

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

October / November 2006

ISSUE 36

www.glenkensgazette.com

GCAT was delighted to welcome a group of 20 students plus 3 tutors from Brittany to the Glenkens as part of a week long visit to Dumfries and Galloway, co-ordinated by the LEADER+ initiative.

The students are at the Lycée Edmond Michelet Agricultural School in Fougères on a 2-year vocational training course focussed on supporting local communities. They are learning to develop projects related to tourism, culture and heritage, agriculture and diversification, as well as services to the local population with particular reference to young and old people. In one of their modules each year they make a study trip abroad and this year's theme is Scotland and 'art in rural areas'. Their overall aim is to share and exchange information with those involved in rural regeneration in an area similar to their own. They were delighted to learn of the developments in the Glenkens and look forward to returning in future years and building on shared experiences.

BONJOUR GLENKENS



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT DALRY SCHOOL

Many people reading this article will have enjoyed the recent events at Dalry to celebrate the 75th and 40th anniversaries of the opening of the primary and secondary buildings.

Centrepiece of the celebrations was a wonderful display of photographs and documents from the 1930s to the present day which brought back so many memories for former pupils and staff at the school; the current crop of youngsters entered into the spirit of things by pointing out parents, aunts and grannies much to their amusement. The exhibition was collated and presented by Sheila Nelson and Erica Porteous with a large team of staff and pupil helpers. Following is a poem by Tommy Edgar recounting his memories of childhood friendship when children from Glasgow were evacuated and brought to Dalry School during the war.

Many years hae just went by, since yin wee lad came tae Dalry.
Yin wee lad mongst many others, some wae sisters some wae brothers.
Some wee souls there, just their lane, thae stand and scowl or kick a stane.
And think aboot their ain hame toon, or that big bus that brocht them doon.
Some wae parcels some wae nocht, doon tae safety so thae thoct.
Away frae Hitler's bombs and war, the journey seemed sae affa far.
Some quite tidy some wee wrecks, stood wae gas masks roon their necks.
Wee short troosers, wee skint knees, they were the Glesca evacuees.

continued on page 8

ON YOUR BIKE!

TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE PASSES THROUGH GLENKENS



It was a beautiful day on the 29th August when a large number of cyclists and their entourage of support teams and spectators swept through the Glenkens. They came through Carsphairn along the A713, then took the high road to Dalry, down through the Main Street, along the A713 to the Ken Bridge and then across to New Galloway, Mossdale, with the grand finish in Castle Douglas. The Tour of Britain cycle race aims to support cycling in Britain and runs in stages from Glasgow down to London.

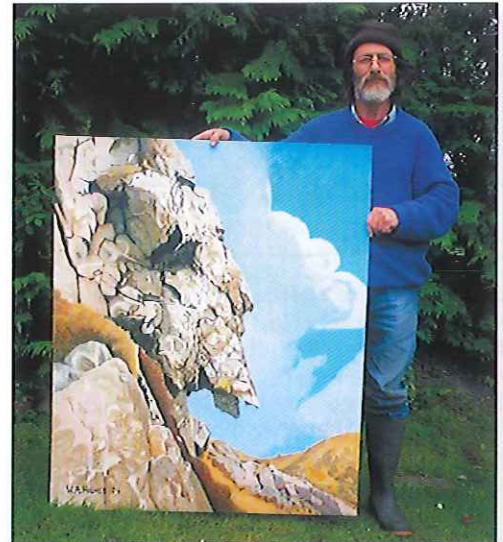
IN THIS ISSUE...

2. Local Artist : William Holmes
Silver Ring Brooch find
3. Community Council News
Glenkens Sustainable Development
Galloway Folk by Peter Jeever
4. Your Dog - Sighthounds
Carsphairn Heritage Group
5. Our Historic Burgh
6. GCAT News - Forthcoming Events
7. Glenkens Business Association
GCAT Tea Dance - GTI News
8. Glenkens Schools Report
Holiday Club
Learn Gaelic
9. Glenkens Walking Group
Glenkens Horticultural Show
New Galloway Angling Association
On the Beat & Fire Safety
10. Story of James McMichael
Church Services
11. Epidermolysis Bullosa
12. Glenkens Diary for all Events

LOCAL ARTISTS

William Holmes

William Holmes has lived up the Water o' Deugh, at Knockengorroch Farm, for the past 35 years. During this time, he has painted a huge variety of local landscapes, with a special focus on open spaces and natural rock formations. Bill uses a selection of media, from acrylics to pastel, and paints on location. Ever since he moved to the Glenkens, he has had a love for the open hills and the 'faces of the hillside'. One of his most renowned works is the 'Grey Man of the Merrick' (pictured). Another of Bill's well-known faces is the 'Old Man at the Door' on the Cairnsmore of Fleet. He says "for ten years I painted this face, without showing it to anyone. Then, a couple of years ago, I decided to take my wife and son up to see him. And he was gone! Just a new, smooth cliff face remained where his craggy features used to be...". If you would like to see more of Bill's work, visit his studio gallery at Knockengorroch Farm, along the A713 from Carsphairn towards Dalmellington - tel. 01644 460 654.



A beautiful bathroom is
all about the detail



To get the full picture visit
Splash Bathrooms
New Market St, Castle Douglas
(opposite Wallets Mart)
Telephone 01556 504978

SILVER RING BROOCH FIND

Local minister David Bartholomew found this gilded silver ring brooch on top of a wooded knoll to the south of Boatknowe, not far south of Dalry, when he was out with his metal detector at the end of March. It is quite a solid chunky piece about 6 cm in diameter and would have been used to hold a cloak in place across the breast. The central fastening pin is missing. It is almost identical to one found in a hoard near Annan in the 1870s which associated coins date to burial in the 1290s.



It is fascinating to think that it was lost or buried at the time that Robert the Bruce was dodging the English troops around the Glenkens. Only the wealthiest individuals would have owned such a large piece of silver jewellery. The knoll where it was found offers a superb view down the valley and one wonders whether a lookout (or even the great man himself?) was watching there for the approach of the English army; and when he saw them coming gathered up his cloak and dashed off in panic to warn his friends, leaving the brooch lying there. Alternatively he may have buried it there thinking it a safe place where he could easily find it again - and then never had the chance to return. The piece has been claimed under Treasure Trove laws and will probably come to the Stewartry Museum around the end of the year.

THE GLENKENS DISTRICT AND MUSIC CLUB
presents

THE MARTINŮ QUARTET

on a UK tour from the Czech Republic

They will be joined by clarinetist Angus Meryon

Concert in Dalry Town Hall on the
11th November at 8pm

BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At the recent August meeting, PC Ian Wilson warned of attempts by bogus workmen posing as Scottish Water Representatives, and urged anyone with concerns regarding the above to contact them or the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. He also discussed the new legislation regarding seat belts and that enforcement of this will be stepped up in the area.

A new table and seat have been ordered for Balmaclellan Children's Playground and these will be made of recycled plastic in various colours.

Wind Farm Community benefit was also discussed with the Dumfries and Galloway Council framework for division of benefit between all community councils within a 15km radius being seen as the most suitable way forward. However, it was felt that the benefit should be zoned in order to give those nearest to the wind farm more as these communities are most affected.

An objection to the Blackcraig Wind Farm powerline was to be submitted from the Community Council as it was felt that the majority of cables should be put underground where possible.

The current Community Council's term will end shortly and a new Community Council will form in October.

Fiona Mackinnon

GLENKENS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP

Windfarm Community Benefit Public Consultation up-date 21.9.06

Many people are concerned that Dumfries and Galloway Council's process of consultation for community windfarm benefits is too limited in its scope. Presumptions are made about community councillors being the properly elected representatives speaking on behalf of all sectors of their communities.

There is a need for proper training to equip community councillors to make difficult planning and commercial decisions. Otherwise there is little hope of seeing any real change in the level of public interest and a willingness in particular for younger people to be willing to be co-opted where there are unfilled vacancies on community councils. Most people's perception of a typical community councillor is that of someone middle aged, well-meaning but often lacking business experience, out of touch with the needs and aspirations of young people and not interested in giving the amount of time necessary to become well informed on complex policy issues.

Six years ago four of the community councils in the Glenkens learned the importance of setting up a strong negotiating body to challenge the Council's proposals for school closures in our area. Since then other areas have increasingly acknowledged the role of local initiatives in involving locally available business, financial, research and negotiating skills as well as using expertise from outside their areas. Central to this is a growing realisation that thinking has to link processes which will generate long term secure jobs in rural areas, tap in to locally available resources in particular areas such as renewable energy, provide appropriate training for young people and ensure the provision of affordable housing. Without these, villages will become enclaves of retired people lacking the services those very people most need. More schools will close due to the lack of young families in these areas and the politicians will rightly or wrongly get the blame.

If community councils are to continue to exist they will have to become more political. There has to be an acknowledgment that there are real and fundamental differences of views existing uneasily side by side within our communities with no one wanting to cause offence openly but working secretly and deviously behind the scenes.

As a sequel to this, a strong local Glenkens Sustainable Development Steering Group with 12 voting members and some 20 or so expert advisers has now been formed. It has a constitution which allows it to receive charitable funding. Consistent with its vision for a sustainable future it has held a number of public meetings over the past 2 years to explore how renewable energy, biomass, cooperative structures, new approaches to building affordable housing, etc. could all contribute towards achieving such sustainability.

From a very early stage Scottish and Southern Energy were lobbied and asked to engage with people living in the Glenkens in the belief that this is our land, our wind and our beautiful scenery and we had no intention of being ripped off by any large international company.

The business world in its longer term strategic planning takes into account the new 'spirit of independence' beginning to sweep across Scotland's rural communities. Deals cannot just be done behind the backs of local communities. Partnerships cannot be made to work without a lot of time and effort being put into creating them.

In relation to projects such as large wind farms, potential 4 megawatt biomass plants and the Solway tidal barrage we believe that people need to understand the choices available to them. A simplistic questionnaire to community councils about community windfarm FINANCIAL benefit on its own cannot do that. It simply plays into the hands of developers who want to exploit communities with a conscience saver of two to three thousand pounds per annum per installed MW.

The reason for people in the Glenkens coming up with an alternative strategy for community consultation is set very much in this context. The Steering Group believes that there are a range of other ways to maximise long term community benefit through much more imaginative partnerships with development companies controlled by locally accountable bodies.

At the end of the day what is being sought by all is the best possible deal for every community in the context of longer term outlook for vibrant, forward looking strategies to flourish in forms which benefit the whole region.

Roland Chaplain

GALLOWAY FOLK by Peter Jeevar

There was a wee fairy came up to the Langhill
To ask for some milk for her baby so ill;
A wee sickly baby - moaning and crying,
A wee baby fairy her mother thought dying...
So begins Peter Jeevar's ballad 'The Langhill Fairy'...

Wouldn't you want to read on?

Or what about this...

At Livingstone in Balmaghie
Beside the flowing River Dee
Lived Helen of the golden hair,
A maiden sweet, both young and fair...
Twenty-one more verses tell you the rest of Helen's story.

And here is another tale...

A tragedy of long ago,
Six hundred years or more,
The ancient story will not die
Until the ghosts at peace do lie...

Carry on reading if you want to know how it ends.

In Galloway Folk, Peter Jeevar of Balmaclean, known for his paintings of aircraft and birds, has turned his hand to retelling in traditional ballad form twenty-one Galloway stories and legends. In these pages you may meet such characters as The Parton Piper, The Ghost of Loch Urr, The Witch O'Drooth, Winnie Liggate and Barniewater Livingstone. You can learn of the Murder of Red John Comyn and about Billy Marshall's Bonnet, and read of the Fairies on the Garpel Bridge and the Ghost of Buckland Burn.

Some of these ballads derive from folklore, some from history, such as the story of the Morrisons of Orr (the old spelling of Urr), a dreadful tragedy from the 15th century...

Twenty-one Morrisons skating on thin ice
Twenty-one Morrisons doomed by enchantment...

And there is much more. So, if you'd like to find out how these stories continue, call at the Stewarty Museum or the Tolbooth in Kirkcudbright and, for £5.95, buy a copy of Galloway Folk, by Peter Jeevar. These old tales and legends will come back to life as you read them - perhaps aloud on a winter's evening by candlelight while the wind howls outside.

Ronald Russell

GLENKENS DRAMA CLUB presents

Little Bo Peep

15th and 16th December at 7pm at
Dairy Town Hall

For more info call
Kathy on 01644 430058

LOCH ARTHUR CREAMERY

ORGANIC FARM SHOP

Beeswing, Dumfries / ☎ (01387) 760296

AWARD WINNING ORGANIC FARMHOUSE CHEESES

FRESH BREADS, ORGANIC MEAT, EGGS & VEGETABLES

AND AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF DELICIOUS ORGANIC & LOCAL FOODS

PLUS OUR SUPERB SELECTION OF BASKETS, PLATTERS & CRAFTS

Different, Delicious & Definitely worth a visit!

Open: Monday - Friday 9am-5.30pm

Now Open Saturdays - 10am-3pm

From Beeswing, take the New Abbey Road. Signs after 50m

GILLESPIE GIFFORD & BROWN

Solicitors

Estate Agents &

Independent Financial Advisors

☎ 01556 503744 ☎

e-mail: mail@ggblaw.co.uk

OFFICES IN:

CASTLE DOUGLAS, DALBEATTIE

KIRKCUDBRIGHT & DUMFRIES

LA & MW JONES

always pleased to see you at

34 MAIN STREET

ST JOHN'S TOWN OF DALRY

DG7 3UW

TEL 01644 430368 FAX

YOUR DOG SIGHTHOUSES

Breed History & Characteristics

These dogs have been bred for pursuing prey, keeping it in sight, and overpowering it by their great speed and agility. They must be able to quickly detect motion, so they have keen vision. Sighthounds have been bred to capture fast, agile prey such as deer and hare, so they have a very flexible back and long legs for a long stride, a deep chest to support an unusually (compared to other dogs) large heart, very efficient lungs, and a lean, wiry body to keep their weight at a minimum.

Probably the most well known sighthounds are the Greyhound and the Whippet, but other less common breeds such as the Saluki and the Afghan Hound are also included in this category. The Greyhound is the fastest sighthound and can run at speeds up to 40 miles per hour.

Main Uses in the Glenkens

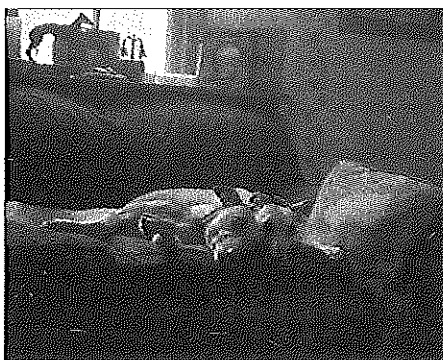
Let's focus on Greyhounds, as these seem to be the most popular sighthound in the Glenkens. Most of the Greyhounds we see here have been rescued from the race track. Often these dogs have been bred for racing and for one reason or another have been rejected and given to a rehoming centre.

Sandra Harrison is our local Greyhound rescue person. Having kept Whippets, Greyhounds and Lurchers (a mix between a sighthound and another breed) herself for years, she now also takes Greyhounds directly from the track to start the socialisation process for them to be re-homed. Dumfries and Galloway Greyhound Rescue is in its 5th year now, and has re-homed 280 Greyhounds since its inception, 22 of which have been through Sandra.

Sighthounds as Pets

As the Greyhound and Whippet are the most popular types of sighthound in the area, we will focus on their characteristics. Many people are discouraged from keeping these dogs for a number of reasons. One reason is that they think they will need a lot of exercise. This is not the case – a member of the Dumfries and Galloway Greyhound Rescue Centre calls Greyhounds '40 mile an hour couch potatoes' as they like a bit of a run round, and then they are happy to chill out for the rest of the day. 'They make much calmer and less demanding house dogs than most small dogs, such as the Jack Russell Terrier, and working breeds, such as the Springer Spaniel, which people often get thinking they will make easy pets' says Sandra Harrison.

People are also often put off keeping a Greyhound or Whippet as they see them with muzzles on, and assume they must be dangerous and aggressive. This is not the case – the muzzle is there simply to stop them from injuring other smaller animals who may run out in front of them, as the sighthounds instincts for chasing small animals



is very strong. 'Their nature is most often very gentle and patient' says Sandra, 'both with people and with other animals. And they quickly learn to live side by side with other pets such as cats – it's just a matter of them getting used to it.'

Training

Having been highly bred as a working dog – bred to run and to chase – these dogs are not renowned for their obedience when they have their eyes set on something. And if they have come off the track, they already have the urge to chase strongly imprinted on them. So it is safest to keep them on a lead at all times, unless they are in a secure area where they can't spot a deer, rabbit or anything they might take a fancy to chasing. Sandra tells us 'when they do chase something, they are likely to injure themselves as they become so focused on the prey, and they run so fast, that they often run into things such as gates and fences. Also, these dogs have very thin coats and sensitive skin, so injure easily.'

Finding the Right Dog

If you would like to adopt a Greyhound, contact Dumfries and Galloway Greyhound Rescue's rehoming co-ordinator Al Todd on 01228 671414. For other types of sighthound, it is worth contacting them also, or contacting a general canine rescue centre (Dumfries & Galloway Canine Rescue Centre – 01387 770 210 or SSPCA Dunragit Animal Welfare Centre – 01581 400 253).

In light of recent media coverage of 'dangerous dogs', I would just like to advise all our readers NEVER to leave a young child alone with any dog, regardless of breed and however well you know the dog – you never know how the dog may react to the situation and what the child may do whilst they are unattended. It's best to be over cautious than to take any risks where dogs and children are involved.

Please feel free to contact me with any interesting or entertaining dog-related stories, or if you have any comments or suggestions for this feature. Call Sarah on 01644 430138 or email glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

Sarah Ade

HERITAGE GROUP BUFFET



Carsphairn Heritage Group held its autumn buffet supper on 15th September. This annual event has a reputation for always having excellent speakers and so it continued this year.

Dr Lizanne Henderson, one of the foremost researchers in Scottish folklore, who lectures in history at the Crichton Campus spoke about Charmers and charms in South West Scotland during the period 1670 until the 1760s.

She outlined the history of doctors practising mainly in the towns during that period whilst in the country medicine was given out by Charmers. The ingredients for the remedies were often obscure, for example wood lice, spiders webs and powder from Egyptian mummies. For gout part of the remedy was to put the skin of the left foot of a vulture on the left heel and the skin of the right foot of the vulture onto the right heel. Boiled worms formed part of the essential ingredients for the cure for earache!

During the times of the witch hunts many Charmers were caught up in the search for those deemed to be witches. Generally leniency was given to them as it was recognised that they were often multi talented in that they could read the stars and provide cures not only for illnesses but for many other problems. Charmers were consulted across the social spectrum and could be anyone. Their skills might be inherited, learnt or perhaps a skill granted from the supernatural. Often they were able to move the illnesses from a person to an object, sometimes a holy well.

Ministers saw charmers as a threat because it was thought that people's religious beliefs were being undermined and therefore they were often summonsed to appear before the Kirk Session. Dr Henderson gave several examples from Kirk Session records from the South West where people were accused of charming. The nearest instance to the Glenkens was from Glencairn Parish where a gardener was accused of using herbs for charming.

Dr Henderson then answered thoughtful questions from the audience who had been spellbound by her fascinating talk before enjoying, with the company, the now traditional delicious supper.

the KenBRIDGE hotel

New Galloway

OPEN 7 DAYS

Beautiful Riverside Location

Traditional Log Fire

MEALS SERVED

12.00 - 2.00pm, 5.30 - 8.30pm

bed and breakfast
en suite accommodation

☎ 01644 420211 ☎

DEREK HENDERSON & PARTNERS

CASTLE DOUGLAS SURGERY HOURS
Mon-Fri 2.00-2.30 pm & 5-6 pm
Sat 2-2.30 pm

DALBEATTIE SURGERY HOURS
Mon, Wed, Fri 3-3.30 pm
Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

FOR APPOINTMENTS AT BOTH SURGERIES
OR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

☎ **01556 502263** ☎

VETERINARY SURGERY
OAKWELL ROAD
CASTLE DOUGLAS

FHB FENCING

Dalry

Domestic and Agricultural Fencing

01644 430 495 (Peter)
or 07767 795 498 (Jonathan)

NEW GALLOWAY - *Our Historic Burgh*

by Helen Bolton - PART XXXII

New Galloway Town Hall

Surely the hub of village life in any community is the Village Hall, or its equivalent. New Galloway Town Hall is no exception, having been the Royal Burgh's political and administrative centre for over three centuries. Meetings of the Burgh Council were held in the Town House on the ground floor of the original building, while the upper floor was the Court House, Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Courts being held there. Over the centuries many events have taken place in the Town Hall and the building is an institution in its own right.

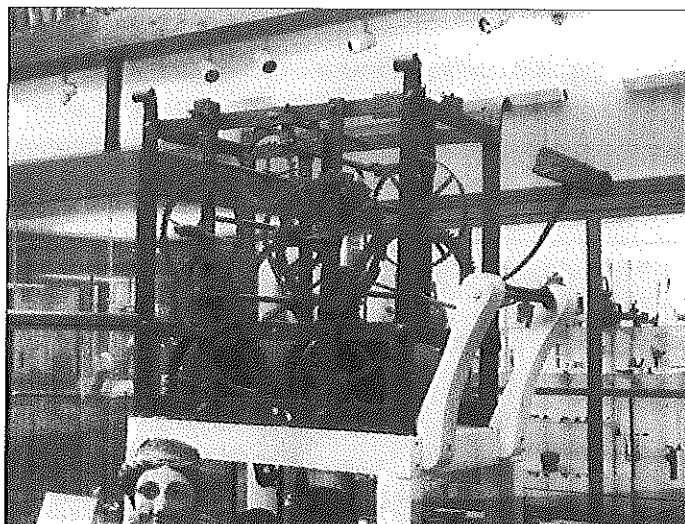
One of the earliest references to the original Town House is to the jail at the rear of the building, where the Covenanter Adam McWhann was held for two days after being dragged from his sick-bed by the King's troops in May 1685. He was then taken, on 12th May, to Knockdovie, a hill close to the Westport, and shot. His body was later removed by friends and laid to rest in the old Kirkyard of Kells, close to the site of the present farm of "Upper Achle". Later, McWhann's headstone, carved by "Old Mortality", (Robert Paterson of Balmacellan), was moved to the present Kells Kirkyard where it can still be seen.

The Town House seems to have been enlarged and improved in the early part of the 18th century, with the addition of a rather tall, thin spire to house the two bells cast in Edinburgh in 1711, and also the first town clock. The timbers of the old spire are still in situ, encased within the later building. When Robert Heron visited New Galloway in 1792 he referred to the spire of the Town House as a distinguished object in the group of cottages which, with their trees and gardens, surrounded the building. It was obviously the source of much local pride. A painting of New Galloway by John Claude Nattes, published in his book "Scotia Depicta" in 1801, clearly shows the tall, slender spire, looking very elegant from the artist's vantage point above the village, somewhere around the site of the present McWilliam's garage!

During the period 1814-1840 the Town House was used many times by the well-known Baptist missionary, David Gibson of Auchencalvin, for preaching. On several occasions the Town House was not available to him, and he was given the Court House upstairs instead. This, it seems, was not quite to his liking as apparently he got a larger gathering in the ground floor Town House!

1861 saw a very special and enthusiastic gathering in the Town House, this being on the occasion of the opening of the Portpatrick Railway. The hall was decorated at one end with a splendid sketch of a locomotive and at the other end with a canvas bearing the words "Success to the Portpatrick Railway", both being the work of local painter, Mr. Milroy. With Mr. Wellwood Maxwell in the chair, and Rev Dr Maitland of Kells acting as croupier, over forty gentlemen of note enjoyed a splendid dinner served by Mr and Mrs Rooke of the Kenmure Arms Hotel. Many speeches followed, toasts were drunk to HM Queen Victoria, the Clergy of the district, and several more. The three gallon punch bowl belonging to the Burgh was then brought in, filled to the brim with hot toddy, and more toasts and speeches followed. The principal toast was to the success of the P.P.R., then Mr Maxwell finally brought the evening to a close with the toast "Happy to meet, happy to part and happy to meet again".

The original town clock was a remarkable piece of machinery, keeping at least reasonable time until it was replaced during the rebuilding of the Town Hall in the 1870s. The new town clock, four faced and obviously the pride and joy of the Burgh, was made by Messrs Gillet and Brand of Croydon, famous clock-makers of the Victorian era, and cost the huge sum of £120. The money came from public subscription organised by the provost, Mr Milman, and the special clock was set in motion by Mrs Elizabeth Maxwell of "Glenlee", this lady having been a very generous contributor to the project.



In 1895 the action of the original town clock was presented, by Provost Coskerie to the Stewartry Museum, where it can be seen today (see above photo). By the time it was replaced, in 1872, the old clock was said to be in "utterly worthless condition as a time keeper"! It had, however, served the Burgh for 160 years!

The splendid oil painting of Kenmure Castle, by James Faed Jnr. which dominates the main hall, was exhibited at the Royal Academy, and later presented to the Burgh by the artist. It was unveiled by Mrs Faed and Mrs Maitland Gordon on 31st. August 1893.

Many memorable occasions were celebrated in the refurbished Town Hall; Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887, the occasion of King Edward's accession in 1902, and the accession of King George V in 1910. The end of the Great War was marked with many joyful celebrations, the Town Hall being dressed with flags, flowers and bunting for the occasion. Since then there have been many memorable events held in New Galloway's lovely Town Hall. It has been the venue for Burgh Council meetings, interesting talks, Guild meetings, concerts, dinners, parties and dances.

The Town Hall, which is incidentally a listed building, is truly the centre of "Our Historic Burgh", and without such a centre the character of the Burgh will be lost. It is up to US, the inhabitants of New Galloway, and indeed of Kells Parish, to show the Dumfries and Galloway Council that WE CARE and to make sure we keep our very special Town Hall. It is a most important part of our interesting and historical heritage!



GLENKENS WALKING GROUP

The walks for the coming 2 months will be taking place on Mondays and Wednesdays. Meet just before 3pm for all walks and bring own transport. Please contact us to find out walk start points.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

June Hay - 01644 430318 or Christine Rae - 01644 430209 or
Gordon Hill - 01644 420632

Peter Corson 01556 502386, 07736 086161 or peter.corson@nhs.net

Gordon McAdam Plumbing & Heating Engineer

22 Kirkland Street

St. John's Town of Dalry

☎ 01644 430393 ☎

☎ 07834 321789 ☎

Glenkens Gazette Advertising Rates 2006

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

(Prices exclude VAT @ 17.5%)

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

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

GCAT COMING EVENTS

TALE-BLAZERS

The Tale-Blazers storytelling training programme is an exciting new project which has been set up by the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust in collaboration with Kirkcudbright Children's Festival which will give anyone the opportunity to take part in order to become a skilled storyteller. The project aims to create 50 new storytellers across the region and also ultimately to begin the process of setting up an out-reach centre for storytelling in South West Scotland at the new arts, community and training centre being developed at the old school in New Galloway.

Whether used in the classroom, to perform to a live audience or just to read bedtime stories aloud to your own children, storytelling is a fun way to learn how to entertain and please audiences of all ages. Participants will be able to use their new skills professionally, (for example teachers, nursery workers, class room assistants, librarians or carers). Others can take advantage of storytelling for their own personal interest or can perform publicly or just among friends.

The courses will be run by professional storytellers who will pass on their knowledge and experience in general techniques as well as the research and preparation in storytelling, the use of props, puppets and music, public speaking skills, vocal techniques and breathing exercises and how to create storytelling opportunities.

The two day training courses will be happening all over the region in various locations, Ryan centre-Stranraer, Wigtown Library, Dalry Community Centre, Lochthorn Library Dumfries and The Buccleuch Centre Langholm. Prices are £60 for professionals, £20 for adults and £10 for children/concessions with lunch for both days included in the price. The courses have been subsidised by grants from the Scottish Arts Council and LEADER+.

Places at any of the venues can be booked by contacting the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust on 01644420374 or contact on gcat@glenkensbb.co.uk

LOCAL SPONSORSHIP DEAL

GCAT is most appreciative of the contribution that Natural Power Consultants have made towards the capital project of the Old School development in New Galloway. Their sponsorship has enabled GCAT to benefit from a Scottish Executive New Arts Sponsorship Award (SENASA) which will help develop the programme of arts and community events in the 12-month run-up to the opening of the new Centre and lay foundations for the future.

The aim of these awards is to encourage greater links between businesses and the arts. Jeremy Sainsbury of NPC, a key local employer, says they are 'pleased to have the opportunity to support an organisation and facility which will enhance the area for their growing workforce.'

Patricia Ferguson, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Scottish Executive commented: 'A facility such as this creates a hub within a community. This award will provide the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust with the scope to promote participation in the arts, and develop the community's cultural life.'

DOGSTAR THEATRE THE HERETIC'S TALE

Dogstar Theatre Company returns to the Glenkens on October 7th with the follow up to last year's production, "The Seer" with a new play by Hamish MacDonald, "The Heretic's Tale". It sees talented actress Annie Grace play Elspeth Buchan, the 18th century heretic who gathered 80 devoted disciples to form the Buchanites.

The Buchanites were a famous cult which originated from the Ayrshire town of Irvine and were described by Robert Burns as "The Most extraordinary phenomenon in the moral world." Rumours of incest, infanticide, cannibalism and mass sex abandon loomed over the cult at the time. Through the eyes of her most devoted follower, Andrew Innes, the play examines the making of a cult leader and the revolutionary ideas as they journeyed through Scotland awaiting Armageddon and their translation to heaven.



Annie Grace, a prominent musician and actress, has appeared in the award winning "Accidental Death of an Accordionist" as well as her first one woman show, Poker Alice. She is also a member of the well known folk band, "Iron Horse" and in 2004 produced a solo album, "Take me out drinking tonight."

Matthew Zajac, who plays Andrew Innes, is renowned as a leading Scottish actor, his television and film appearances include, "The Plannerman" on ITV1 with Robbie Coltrane and "Young Adam," with Ewan McGregor. Matthew also directed The Seer by Ali Smith last spring.

The play mixes comedy and high drama with music from Christine Hanson on cello. It will be touring all over Scotland, stopping off in Dalry High School on 7th October at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £7.00, (£5.00 for concessions) and are available from the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust, The Old School, New Galloway.

Tel. 01644 420 374 or contact gcat@glenkensbb.co.uk.

THE HISTORY STOP

An open meeting will be held on 19th October at 7.30pm at the Lochinvar Hotel in Dalry for anyone interested in getting involved with GCAT's History Stop project.

The History Stop will be a facility located in the old school development once it is open. It will aim to provide a reference point for everyone interested in local history – both residents and visitors alike. It will provide information about, and directions to, many of the leading history and heritage locations in the Glenkens. This will cover famous people like James Clark Maxwell and Alexander Murray, famous sites such as Bruce's Stone and Cairn Edward and famous periods in history including the Wars of Independence and the Covenanters. Some of the information produced will involve the publication of printed material and some will be developed for use on touch screen computers. Historical research will complement studies of social development to dig beneath the historical surface of the region. This will help bring the past to life and offer a fresh perspective on local heritage. The Glenkens will be seen in the wider context of Scottish history, the better to illustrate local relevance to our nation's past.

GCAT will be assisted in the development of the History Stop by Bob Marten who will be co-ordinating the research programme. Bob graduated from St Andrew's University with an honours degree in Scottish History, specialising in The Scottish Wars of Independence. Bob will be working alongside Allison Chapman and Helen Bolton who are both steeped in local history.

For more information on the History Stop project please contact GCAT on

BOOKING GCAT EVENTS

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)

Glenkens Community & Arts Society

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

GCAT TEA DANCE



Liz Cole, GCAT Community Project Worker for older people, organised a second free Tea Dance on Thursday 7th September at Dalry Town Hall. Liz drove the GCAT bus on a free service collecting people from around the Glenkens and taking them to the event, thus helping to overcome the often difficult obstacle of transport in this rural area. Over fifty people enjoyed music provided by a local band, Tommy Edgar's 'The Saxachords,' and catering by Catherine Braid from The Green Tea House, Moniaive. A fabulous time was had by all!

Liz gave a brief talk detailing her work, and she also invited people to sign up for future free IT courses for people aged 60+ which will be held at GCAT and taught by The IT Centre, Castle Douglas. Sue Aitchison of New Galloway gave a talk concerning local knitting projects and National Knitting Week which takes place from 14th - 21st October.

Here are some comments Liz has recently received:

"Dear Liz... A wee note to say how much I and I'm sure the rest of the ladies from Laurieston enjoyed the 'Tea Dances' you arranged at Dalry. I know a lot of work and planning went on to make everything go in the pleasant and good fun way that all went. The tea and food was very much appreciated too. I hope if you arrange any more of these afternoons we will be invited to join in." Yours with thanks. (AC, Laurieston)

"A superb tea was provided by The Green Tea House at Moniaive with a selection of goodies for all tastes and no-one could be blamed for succumbing to temptation. The lively music by Tommy Edgar and friends soon had people dancing and singing along to all the popular favourites. Congratulations and Thank You to Liz and all who were involved in this venture. MORE PLEASE!" (BT, Dalry).

"I think the Tea Dances run by GCAT are a good idea. I don't dance now, but like the music. The piano, sax and accordion are a great sound together. Just to sit and listen and be served tea, cakes and sandwiches, a good way to spend an afternoon. Well done GCAT." (HH, Dalry).

"I have been to two Tea Dances at Dalry Town Hall and have enjoyed them very much. It is a very enjoyable afternoon and I am looking forward to the next one." (DS, New Galloway).

• The next Tea Dance will be on Thursday 7th December, 3-5pm at the Town Hall, St Johns Town of Dalry.

• The next Cookery Demonstration by Catherine Braid, The Green Tea House, will be in New Galloway Town Hall on 23rd October at 11-12.30pm.

Liz is very pleased to have received £75 in donations towards future Tea Dances organised by GCAT. For more details and information please contact Liz Cole at GCAT on 01644 420 374.

THE GLENKENS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

There is a good chance that if you are reading this latest edition of the Gazette, then you may have seen or even retained a copy of 'The Directory of Local Businesses, 2006.' I have made this assumption simply because the distribution list for the Directory is similar to that of the Gazette. The Directory has been compiled and produced by the Glenkens Business Association (GBA), and represents an example of what the GBA is attempting to achieve in its support for the rural community and local businesses in particular. Please help by making use of this document or by passing your copy on to someone who may benefit from the information that it contains.

Since this article is suggesting that the Directory is but an example of what the GBA is trying to provide for the business community, what else is on offer, you may ask?

During the winter months the Association is hoping to provide an alternative to other pursuits during the long evenings that may benefit members and perhaps others, who are in the process of starting up a business or considering expansion of an existing one.

The GBA has recently been in touch with Business Gateway, an organisation that has been established, as part of Scottish Enterprise, specifically to help business start-ups and those organisations that are contemplating expansion in one form or another. Its purpose is to deliver a wide range of business information and advice to the business community. The aim is to achieve this through the provision of services and advice to individuals or groups on the following:

• Business Start-up • Business Growth • Business Information • Workshops/Seminars

The organisation can perhaps best be described as a one-stop shop for small and medium sized enterprises, providing advice and assistance across a broad spectrum of business related topics: the business plan, finance, marketing and expansion are but examples of their information services. Business Manager, Leah Rafferty and her colleague Pam McDougall, a team leader, have kindly agreed to visit the Glenkens on Wednesday 15 November at 7pm, to deliver a short informative presentation on the services and facilities that are available to a rural business community.

Further, and in addition to the Business Gateway Team, Alison Jardine, the Business Service Manager representing Company Training Solutions (CTS), Dumfries College, has kindly agreed to join this team of presenters to provide advice on how CTS can help ensure that you and your staff are making best use of the training facilities that may be made available to help individuals to advance themselves professionally, or simply to assist businesses to conform and comply with health and safety regulations and other legislative requirements.

David Paterson has generously offered the use of the Ken Bridge Hotel dining room as a venue for the presentations where coffee will be served. After the presentations, there will be a question and answer session either on an individual basis or in groups. Whether you are in business or not, this event clearly represents an ideal opportunity to become better informed or simply to make use of this opportunity to network with members of the GBA and other colleagues.

Please make a note in your diary and try to keep the evening free – if you are in business or aspire to be so – then you know that your attendance makes sense.

Bob Williams - GBA Member

SEATS IN DEMAND ON BUS TRIPS

Recent trips to Lanark Victorian Fayre, Houghton Hall Garden Centre, Carlisle, and a half day trip to Kippford and Rockliffe have all been fully booked with several people being disappointed to be only on the 'reserve list'. The next trip through the Galloway Forest Drives is also fully booked so the message is 'book early to ensure your seat!'

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE (GTI)

The new registered route on Wednesday evenings is now operating weekly. Hopefully it will soon be followed by a better service provided by the Council, but please make use of the GTI service - it's there for your use in an effort to try and improve public transport in the area.

The timetable for this service is as follows:

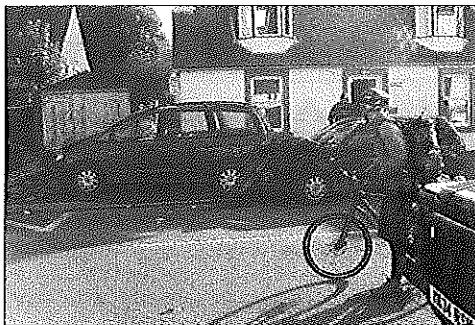
2045 hrs Dept DALRY (Underhill bus stop)	2200 hrs Laurieston
2050 hrs Ken Bridge Hotel	2210 hrs Mossdale
2105 hrs Parton	2225 hrs New Galloway
2110 hrs Crossmichael	2230 hrs Ken Bridge Hotel
2120 hrs Arrive CASTLE DOUGLAS	2235 hrs Arrive DALRY
2145 hrs Dept CASTLE DOUGLAS	

This service is the start of an improvement to public services on both sides of Loch Ken, as later in the year a new daily 'early evening' service will be launched.

The new service operated by GTI will not only fit in with other Public Services in and out of Castle Douglas including the 'Hospital Bus' from Dumfries, but will also give visitors to the area staying in Dalry and New Galloway, the opportunity of a late evening 'Round the Loch' trip.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK THE COMMUNITY-BUS OR IF YOU WANT ANY MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KEITH COOPER, GTI ADMINISTRATOR ON 01644 420374.

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT



ACCIDENT OUTSIDE CARSPHAIRN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children and adults entering Carsphairn Primary School playground at about 5.15pm on Monday 4th September had a lucky escape when a car collided with an unoccupied, stationary vehicle near the entrance to the school. The accident happened just after they had entered the school property. Luckily, no one was hurt in the accident, but the wall outside the school suffered some damage.

DALRY PRIMARY AWARDS

Kirsty McMath P5, was the winner of a competition organized by Caerlaverock Wildlife and Wetlands Trust. She drew a lovely picture of a barn owl and she won a family membership for a year. Brian Morrell from Caerlaverock came to present her with her prize.

Kirsty's sister Lauren McMath, P7 was the regional winner of a competition organized by Tesco. This was to come up with a technology idea that would be useful in the future. She designed an anti-bullying belt, that would monitor all the wearer's actions throughout the day. She won a computer for the school and a digital camera for herself.

Our P7s (now in S1) were presented with a medal each from Hamish Sinclair. This was to mark their participation in the bowling, which was held every Monday from after Easter until the summer holidays. They really enjoyed going to the bowling green, and some of them have joined and are doing really well.



CALLING ALL CLUBS!

Here at the Gazette we are getting more and more information about local events, meetings and clubs - and we'd like to keep it that way! So please let us know if you organise or participate in a club or group in the Glenkens - whether it's Dominoes or Darts, Fishing or Flying, Painting or Pool, let us know as we're sure there are lots of people out there who would love to join you, or even just hear about what you've been up to.

Below is a tear-off coupon which you can fill out and post or drop in to:

**Glenkens Gazette
GCAT office
The Old School
New Galloway
DG7 3RN**

or you alternatively you can ring us on
01644 430138 or

email: glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk

**We look forward to hearing
from YOU for entries in our
Christmas Issue!**

Date

Place

Event

.....

.....

THE STORYKEEPERS



The Church of Scotland congregations of the Glenkens ran their annual holiday club in New Galloway from 7th - 11th August. The theme this year was The Storykeepers, set in Rome in 64 AD at a time when the Christians were suffering severe persecution. In those days the Christians kept the stories of Jesus alive, passing them from person to person as they were able, and the children heard many of these stories themselves and discovered they could be storykeepers for their generation. A small room in the Scout Hut was transformed into the Catacombs, where the children watched the Storykeepers video. The main hall was used for singing, crafts and other team activities, and games were held across the road in New Galloway park. A total of 39 children attended the club, with between 23 and 29 on any one day. On the Sunday a well-attended Family Service was held in Kells Church. The holiday club decorations had been moved up to the church from the scout hut, and a mixture of chorus-singing to guitar and hunts for clues around the church for the children gave a happy air of informality.

David Bartholomew

Continued from front page

The Clachan folk baith fat and thin,
were waitin there tae tak them in.
Tae make them welcome keep them warm,
whether in cottage, hoose or farm.
And so the bus load dwindled fast,
until just yin wee lad stood last.
Peter was the wee souls name,
feelin sad and far frae hame.

His ma had died when he was three,
tears they trickled frae his 'ee.
A voice then sounded out the dark,
come on wee son I'm Mrs Clark.
Dry yer tears and come wae me,
I'll need tae feed ye up a' see.
Plates o' porridge will dae ye guid,
some hame made scones and soup and bread.

I knew Peter frae that day,
mony a time we baith wud play.
Cowboys and Indians, hide and seek,
fitba nearly aw the week.
Lessons at the Clachan schule,
and Peter lad he was nae fool.
Arithmetic it was his best,
kept in front o aw the rest.

But as the months and years went by,
yon thin wee boy he left Dalry.
Handsome noo wae curly hair,
and muscles bulging here and there.
Nae mair wae heard o Peter lad,
or the kind o job he micht have had.

The suddenly yin day yin week,
a car drew up its breaks did squeak.
A voice wae accent kent but rare,
shouted "is that you there?
You and I we went to school,
remember me you silly fool.
I just came to say hello,
see old friends before I go.
McDermid Peter is the name,
how come that you just look the same?"
You're kiddin pal my hair's turned grey,
"so's mine can't think why its gone that way.
The years they've just flew past,
so here I am back at last."

by Tommy Edgar

LEARN GAELIC FAST!

A Galloway group of Gaidhlig san Dachalgh has been established and will commence with a four day intensive course 24-27 October inclusive, Bruce Hotel, Newton Stewart.

Thereafter a weekly 2 hour course will run at Newton Stewart and Stranraer. The methodology has been pioneered by Comhairle nan Sgoiltean Arach and achieves fluency in 200 hours rather than 2000 hours! Interested students welcome.

Be part of the national Gaelic fight back and help re-establish a presence of the language in one of its former strongholds...the Glenkens.

Contact Michael Ansell for more details:

**mike.ansell@bopenworld.com
Tel. 01644 420 854**

**Michael Ansell - An Cathraiche -
Buidheann Gaidhlig, Gall Ghalidhealaibh**

PLASTIC BOTTLES WANTED

Kells School are asking people if they will please save their 2 litre clear plastic bottles - the kind you get spring water or lemonade in. The school is hoping to use the bottles to build a greenhouse for their Eco Schools project. Please could you drop bottles into the school, or save them up to put in the collection bin which the Council should be putting bringing to the village soon. For more information you can call Kells Primary on 420340.

GLENKENS WALKING GROUP GOING STRONG A YEAR ON!



A little over a year ago an ad appeared in the press. Walk this way the advert read, for health and happiness. Volunteers needed - full training given In safety and first aid.

You'll be a qualified walk leader
If you can make the grade.

Three of us trained as leaders,
Our numbers have risen to six.
All proficient first aiders,
Your twisted limbs we'll fix!
Or if while walking near water
You fall in just give a shout.
We'll give you the count of five thousand,
Then dash in and drag you out.

We walk on Mondays and Wednesdays,
Just choose the day that suits.
No special clothing needed
Except perhaps waterproofs and boots.
We may be strangers when you start
But as the day's walk ends,
You'll realise that in that time
You've made some real new friends.

We've had a busy year -
Helped win a best practice award,
Entertained VIP volunteers
And never once been bored.
We've now done over a hundred walks
And many more are planned.
As we celebrate our first birthday
We think that it's been grand.
Our muscles and joints are more
flexible now,

Our shoulders do not stoop.
So raise your glasses, here's a toast -
"To the Glenkens Walking Group!"

by C. Rae

REGULAR USER GROUPS AT DALRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

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)**

GLENKENS HORTICULTURAL SHOW REVIEW 2006

Well what can I say, a fantastic day. The number of entries was well up on recent years - so much so we were thinking that we may have to put a gazebo up for all the additional entries. Many of the judges commented that the quality of the entries was extremely high.

The show was opened by Tommy Edgar MBE who also commented on the quality of the exhibits and expressed his delight at being asked to open the show.

The junior section once again excelled themselves this year in both quality and quantity, the miniature garden in a seed tray having 33 entries. However, we could still do with a few more from the under 18s, come on show us what you can do.

Several of the classes had a higher number of exhibits than ever including the "tray class" in the vegetable section which was the highest since it was introduced. The wine section was held again this year, and there were 69 entries, another record, in the photographic section depicting "A Garden View". The handicraft section was of a high standard also, making the judge have a very difficult time in making her decision. The baking section was also well up on entries and the judge commented that in particular the gingerbread class was one of the best she had ever seen. Cut flowers and pot plants adorned every space possible making a really magnificent display and the handicraft section displayed the diversity of talent in the Glenkens area.

The Glenkens Horticultural Society would like to thank everyone who exhibited or visited and as in previous years we ask that if anyone would like to become a part of the team or help in anyway please give Alan Wright a call on 01644 430 291. Thank you all again from everyone and we hope to see you again year.



NEW GALLOWAY ANGLING ASSOCIATION CUP 2006

**This was held on
Saturday 22nd July
on the River Ken.**

The photo shows from left to right 1st prize winner M. Wilson, 2nd prize winner S. Wolffe, and 3rd prize winner J. Newbold - other joint 3rd prize winner F. Wolffe is not in the photo.



ON THE BEAT : Community Police News with PC Ian Wilson *Look after your property...*

As the Autumn begins I would ask you to beware of complacency. Already we have had one housebreaking in the Glenkens where the occupier had only left the house for a few hours to come home and find that the house had been broken into. The happy ending to this tale is that a neighbour had seen a car parked nearby and with this description given quickly to the police the thief was apprehended and ALL the property recovered.

The notion that housebreakers come in the middle of the night dressed in black is pretty much old hat, the modern housebreaker tends to call during the day when you are out at work or have popped out for a few hours, so make sure you lock up AND PLEASE take a look at that strange car parked outside your neighbour's house and hope that your neighbour does the same when you are out ...

Shortly Dalry, New Galloway and Carsphairn will have new 20mph zones introduced outside the schools. PLEASE respect these areas as they are there for the safety of the children at these schools!

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE

Householders Concerned over Home Fire Safety Approach

A number of elderly householders across Dumfries and Galloway have contacted the Fire and Rescue Service in the last week, raising concerns about an approach from a company offering to carry out Home Fire Safety and Security Checks of their homes.

The caller has on some occasions enquired to female occupants if their husbands are present and also if they have valuables in their house. On one occasion a company name has been provided but no telephone contact number. The named company does exist and is not known to have broken the law with their approach, but Norman Davies, Head of Fire Safety with the Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue Service would like to remind elderly residents of the Free Home Fire Safety Check available from the Fire and Rescue Service and similarly that Community Police Officers will give Free Home Security Advice on request. Local Officers will always offer identification and will arrange visits at a mutually agreed time and date.

If you are approached by anyone offering a similar service you are advised to decline their offer and inform them that your local Fire and Rescue Service and Police Service provide Home Fire Safety and Security advice free of charge. The Fire and Rescue Service can be contacted on 01387 252222.

Home security advice is also available from your local crime prevention officer who can be contacted at Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary on 01387 252112.

THE STORY OF JAMES MCMICHAEL – PART II

A dramatised interpretation by Angela Miller

It was dark still when I was shaken roughly from sleep. I let out a cry of fear, my dream sodden mind telling me this was Claverhouse come to drag me away for my part in Pierson's murder. A hand smothered the noise, making me snap my eyes open and struggle to sit upright. "Whisht lad, it is only I," came a voice I instantly recognised as Robert Stewart. "We don't want to wake your brothers and sisters," he added, taking his hand away from my mouth.

"My father?" I asked, hoping that he would be near, and safe. "He is in hiding, son. He cannot return here now," Stewart told me. "Now come with me, I need your assistance lad, but I can't explain here," I scrambled out of bed, full of relief to hear that my father was safe, yet apprehension was gnawing at me. What was it that Stewart wanted me to do? I followed him into the kitchen, pulling a shirt over my vest as I went.

Mother was sitting at the kitchen table, her face only partly lit by the single, guttering candle that stood in its centre. Her expression was like stone, unreadable and firmly set. The only other light in the kitchen was the feeble glow of the dying embers of the fire.

I sat down opposite her, while Stewart crouched down by the fire and started to stir it in the hopes of kindling it to a brighter flame. Mother pushed a plate of oat bannocks across the table, so I buttered them and ate them in silence. As the silence grew, so did my feeling of apprehension, but then finally, Mother broke it.

"Your father wants you to help Master Stewart in his stead. Never have I argued with your father, and never shall I, but I must ask you to take great care, James. There is a great deal of danger in this task," I nodded dutifully at her, for after what had happened five days ago in Carsphairn I understood her fears. Then I turned to look at Stewart as he stood in the gloom by the fire.

"What is it that you want me to do?"

"We need transport for several men to Kirkcudbright, and we need a watchful pair of eyes," Stewart began, looking directly at me. "Your father offered us the use of his cart. Will you drive it for us, lad?"

Robert Stewart was a fugitive from the law, but

providing that, did not seem so dangerous. There must be more to it, I thought.

"Why do you want to go to Kirkcudbright?"

"We mean to go to the Tolbooth, to free the prisoners there. We need the cart to hide our weapons and intentions."

My mind raced. This was a blatant act of insurrection. No wonder mother had warned me so. And yet, as I had grown I had taken my father's cause as my own. I had known many folk who had been imprisoned, and killed, over the short years of my life, and that made my mind up for me.

"I will do it," I said quietly.

"There is a market today. If we leave within the hour we can use that as cover. We can find a place to wait and attack the Tolbooth tonight," Stewart explained, obviously pleased by my willingness.

And so it was that I came to be standing in the shadows on the opposite side of the street from the Tolbooth, watching intently as a patrol disappeared off into the night. I let out a shrill whistle as soon as they were out of sight and from dark doorways and alleyways the men emerged. I followed them to stand in the gloom beside the Tolbooth's doors. "Follow me lad," Grierson called to me as Stewart began to pound on the heavy doors with his fists.

"I am to keep watch," I answered, bewildered.

"No time for that now. You must steal the keys from the guard room and let loose the prisoners," he replied, leaning close to me and speaking in a harsh whisper.

Before I had time to consider this the doors swung open and Stewart threw himself at the unsuspecting guard who had opened them. The men poured in behind them, with Grierson grabbing me by the wrist and pulling me after him. The corridor beyond was jammed with fighting men, their yelling and the ring of their blades almost deafening in the confined space. Grierson pointed me towards a side door and joined the melee, leaving me no choice but to obey. I had to duck and twist and weave my way around the men, aware of the clamour coming from the cells beyond as the prisoners shouted encouragements and pleas. Almost at the door, I had to throw myself to the

ground to avoid the swipe of a guardsman's blade. He advanced on me where I lay until Stewart appeared behind him and cut him down with a lethal thrust. I had to scramble to avoid him toppling on me. Finally I found myself in the guardroom, spying the keys hanging on a hook. I dashed for them, afraid of being followed, and ducked out of the room, the heavy keys jangling noisily in my fist. My heart was thumping so and the din of the battle was such that I barely noticed the words of gratitude uttered to me as I unlocked the cell doors. I was not immune, however, to a wave of anger and revulsion that hit me as I looked on at the pitiful state of the prisoners. Many of them were not men like my father, or Stewart and Grierson, but old bent men, women and boys even younger than myself. So thin and weak were some of them that it seemed to take all of their strength just to reach the cell door. An ancient lady staggered and practically fell on me, so I supported her, turning back to try and lead her through the fighting men to the exit beyond. Grierson and Stewart were pressing hard and forcing the guards back into the guardroom with their men, leaving a much clearer path back for me. Even so, I could not help but wonder what we were going to do with these poor, feeble folk who had done no greater wrong than to worship God in the way they had always done. Grierson answered my fears with a shout.

"Get them to the cart lad, we will make our own way out of here!"

Having no clearer clue what to do, I led the prisoners out onto the dark streets of the town, taking them straight down an alley and away from any likely patrols. As we scurried along, I could hear them muttering prayers. Somewhere in the distance I heard the Dragoons, their horses hooves clattering noisily along the cobbled streets towards the Tolbooth. In fear, I practically lifted the woman I was helping off her feet and carried her to where we had hidden the cart. Shots rang out in the air, and the clash of steel became more pronounced. Desperately I urged everyone on faster, finding a reserve of strength in me that I never knew that I had. Finally, we reached the cart, and without a single glance back to see what might have become of Grierson and Stewart and the other men, I urged my horses to a canter and fled Kirkcudbright.

to be continued...

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sundays

Balmacellan 12 noon 1st
Carsphairn 10.30 am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
Dalry 12 noon 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th(Oct)
Kells 10.30 am 3rd 4th
Dalry Session House 6pm 1st

Special Services and Events

1st October, 10.30 am
Harvest Thanksgiving, Carsphairn Church,
followed by Harvest Lunch in Lagwyne Hall
1st October, 12 noon
Harvest Thanksgiving, Balmacellan Church
27th October, 7.30 pm
Gallovidians Concert, New Galloway Town Hall
29th October, 10.30 am
United Service with Choir, Dalry Church
12th November, 11 am
Ceremonies at New Galloway and
Balmacellan War Memorials, followed by
Remembrance Service at Kells Church
Communion Services
Dalry Church, 22nd Oct, 12 noon and 4 pm
Balmacellan Church, 5th Nov, 12 noon
Carsphairn Church, 19th Nov, 10.15 am

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E) St Margaret's, New Galloway

10.30 am Holy Communion
Every Sunday and Wednesday

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

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

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 468687



Living Independently

60+?

Have you claimed
everything that
you are entitled
to?

To find out confidentially what you are entitled to and
how to apply call:

Liz Cole on 01644 420374

Supported by Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

The Surgery
High Street
New Galloway

The Surgery
Kirkland Street
Dalry

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

☎ 01644 420234 ☎

Forrest Estate

Dalry, Castle Douglas
SAWMILL

we can supply:-

sawn gate posts, stobs, rails,
boards, pegs, sarking, cladding,
deer fencing, sawdust, woodchip
all timber pressure treated
sawn to order or many items
available from stock
phone for availability and prices

tel 01644 430230

fax 01644 430405

email: office@forrestestate.com

WHAT IS EB?

Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) is a very rare genetic condition in which the skin and body linings blister at the slightest knock or rub, causing painful, open wounds. At its mildest, the condition is confined to the hands and feet making holding things and walking extremely painful. In more severe forms all the body is affected and the wounds heal very slowly, giving rise to scarring, physical deformity and significant disability. People with the more severe types of EB also have an exceptionally high risk of developing skin cancers, shortening their lives by approximately 30-40 years. In its most severe form, the condition is fatal in infancy. For many sufferers the blistering is not limited to the outer body surfaces, but also affects the inner body linings, such as the mouth and oesophagus. The eating of solids is, in these cases, almost impossible, and the disposal of the body waste incredibly painful. Malnutrition is often a consequence when this occurs. Whilst considerable progress has been made in recent years in understanding EB and identifying the genes that cause the condition, there is as yet no effective treatment or cure.



About DebRA

Established in 1978, DebRA is the only medical research and patient support charity in the UK working on behalf of people living with EB. DebRA Scotland was started in March 1994.

- **Leading the world in identifying and funding specific research projects likely to lead to a cure and successful treatment for the condition**
- **Providing specialist services not available through the NHS, to ease the pain and suffering of all children and adults affected by the condition.**
- **Making skilled counselling and expert guidance on current legislation and governmental services available to EB families, to improve their quality of life**
- **Raising awareness of the issues surrounding EB to the general public, healthcare professionals, schools and other interested parties.**

In Scotland there are no NHS funded treatment facilities at national or regional level. People affected by EB therefore not only rely very heavily on DebRA funded research to provide a long term answer to the illness, but are also almost entirely dependant on the range of specialist support services provided by the charity. These include travelling nurses able to visit children and adults in their homes, clinics, physiotherapy and dietetic services, equipment provision and respite holiday accommodation for families under severe pressure.

Current activities - Research

DebRA has an international reputation in funding high quality research into EB. Most of the major developments in knowledge have been initiated by DebRA funded research groups. Expenditure is guided by the International Medical and Scientific Advisory panel whose members include eminent scientists from Europe and the USA. DebRA UK manages the peer review process for all the EB research worldwide, enabling a strong focus to be maintained. Due to the development of genetic therapies over the last decade great advances in research into the Human Genome have been made. The genes for all main forms of EB are now known and, in the laboratory, the defects can be corrected at cellular level. Genetic therapies will continue to be a key element of DebRA research, but in addition, a major programme of research into cancers in EB (a significant cause of early death in some forms of EB) is also being investigated.

Scotland

Scotland now boasts the largest health care team in the world per head of population of those affected by EB however, with only one specialist per hundred patients, this is still not enough.

**For further information
please contact Robin Hood
on 01698 424210 or 07885 155011
or write to
141b Quarry Street, Hamilton
ML3 7DR**

**Forthcoming Event:
Butterfly Ball on 18th November 2006
At the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow,
Compere – Tam Cowan
Guest Speaker – Andy Cameron
Dance the night away to DIVA!**

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 Dowsewell 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.

Sarah Ade 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 430138.

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

OCTOBER

Saturday 7th - Dogstar Theatre: The Heretic's Tale
Dalry High School, 7.30pm - tickets £7 (£5 concessions)
14th-21st, National Knitting Week (for more info contact Sue Aitchison 01644 420820)

Monday 23rd - Cookery Demonstration by Catherine Braid
New Galloway Town Hall, 11am-12.30pm

Friday 27th - Gallovidians Concert,
New Galloway Town Hall, 7.30pm

NOVEMBER

Saturday 11th - The Glenkens District and Music Club
presents The Martinu Quartet, Dalry Town Hall, 8pm

Wednesday 15th - Glenkens Business Association :
Presentations & Discussion- Kenbridge Hotel, 7pm

DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd - Tale-Blazers storytelling workshop
Dalry Community Centre, for prices and times contact GCAT

Thursday 7th - Tea Dance - Dalry Town Hall, 3-5pm

Friday 15th & Sat 16th - Glenkens Drama Club: Little Bo Peep

REGULAR EVENTS

YDance

Dalry School, Thursday afternoons from 3.30 - 5pm, £1 per session, contact GCAT for more info.

Play it by Ear

Balmacellan Village Hall, 2nd Monday of every month, £2 per family, contact GCAT for more info.

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

Kickback Martial Arts - Karate Classes Tuesday & Thursday
7.00pm - 9.00pm, Dalry Community Centre. £3 entry - adults welcome

the tea green house

is open 6 days a week
Tuesday to Sunday
11am to 5pm

for great light lunches and
afternoon teas

also private parties are catered for

tel Catherine 07752 099193
www.thegreenteahouse.info

DEADLINE

FOR DECEMBER/
JANUARY ISSUE 37:
(Christmas Issue)

**Friday 10th
NOVEMBER
2006**

e-mail : glenkensgazette
@hotmail.co.uk



Direct Grants

natural power



PROJECT PART-FINANCED
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
Europe and Scotland



LEADER
Dumfries and Galloway



Carrick's of Carsphairn
Main Street, Carsphairn
Convenience Store

Groceries & Household
Vegetables, Salad & Fruit
Dairy & Filled Rolls
Hot & Cold Drinks, Sweets
Newspapers & Tobacco
Fishing Licences
Off-Licence

Post Office open 11.00 to 1.00
Monday to Saturday
PHONE TOP-UP'S ALL DAY
☎ 01644 460211 ☎



ALEX FERGUSON MSP FOR GALLOWAY AND UPPER NITHSDALE

Holds regular advice surgeries in his office at
2 St ANDREW STREET, CASTLE DOUGLAS
on the second Friday of every month

Please telephone free on
0800 028 7260
for an appointment or home visit if required

Details of other surgeries throughout the constituency can be found at www.alexfergusson.org.uk.
You can also contact your MSP via e-mail at Alex.Fergusson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk



- Great opportunity to get some tasty venison from the local hills
- Whole roe deer, jointed and packed in separate bags; ready for cooking
- Price: £35 - 60 for whole carcase

- Strahanna Farm
- Water of Ken off the B729
between Moniaive and Carsphairn
- Telephone: 01644 460 660

marr financial services
independent financial advisers & mortgage consultants

**Pensions - Savings - Investments
Retirement & Inheritance Tax Planning
Life Assurance - Protection - Mortgages**

For advice on any of the above,
or to review your existing arrangements,
contact your local adviser:

Brian J. Edgar DipPFS

Area Office: Tannoch, Newton Stewart Road,
New Galloway DG7 3RT
Tel. 01644 420288 or 07808 322421

Main Office: Central Office,
61 Victoria Street,
Newton Stewart DG8 6NL

Tel 01671 403080 Fax 01671 402549

e-mail - advice@marrfinancial.co.uk

web - www.marrfinancial.co.uk

An Appointed Representative of Sesame Ltd
YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A
MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ON

www.clogandshoe.co.uk

SHOES BOOTS CLOGS AND SANDALS.
MADE TO MEASURE OR FROM STOCK

Send for a catalogue or visit

THE CLOG AND SHOE WORKSHOP

Balmacellan
Castle Douglas
DG7 3QE

Tel 01644 420465

Fax 01644 420777

footwear@clogandshoe.co.uk



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)