

ISSUE 29

www.glenkengazette.com

RED ALERT !

There have been sightings of grey squirrels in the Glenkens recently – one was found dead on the road just outside New Galloway and another was seen at Cuckoo Bridge between Carsphairn and Dalry. The arrival of the grey squirrel has implications for the future survival of native red squirrels in the area.

The Red Squirrels In South Scotland project, funded by Scottish Natural Heritage and Leader+ is working to protect red squirrel populations across Dumfries and Galloway. The good news is that this has been an excellent year for red squirrels due to the high levels of natural food available. However, the downside to the good breeding season for red squirrels is of course that it will also be good for grey squirrels. The American grey squirrel competes with red squirrels for resources and carries squirrelpox, a virus potentially lethal to the red squirrel.

Until now, Scotland, a red squirrel stronghold, has remained free from squirrelpox but last month several grey squirrels moving north from the Cumbria area into southern Scotland tested positive for the virus. Whilst these squirrels may not be infectious at present, it is thought that seropositive grey squirrels can co-occur with red squirrels for roughly 3 years before the occurrence of an outbreak in red squirrels. Research has shown that replacement of the native red squirrel by the introduced American grey is 17-20 times faster where grey squirrels have antibodies to the squirrelpox. Pox in red squirrels causes skin ulcers, lesions and scabs with swelling and discharge around the eyes, mouth, feet and genitalia. The squirrels become increasingly lethargic as the virus progresses further resulting in death generally within 15 days.



PHOTO: NEIL PATTINSON

Red Squirrel Conservation Officers have been working over the last few years to identify Priority Woodlands where red squirrels will have the most likely chance of long term survival. There are several Priority Woodlands in our area, including Castlemaddy and parts of Garscrag and Galloway. We are concerned that grey squirrels may be moving down from Ayrshire, and that there is a possibility that they could meet grey squirrels carrying the virus. Although there have been very few grey squirrels recorded in our area, we are very keen to hear from anyone who sees a grey squirrel. We would also like to hear from anyone who is interested in being involved in surveying for red squirrels, or would like more information about red squirrel conservation. (Red Squirrel Priority Woodland Map on Page 11).

NEW MULTI USE GAMES AREA FACILITY AT DALRY



Dumfries and Galloway Council's Leisure and Sport team are pleased to announce the opening of their new multi-use games area in Glenkens. The facility will open to the public from Tuesday 23rd of August. The official launch for the games area will be the 29th of August.

The facility was funded by Dumfries and Galloway Council and supported by funding from the NOPES Facilities Programme of the Big Lottery Fund.

The facility is situated next to Dalry High school and consists of two floodlit tennis courts. The pitch itself is a sand filled synthetic surface making the facility truly all-weather.

The area can be used for many different sporting activities such as: tennis, hockey, football and various other multi sports. The Multi Use Games Area will be a great resource to the school during term time. There will be an extensive after schools programme operated at the site as well as coaching clinics and activities.

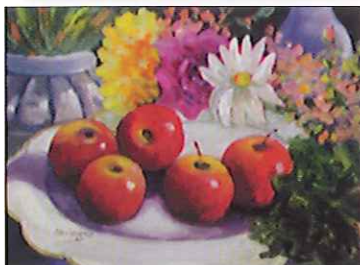
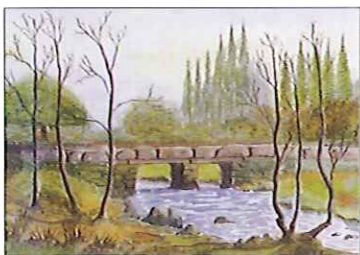
Community Leisure and Sport Officer (Stewartry) John Allison said "This is a fantastic opportunity for Dalry and the surrounding communities to make use of a state of the art all weather facility. I believe that this site will be well supported and the Leisure & Sport team look forward to developing activities here."

The courts will be open to the general public from 6pm-10pm each weekday and 10am-4pm on a weekend. General public bookings for the facility will be taken at Newtons, the local shop in Dalry. For any further information or provisional booking you can contact the Leisure & Sport Office on 01556 503806.

If you see a Grey Squirrel please contact Sue Hearn, the Red Squirrel Officer for Dumfries and Galloway:
Tel- 01750 725157/ 07733 121837
E-mail- sue@red-squirrels.org.uk
Website- www.red-squirrels.org.uk

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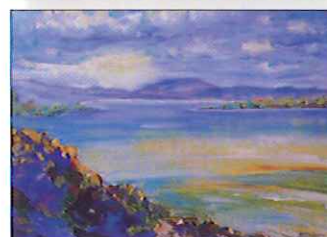
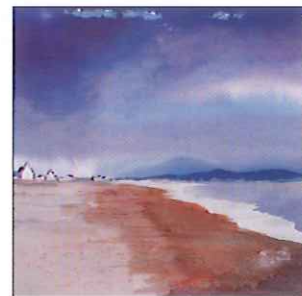
GLENKENS ART EXHIBITION 2005

The annual Art Exhibition took place in Dalry Town Hall from Thursday 21 until Sunday 24 July and was a tremendous success with over 34 local artists exhibiting and more than 100 paintings on display. This was a significant increase on the previous year. Over 500 visitors came to view the exhibition and 24 of the artworks were sold.

The quality of work was, as usual, exceptionally high with a wide variety of styles and media, including watercolours, oil paintings, and a range of pastel, charcoal and pencil drawings.

Galloway landscapes and wildlife were by far the most popular subjects although still-lives and portraits were also well represented.

Entries for the Glenkens Schools' Art competition were also on display at the exhibition. They, too, were of an extremely high standard.



Schools' Art Competition

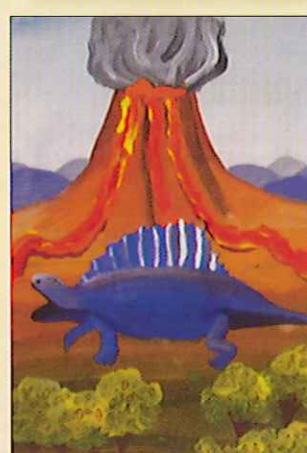
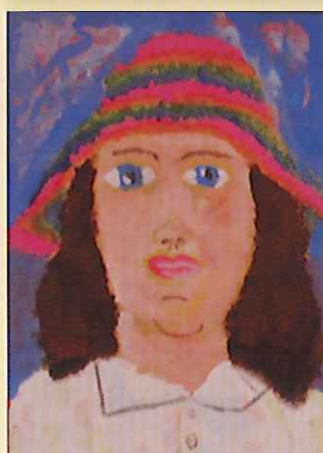
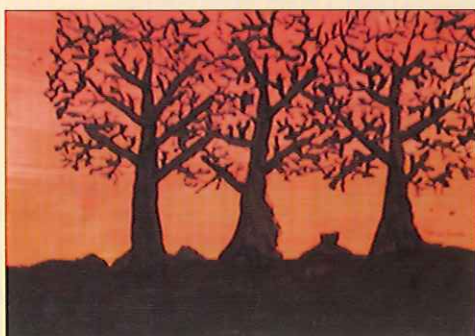
The exhibits were judged on 24 June by Roy Hooker, the well known local artist. The entries were of a high standard and the judge had a difficult time making his final selection. The awards were made as follows:

1ST PRIZE

Senior Section, Vondi Smith
Junior Section, Kirstin Clendinning
Under 8 yrs, Amelia Trueman
Highly Commended
Junior Section, Fern Brett
Under 8 yrs, Josie Oliver

COMMENDED

Senior Section, Kezia Hill and Gary Thomson
Junior Section, Elizabeth Bosworth, Skye Poole,
Henry Sainsbury, Kelly Wilson
Under 8 yrs, James Bosworth, Daisy Hickman,



BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The major theme of the July meeting of Balmaclellan Community Council was the proposal, by the Local Government Boundary Committee, to create a new local authority ward for the Glenkens, comprising an area which stretches from Newton Stewart to Moniaive. This was despite calls from Dumfries and Galloway Council to include the Glenkens with the more sensible option of Castle Douglas. Objections to this proposal can be made by any members of the electoral role, before the 22 September. Objections should be made in writing and should include a name and postcode. Send, fax or email any communication to: Local Government Boundary Committee, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, EH3 7QJ, fax: 0131-538 7511, email: Dumfries.galloway@lgb-scotland.gov.uk

THE ROYAL BURGH OF NEW GALLOWAY & KELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Town Hall

The Councillors were pleased to note that the Town Hall clock is once again keeping the correct time, after a new mechanism was installed. Decorating work inside the hall has also begun although it was felt that repairs to the exterior should have been carried out first. However it has been confirmed that the damp problem will be remedied before the exterior is painted.

Boundary Commission Proposals

Lengthy discussions have been ongoing, regarding the proposed new council wards. Under the proposals the Glenkens would become part of the largest ward in Dumfries and Galloway, stretching from Kirkcovan in the west to Kirkland, beyond Moniaive in the east. Three councillors would have responsibility for this ward. It was felt that the Glenkens has more affiliation with the Castle Douglas area and should have been better included in a Stewartry ward. Brian Collins is co-ordinating a meeting between community councillors from the areas concerned to discuss the issues further.

Loch Ken

The Community Council is once again represented on the Loch Ken management committee and a sub-committee has been set up to explore the parking issues on the west bank.

The August meeting will be held on the 8th in New Galloway Town Hall. The September meeting will be held in Mossdale Hall on 12 September.

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The June meeting of Dalry Community Council was attended by several guests and members of the public as well as the majority of Community Council members.

Mrs Cathy Agnew and Mr Brian Edgar, Directors of GCAT, gave a presentation describing the development of GCAT to date, its successes and problems which have been encountered along the way. They gave members an insight into the future development plans and answered members' questions on a variety of issues.

Another presentation was given by Mr John Thouless (Scottish & Southern Energy) and Mr Simon De Pietro (DP Energy), who gave details on the proposed windfarm development at Blackcraig and addressed points raised by those attending, regarding the intended layout, access details, timescale of the project, employment possibilities, compensation arrangements etc.

It was decided that the most suitable location for Dalry's bottle banks would be the lay-by on the A713 near the Boat Knowe access. Cllr Prentice agreed to inform officials of this decision so that the bottle banks can be placed in position as soon as possible.

Members were pleased to hear that there should be no further hold up in the siting of the Youth Shelter near to the Playpark. Information on the timescale involved would be brought to the next meeting.

Scottish Power had been informed of the dangerous state of a street light/electricity pole at Midtown.

Sgt Blacklock from Castle Douglas attended the meeting instead of PC Wilson. He reported on local incidents which had occurred in the last month. There was a request for anyone interested in becoming a Special Constable in the Glenkens area to contact Sgt Blacklock at Castle Douglas, or the Recruiting Department at Dumfries.

THE ALTERNATIVE GAMES WEEKEND 2005

Friday 5th August :

Alternative Burns Supper and Ceilidh

The weekend is launched on Friday evening with the 3rd Alternative Burns Supper and Ceilidh at New Galloway Town Hall. It's alternative for a number of reasons, not least because it is in August! And there will be no hour-long speeches – just a celebration of Burns through his music, songs and poetry. Not to mention the haggis, neeps and, of course, the odd dram or two. The evening will be rounded off with dancing to the well known ceilidh band, The Other Band. The evening starts at 7.30pm and runs until 12.30am. The community minibus will be running from Carsphairn, Dalry and Balmaclellan (£2 return) – please book in advance on 01644 420374. Tickets for the event, which cost £8.50, are available from Carsphairn Post Office, Dalry Post Office, Newtons Dalry, Balmaclellan Post Office and the GCAT Shop in New Galloway.

Saturday 6th August :

Glenkens Children's Festival

See Page 6 for full details.

Sunday 7th August :

The Scottish Alternative Games



The World Famous Scottish Alternative Games are back for their 28th season, taking place in New Galloway Town Park on Sunday 7th August from 2pm onwards. The main event is, of course, the World Gird n' Cleek Championship at which local world title holder Aaron Edgar is looking forward to defending his title. Other than elephant polo, this must be the only sporting event on the world stage that has been dominated by Scotland for so long! The title has only left Scotland on one occasion, back in 1987, and we won't be letting that happen again!

Other highlights of the afternoon include Tossing the Sheaf (NOT tossing the sheep as some past visitors have mistakenly thought!), Balmaclellan Skittles and Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane. And if you are feeling especially strong you can try your hand at the Tug o' War or the Tractor Pull. You can even place your bets on the outcomes of the annual snail races (may take a while as our athletes are guaranteed free of performance enhancers).

Visitors can enter any of the events on the day (although you have to measure under 2" to participate in the snail race). Entry on the day costs £3 adults (£1 children). Profits support Macmillan Cancer Relief and various other charities. Over the past two years the event has raised £2000 for Macmillan Cancer Relief and £800 for International Water Aid.

The Glenkens Show 2005 SATURDAY 13 AUGUST

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01644 450223

AUGUST EXTRAVAGANZA DANCE

Rod Stewart tribute act David Graham of South Lodge, Parton, will be hosting an 'August Extravaganza' summer dance in Dalry Town Hall on Saturday 20 August. As well as performing a range of Rod Stewart favourites such as Maggie May, Reason to Believe and Sailing, David will be entertaining you with lots of other classics from the 50s to the 90s including songs from the Drifters and Eddie Cochrane.

The dance is from 8.30pm until midnight and is for over 18s only as there will be a bar. Tickets, which cost £4.00 will be available on the door.

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For More Information Contact:

Peter Corson, Stewartry LHP Offices, 67 Queen Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1EG

Tel. 01556 502386 or 07736086161

E-mail peter.corson@nhs.net



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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%
Quarter page	Colour	9cm x 13.5cm	£65.00	25%
Half page	Colour	13cm x 18cm	£120.00	25%
Full page	Colour	18cm x 27cm	£200.00	25%

Contact

To place an advert please contact the Glenkens Gazette on 01644 420374

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NEW GALLOWAY - *Our Historic Burgh*

by Helen Bolton PART XXVI

The Conventicle and the "Whig's Hole"

Up in the far north of Dalry parish, almost at the meeting place of the three counties of Ayrshire, Dumfriesshire and Kirkcudbrightshire, is some of the wildest country in all Galloway. Farmhouses and shepherd's cottages, some now deserted and ruinous, lie hidden among the folds in the remote hills. Sparkling burns tumble down steep sided cleughs to gather in the glens below, flowing south to become the head waters of Loch Ken. Those flowing north from the water shed become the Afton, Kello and Euchar Waters, which in turn flow into the River Nith.

Back in the 17th century, during the "Killing Times", this wild and remote part of Galloway became an area in which the covenanters would gather to hold their secret conventicles high in the hills, hopefully out of reach of their persecutors. Folk from Dalry and Carsphairn parishes would no doubt be joined by worshippers from across county boundaries.

There is, to this day, a place called "The Whig's Hole" marked on the map. It sits high on the slopes of Altry Hill, some 1400 feet above sea level, and is a natural amphitheatre well hidden behind a rocky outcrop, almost invisible from prying eyes down below. The glen of the Water of Ken is narrow at this point, with Altry Hill at 1600 feet on the east side. The steep slopes of Ewe Hill to the west and Lorg to the north, both 1900 feet, almost enclose the head of the glen, making it a very secret place indeed.

The covenanters felt the "Whig's Hole" was an ideal place in which to hold their forbidden open-air services, up to a hundred people being able to gather in the hollow. They were well hidden from below, and in fact from almost any direction, and the sound of the wind as it sighed around the hillsides, would soon disguise the sound of the people singing. Many gatherings were held in this lonely spot, until Robert Canning, the laird of "Muirdrochwood", some 3½ miles to the south west across the hills, became aware of the activities of the covenanters. To keep on the right side of the "powers that be", Canning reported his findings to the hated Grierson of Lag, who then made it his business to search the "Whig's Hole" and the surrounding hillsides whenever he was in the area. For some time he found nothing, but eventually he surprised a group of hillmen and women who had gathered together to sing psalms and to worship God.

As Grierson and his troopers climbed Altry Hill from the Water of Ken the lookouts raised the alarm, and the covenanters scattered among the hills. Two of their number, George Allan and Margaret Gracie fled to the east towards the Dumfriesshire border, but were overtaken by Grierson and Coupland, mounted on horseback, on a boggy area below Craigstewart, known as the Fans of Altry. Grierson threw the unfortunate Allan and Gracie to the ground, and when they both refused to swear the Oath of Allegiance to the King he ordered one of his troopers to shoot them. Two shots rang out among the silent hills and the other covenanters shivered in their hiding places - well aware of what had happened.

Under cover of darkness, when the troopers had returned to their garrison, the covenanters crept back to the place from where they had heard the shots. There they found the bodies of George Allan and Margaret Gracie, lying face downwards where they had fallen on the deserted hillside. Their friends carried the two bodies to the top of the nearby hill and buried them at the border between the two counties.

On the summit of the 1632 foot hill, known as Allan's Cairn, the graves were marked by a rough cairn. This was later replaced by a memorial surrounded by a railing, these being paid for from the funds raised at a sermon which was preached at the site in 1857. The Southern Upland Way now runs along the ridge of Allan's Cairn and passes close by the memorial.

* * * * *

This year on Sunday 12th June this lonely place was the appropriate setting for the Conventicle conducted by the Rev Dr David Bartholomew, the Minister of the four parishes of the Glenkens.

The day dawned wet, windy and rather cold, not a promising prospect for an open-air service. However, about sixty brave souls made their way up the narrow moorland road which follows the course of the Water of Ken as far as the old shepherd's cottage at "Lorg". A matter of a few minutes before the service was due to begin, the clouds rolled away from the hills and the sun shone down on the congregation from a clear blue sky. Occasional dark clouds scudded down from the north but all passed by over the moors.

Beyond Lorg Bridge, beside the confluence of the Lorg Burn and the Water of Ken, an area of level ground proved an ideal place to hold the Conventicle, sheltered from the breeze, and with the gentle rippling of the water providing an accompaniment to the traditional psalms, and to Dr Bartholomew's preaching, all no doubt familiar to the covenanters of old.

After a refreshing cup of coffee, Dr Bartholomew and about 20 members of the congregation crossed the Water of Ken on some handy stepping stones and made their way up an old track which runs diagonally across the shoulder of Altry. When they reached the skyline they turned left and climbed up to the remarkable "Whig's Hole". It is a little marshy underfoot, but it was, no doubt, a perfect natural hiding-place where conventicles could be held in reasonable safety.

Clouds began to gather as the "explorers" made their way back to their cars parked at Lorg Bridge, and as the chairs were being tidied away the heavy rain returned. Surely it was not just a mere coincidence which gave the Conventicle such a remarkable break in the otherwise very stormy day?

WALK A MILE FOR MENINGITIS LONDONDERRY TO LONDON MARATHON FUNDRAISING WALK

Steve Dayman, Chief Executive for the national charity Meningitis UK, will be passing through New Galloway later this year as part of a 26-day Marathon Fundraising Walk. The walk starts on Wednesday 28th September in Londonderry and will finish 540 miles later in London on Sunday 23rd October.

Steve lost his 14-month old son to meningitis 22 years ago and has to date raised over one million pounds for the meningitis cause from these annual marathon walks. This is the eighteenth time Steve has done a marathon walk and will be walking the entire route in a bid to raise in excess of £100,000 for the cause.

"Meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia are devastating diseases that can often kill within hours. Our aim is to support vital research into vaccine development to eradicate these diseases," said Steve Dayman.

"Every year hundreds of supporters join our annual fundraising walks. There is always a real spirit of camaraderie and many return year after year. Everyone who takes part receives a commemorative t-shirt. We rely solely on charitable contributions to continue our essential work and are looking for people locally who may wish to support us, either by collecting in the towns and villages we pass through or by being sponsored to walk a few miles of the route with me. It really will make a difference".

Meningitis UK is currently funding a number of research programmes to look into the prevention and treatment of these devastating diseases. In addition to this they continue to provide a wide range of educational literature for the general public, which highlights the importance of early recognition of the common symptoms of meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia.

If you would like to support the Marathon Walk or would like further information about the work of the charity, please contact Meningitis UK's Fundraising Officer Emily on 01173 737373, write to Meningitis UK, 25 Cleeve Wood Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2SF or log onto their website: www.meningitisuk.org

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Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

Saturday 6th August : Glenkens Children's Festival



The Glenkens Children's Festival at New Galloway Park on the 6th of August promises to be a magic day out for all the family, not least because one of the headline acts is one of Scotland's newest magicians, Kevin McMahon! Kevin is no ordinary professional magician. He was thrust into the public eye in March this year when his appearance on hit reality TV show 'Faking It' aired, chronicling his transformation from research scientist to magician in only four weeks! He proved to be a natural and was hailed as Faking It's most successful Faker ever! Not only was Kevin the audience's favourite act, he also managed to pull the wool over the eyes of an expert panel of judges, including the legendary Paul Daniels and comedian Carey Marx. Not one judge spotted Kevin as the faker! Kevin returned to Edinburgh after the show with a new found confidence and only one thought on his mind, to become a professional Magician and Entertainer. He's been working very hard since to fulfill this ambition.

The Festival's comic relief will be supplied by the Glasgow-based performance company, Mischief la Bas, who, as their name suggests, are a band of mischief making entertainers. Their walkabout capers and imaginative "manifestations" promise lots of surprises and hilarity. There will also be storytelling from local authors, Andrew Wolffe, Tony Bonning and Anne Errington, circus skills workshops with Douglas the Clown and arts and crafts workshops with the PUMA bus. Not to mention lots more activities, workshops and stalls on the day and we have remembered to book the sunshine well in advance; so make sure you get along on the day so as not to miss out. The Festival runs from 12 noon until 4pm and it is free of charge (with donations on the gate).

DICK GAUGHAN

Monday 26 September 2005 8.00pm
Balmaclellan Village Hall £7.00/£5.00

With his uniquely powerful voice and incredible guitar playing, Dick Gaughan has become one of the most respected and popular performers on the folk circuit. A highly skilled musician, guitarist, singer, songwriter, composer and record producer, Dick has developed a fluent and passionate solo style which "can mesmerise halls not only in his own land but all over Europe and North America." Tickets available from The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust, High St, New Galloway, tel. 01644 420374



ROSS NOBLE - RANDOMIST

Dalry Town Hall, St John's Town of Dalry
Wednesday 17 August 2005 8.00pm
£10.00 (£9.00)

Following yet another massive tour in Australia, fans at home in the UK finally get chance to see Noble live again, as he begins touring here in 2005 with his all-new show, Randomist.

Geordie Ross has a well-earned reputation as one of the finest stand-up comedians to have emerged during the last decade, known for his breathtakingly original free-form improvisation and brilliantly inventive comedy routines.

He's a very funny bloke, so don't miss him this time around as it'll be at least a year before he's back, oh and book early too as he's popular!!

"The most brilliant stand-up of his generation." Sunday Telegraph

"We go from cold to hot in seconds, laughing like hyenas clinging onto Noble's comedy super-train." Sydney Morning Herald



For tickets call the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust on 01644 420374

GCAT SCORES A FIRST WITH THE RSA!

GCAT is teaming up with the Royal Society of Arts for the RSA's inaugural event in south-west Scotland on Saturday 1 October, when renowned architectural historian Charles McKean will address delegates in the Town Hall, New Galloway at 11am.

Coffee will be served from 10.30am and RSA Fellows will have the option of a Fellowship Lunch after the event. Tickets, obtainable from GCAT, are £3 to cover coffee and biscuits and £1 for those under eighteen.

Charles McKean, one time Chief Executive of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, is known for attracting capacity audiences for his lectures in Edinburgh. He is Professor of Architectural History at Dundee University. He has published widely and was architectural correspondent, The Times, 1977-83.

His talk is entitled Rural Self-Sufficiency, when, using slides, he will discuss the renaissance country house in Scotland.

To encourage young people to attend, the RSA is seeking photographs from young people up to age 25. These, which will be on display, should be of building(s) or monument(s) liked or loathed, locally or elsewhere in Scotland, but entrants need to determine whether in the category of Bouquets or Brickbats. Prints, 6" x 4" or preferably 8" x 6", should be lodged with GCAT by the end of August, for transmission to the RSA. Each should have a sentence saying why you like or loathe them and the name of the entrant. And a blind eye will be turned to older entrants who are young at heart.... Charles McKean has kindly agreed he will also judge the photos and comment on them.

The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce (RSA) was founded in 1754 to encourage the development of a principled and prosperous society. Today it runs a programme Inspiring the Future, with projects and lectures based around its five manifesto challenges -

Encouraging enterprise
Moving towards a zero-waste society
Fostering resilient communities
Developing a capable population
Advancing Global Citizenship

The RSA Fellowship comprises over 24,000 individuals of achievement from all walks of life world-wide. The Society welcomes women and men of any nationality and background who are over 25 years of age and who will support the Society's aims. Recently, chapters have been established in Brussels and in India. They exist already in the USA and in Australia and New Zealand.

There is also an Associate category for those aged 18-24 and the RSA Scottish Committee 2004/05 remains the first RSA regional committee ever to have had an Associate included in its number. The RSA Scottish Committee, chaired by Ann Packard, is delighted to welcome Fellows and guests to this event in New Galloway.

For full details please see each of www.theRSA.org and www.rsascotland.org.uk

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

WEEKLY DAY TRIP FOR PENSIONERS TO CASTLE DOUGLAS

Liz Cole, Community Project Worker at GCAT, is hoping to organise a weekly day trip for pensioners on a Tuesday to Castle Douglas in the community mini-bus where people can enjoy shopping, swimming, visiting a hair salon, taking part in the day activities at the Community Centre, attending a computer workshop at the IT Centre, or anything else that enjoyably passes the time.

**Please do not hesitate to
contact Liz at GCAT if you
are interested on:
01644 420 374**

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.

GTI NEWS

One year on from the rural transport study, (one of four pilots in the region) and what is happening? A Local Transport Strategy and Action Plan have been constructed with sub-groups as follows:

- Improving the use of the community mini-bus and developing community transport
- Developing a local Taxi-type service
- Improving walking/cycling facilities as transport links
- Developing local Car Share/Car Pool/Car Clubs (including volunteer car scheme)
- Better transport for Young People

Next steps are getting the formal approval for these developments from the Glenkens Transport Initiative, the Accessible Transport Forum and D&G Council, for the plans.

The community bus has offered many locals the chance to get out and about around Scotland this summer without costing the earth. The weekly run to Newton Stewart has provided a bus service where none existed. Many thanks to all the volunteer drivers and Keith Cooper, our part-time coordinator. Publicity for community transport news is being planned, by way of a strategically placed notice for each of the Glenkens villages. Community Councils to give approval in due course.

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE TRIPS FOR AUGUST 2005

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST 2005

EVENING IN AYR

Depart New Galloway 4pm to Ayr -
AYR RACES (1st Race 6.10pm) or
spend the evening in Ayr.
Return - depart Ayr approx 10.00pm
Cost £3 per person

SUNDAY 14 AUGUST 2005

BORDER GATHERING - DUMFRIES

Visit the 'Highland Games' at Park Farm, Dumfries
Depart New Galloway 11.30am
Return Depart Dumfries 4.30pm
Cost £3 per person

TUESDAY 16 AUGUST 2005

KIRKCUDBRIGHT

VISIT THE MONET EXHIBITION AND OTHER
ATTRACTIONS IN KIRKCUDBRIGHT.
Depart New Galloway 1.00pm Pick Up in
Mosssdale and Laurieston
Return Depart Kirkcudbright 5.00pm
Cost £2 per person

SATURDAY 20 AUGUST 2005

DAY OUT AT PORTPATRICK

Depart New Galloway 9.00am
Return to New Galloway for approx 5.30pm
Cost £4 per person

MONDAY 29 AUGUST 2005

KIRKCUDBRIGHT TATTOO

Depart New Galloway 6.30pm
Return from Kirkcudbright approx 10.30pm
(Times to be confirmed, when details of
programme known)
Pick Up in Mosssdale and Laurieston
Cost £2 per person
Tickets for the Tattoo (which must be bought
before the event) are £2 each and are on sale at
other events and at Kinnears, Mitchell's Keystore,
Thomsons, the Tourist Information Centre in
Kirkcudbright, the Star Hotel, Twynholm, and
the Toffee Shop, Castle Douglas. Or by sending
a cheque with an SAE to Irene Robertson, 14
Buchan Street, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4AL.

**THE PRICES INDICATED ARE PURELY FOR
TRANSPORT - ANY ADMISSION CHARGES
TO EVENTS, HOUSES ETC ARE THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL.**

**THE TRIPS WILL ONLY RUN IF
SUFFICIENT NUMBERS ARE BOOKED
AND PAID FOR, IN ADVANCE -
PLEASE BOOK BY RINGING**

01644 - 4420374

**OR CALL IN AT THE GTI OFFICE IN
NEW GALLOWAY.**

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

NEWTON STEWART SCHEDULED SERVICE

A new service will operate every Thursday leaving the Glenkens at 1.00pm to Newton Stewart. Drop-off/pick-up points are available en route, with the return journey leaving Newton Stewart at 4.45pm giving plenty of time for swimming, bowling or enjoying the other facilities available. The return fare to Newton Stewart will be £3.00. Full details of this new service plus details of all other trips are available from the GTI Office and will also be advertised locally.

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

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

On the 30th June 2005 two P7 pupils (Alistair Harvie and Gillian Comrie) and their teacher (Sandra Brown) were presented with a Ministerial Award, in Edinburgh, for their work on Climate Change – twice!

"When we arrived we were told that there had been a revolt in Parliament during the First Minister's question time, and that Ross Finnie would make the presentation instead," said Liz Brinkmann (clerical assistant & driver).

"All I told Mr Finnie about our plans to save a village called Anytown from flooding from the sea and a river. We redirected the river and made a reservoir and we made it into a hydro-electric scheme just like at Glenlee."

"Yes, Mr Finnie was very interested in the wave-power bus," said Alistair, "we got the idea from Lara and Rhea Currie who lived in Islay and saw the bus. We told him that we had a visit from Jeremy Sainsbury who told us all about alternative energy and he seemed quite impressed that we knew so much."

"Mrs Brown, said that she'd send Mrs Brinkmann through to sort out the politicians because she does lunch duty in our school, but Mr McConnell

DALRY PUPILS RESCUE ANYTOWN



arrived and we got to tell him all about our project too!" said Gillian.

"I can't believe how unfazed these kids are" said Sandra Brown (class teacher) "they are so knowledgeable about Climate Change and Global Warming, and they had no problems talking to either Mr Finnie or Mr McConnell. I think our world will be safe in their hands."

The school was presented with a book of photographs of the Earth from the Air, signed by First Minister Jack McConnell as well as a solar panel and wind turbine which were too big to fit in the car, and the children were given a free tour of Dynamic Earth.



Spalding Bowling Club

Spalding Bowling Club has recently received a grant of £3854 from the Big Lottery Fund under the Awards for All programme.

This has enabled the Club to buy a powered aerator, which among other things, spikes the green, thus improving drainage and giving a better playing surface.

The Club which is the only one in the Glenkens is open to all and encourages and welcomes new members. It recognises the importance

of encouraging the younger members of the community, and in an introduction programme, working with local schools in New Galloway and Dalry, children from 10 years upwards are learning and enjoying the sport under the careful tuition of Hamish Sinclair one of the Club Secretaries.

If anyone wants to learn the game of green bowling which is one of the few sports that can be played as a family by children, parents and grandparents, please contact Hamish on 01644 430422.



Kells Primary five, six and seven enjoying learning to bowl at Spalding Bowling Club, Dalry.



Members of Spalding Bowling Club, Dalry with local MSP Alex Fergusson

Scottish Open Axe Throwing 2005 Results

Inverleith Park, Edinburgh

Local axe thrower, Morag Patterson held on to her Scottish Open Title at the 7th annual Scottish Axe Throwing Championships. The competition was stiff but all the prizes (axes donated by Gransfors Bruks, Sweden) ended up heading for Dumfries and Galloway.

The results were:

Mens Champion:

Sammy Lee, Auldgirth

Ladies Champion:

Morag Paterson, Dalry

Team Champions:

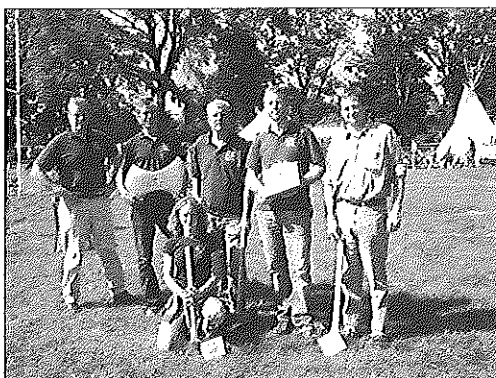
Team Xylodom, Dumfriesshire

Single-Handed :

Doug Paterson, Ae Village

Novice:

Peter Harrison, Thornhill



THE GLENKENS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Glenkens Business Association met at the Cross Keys Hotel on Monday 18th July. There was a good turn out of members and good debate on issues raised.

Chairman, Andrew Wolffe emphasised the need for the business association to make a difference and that only by having an active and involved membership will this be delivered.

High on the agenda is the Visit Scotland Challenge Fund application which the Business Association is preparing. This application is being produced with a view to obtaining support for the creation of a 'Glenkens' brand and associated promotional materials. The objective of this exercise will be to boost visitor numbers to the area.

The initiative requires 25% cash from local businesses and to date we are pleased that £775 has been received from members of the Glenkens Business Association, which when matched by Visit Scotland money will provide £3,100 towards a marketing project.

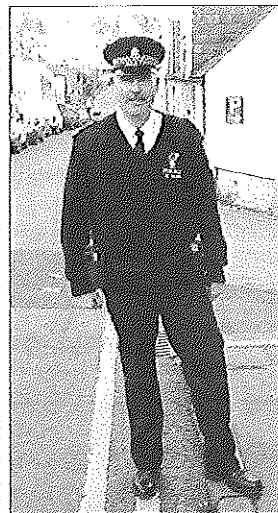
We are still looking for more to ensure we are able to create a really effective campaign. It is worth stressing that every £50 pledged will deliver £200 towards the campaign. If you have not already pledged money and would like to become involved, please contact us.

The application will be submitted in October and assuming we are successful will lead to a Spring 2006 campaign. While acknowledging that this project is tourism driven it is worth stressing that if visitor numbers increase and tourism businesses in the area flourish, other businesses will benefit.

The Glenkens Business Association currently has 37 member companies and wishes to increase membership and involvement. Members will appear on a [soon to be published] directory and website of local businesses. Remember, The Glenkens Business Association is your LOCAL business group and is working on behalf of businesses within the Glenkens. If you are in business in the Glenkens area you should become a member. Membership costs £10 per annum. For membership information please contact Andrew Wolffe [Chairman] at andrew@wolffeandco.com or call 07803 242313.

ON THE BEAT : Community Police News with PC Ian Wilson

ENJOY THE SUMMER SAFELY!



Well folks, we are in the middle of the summer and everybody should be enjoying the weather.

Unfortunately this is also the time of the year that opportunist thieves love. Why?

Because many of us leave car sun roofs and doors open, bikes and expensive garden equipment are left lying around and expected to be still there in the morning or the next time we need to use them. Please take time to tidy things away!

As the summer holidays ramble on youngsters can tend to stray further than normal from home and water can be a great attraction AND a great danger! So make sure you know where

they are and where they are going and for how long!

Travelling around the area's roads can be frustrating at this time of year with many visitors, horses, caravans, cyclists and extra farm traffic holding us up! Give them time and some space!

Take extra care at junctions and bends where grass is high and hedgerows have grown. Take another look before pulling out at junctions or overtaking!

We live in one of the best areas in the country so don't let carelessness or inattention spoil your summer!

**Ian Wilson,
Constable 291, Dalry**

Community Fire Safety Message

MAKING YOUR HOMES SAFER

Chip Pan Fires

Cooking accounts for around one third of all house fires in Great Britain and is a frequent cause of fires in Dumfries and Galloway. Safety Commander of Dumfries and Galloway Fire & Rescue Service, Norman Davies stated that traditional cooking of chips with an open chip pan should be replaced by using a thermostatically controlled deep fat fryer or by cooking oven chips.

Around 3000 people are injured and 400 killed each year, often as a result of people using chip pans whilst under the influence of alcohol.

Our message is quite simple, don't Drink and Fry.

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)

DEREK HENDERSON & PARTNERS

CASTLE DOUGLAS SURGERY HOURS

Mon-Fri 2.00-2.30 pm & 5-6 pm
Sat 2-2.30 pm

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NEW GALLOWAY ANGLING ASSOCIATION JUNIOR COMPETITION



Junior members of New Galloway Angling Association enjoyed their annual competition on the River Ken on Saturday 23 July. It was a warm, overcast day and although the river was low, conditions were perfect for catching fish. The 8 junior members congregated at the Ken Bridge and fished from 2pm 'till 4pm using mainly worm. The children were accompanied by club President, Cliff Winstanley; Secretary, Andrew Wolffe, Committee Member Nigel Newbold and other parents.

Fairly quickly Perch were being caught with both float and free-line worm. Often lines would tighten only for crayfish to be reeled in. Trout are often caught on this stretch of river but they were scarce today.

At 4pm the whistle was blown and the weigh-in took place by the bridge. Largest fish, a 1.75 lb Perch was caught by Ross Fergusson aged 15 who had two other similar sized fish. Second largest, 1.5 lb Perch was caught by Bethany Butler aged 6 and third, again Perch by Matthew Kennedy aged 12. Prizes were handed out by Cliff and all agreed that the afternoon had been a great success.

New Galloway Angling Association is a small local club which has fishing for Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Perch, Pike and Roach on the River Ken, Loch Ken, River Dee, Mossdale Loch and Clatteringshaws Loch. With junior membership the club aims to introduce children to the joys of fishing and membership is available at £2 per annum for any children aged between 5 and 15 from New Galloway.

For further information about fishing for juniors or adult members please contact Andrew Wolffe on 01644 420272 [evenings]

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays

Balmaclellan	12 noon	1 st
Carsphairn	10.30 am	1 st 2 nd (Sep) 3 rd
Dalry	9.00 am	1 st 3 rd 4 th (Aug)
Dalry	12 noon	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th (Sep)
Kells	10.30 am	2 nd 3 rd 4 th
The Manse, Dalry	6pm	1 st (Sep)

Special Services and Events

14th August 10.30 am
United Family Service, Kells Church
2nd Sept 7 pm
Dalry Guild Sale, Dalry Town Hall
25th Sept 12 noon
Harvest Thanksgiving, Dalry Church
25th Sept 1 pm
Harvest Lunch, Dalry Town Hall
Landlubbers Holiday Club

A holiday club for Primary School age children will take place at the Scout Hut, New Galloway from Monday 8th August to Friday 12th August from 10.30 to 12.20. It will also include time across the road in the park, weather permitting. The children will follow the adventure of pirates looking for treasure. It will be a fast-moving mixture of games, stories, singing, craft and drama. All Primary School age children are welcome and there is no charge for the club. The week will end with a Family Service in Kells Church on Sunday 14th August.

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES
St John's, Castle Douglas
Masses on -
Saturday 6pm & Thursday 7pm

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

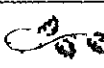
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The Surgery
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Dalry

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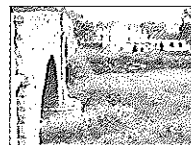
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HOODWINKED AT DALRY PRIMARY



Dalry Primary put on their end of term musical performance of "Hoodwinked" to a packed house! This is the story of Robin Hood, illuminated with catchy songs, humorous sketches and lots of school-boy humour. The audience loved it and it was obvious that the pupils loved performing for the audience!

With the musical director, Rachel Hart, providing all the accompaniment, the children rose to the challenge and raised the roof! There were some wonderful individual performances with Edmund Wise stealing the show with a stylish portrayal of the evil Sheriff of Nottingham. The heroic Josh Trueman, Robin Hood, of course, finally overcame the villainous sheriff on the return of wise King Richard, played very convincingly by Ali Harvie. A subtle, mature portrayal of Maid Marion by Rosalind Wise, highlighted the foolishness of the man who stood in her way.

However, the great strength of this show was its entertainment value; the fact that all the pupils from all the classes, P1-P7, were involved, were enjoying what they were doing and were good at it pays great testimony to the staff team who trained and encouraged them.




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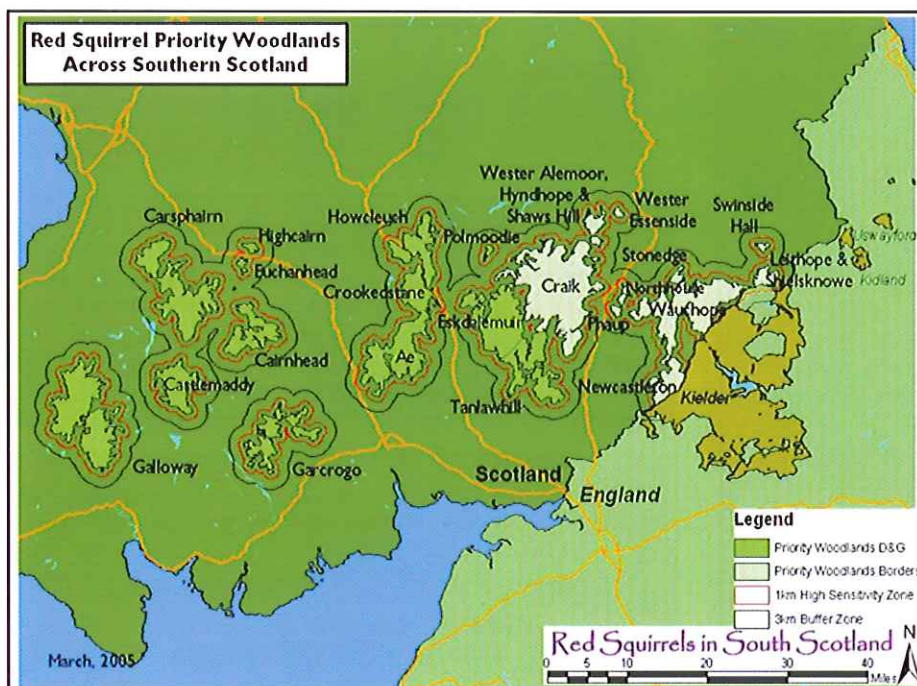

Opening Times 10am-5pm weekdays
In winter ring before making a special journey
12 miles north of Castle Douglas,
follow the "thistle signs" from the A713
(footwear for special needs only by appointment)

**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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GCAT - BRINGING GREAT ENTERTAINMENT TO THE GLENKENS AUGUST - SEPTEMBER PROGRAMME



GLENKENS PLAY IT BY EAR

2nd Monday of each month, 1.30pm
Balmaclellan Village Hall
 Tony Bonning's hugely popular Play it by Ear music, song and storytelling workshops for pre-school children and their carers return on Monday 12 September following the summer break.
Contact: Alison Caldwell 01644 420272
Tickets - £2 per adult/child combo

Glenkens Children's Festival

Saturday 6 August 2005
New Galloway Town Park
12noon - 4pm

A fun day out for all the family, with magic, circus skills, music, storytelling, stalls and lots, lots more.

Free (donations on the gate).

ROSS NOBLE

Wednesday 17 August, 8.00pm
Dalry Town Hall

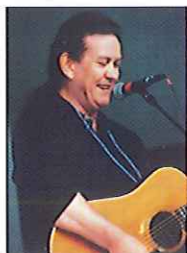
One of the finest stand-up comedians to have emerged during the last decade, known for his breathtakingly original free-form improvisation and brilliantly inventive comedy routines. "The most brilliant stand-up of his generation." Sunday Telegraph
Tickets £10.00 (£9.00)

DICK GAUGHAN

Monday 26 September
Balmaclellan Village Hall, 8.00pm
 With his uniquely powerful voice and incredible guitar playing, Dick Gaughan has become one of the most respected and popular performers on the folk circuit. This event is part of the Gaelforce Festival.
Tickets £7.00 / £5.00

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS

Saturday 1 October
Town Hall, New Galloway, 11.00am
 GCAT is teaming up with the Royal Society of Arts for the RSA's inaugural event in south-west Scotland.
Tickets, from GCAT, are £3 and £1 (under eighteen) to cover coffee and biscuits.



GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

AUGUST

The Alternative Burns Supper and Ceilidh

Friday 5 August, 7.30pm - 12.30am
New Galloway Town Hall
 Haggis, toasts, songs and music - and, of course, a dram or two!
 Tickets £8.50 from Carsphairn Shop, GCAT Shop New Galloway, Newtons Dalry, Dalry Post Office and Balmaclellan Post Office.

The Scottish Alternative Games

Sunday 7 August, 2pm
New Galloway Town Park
 Including the World Gird n' Cleek Championship, Tossing the Sheaf, Balmaclellan Skittles and Snail Racing.
 £3 adults, £1 children

Glenkens Horticultural Society Annual Flower and Vegetable Show

Saturday 27 August
Dalry Town Hall
 Schedules and entry forms available from Dalry Garden Centre and Post Offices throughout the Glenkens. Forms should be returned to Margaret Sharpe, 69 Main Street, Dalry, by Monday 22 August.

Landlubbers Holiday Club

A holiday club for Primary School age children will take place at the Scout Hut, New Galloway from Monday 8th August to Friday 12th August from 10.30 to 12.20.

SEPTEMBER

Dalry Guild Sale, Dalry Town Hall

2nd Sept 7 pm

Harvest Thanksgiving, Dalry Church

25th Sept 12 noon

Harvest Lunch, Dalry Town Hall

25th Sept 1 pm

OCTOBER

Royal Society of Arts, New Galloway Town Hall

1 October 11 pm

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

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.



**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 OCTOBER / NOVEMBER ISSUE 30:

FRIDAY 16th September 2005

e-mail : editor@glenkensgazette.com