

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

December 2006 / January 2007

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www.glenkensgazette.com

GLENKENS GRAND NATIONAL

Crowds of over 400 braved the elements and had a fun filled afternoon at the Glenkens Grand National. You could easily be confused for thinking that you were at Ascot, some outfits were outstanding with wellies & hats to match. The gents were equally well turned out in suits & kilts.

The weather started off fine as people began to arrive. Each race was penned separately and people were invited to study the form of the 'fillies' before the racing began. Before each race Jockeys were weighed in and strapped on their fillies. They were then paraded in front of the starting line for all to see. Bets were placed and they were off! Unfortunately for most of the races the sheep decided what direction the race was being run - sometimes in both directions. Our young shepherds Laggan Nicholson and Craig Kerr were kept on their toes chasing the sheep along. Altogether there were 8 races with 1 non-starter. The Pigs pulled out at the last minute! The Chicken run proved entertaining 6 started 5 headed for the hills and 1 finished! In the end Scooby Doo, owned by young Hannah Grieve from New Galloway, won the race.

Just as the Grand National, the biggest race of the day with 26 sheep racing, was about to start the heavens opened! This damped a few posh hats but not any of the enthusiasm. This was run over 2 laps and the winner was 'Piglet' owned by the McTurk family, Glenhowl, Dalry.



Brian & Eileen Edgar and their group of bookies kept up well with the betting which was brisk all day. Mr & Mrs Plummer were the race officials for the day and kept a very strict eye on the proceedings but we only had one steward's enquiry - soon sorted by 'The Plummers'. Stormin' Norman the Disco Dude kept everyone entertained all day with a deliverance of music in his own unique way while Jim, Ruth & Emma from the Thistle Inn Crossmichael kept the beer flowing.

The event cleared £1600. We are delighted and would like to thank everyone for their generosity, the race sponsors, the sheep 'owners', the donations of raffle prizes, and everyone who helped out on the day. It was a tremendous day and Jamie, Susan & Cairan would like to thank everyone for coming along to support the event and we are looking forward to next year!



AND THE NAME IS . . .

After much thought and deliberation it has been decided to call the new GCAT building The CatStrand - the word means 'very small stream' - and is the name of the burn that flows under the building. It also denotes the stream of activities in the Glenkens that will take place from the building and the many different strands of interest that will be covered. It's authentic, geographical and historical and hopefully is a name that will be easily remembered.

ARTWORK FOR THE CATSTRAND

Three major artworks, all by locally based artists, are currently being created for the new CatStrand building, with funding from Scottish Arts Council National Lottery and LEADER+.



Linda Mallett has been working with groups of children from Dalry School to produce a series of ceramic tiles based on local themes. These will be incorporated into a strikingly coloured ceramic panel running from the outside, in through the main entrance, leading visitors into the building.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



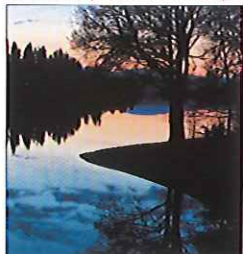
LOCAL ARTISTS

Ted Leeming

Ted Leeming has lived in the Glenkens for six years and practised photography for over twenty. His fine art landscape photography shows the skill he has mastered, with compositions varying from intricate close-ups to breath taking panoramas.

Ted has paintings on view at Visitsouthernscotland.com in Dalry and at The Green Tea House in Moniaive, and currently has an exhibition on in the Scottish Natural Heritage Conference Centre in Perth which is running from now until the end of the year.

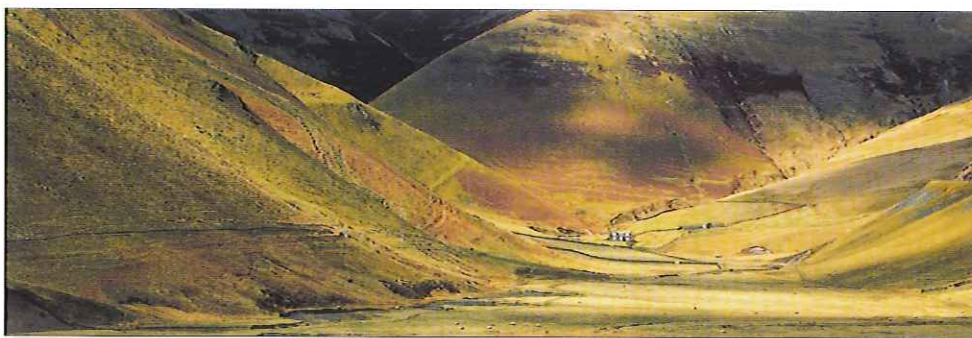
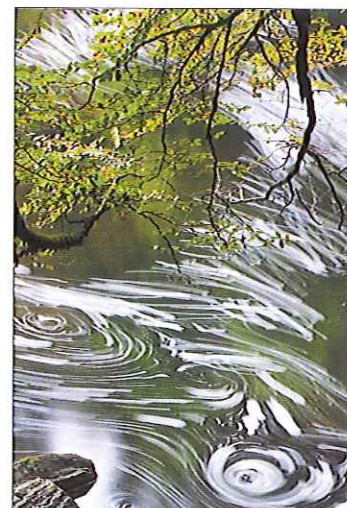
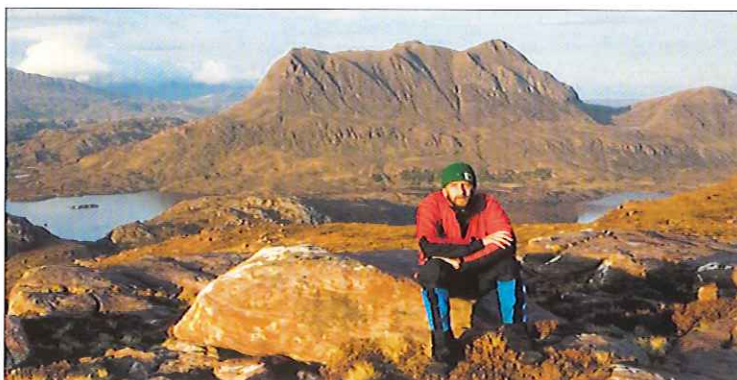
Next year, Ted is looking to add a more local element to his work, with the creation of sets of local prints, greetings cards, post cards and calendars too perhaps, 'the various different options are still under consideration, to see what will work best' he says.



Ted welcomes commissions, and his series of local landscape prints will be available next year to people living locally at a special reduced rate. He will also be participating in next year's Spring Fling in May, where you can take a look at his work at his open studio in the Auld Kirk, 73 Main Street, Dalry.

To take a look at Ted's work visit

www.tedleeming.com, or call him on 07887 736887



THE SOUTHERN UPLAND WAY AND MORE...

How many times have you passed that new glass-fronted shop/office where the Garden Centre used to be on Dalry's Main Street, and wondered what they really do in there? Well, behind the slick glass front, Andrew Case and Ronnie Bradford are working hard at promoting our local area. For the first time in its history the Southern Upland Way and the Glenkens now has its very own information centre providing useful information, including broadband internet access, and services to walkers and visitors alike.

"The Southern Upland Way has been going for over 21 years" says Andrew "and during that time it has never had a base along the route where people can get information or walking supplies. It is also coincidental that for the first time in 21 years, the Regional Council has recently appointed a Promotion and Business Development Officer for the Southern Upland Way, Tabitha Mudalair, which makes the next few years even more encouraging for walking in the area".

But the main way they are getting the message of what there is to do around here is through the websites they have created. They have a number of websites up and running to promote the region, all of which are proving to be very successful – two of them, www.visitsouthernscotland.com and www.southernuplandway.com, currently attract over 70,000 visitors per month. With the other sites (see below) this then creates a network of 5 web portals with anticipated visitor numbers of 200,000 per month aimed at promoting the Glenkens and the whole of our region to a world wide audience.

They are also involved in the initiative to name Dalry as 'The Walking Town', and to celebrate this with a week-long walking festival each year. They would like to see the local community reaping the benefits of a higher number of walking related visitors. The success of this kind of branding is apparent when we look at Wigtown's success as the Book Town and Castle Douglas as the Food Town. Since the walk-in centre for Visitsouthernscotland.com has been open on the Main Street in Dalry, they have had many visitors, showing the potential for this kind of information service within the Glenkens.

As a belated opening celebration, Andrew and Ronnie would like to invite people to join them for mince pies and perhaps a wee dram on the afternoon of the Friday 15th December from 12 noon onwards - or feel free to call in when passing!



Ronnie Bradford, Tabitha Mudalair and Andrew Case in the new office.

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BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The first meeting of the new Community Council was held on Monday 23 October and was chaired by Returning Officer Alan Rumble. The following posts were filled - **Chairperson** - Jane Douglas, **Vice-chairperson** - Susan Murdoch, **Secretary** - Kate Maxwell, **Treasurer** - Fiona MacKinnon and **Minute Secretary** - Jane Smith. The Annual Village Bonfire was held on Saturday 4th November and soup and sandwiches were provided.

The Senior Citizens lunch will take place this year at the Kenbridge Hotel - date to be confirmed and we would urge anyone eligible for this who has not received their invitation by the beginning of December to contact Jane Douglas - 420686. Other fundraising ideas are in progress - please check local noticeboards for updated information.

Fiona MacKinnon

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

In September several members of the Community Council had been present at the highly informative meeting held in Dalry with the Stewartry Community Safety Forum regarding the establishment of first responder teams in the Glenkens.

Following that meeting the Community Council, at its October meeting, agreed to take the matter further and invite a member of the Scottish Ambulance Service to come and demonstrate equipment used by First Responder groups and to give information to the residents of Carsphairn about the setting up of such groups.

An election for members of the new Community Council was held on 5th October. The following were elected:- Mrs Margaret Richmond, Miss Anne Rutherford, Mrs Sylvia Sinclair, Mrs Mary Pringle, Mr Matt Hickman, Mr Bill Wiseman, Mrs Linda Szafran and Mrs Elizabeth Holmes. At the first meeting of the new Community Council on 23 October the office bearers were elected - Mrs Margaret Richmond Chairman, Mr Matt Hickman Vice Chairman, Miss Anne Rutherford Secretary/Treasurer.

Anna Campbell

THE ROYAL BURGH OF KELLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

There were eight nominations received for the twelve vacancies on the new Community Council and therefore an election was not necessary on this occasion.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on the 23rd October and was chaired by the Returning Officer, Mr. J. Clendinning. New Office Bearers were appointed as follows: Chairman and Provost - Mrs. M. Sainsbury, Vice Chairman - Mrs. M. Thomson, Treasurer - Mr. J. McGaw. The other members of the Community Council for the new term will be previous members Mr. V. McIntosh, Mr. J. McKenna and Mr. B. Edgar who will be joined by new members Mr. A. Frew, Fox Hollow, New Galloway and Mr. J. Condie, Forest View, Mossdale.

Mrs. Joan Berkeley will continue in her role as secretary. After her appointment as the new Provost, Mrs. Sainsbury paid tribute to the hard work and dedication shown by her predecessor, Mr. Gordon Lindsay, during his period in office. She also thanked Mr. Jim Clendinning for acting as the Returning Officer and carrying out his duties in a very efficient manner.

Routine business would be carried over to the next regular meeting on 13th November, but arrangements were discussed for this year's Christmas activities. It was proposed that the Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch would be held on Sunday 10th December at the Kenmure Arms Hotel at 12.30 for 1.00pm. Provided that this was suitable to the hotel, full details would be circulated in due course.

The Community Bus would again be available to provide transport for those who required it.

Trees would be ordered as usual for New Galloway and for Mossdale and arrangements made with the council to erect and decorate them. Enquiries are also to be made about additional decorations and lights which could be used around the Town Hall.

Following a request from the organising committee, a £50 donation was made towards the Halloween Party which is held annually in Dalry Town Hall and is attended by children from throughout the Glenkens.

The councillors were disappointed to note that another long standing annual event which was also assisted by community council donations in the past, the Bonfire and Fireworks Display organised by the Glenkens Cubs, would not be taking place this year mainly due to new safety legislation for licensing public fireworks events.

The members were pleased to note that despite the wet start to this year's Alternative Games and the resultant smaller crowd than usual, it was still anticipated that a total of around £1,200 would be donated to charity. However, spiralling costs particularly for insurance and for advertising had not helped either and this would need to be carefully considered for future years.

Continued from the front page...



Will Levi Marshall is developing a permanent installation for The Long Gallery, which runs the length of the building, dividing the existing conversion from the new build. It is also the approximate course of the underground watercourse (the CatStrand) beneath the building. The floor will be predominantly of Calthness stone, inset with specially crafted panels of ceramic tiles. Also set into the floor will be three water features, glassed over and lit from within, containing natural pebbles and flowing water from the CatStrand itself.

The walls will feature a series of ceramic panels extending the floor designs. The ceiling of the corridor will be glazed over its entire length and include a simple design etched onto the glass, casting shifting shadows onto the walls and floor below.

Chris Helson and Sarah Jackets are starting a year-long residency project called Looking Back, Looking Forward, researching and filming within the Glenkens area. They will be working with two groups from the younger and older communities, to make two short artists' films about how local residents see the past and the future of the area. The films will be shown at the official launch of the new CatStrand Centre in the autumn of 2007, and the background research material will be available as part of the archive resources at the centre.

by Linda Mallett

DALRY TOWN HALL - MUSIC EVENTS & FARMERS' MARKET

Dalry Town Hall Management Committee has completed the first phase in an ambitious programme of upgrades and improvements to the Town Hall. In July, after a successful application to the Dumfries & Galloway Event Challenge Fund, the committee purchased a new portable staging system from Maltby Staging, a leading company in the event production industry. The Metrodeck system now allows users of the hall to set up a variety of new and improved staging options. The new system can provide a bigger, more flexible stage than before, and it can be set up at a variety of different heights and configurations, including tiered seating, catwalks, theatre-in-the-round, etc.

One innovation is to use the decks to provide tables for a series of monthly Craft Fairs and Farmers Markets, which are planned to start in 2007. This unique use of the staging system has been successfully tried out on a recent table top sale, organised by new committee member Andi Holmes, and held at the end of October. This event alone netted over £250 for Hall funds.

Any local producers or craftspeople interested in booking a table at the one of the Farmers or Craft markets should get in touch with Market Manager, Jonathon Dawson, on 01644 430 461, or email: suzan ne166@btinternet.com for more details.

On Friday, December 8th the "Sensational Mary Barclay Band are headlining the third "Friday Night Music Club" event, as part of a fundraising programme. (The band headlined the first one in February this year, and the second "Club" event took place in November and featured the fabulous John Fenner - Mike Daly Jazz Quartet, and local Dalry singer/ songwriter, Sally Campbell). The Mary Barclay band, who are showcasing material from their debut self-penned album, will also be playing songs from their popular covers set list.

Tickets for this event are available from Newton's Grocers and the Top Shop, both in Main St. Dalry, and are priced at £6.00 in advance or £7.00 on the door. There will be a licensed bar. Doors are 7.30pm and the band will be onstage at 8pm.

GLENKENS DRAMA CLUB

presents

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For more info call

Kathy on 01644 430058

BALMACLELLAN ON THE WEB

Balmaclellan now has a web-site. Check it out to find information and news on what is happening locally.

Also on the site is information about your Community Council. This includes the names of Members and Minutes of Meetings. The Agenda for the next meeting will also be published here.

There is also a feedback section so you can comment on the site, and suggest any additions and/or alterations. We can be found at

www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/balmaclellan

YOUR DOG

German Shepherd Dog

Breed History & Characteristics

The German Shepherd's name was changed to Alsatian after World War I as it was thought that to have the title 'German' in the breed name would make the dog unpopular. In 1977, however, the name was changed back to German Shepherd Dog (GSD), which is the breed title today. The breed was originally created by cross-breeding various herding dogs in and around Germany during the 1800s. The qualities which were focused on were utility, intelligence and adaptability, and these characteristics allowed the dog to progress from a herding role to its much more varied role in the twentieth century. The German Shepherd has continued to be a working dog, playing its part in the Wars as a messenger dog, rescue dog, sentry dog and personal guard dog, then progressing into the fields of police work, as seeing eye dogs before the Labrador began to be used in this role, and as guard dogs. The German Shepherd Dog is an all-round breed – other breeds may surpass it on certain areas, but no other breed has been able to master such a wide range of skills.

Main Uses in the Glenkens

German Shepherds are seen in the Glenkens mainly as pets, but owners often work them in obedience and working trials, which allows the dogs to use their physical and mental abilities to the maximum. You may also see these dogs working with local police and as guard dogs – two of their main roles in today's society. Eric Roberts, who runs Callanway Dog Training School by Crocketford, says 'the difference between what is classically called a guard dog and a trained protection dog is that a guard dog is often of a nervous disposition, left in a yard on a chain to bark, given very little socialisation, and so can be extremely unreliable. A trained protection dog, on the other hand, such as the police use, is kept at home with the family and is well trained, safe and reliable.'

German Shepherd Dogs as Pets

These dogs do not tend to take to people straight away but when they do, they form a strong bond to their owner or family. One of their roles is as a guard dog, so they have a strong instinct to bark, and also to protect the people they view as their pack, and their territory. This does not mean that they are going to attack anyone, but you must be aware that they have these instincts. They are loyal and very trainable, with the uncanny ability to reason when given a new situation to work out. German Shepherds love to work, and they also love to be with you. In general, they are happy if you are happy – they can run all day if that's what you want to do, or they can just as easily sleep all day. But they do love to learn, and to challenge themselves physically. And it is best to keep their mind entertained so they don't decide to go and entertain themselves as this is when they get into trouble – it is sensible to NEVER let your dog roam on their own or with other dogs when you are not there (this goes for all breeds of dog). It is irresponsible to do

so as you have no control over what your dog does – it may run into the road and cause an accident, worry sheep or worse.

Training

As I am sure you are aware, there has been some bad press locally for German Shepherds lately – there have been some incidents of German Shepherds biting people and chasing sheep around Carsphairn. As with any dog, these dogs need a responsible attitude to ownership and must to be trained properly. This does not mean you have to go regularly to a training class, it just means that your dog does as you say when you say it – you need to know that your dog is under your control in any situation. Eric Roberts, who has over 30 years of professional dog training experience, says 'when a dog is not trained properly or out of control its 'prey drive' will often kick in...owners have a responsibility to keep their dog under control.' German Shepherds are not any more vicious or dangerous than other dog breeds, despite what the media portrays at times. They are, however, big dogs. With big teeth. So if they do decide to bite something, they are going to do more serious damage than say a Jack Russell Terrier. So if you are looking for a dog but don't have sufficient time to spend training it properly, don't choose a German Shepherd.

Finding the Right Dog

Unfortunately, due to the popularity of the breed over the last few decades, unscrupulous breeders have cashed in on this trend and created many dogs which do not come up to breed standards physically or psychologically. It is very important to consider what traits will carry into the next generation when breeding dogs, and if a dog has weak hips or an overly aggressive temperament, they should not be used to breed from. Many breeders who are just out to make money take no heed of this. So be careful to buy a dog from a reputable breeder – ask to see both parents if possible, and to see the puppies interacting with each other and the mother. And as with all large breeds, it is best to get a puppy whose parents have both been hip scored as hip dysplasia is most common in bigger dog breeds.

For more information on where to get a good pet dog or working dog and how to train it, you can contact Eric Roberts on 01556 690647 or visit his website www.callanway.co.uk

If you would like to adopt a dog, check out local rescue centres (Dumfries & Galloway Canine Rescue Centre – 01387 770 210 or SSPCA Dumragit Animal Welfare Centre – 01581 400 253)

Sarah Ade



THE ARMSTRONG

GALLOWAY HILLS RALLY 2006

Sunday 3rd December



Sean Devine, winner 2005

Stage 1 is Cairn Edward, with the first car arriving at approx 08.50. Spectators can access the stage on foot, at the Forest Drive entrance, north of Mossdale on the A762, or at Cairn Edward House. Stage 3 is Glengap, with first car arriving at approx 09.50. with Spectator access at The Beeches, on the Laurieston - Gatehouse road, approx 2 miles west of Laurieston, or there is also access from Glengap village, to a mid-stage point. Other stages are at Dalbeattie and New Abbey, and the finish is in Castle Douglas. The 2005 winner, Sean Devine, is returning to defend his title, but top local runner and rally sponsor, Jock Armstrong, will be determined to improve on last year's runner up position. As always, we as organisers ask spectators to be considerate when parking and to follow all safety rules and marshals instructions. Visit www.gallowayhillsrally.co.uk for more information.

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NEW GALLOWAY - *Our Historic Burgh*

by Helen Bolton - PART XXXIII
An Orkney Connection

Any historical connection between the Glenkens and Orkney might at first appear singularly improbable, but there is a strong link between these geographically well separated areas, dating back to the Covenanting times of the late 17th Century.

The Battle of Bothwell Bridge took place on 22nd June 1679 following the success of the Covenanters at Drumclog, where they had managed to defeat Graham of Claverhouse and his dragoons. However, whereas Drumclog had been a success, Bothwell Bridge was a total disaster, with the Covenanters being soundly defeated by Tam Dalyell and his army. More than 400 men were killed in the field and a further 1,200 or so were rounded up and taken to Edinburgh, where they were imprisoned in Greyfriars Kirkyard.

Five months later, after some had escaped and some had died from hunger and disease, others were tried, found guilty of rebellion and hanged. On 15th November the remaining 257 Covenanters were taken from the Kirkyard and herded to Leith. There a small ship lay out at Leith Roads. William Paterson, an Edinburgh merchant, had chartered a ship, "The Crown" of London (Captain - Thomas Teddico), to convey the prisoners across the Atlantic.

The Covenanters were duly ferried out to the ship. So small was "The Crown" that when all 257 men were aboard, those who were in reasonably good condition had to remain standing to allow the sick to lie down! For twelve days the ship lay at Leith Roads, and during that time the good folk of Edinburgh, learning that these men were to be sold in Barbados as slaves, had a collection and were able to give the Covenanters £1,000 sterling to help them when they reached the colonies.

On 27th November "The Crown" eventually set sail and headed up the east coast of Scotland. Storms accompanied them on their voyage. On

10th December they reached Orkney and a particularly savage storm and mountainous seas greeted the ship as she rounded Mull Head, East Mainland, and Captain Teddico decided to drop anchor in Deer Sound. However, during the night the strong winds and heavy seas caused "The Crown" to drag her anchor and drift towards the coast. In the moonlight the wild cliffs of Deerness could be seen with the angry sea breaking against the rocks.

The Covenanters tried to make a bid for freedom, but Captain Teddico ordered the hatches to be locked. However, just before the crew took to the small boat the mate is said to have given someone the key. The crew landed with difficulty on the barren coast, and "The Crown" was driven ashore where she broke in two on the rocks. Those Covenanters who were able escaped from the foundering ship and got ashore clinging to broken planks, but the heartless captain and his crew forced them back into the wild sea to their deaths. 209 men were drowned at Deerness on that fearful night, and when their bodies were washed ashore later, the local people buried them on the cliff top at Scarva Taing.

Of those who managed to survive the shipwreck, some settled on Orkney, and others made their way home where they continued to fight for the cause. Among these were three men from the Glenkens, John Edgar from Balmacellan, and John Smith, and John Malcolm, both from Dalry. Sadly, John Malcolm was unfortunately captured at Airds Moss, Ayrshire, and was hanged at the Grassmarket, Edinburgh on 1st August 1680. No Covenanters from the Glenkens were drowned at Deerness.

Over 200 years later a Galloway man, Dr Robert Halliday Gunning, who was born at Ruthwell, and brought up in Kirkbean, New Abbey and Dumfries, visited Orkney and was moved to support the erecting of a suitable memorial to those Covenanters who had lost their lives at Deerness. He promised a donation of at least £50, and an appeal was launched at a public meeting in the Old Town Hall, Kirkwall, in August 1886. Just over £100 was raised and on 22nd August 1888 an inauguration ceremony took place.

On a fine breezy afternoon over 500 enthusiastic people gathered at Deerness where the memorial, a 40 foot obelisk in Orkney stone, surmounted by a crown, had been built. A history of the movement for the erecting of the monument, a copy of the appeal, a list of subscribers, a Bible, a set of Jubilee coins, and copies of the newspapers from Orkney, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh were



set into a recess in the side of the monument, and a granite slab was placed over it. On the slab is the following inscription-

**"For Christ, His Crown and Covenant.
Erected by Public Subscription
To the memory of 200 Covenanters
Who were taken prisoner at Bothwell Bridge
And sentenced to transportation for life,
but who perished by shipwreck
near this spot on
10th December 1679"**

It seemed very strange to stand on a remote headland on East Mainland, Orkney, beside a memorial to men from so close to home who had perished over 300 years ago for their religious beliefs.

The erecting of the memorial at Deerness did not use all the money which had been donated, and a further monument, in the form of a polished red and grey Aberdeenshire granite fountain was erected almost immediately in front of St Magnus Cathedral in the centre of Kirkwall. This was put up in 1890 on the site of the Old Town Hall where the initial meetings to discuss the Deerness memorial had been held.

CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE GROUP

The Heritage Centre officially closed on Sunday 1st October but several private visits have taken place in October with a surprising number of other people calling in because they saw that the curtains were open. The last visitor on 23 October was an elderly gentleman who had been born in the police house in the village in 1922. The last visitor on the last day of the official season was born at the Eriff and has already offered us some material for the 2007 exhibition which will be about sports in the parish.

The final tally of visitors for 2006 was just over 1450, about 100 less than 2005 which is slightly disappointing but understandable when one notices that the drop was nearly all in July, a month that we will all remember for its wonderful weather.

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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

THE HISTORY STOP - UPDATE

The idea of the History Stop is for it to be a central reference point, or hub, where people can access information on local history for the whole of the Glenkens. Members of the public will be able to find information in a variety of ways – there will be a touch screen computer, leaflets, maps and guide books, so people can 'mix and match'. They can then choose to focus on an area and visit sites around it, or to focus on a particular topic and visit sites related to that topic over a larger area.

The Glenkens has been called the 'heart of Galloway' for its richness of historical information and events, and has also been referred to as the 'cradle of Scottish independence' due to Robert the Bruce's early activities here. It would be nice to think that the new centre will become known for, among other things, its historical research. If I were trying to sell the History Stop like I would sell a car, I would say zero to sixty in two thousand years!

The only reason that we have access to local history is through the interest, research and hard work of local people. At the History Stop 'we would really like to make the information gained by so many dedicated people available to the general public' says Bob Martin, project coordinator. And to do that they need volunteers. As a trained historian, Bob Martin is more than willing to help local volunteers to follow a topic in which they have an interest – to point them in the right direction and help them to put their findings in order.

Bob states that 'we would like to allow people to share in the excitement of discovery, and to get the pleasure of the little known facts of the area in which they live – to enjoy the passion local history can involve!'

The initial ten topics which will be focused on are:

- Literature • Covenanters • Wars of Independence • The First Millennium
- The Hydro-electric Scheme • Education • The Gordon Family • Castles •
- Alexander Murray • James Clerk Maxwell •

If anyone has an interest in another area, please contact Bob as they would be pleased to include that also – these are just areas to go from as a starting point.

Bob Martin says 'we would like to work with schools and local organisations, and are more than happy to give talks about what we are doing. Anyone who would like to be involved in helping to impart information on the project and local history please do get in contact with me.'

Bob Martin has an honours degree in Scottish History from St. Andrews University and is working as a freelance historian for GCAT, coordinating the History Stop. To contact Bob please call the GCAT office on 01644 420374 or his mobile on 077728 77443.



GCAT HAS JUST RELEASED A NEW SURVEY INTENDED FOR ALL LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS. THIS WILL BE USED AS RESEARCH FOR TRAINING NEEDS IN THE CATSTRAND
Your input is extremely valuable for this area of development!

If your organisation has not received a questionnaire and you want your say, please contact Liz Cole, Community Project Worker, at the GCAT office on 01644 420374

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust
LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS
THE OLD SCHOOL, NEW GALLOWAY,
CASTLE DOUGLAS DGY 1RN
TELEFAX: 01644 420374
www.glenkens-arts.com email: info@glenkens-arts.com



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DG7 3UW

TEL 01644 430368 FAX

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS



FREE GCAT COOKERY DEMONSTRATION IN NEW GALLOWAY

On the morning of Monday 23rd October, Liz Cole, Community Project Worker, GCAT, organised another free cookery demonstration funded by GCAT with Catherine Braid, The Green Tea House, Moniaive, in The Town Hall, New Galloway.

The event was well attended and the food was delicious! Recipe sheets were handed out and each dish sampled. There are spare recipe sheets, if anyone would like to come into the GCAT office, the Clydesdale Bank building, in New Galloway.

The dishes Catherine made were her own recipes and included: roast parsnip, lime and ginger soup; pea barley risotto with Swiss chard, mushrooms and fresh parmesan; smoked chicken, pear, pecan and blue cheese quiche, and plum fudge pudding with crème fraîche and mascarpone! Truly scrumptious!

"Dear Liz, Just to say how much I enjoyed the cookery demonstration. Catherine does a very good job and makes it interesting. Thank you also for the Tea Dances.....we do so enjoy them. My husband even managed to get round the floor once." (M.W., Mossdale).

"The cookery demonstration at New Galloway Town Hall was a great success. The recipes were very clear to follow and tasting the food when cooked was very good. There was a good turn out and everybody enjoyed a pleasant morning." (D.S., New Galloway).

Look out for the next cookery demonstration in the New Year! The GCAT mini-bus is free and available for these events and everyone is welcome!

WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Liz Cole and Catherine Braid



GTI TRIPS NEWS



The number of people wanting to go on GTI trips continues to grow – already trips to the Metro Centre in Newcastle on 25th November and to the Carol Parade in Carlisle on 14th December are fully booked, with the possibility of arranging a second bus to go to Carlisle being looked into. A recent trip to the Northern Lake District was blessed with clear blue skies and wonderful views, making it an excellent day for all who went. The trip arranged by the Laurieston Group to the Great North Run was also memorable as it gave Jean Young (the cook at Kells Primary School) the chance to see her son, Finlay, complete his amazing series of half-marathons.

Future Trips

WED 27 DECEMBER: AYR

Time to visit the 'sales', the Matinee at the Pantomime or just spend the day doing your own thing. Dept New Galloway 10.15am, Dalry 10.30am Fare £ 5 (£4 if paid by 19/12/06) Concessions £4 (£3 if paid by 19/12/06)

All the above trips are subsidised by 'Help the Aged' which allow us to offer concessionary fares. Please book early (01644 420374) to ensure your seat!

FREE!

COMPUTER COURSE



FOR THE OVER 50'S

- ★ DO YOU WANT TO SURF THE 'NET?
- ★ OR GET IN TOUCH WITH LONG LOST PALS?
- ★ OR DO YOUR SHOPPING ONLINE?

GCAT IS ORGANISING COMPUTER COURSES - FOR MORE INFO:

**CONTACT LIZ COLE, GCAT
TEL: 01644 420 374**

FREE! TEA DANCE

**Dalry Town Hall
7th December, 3-5pm**

**The Saxachords Dance Band, Dalry
Catherine Braid, The Green Tea House**

**LIZ COLE, GCAT, IS OPERATING THE GCAT MINI-BUS
FOR PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF IF REQUIRED...
FOR MORE INFO: CONTACT LIZ COLE TEL: 01644 420 374**

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE (GTI)

The registered Wednesday evening route:

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	

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.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS WORKSHOPS

On Saturday the 9th and 16th of December in Dalry Community Centre, Glenkens Community and Arts Trust has organised a crafts workshop in preparation for Christmas. The classes will not only be useful for Christmas but will enable you to learn new skills.

On the 9th of December, the artist running the class will be Anthea Summers and activities will include Christmas cards, wax batik, and felt work. The following class held on the 16th will include creating decorations, gift tags and wrapping paper with Michelle Hoddnott. It is open to adults and secondary children and promises to be relaxing and worthwhile for people in the busy weeks approaching Christmas. The classes will run from 2pm until 4pm both days. The workshops will only cost £3.50 per person per session. For more information, call the GCAT office on 01644 420374.

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

KELLS SCHOOL NEWS

We have had a very successful start to the year ; Have you seen our 'Green Flag' proudly flying in our garden? There are only 100 schools with one, it is the top accolade as an Eco School.

Tour of Britain - The Team Cycling competition held at Castle Douglas was won by Kells Senior pupils.

Soccer 6's at Castle Douglas High - Our Kells team were a very creditable 3rd.

Stewartry Annual Rugby Tournament - Kells was represented by two teams. Terrific skills and sportsmanship on display with Kells 'A' team remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament.

Macmillan Coffee Morning - P7 pupils raised £480. by serving coffee constantly to our very supportive community. Very many thanks to Mr and Mrs Roberts who gave Kells a 'free run' of their dining room and kitchen at the Cross Keys Hotel.

Soccer 7s - Kells team put up an incredible performance, but unfortunately were 'pipped' to a place in the next round, through a one goal difference.

Harvest Festival - 112 parcels were delivered to our senior citizens after our Harvest Festival service. The visit by our children was much appreciated by all the older inhabitants in our area.

Recycling 'name of game' - Recycled Stage. The parents and children chopped up the old stage and delivered 68 bags of kindlers to the senior citizens in the Glenkens. Now recycling 'lemonade bottles' for our 8' x 4' greenhouse. Bins (labelled) being placed down village for central collection.

Hot off the press - Songs of Praise. We have reached the final six in the Songs of Praise 'Choir of the Year' competition. The BBC are coming to film the choir next month.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Kells' Christmas Fayre Thursday 7th December at 1.30pm

Kells' Christmas Production . . Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th

This year's production is 'Oliver', the tickets will go on sale both at school and in the village shop from early December.

Congratulations to Kells Primary who were runners up on Border TV's Peoples' Millions. They were awarded lottery funding to create an eco-friendly playground. Thanks for all your votes!

SCHOOL FIRE SAFETY

On Thursday the 9th of November Community Watch Manager Andy Brolls visited Kells Primary 6 pupils in the mobile class room to deliver a talk on Fire Safety in the Home. The pupils took part enthusiastically and their behaviour was a credit to themselves and the school. The pupils were also asked if they could supply the name and address of anyone they knew that did not have a working smoke alarm. On receipt of any names Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue Service will arrange to supply and fit a FREE 10 year battery smoke alarm and carry out a Home Fire Safety check.

'TENSUN DALRY !

On Wednesday 1st November the S2 pupils at Dalry spent an enjoyable if chilly afternoon solving practical challenges set by officers from the Army Recruitment Office in Dumfries. These activities were designed to encourage teamwork, communication and lateral thinking. All involved had great fun.... Kelly "Really fun - quite hard", Hannah "We should get them in more" Ali D "They made you work with other people." Many thanks are due to a great team from the Army.



DALRY PUPILS PRIZE WINNERS

In an art competition sponsored by the Stewartry Alcohol and Drugs Forum, Dalry pupils have enjoyed major success with Zoe Hempelman and Autumn Wheeler winning the "Best Student" categories for S2 and S3 respectively. Both girls win a cool £70!



Other prize winners from the school are S1: 1st Emily Priddy 2nd Rhiannon Curran, S2: 1st Zoe 2nd Rhea Currie 3rd Kelly Wilson, S3: 1st Autumn 2nd Samantha McColl 3rd equal Holly Hoyles and Matthew Smee.

Well done to a very talented group.

The Lochinvar
Hotel Restaurant Bar

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Winter Bar Menu
2 & 3 course
festive menus

BOOKINGS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN, PLEASE CALL IN
ADVANCE TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

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The Lochinvar Hogmanay Party
Sunday 31st December

from 8.30pm till late

Guest fiddler and accordionist with Ceilidh Band
Piper at midnight and a 2 course buffet
Tickets £6 on sale from 1st December

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GLENKENS '73 CLUB

Even though the pantomime season is not yet upon us, plans are underway for the 2007 Stewartry Drama Festival. The club has provisionally entered two one-act plays in the adult section and one in the youth section. New members are always welcome, so if you are interested in taking part whether it is as an actor or behind the scenes, please let us know as soon as possible.

In 2006 the club were 3rd overall in the open festival and won the trophy for the best stage presentation. We are keen to build on this success and to continue our support for the Stewartry Drama Festival which has seen us represented on stage every year since the club was formed in 1973.

The festival is held over the last weekend in February at Lochside Theatre and rehearsals begin after New Year, usually on two evenings per week arranged to suit the cast involved.

If you are interested in becoming a member or would like to find out more please contact Sheila Little on 01644 430257 or Brian Edgar on 01644 420288.

FUNDRAISING FOR FUN!

On November 3rd in Dalry Town Hall, the people of the Glenkens were lucky enough to enjoy the talent of the well known band, "Not Guilty".

Susan, Jamle and Calran Murdoch organised the enjoyable evening in aid of the Glenkens Agricultural Show as well as manning the bar alongside Diane and Mark Glasby and Kate and Marcus Maxwell who took tickets.

The effort made was evident the instant you walked in the door, with the hall having had a complete makeover. Balloons, witches' cauldrons, google-eyed spiders and spooky skeletons gave the room a fun, Halloween feeling. There were also some very impressive, famous appearances, which could easily have resulted in rivalry as "Wonderwoman" and "Batwoman" both showed up!

From the moment the band kicked off, the atmosphere in the hall was electric with classics like Van Morrison's "Brown eyed girl," making dancing compulsory! Aaron Edgar said "I had been looking forward to the night for so long; it was certainly worth the wait!" No one escaped the dance floor as "Not Guilty's" stunning live performance bounced from wall to wall.

Susan (organiser) said, "a huge thank you to everyone who sold tickets before the night, Mark & Diane Glasby and Kate & Marcus Maxwell"

The event raised £800 and was attended by approximately 100 people, successful not only for fundraising but

JIM KIRKPATRICK RETIRES AFTER 34 YEARS



Jim Kirkpatrick his wife Ethel and Derek Thomson of WH McWilliam & Co, New Galloway.

Jim Kirkpatrick recently retired from driving a livestock float for W H McWilliam & Co of New Galloway. Jim drove for the family run business for thirty-four consecutive years working for two generations. Many customers and friends donated generously to Jim's retirement and he was recently presented with a cheque and other gifts at the Crosskeys Hotel, New Galloway where fellow colleagues joined him and his wife Ethel for supper.



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.

Easy: Mondays Moderate: Wednesdays

Strenuous: Sunday 18/12/06 Sorry, no dogs

4th Dec - Bannan Hill - Leaders Isobel & John

6th Dec - Garroch Glen - Leaders Gordon & Christine

11th Dec - Waterside Hill - Leaders John & Isobel

13th Dec - Bennigunnea - Leaders Christine & Isobel

18th Dec - Knockengarroch/Windy Standard - Leaders June & Gordon

Please note a 1.30pm start for a slightly longer walk this week

24th Dec - Long Walk for all those interested- Contact June for Details

Walkers meet at Dalry Bank of Scotland for Car Share at 2.15pm or go to start point for 2.30pm. Please remember 30p per week for the tea fund to Ruby.

For info on walks or transport please contact:

June : 430318, Gordon : 420632,

Christine : 430209, John and Isobel : 430539

THE HERETIC'S TALE REVIEW

Dogstar Theatre returned to the Glenkens on October 7th with 'The Heretic's Tale', Hamish MacDonald's masterly account of Elspeth Buchan who, in the 18th century, believed she was "the woman clothed with the sun and crowned with twelve stars", come to fulfill the prophecy in Revelations as the Saviour of the World. The Buchanites first came to prominence in Irvine but from there they travelled to Closeburn, then Auchengibbert and Kirkgunzeon before trying to settle in Crocketford. They believed that they were the chosen few; that they would be carried to Heaven by angels when the world came to a fiery end, leaving Crocketford as "the last island in a sea of brimstone".

Taken from the account of Andrew Innes, whose devotion to 'Mother Buchan' caused him to keep her corpse in his home for fifty years, the themes of the play had a contemporary resonance: they touched on religious division and the waging of war in the name of God; the ordination of women; Marxist feminism; the politics of sexuality; personal and economic freedom; the paradigm of belief and liberation theology.

Brilliant performances by Annie Grace as Elspeth Buchan and Matthew Zajac as Andrew Innes (and a host of other characters) held the audience throughout as they conjured up a world of death, despair and delusion in Scotland following the failure of Bonnie Prince Charlie's rebellion and the rise of the roman Anti-Christ. Designer David Ramsay's set allowed only one prop: a masterly multi-functional chest skillfully used by the actors to create coffins, doorways, prison cells, churches, houses, furniture and architectural features. Between them they populated their world with followers, churchmen, officers of the law, 18th century neds and, in an hilarious aside, two irreverent tartan-clad stick puppets from Irvine.

It was easy to forget that there were only two actors in the cast; a suspension of disbelief helped by the complementary fiddle playing of Galloway-raised Amy Geddes, whose live music added layers of atmosphere to an already dark and brooding tale. Cara Wiseman's lighting showed off Angelina Gerrard's elegantly simple costumes to great effect and gelled with Andy Thorburn's evocative sound design. The whole package was neatly held together by Sholto Bruce and Karen Sutherland on stage management and publicity.

This was an excellent example of inspirational small scale touring theatre. A powerful story exploded on to the stage in the hall of Dalry School in the hands of two actors armed only with a folding box, a few lights, some sticky tape and a small technical crew. But, like the swan, the smooth movement on the surface belies the frantic activity beneath. What the audience don't see is the paddling by the theatre company, the Scottish Arts Council, Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association and the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust who all played their part in bringing "The Heretic's Tale" to the Stewartry. If this fine quality can be maintained then long may they continue to do so.

Robert Martin



REGULAR USER GROUPS AT DALRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Paint and Art

Monday 1.30 - 4.30pm
Bill Hines - 01644 430224

Glenkens Playgroup

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

Glenkens Mother & Toddlers

Wednesday 1.30 - 3.00pm
Sarah-Jane Mackenzie 01644 430429

Good Neighbours Club

Tuesday 2.00pm -
Mabel Young - 01644 430472

Craft Class

Thursday 2.00 - 4.00pm
Jean Maltman - 01644 430497

Drama Club

Cathy Polkinghorn on 01644 430058

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)

ON THE BEAT : Community Police News with PC Ian Wilson

Season's Greetings from the Polis.....

The ever lengthening run up to Christmas and New Year is now well into full swing and I would be falling in my duty not to warn you of the dangers of over indulging in alcohol.

DON'T DRINK DRIVE this Christmas! Plan ahead - arrange a lift home from the works party, leave the car at the pub. It is far better to pick it up from there than the Police pound! This winter we are targeting those with faulty lights and tyres as well as drink driving so beware! You have been warned!

Try and look after your house and possessions during the Festive period! If you are going away during this festive period get someone to keep an eye on your home. Don't give the opportunist thief a chance, for example when you are out and about in pubs and clubs etc, don't leave that new expensive mobile phone, leather jacket, handbag etc lying around in the pub and expect them to be there when you come back from the toilet!

We all seem to have extra cash and vouchers in our wallets, purses or pockets. Don't carry more cash than you may need! Leave it safely at home! When you are out enjoying yourself try not to disturb the neighbours, especially the elderly, with too much noise! If you come across anyone unwell through the effects of drink, especially youngsters offer them a hand or tell someone who can help them home!

Well I have preached enough, and all that remains is to thank you all for all your help and support during another year in the Glenkens, and of course wish every one of you a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year!

CLUB CORNER

Photos: Alex Davidson



GLENKENS KARATE CLUB

We are the Glenkens branch of Kickback Martial Arts, a Multi-Style Martial Arts school run by Brian and Nancy Hilton. Nancy is a 2nd Dan Black Belt of both Shotokan Karate and Freestyle Karate and Brian has several black belts, the highest of which is 6th Dan in Shotokan Karate. The club has been running for about two and a half years and has been busy and successful since the beginning. We have a strong team spirit as a club, and enjoy a hard working, but rewarding atmosphere.

There are gradings every four months for those who want to take them, and we have had some significant progress with these over the years. Hopefully our club will produce its first Black Belt in the next year or so!

Recent successes include two 2nd places for Hannah Sainsbury at the Welsh open in Conwy and several trophies for our local members at the Inter-club competitions in Kirkcubright and Thornhill earlier this year, including many 1st's!

We meet every Tuesday and Thursday night from 7pm to 9pm at Dalry Community Centre. Lessons cost £2 an hour, and there is a yearly fee of £15 for registration with NAKMAS, an internationally recognised Martial Arts association. People of all ages and abilities are welcome to join us, so why not come along and give it a try?

If any other clubs or groups would like to be featured please contact us.

SEWING MATERIALS SENT TO BOSNIA

Thank you everyone who contacted me with donations of buttons, zips, needles and thread for a new sewing project that we had been asked to support in Sarajevo. There was a wonderful response and 'Hazel's' even scoured through boxes and donated items at the request of one enterprising Glenkens resident.

On the first Thursday that we were there Nadja, our receptionist and Interpreter at the Healing Hands Clinic, explained that she had arranged for someone from the CCV (Concentration Camp Victims) Association to come and collect all the bags.

It had been a demanding day, and my final client that afternoon was sitting in the office chatting to Nadja. "Do you remember Jasmina?" Nadja asked. I didn't but as she had been a victim herself she was booked in for a treatment with me. Jasmina had started the sewing school and she thanked me very much for all the haberdashery that I had brought. Nadja then went on to translate that Jasmina had not been feeling very good, that she had headaches and a lot of pressures and was working many hours for the CCV.

Jasmina is a Muslim and when the Serbs attacked she had been living in East Bosnia (they often avoid saying Srebrenica because the memories of the massacre there are still so raw, Jasmina's father's body was only found last year.) A Serb neighbour handed the sixteen year old Jasmina her baby sister as she fled. Neither of them saw their mother again for five years, and the child looked upon Jasmina as her mother. Their mother had no idea whether they had survived. As well as her Father, Jasmina lost a brother and a sister, one other brother and one other sister survived. None of them have returned to their original home.

Bosnia is still recovering from the War and there are still many problems economically and emotionally and physically. Healing Hands is a small charity that sends out therapists for six months every year who try to alleviate some of the traumas resulting from the conflict. At least four therapists have volunteered from Kirkcudbrightshire over the years. Anyone wanting to know more about the organisation can visit www.healinghandsnetwork.org.uk



39TH ORIGINAL MOUNTAIN MARATHON

3,000 runners and mountaineers competed in the 39th Original Mountain Marathon (formerly known as the KIMM) in the Galloway Forest Park. All carried tent equipment and food spent an overnight camp in one of two locations, either Caldots or Burnhead. The athletes were awakened in their dark tents at 6am on Sunday by the pipes of award winning piper George Whan of Kirkcudbright. The winners Al and Ifor Powell covered almost 2 marathon lengths in the 2 days. The OMM remains one of the toughest events on the outdoor athletes calendar.



ACUPUNCTURE

Few people these days have not heard of acupuncture. Although practised in China for over 3000 years and introduced to Europe in the 17th century by the Jesuits, it has only become accepted and popular in Britain for the last 10 years. It is now taught to degree level in western universities and practised in clinics and hospitals worldwide. Television shows such as the Alternative Therapy series by the scientist Kathy Sykes further advanced awareness of the efficacy of acupuncture and its scientific validity.

Her programme showed tests using the country's most powerful MRI scanner assessing changes in the brain of a test subject before, during and after an acupuncture needle was inserted. To the surprise of researchers an area of the brain called the limbic system that deals with the control of pain was activated. This was an early indication of one of the mechanisms of acupuncture.

For those who have experienced its benefits this information only confirms what they already know. The view of sceptics who attribute the benefits of acupuncture to the placebo effect has also been addressed in several trials where knee pain has been treated with either real acupuncture or sham acupuncture. The patients were unaware whether they were receiving the real thing or not. Results showed definitively that the real acupuncture worked while the sham acupuncture had only a marginal response.

There is some joy in having one's beliefs validated with western scientific methodology but the real joy of an acupuncture treatment is in the experience.

The Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) approach to treatment allows time to discuss the history of a patient's health problems and uses the constructs of TCM to make a diagnosis. Practitioners will take

the patient's pulse at three positions and at three depths on both wrists, examine the tongue, feel for tender spots along acupuncture meridians and note changes of skin tone and colour. Those skilled in auricular therapy (a form of ear acupuncture) will also examine the ears. Then, the magic.

I call it magic even though there are rational explanations of the mechanism of acupuncture; the experience for the patient is often 'like magic.' The pain that was there melted away, the tight shoulders loosen and the heavy heart floats like a free and easy wanderer. These are the drug free pleasures of Traditional Chinese acupuncture. Patients leave with a renewed feeling of well-being.

Acupuncture is not limited to the treatment of pain. In China it is the first port of call for most patients entering a typical Chinese hospital. It is used to treat everything from acne to tinnitus.

In Australia IVF clinics advocate adjunctive acupuncture to enhance fertility and reduce the risk of miscarriage. It also helps with morning sickness and the pain of labour.

Immediately upon admission to the Chinese Hospital stroke ward, patients are treated with acupuncture. The recovery rate is impressive. Patients regain the ability to speak, are able to walk again and can even regain the ability to swallow. Can you imagine the joy of being able to eat again after having your meals fed into your stomach through a valve inserted in your abdomen?

As an acupuncturist, my greatest joy is to see patients adopt changes in their lives and lifestyles that facilitate personal growth and goal fulfilment. For the researchers, understanding how that comes about through acupuncture is a challenge. For the patients it is irrelevant.

Jim Chalmers Acupuncture www.jimchalmers.co.uk
Crossmichael Complementary Therapy Centre.

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corsockglass@btinternet.com

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Cert Advanced Ac. (China) Fellow AACMA

Crossmichael Complementary
Therapy Centre

Ph. 07749087699



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Please note the following changes and the additions of new members to the Glenkens Business Association Directory.

Change of phone number:-

RJ-P Construction, Russ Julian-Prince, Blawquhairn Farm, Dalry DG7 3TY, 07738 564 627

New members:-

• Cloud Cuckoo Lodge, Lesley Wykes, Cuckoo Stone Cottage, St. John's Town of Dalry, DG7 3UA, 01644 430 375, enquiries@cloudcuckoolodge.co.uk, www.cloudcuckoolodge.co.uk

• Kate's Sandwich Bar, The Place For Take-Away Sandwiches and Rolls, To Order in advance phone: 07900 204 902, Open Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm, The Garage, Dalry

• Deeside Bed & Breakfast and Luxury Self Catering Cottage, Jenny Cowan, Deeside, 42 Main Street, Crossmichael, DG7 3AU, 01556 670 239, www.deeside-galloway.co.uk, deesidemx@aol.co.uk



Glenkens Business Association

We will be holding our AGM at 7pm, on Tuesday 16 January 2007. The venue is The Ken Bridge Hotel. Please put this date in your diaries, it is most important that as many members as possible come to this meeting as it will have an impact on our future direction following the success of the Business Directory. If you have any subjects you wish to have raised at the AGM, please let the secretary know well in advance please (early December).

THE AGENDA (Provisional):

Chair's report of the past year - Treasurer's report

Changes to the Constitution (The Constitution is also available on the web site).

Other committees reports - Small increase to GBA fees to cover extra costs of reprinting the Business Directory and other future events and projects.

Election of Executive Committee members - The coming year - AOCB

Everyone is welcome, members please bring a friend(s)! The guest speaker will be Keith Muir from Forest Enterprise on their tourism strategy for the Galloway Forest Park. We look forward to seeing you all there. More information is available on the web site and this will be updated regularly.

<http://www.glenkens-business-association.org.uk/events.html> or send an email to: secretary@glenkens-business-association.co.uk or telephone 01644 430 162

If you have any ideas for future meeting topics, events and speakers please let us know.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

A WORKING WEEKEND AT THE GREEN HOUSE

Most people are aware of the buzz currently surrounding renewable energy. What less people are aware of, however, is just quite how much of this buzz has found its way to the Glenkens, with one company in particular, Natural Power, operating at the heart of both the renewables sector and the Glenkens.

Over the first weekend in October, the Glasgow born, Norwegian adopted and now Glenkens based renewable energy consultancy Natural Power decided to team up with their landlord, The Forrest Estate, to participate in the D&G wide 'Doors Open Day' initiative. The aim was to allow anyone the chance to find out more about the company and estate and their fields of work. As well as being able to ask questions of the company staff present, visitors were also invited to chow down on a tasty barbecue provided with remarkable culinary aplomb by local girls Margaret Sainsbury and Liz Ramsay in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. There were 'alternative' sports on offer too (to go with the alternative energy) with Morag Patterson being on hand to give lessons in axe throwing (not as daunting as it first seems), Alan Turnbull patiently demonstrating the refined skills of archery and, for the young at heart, no less fun (but arguably less skill!) was involved during the 'splat the rat' competition. Teas and coffees were generously provided by members of the Glenkens' Macmillan Cancer Support team.

Visitors were shown the track record of the company with display boards outlining the various commercial projects the company has been involved in throughout

the years, including the Windy Standard site, near Carsphairn. However those with back-of-garden renewable aspirations were able to find kindred spirits amongst the staff with the Green House serving as a tangible example of what can be achieved by sustainable, energy-efficient architecture.

As the weekend drew to a close having secured funds for Macmillan Cancer Support of over £480 and with 500 visitors having passed through, the most exciting, enthusiastic and innovative contribution to the event was in the process of being appraised. Local youngsters from Glenkens' schools had diligently produced a stream of renewable energy related drawings and paintings for an art competition, transforming the Green House office reception with a cascade of imaginative images - with such a high pedigree of renewable energy enthusiasm just waiting to come forward from the younger generation, it seems certain that the Glenkens renewable energy buzz is here to stay.

by Donald Speirs



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YOUTH PAGE

GYRO-SCOPE COMMITTEE

It was always the intention, when setting up GCAT, to provide an organisation, which would facilitate for all aspects of the community. With this in mind, our GYRO-scope project, "Glenkens Youth and Recreational Opportunities" kicked off recently. We held one meeting for primary age range along with their mums and one for the secondary age range.

The purpose of the meetings was to make young people aware of the work Glenkens Community & Arts Trust was doing and to inspire them to start to think about what they want from the new centre.

1 What facilities are needed in the Glenkens that aren't already provided?

2 What interests local young people?

3 How can the new centre help young people achieve their aspirations and goals?

The Secondary meeting was very productive and lots of ideas were discussed. Popular threads of thought included holding regular band nights for young people, as there are lots of young people involved with band projects who would appreciate the opportunity to perform live. Continuing with the idea of performance, it was proposed that youth should take responsibility in not only organising the event, but also taking care of the technical side of things. Perhaps to train some young people to control lighting and sound systems, particularly if there are any individuals interested in following in the field as a career.

Sarah Ade, the coordinator of the "Glenkens Gazette" expressed interest in finding new sources for contributions for the new Youth Page. This means an opportunity for young people to have the freedom to write about matters, which they feel are important and also gain experience in journalism.

Sports was talked about with lots of different possibilities suggested, such as inviting a sports personality to talk and coach local young people and setting up a class for indoor sports such as boxing. Finally, a youth club was also a popular idea for the new centre. It could provide information on life skills for example, C.V writing, money management, cooking skills, job opportunities and stress management.

It was decided that the first Wednesday evening of every month at 4:30pm was when this group would meet in the GCAT office, anyone is welcome to come along or if you wish to contribute the Gazette, phone the GCAT office on 420374.

The primary age range meeting was also constructive as parents were accompanied by their children who had equally as much input. A few of the mums expressed an interest in using the new centre on school holidays for organised activities. This would provide an aim for attending children to aspire to if incorporating with RSAMD or YDance links, as time spent rehearsing could result in performance. The possibility of RSAMD tutors visiting the new centre every three weeks was mentioned which would mean the advantage of additional instruction for children already receiving lessons or if there was a specific demand, for individuals to be taught teaching skills.

Another popular idea discussed was the possibility of forming a GCAT membership scheme for young people. This would mean young people feeling more independent and more predominant in youth matters of GCAT.

Film in the new centre could mean a regular club, which could include classic films. Children would then get "the cinema experience" as opposed to watching a DVD at home. The garden of the new centre was also discussed, with the consensus being the need to seek out volunteers for the community garden project. A rockery and herb plants would optimise the advantage of a low maintenance yet colourful garden as well as linking in with nature and any cookery training.

The Kirkcudbright Performing Arts Project (KPAP) is starting a new project based on memories and experiences of life in the Stewartry during World War II. Adam Mitchell of the Community Learning and Development Service said "Young people want to learn what happened in these times and what better way to learn than by using these memories in a way that should bring a smile to everyone's face". They are hoping to create a play using the information they find which will tour local venues in Spring 2007 so look out for further details!

DRAMA & MUSIC - COME AND TRY

On Saturday 10th of February, the RSAMD will return to the Glenkens to provide a "Come and Try" day for traditional music and drama at Dalry Secondary School from 1pm until 5pm. This is an informal opportunity to either try out an instrument you have always fancied having a go at, or just want to find out more about learning music or drama through the RSAMD. It is open to all young people so whether you have experience or are a complete novice, come along and have a go!

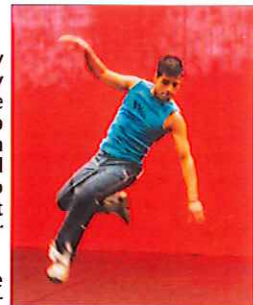
Y NOT ? !

Y dance has returned for a new season at Dalry Secondary School with two sessions held every Thursday until the 14th of December. The company, which coaches street and hip hop dance, is very impressed by the talent our area has to offer. One class is held during school time, while the other is after school and open to all primary and secondary pupils. Participants get the opportunity to dance to modern, popular tunes and devise their own routines.

It's lots of fun and a great way to improve your dancing skills - why not come along, whether you have been before or have no dancing experience, there's something for everyone! The classes are free and if you attend six sessions over the course, you will receive a free YDance T-shirt and water bottle!

Transport may be available home (ONLY to Glenkens addresses) but must be booked at least three days in advance. For more information, or to book a place on the bus, please call the GCAT office on 420374.

YDance will visit in the Spring, on the 3rd of March, again in Dalry Secondary School with two workshops, starting at 1pm and 2pm which will result in a performance in the evening, at 7:30pm. The production is called "Risk" and is aimed at young people and the situations many find themselves spiralling into during their teen years. Joy-riding, "Train-surfing", graffiti, drugs and theft are themes which are explored in order to express a young person's need for freedom and to discover who they are. The day will be coordinated by professional dancers and choreographers and promises to be a worthwhile and fun experience. More information will be available in the next issue of the Glenkens Gazette.



If you have any ideas for the Youth Page in the Gazette or for youth related projects in the CatStrand please do contact us on 01644 420374.

GYRO-SCOPE WEBSITE

The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust is currently in the process of creating a new website which will include information about all GCAT events and projects. We hope to have a page committed exclusively to GYRO Scope (Glenkens Youth and Recreational Opportunities) and so call upon any young people in the Glenkens who have ideas or anything they feel is pressing and want to include on the new page. All input is valuable and we will consider all ideas put forward.

Details about the RSAMD and YDance will be on the page as well as an update from the newly appointed GYRO Scope committees, there will also be space for anything else of interest that young people would want included

The purpose of the website is to keep young people informed about activities they can take part in and benefit from, in their area as well as achieve feedback on what GCAT is doing for young people. We want the page to be run by young people, for young people. There is freedom for any individuals who are interested in developing features like blogs, visual arts, animation and music. We are also interested in finding someone who would like to take the responsibility of artistic director to design the look of the page, to make it colourful, appealing and relatable. It is a great opportunity to have some fun creating a useful and interesting feature. If you are interested in finding out more, call GCAT on 420374.

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Sat 23rd Dec. 9.00am-5.00pm
24th, 25th, 26th & 27th Dec. CLOSED
Thurs 28th Dec. 9.00am-6.30pm*
Fri 29th Dec. 9.00am-5.00pm
Sat 30th Dec. 9.00am-3.00pm
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RECOMMENDED LAST POSTING DATES:

Standard Parcels	13 December 2005
2nd Class	16 December 2005
1st Class	19 December 2005

**The Post Office will be closed over the festive season on:
25/26/27 December, 1/2/3 January**

Please note that many business and personal Clydesdale Bank transactions can be carried out at your local post office. We would be happy to assist with any queries. Many thanks to everyone for their custom and support over the last year.

THE STORY OF JAMES MCMICHAEL - PART III

A dramatised interpretation by Angela Miller

I woke long before dawn, and determined not to disturb Mother or my siblings, I slipped as quietly from the bed room as possible. Since the raid in Kirkcudbright two nights before, I had been jumping at shadows, terrified that Claverhouse would know that I had been involved and bring his wrath down on my family. I could stand it no longer, so last night I determined that I would take a bag of supplies and disappear off into the hills after my father. One of the men involved in the raid had let it slip that father was hiding out at Auchlenloy, by the Black Water of Dee.

So it was that half an hour later I was on the road with a backpack of food, heading in that general direction. The first rays of sunlight were peaking over the hills, but all around there was a thick, icy fog which crept up the river basin on tendrils of fingers. I could only barely see where I was going or what lay ahead of me. I nearly jumped clean out of my skin when I heard a sudden whisper in my ear.

"You should be careful out here lad, Claverhouse is upon the roads with his men," I turned, afraid of what I might find and saw that it was Robert Ferguson who stooped down to speak in my ear.

"I was going to my father," I told him in my defence. "And ye could have led a dragoon to him unknowing walking is such a dwam along these roads."

My mouth dropped open and I stuttered, trying in vain to explain myself, but Ferguson simply smiled and shook his head. He took me by the arm and lead me off the road and into the field.

"I'll guide you there boy," he began "By a safer road, although you must stay close to me in this fog." How thankful I was that he found me, for less than two minutes later we heard the sound of many horses hooves upon the road and looked to see soldiers on it, their shadowy shapes picked out in the fog by the lamps they carried to see by.

We walked the many miles to the Black Water, the icy fog lifting slowly under the sluggish winter sun. We crossed bogs and burns and followed deer tracks through the forests, always wary that we might be followed or seen by Claverhouse's men as they combed the countryside.

Finally, with the fog still rolling about the feet of the trees though the day was almost half gone, we came to Auchlenloy, where my father and his companions had made camp. Though they were hardy men, the bitter cold and privation seemed to be beginning to take their toll. Wariness of being found prevented them from lighting a fire that might have otherwise improved their lot. They fell gratefully on the bannocks, cheese and cold meat that I had brought and my father praised me highly for my thoughtfulness.

To see him alive when I had feared him dead until 2 days before cheered me greatly, and for a while I forgot my fears and sat and listened to the chatter of the men as I had done many times throughout my childhood.

That it would be the last time I would do this, the last time I would speak with them, the last time I would see my father alive and without care I did not realise at the time. Now the laughter rings hollow in my mind for it was that sound that brought the dragoons down upon us.

They came on foot, silent as foxes, hidden by the fog and caught us all by surprise. A shot rang out and Ferguson fell dead to the ground. I felt my feet rooted to the ground in shock as I stared at the corpse of a man who had been alive bare seconds before.

"Run lad!" my father bellowed, tearing me from my frozen state. He leaped to his feet, pistol and sword drawn already. I needed no second telling and flew headlong for the tree-line, but there I stopped, not wanting to leave my father again. Now, in some ways, I wish I had not.

Graham of Claverhouse and his bloody band of Dragoons stepped out of the fog, muskets trained on my father and his cronies. "James Mc Michael!" he roared and I saw my father step forward, his head held high. "That is I!" he told the sheriff.

With a wave of his hand, Claverhouse halted his men and strode forward to face my father, giving no heed to the weapons my father had drawn.

"You are under arrest for the murder of Pierson of Carsphairn and treason against his majesty, Charles II. I advise you to come quietly," he said in a voice as cold as the fog.

"You know I will not," my father replied. Claverhouse turned to his men and pointed at where my father's friends stood behind him. "Shoot them," he ordered.

Gunshot tore the air like a thunderstorm broken right overhead. Robert Stewart and John Grierson fell dead. In the forest I stood aghast, unable to tear my eyes away.

"I'll not be your trophy catch, Claverhouse. You'll either have to kill me or be killed trying to take

me," My father told him, without a waver in his voice. "You think you're a match for me McMichael?" Claverhouse asked, his voice coloured with scorn. He drew his sword, "Let's see how much of a fool you are." My father tossed his pistol to the ground and grinned. "Single combat, Sheriff," he said, issuing the challenge.

Claverhouse replied by crossing swords with my father and the ring of steel echoed in the frigid air. Father roared like an angered bull and rained blows on Claverhouse, forcing him backwards. But Claverhouse's skill with the blade was not small and after his initial surprise at Father's fury he fought back. They went to and fro several times and Claverhouse began to be frustrated as my father's skill was more than he had imagined. Again father fought him back with a furious volley of blows and Claverhouse missed his footing on the wet ground. Father lunged and there was a dull clang as his sword met the metal of Claverhouse's helm. Claverhouse staggered back, his pride as stung as his crown.

"Had your helmet been like mine," my father snarled, pointing to the soft bonnet on his head, "Your carcass had now found a bed upon the heath!"

There was triumph in father's voice, but alas, it was to be short lived! For as he they fought I had spied that one of Claverhouse's dragoons had moved away from the rest and he stooped to take a large stone. I was frozen and made dumb with fear, something of which I am not proud to this day, and I could not find my voice when I saw the dragoon slip silently up behind my father as he spoke. I saw him raise the rock up high, and still the cry I longed to utter remained caught within my throat. Then the dragoon dashed it down upon my father's skull, cleaving it open.

In my horror my knees went from under me, bile rising fast in my gullet. I was aware of more shots ringing through the air and somehow a sense of self-preservation took over and I stumbled back to my feet and fled.

In life, as well as death my father was a man of indomitable spirit and somewhat reckless character, yet not a day goes by that I do not mourn his loss or wish that I had a little more of his strength of will. The Killing Times are long behind us, and graves erected for many of the Martyrs who died in those days. Often I sit by the stone that marks the final rest of Robert Stewart and John Grierson and ponder their cruel fate. But never far from my mind is the martyr who isn't buried there, the Martyr who knows no true rest. My father, James Mc Michael.

Many thanks to Christine MacArthur at Dalry Library and the ladies of Carsphairn Heritage whose help was invaluable in researching these stories. You can read samples of my work at <http://underhilljournal.blogspot.co.uk/> Feel free to comment in any way!

All work copyright Angela Miller © 2006

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sundays

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

Special Services and Events

1st December, 7.30 pm
Evening of Traditional Music. Dalry Town Hall.
10th December, 6.30 pm
Carols by Candlelight. Carsphairn Church.
24th December, 11.30 pm
Watchnight Service. Kells Church.
25th December, 10.30 am
Christmas Day Family Service. Dalry Church.
31st December, 10.30 am
United Service with Choir. Carsphairn Church.

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

Christmas Services

Sunday 24th Dec.
10.30 am Holy Communion
11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion
Christmas Day
10.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 31st Dec
10.30 am Carol Service

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

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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
DebRA, Rex House,
103 Bothwell Road,
Hamilton ML3 0DW**

Forthcoming Event:
The DebRA Scottish Classic will be held at the
Kintyre Championship Course at Westin Turnberry
Resort, Ayrshire on 11th June 2007.
Registration Forms to enter can be sent out from
our Office in Hamilton at the above number. The
cost will be £500 for a Team of 4

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.

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

DECEMBER

Fri 1st, 7.30 pm Evening of Traditional Music - Dalry Town Hall.
Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd - Tale-Blazers storytelling workshop
 Dalry Community Centre, for prices and times contact GCAT
Sun 3rd Dec, Galloway Hills Rally
Thu 7th - Tea Dance - Dalry Town Hall, 3-5pm
Fri 8th Dec, Mary Barclay Band, Dalry Town Hall, doors open 7.30 pm
Fri 15th Dec, Visitscotland.com xmas open-day, 26 Main St, Dalry, from 12pm
Fri 15th & Sat 16th Dec, Little Bo Peep, Dalry Town Hall, 7pm
Sun 10th, 6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight - Carsphairn Church.
Wed 27th Dec, Ayr Bus Trip, dept. New Galloway 10.15am, dept. Dalry 10.30am

JANUARY

Tue 16th Jan, Glenkens Business Association AGM, Ken Bridge Hotel, 7pm
Thu 18th Carsphairn Burns Supper Lagwyne Hall
10th Feb, RSAMD 'come-&-try day', Dalry Secondary School, 1pm - 5pm
3rd March, Ydance, Dalry Secondary School, 2 workshops starting 1pm & 2pm

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

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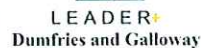
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FOR FEBRUARY/
 MARCH ISSUE 38:

**Wed 10th
 JANUARY
 2007**

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for an appointment or home visit if required

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