

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

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www.glenkensgazette.com

THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Balmacellan Village Hall was a hive of activity at The Battle of the Bands on Friday 16 March. And what a success it was! With over 100 people through the door, it was wonderful to see so many young people having such a great time, bringing the hall to life. I don't think I have ever seen so many young people at an event held in the Glenkens, and the sound engineer, Billy Milligan, who works with many youth music events in Dumfries, said "you'd be pushed to get this many people to a youth event in Dumfries!" Now that's impressive.

Three bands featured at the event - The Jam Squad, Crazy Paving and Syphon Plane - with band members ranging in age from 14 to 18. They performed like pros, illuminated by the atmospheric red glow of the hall's overhead electric heaters while young fans danced and cheered them on. The standard of the musicians was very high, impressing everyone there I think - except of course the die-hard fans who all knew how good they would be! The judges of the competition, Simon and Liz Holmes who run the Knockengoroch Festivals, said that "the standard of the bands was outstanding" and showed a dedication to their music and a keen desire to perform.

The event was organised by the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust GYRO-scope youth committee. Ben Truman, who organised the event, says: "I've always been very interested in local bands and looking for new, interesting types of music, and when I got involved in the GYRO-scope committee and we were asked to suggest events for young people, I suggested a band night and the idea grew from there." He goes on to explain how they organised funding for the event, "there are so many grants available out there, especially for young people who are looking for ways to provide entertainment aimed at the younger generation." But it was hard work too, as Ben explains: "The idea was first thrown up in October and developed from there. I have had to conquer many obstacles I have never encountered before, as this is the first time I have organised an like this. But with the help of GCAT staff, and a lot of hard work, I think that the juice was very much worth the squeeze!"

With this first achievement under its belt, the GYRO-scope committee will hopefully make youth events in the area a regular occurrence. Ben says: "based on the success of this band night, there is no reason not to make this a regular event. I am also looking into other events showcasing young local talent in the future so keep your eyes open!"



WHIZZ-BANG WIZARDS



Local boys Joe Patterson and Edmund Wise became TV celebrities recently when they featured on prime time TV on the BBC1 programme Whizz Whizz Bang Bang. Joe and Edmund, aged 11, featured in the final episode of the three week series on Friday 23 March. The premise of the show, says Series Producer Brendan McCaul, is to "inspire invention in a creative way - the ideas are whimsical, not practical solutions for everyday life. We aim to inspire a creative mind in young people - the show aims to entertain first and foremost, but also to educate and inspire."

Joe and Edmund were chosen when they attended a workshop for inventive children held in Glasgow. The producers of the show found both boys to be creative in their own right, but they "worked well together, with good dynamics between them - sort of like 'Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure' - their individuality and unique ways of thinking combined with inventiveness and personality really caught our attention."

The boys' invention was 'A Gig in a Box', which is a virtual air guitar system where they create an audio-visual performance using virtual air guitars that actually play music. For the programme they recreate the theme tune for Whizz Whizz Bang Bang using virtual air guitars. The invention works with sound beams, and visuals are also created. "We take them on a journey where they learn how the sound beam machines work, to a dubbing suite where we take the music apart for them, and at the end of the adventure they have created their invention" says Brendan.



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LOCAL ARTISTS

Martyn Wheeler - Harpist



Martyn got his first harp in about 1992, just after he moved to the Glenkens, but didn't start to play it until six years ago. "The reason I decided to play the harp" says Martin, "is that I realized my memory wasn't as good as it was when I was younger, and I felt that it was time to slow the descent into rapid senility. So I decided to learn a musical instrument, and the harp appealed."

The harp is a fairly unusual instrument to choose, and Martyn gives me a better understanding of the capabilities of the harp when he states; "a piano is just a harp on its side – the piano-forte (soft-loud) was created to allow what became the harpsichord (literally a harp on its side) to have more tonal quality." Apparently the harp was invented around Scotland or Ireland as late back as Pictish times, and so Scottish culture must actually have been fairly civilized before the Romans ploughed their way through the country.

"After having had the harp sitting around for years, I was on the verge of giving up when I spoke to a harp manufacturer

who suggested I take lessons from Wendy Stewart. Wendy is a world renowned harpist, in my opinion in the top six in the world, and luckily for me she lives locally!"

Martyn plays regularly at the Knockengoroch festivals where you will find him again this year, usually performing in the atmospheric Long House. He also featured at the Wickerman last year, and has played at The Arches in Glasgow and The Fairfield Halls in Croyden. If you would like to buy a copy of Martyn's current cd, find out when the next one will be released, or just get more info on where you can see performances, contact him on 01556 503 877.



DALRY FARMERS MARKET A GREAT SUCCESS

On Saturday, March 10th, an impressive turnout of over 250 people enjoyed the first of the bi-monthly Glenkens Farmers Markets at Dalry Town Hall. Ten organic and home produce traders from the region exhibited a wide range of produce - veal, pork, lamb and other meats, smoked cheese, organically produced eggs, honey, chutney and jams, bread and other tasty produce.

So popular was the event and the produce on display, that two producers sold out within an hour of the market opening, and others were making frantic phone calls to re-order and re-stock their stands. In fact the market closed two hours early as most traders had so little stock left. Also on sale were home-made scones, cakes and other home bakes, as well as tasty home-made soup.

The Farmers Market was the second in a regular series of monthly markets. Last month a very successful Craft Fair took place featuring local crafts, gifts, photographs and other speciality goods made by local craftspeople from the Glenkens and around Galloway. The Markets are part of a series of regular monthly markets, held every second Saturday of the month, to help raise funds for the Town Hall Refurbishment Fund. In total, over £350 was raised at this month's Farmers Market, and last month's Craft Fair raised over £250.

KNOCKENGORROCH FESTIVALS ACHIEVE 'BEACON FESTIVAL' STATUS!



Our very own Glenkens music festivals, the Knockengoroch Festivals, have just been announced as one of Dumfries and Galloway's 'Beacon' Festivals by the Council's Festivals and Major Events Strategy team. The vision of the Festivals and Major Events Strategy is to assist between six and eight events in Dumfries and Galloway to develop to a standard of international quality by the end of 2008. New 'Beacon' status will enable Knockengoroch Festivals to continue to grow in size and distinction over the coming years and help to establish Dumfries and Galloway as the region to visit for world class music festivals. The next Knockengoroch Festival is the 'World Ceilidh' which runs from the 18th to the 20th May. For more info visit www.knockengoroch.org.uk or call 01644 460 662.



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DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

It was reported that last week bins appeared at the lay-by on the higher Carsphairn Road, B7000 opposite Tom Scott's. G Bell contacted the relevant department and spoke to Mr Charles Clemie who is the Principle Road Services officer for the Stewartry. He was unaware of their arrival particularly in view of his recent report advising members that this site was inappropriate due to road safety issues. He confirmed the bins would be uplifted immediately. It would appear that a misunderstanding took place between one of his officers and Ms J Hay. After a lengthy and, at times, a heated discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Prentice will arrange for Mr C Clemie to visit Dalry next week and meet with Ms J Hay, Mrs M Jones and two members of the community to view possible alternative sites and his report should be available for the next Community Council meeting. It was agreed by members that no final decision should be made without the CC's approval.

Ms Hay proposed the following 5 alternative sites: The lay-by on the B7000, behind the Library, car park at Kirkland St, by the storage shed at the Town Hall and the land at the back of the Town Hall. N.B. Charles Clemie and Cllr. George Prentice will be in Dalry on Thursday March 15th at 2pm to meet with Mr McKay and Mr Fenner. Ms Hay and Mrs Jones have also been invited.

Moir Jones

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

GLENKENS '73 CLUB

The two club entries for this year's Stewartry Drama Festival were greatly appreciated by the capacity audiences at Lochside Theatre.

'Cruise Missile' by Jean McConnell was staged on the opening night of the festival and featured Kathy Polkinghorne and Christine Rae as holidaymakers on a cruise ship. The play was directed by Ewan McIntyre and is a gentle comedy highlighting the clash of personalities between the rather loud and brash experienced cruiser and the quieter first time cruiser who just wants to be left alone. The adjudicator praised the characterisation and the set which captured the feeling of being at sea. A good choice of music and sound effects also helped to set the atmosphere. He felt that there could have been a little more variation of movement and pace within the piece but otherwise thoroughly enjoyed the play which brought the first evening to a close.

The other entry 'Wha's Laird' by George S. Carruthers was the final production of the festival on the Saturday evening. Described by the author as a 'rumbustious romp in Scots' it was destined to close the festival in style. The play demands a rather complex set with no less than five different entrances and the club members pulled out all the stops to create a full box set with suitable period furniture and stage dressings sourced from far and wide. The adjudicator described the set as magnificent with great attention to detail, complemented by excellent costuming and make up. He awarded the trophy for the Best Stage Presentation to the production, the second year in a row that the club has won this trophy.

The play was directed by Marie Davie and tells the hilarious story of twin brothers who are fighting over the right to be the laird and featured a large cast – Brian Edgar, Rosie Kneeshaw, Ewan McIntyre, Marie Davie, Callum McIntyre, Emma Thomson, Aaron Edgar and Sheila Little. The audience laughed virtually from the opening line as the comedy raged and the plot thickened. Although the pace romped along for most of the play, the adjudicator felt that it flagged a bit at times towards the end and this reduced the impact of some of the comedy scenes. However, he praised the acting in general and highlighted some excellent characterisation, teamwork and comedy timing amongst the cast. The play also won the trophy for the Best Scottish Play.

The club are intending to present the plays in Dalry Town Hall when a suitable date can be agreed, probably during April.

The Open Festival was won by Lochside Theatre's production of 'King of the Castle' by Mark Rees which will represent the Stewartry District at the Western Divisional Final in East Kilbride at the end of March.



Glenkens Business Association

Talk by Damien Wilson, Operations Manager for Countryside and Environment, Regeneration and Europe for D&G Council, to Glenkens Business Association.

Damien began his talk by describing what he and his staff did, supporting regeneration projects in the region, for example in major projects, helping to replace jobs lost at Chapelcross following decommission, improving the environment and vibrancy of Dumfries to make it the regional capital, regenerate the waterfront at Stranraer and others. He also mentioned his role in community area regeneration, encouraging local people to take control and supporting local communities to bring forward new employment and projects that will show an economic return; e.g. GCAT, the Dalbeattie Initiative, Upper Nithsdale Forum, Kirkcudbright 2000 etc.

There is an idea that Dumfries and Galloway could become the Events and Festivals area of Scotland and each year the council promote and support particular festivals.

Scotland is the Number 1 mountain bike capital of the world, and the south is a very important part of that, providing a number of excellent trails, like the 7 Stanes. Provision of locations for film and TV programmes, supporting theme towns, matching council aspirations with redevelopment plans and co-ordination significant building enquiries are all part of their remit.

Scottish Enterprise Dumfries and Galloway will be reviewing their strategy very soon and it is important that the business community get involved and make their needs known before the new strategy is decided.

On the Countryside and Environment side, they aim to give more publicity to and improve the maintenance of the footpath networks in the region, working with the Forestry Commission and other bodies and help publicise areas like Wigtown Bay and Loch Ken.

All the members who attended agreed that it was an excellent talk and it was a shame that a number of members were unable to attend.

The next presentation is on April 24th - a talk by Andrew Bielinski of SNH on Galloway & S Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve.

He will give a bit of background to what a Biosphere Reserve is and then look more closely at the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve proposals.

Everyone is welcome to attend all our presentations.

Please check the web site for more information

www.glenkens-business-association.org.uk

Maggi Kaye - Chairman Glenkens Business Association

RENEWABLE ENERGY MEETING

A meeting was held By the Glenkens Business Association on the 20th March at the Ken Bridge Hotel to highlight government changes to renewable energy policies which will affect us. Jeremy Sainsbury, a Director of Natural Power, gave a very thorough and informative talk which ended with a time-slot nearly as long as his talk answering the questions of attendees. The fact that so many people had such interesting questions shows how important this issues are to many people, and that we need to know what we should be doing to keep up with current initiatives. The simplest point which was raised was simple energy efficiency – turning the TV off standby, getting insulation fitted, and using low energy light bulbs. But, as Jeremy highlighted, getting people to change their habits is never easy. Soon, though, we will start to be penalised for not taking steps to conserve energy, so it's worth changing our habits now!



Glenkens Business Association

www.glenkens-business-association.org.uk

secretary@glenkens-business-association.org.uk

THE PLACE TO BE SEEN

The 2007 Directory will be published in April in order that it will be available to the community before the start of the new tourist season. All entries, renewal of existing membership and new members details and advertising must be in by the beginning of March.

If you wish to upgrade your existing entry from plain text to B&W or colour advert please contact the secretary ASAP.

Nature & Wildlife

CARSPHAIRN SALMON INITIATIVE

Bringing the salmon back - that's the ambitious aim of the Carsphairn Salmon Initiative, a local group who are working to stock the Deugh & Upper Ken rivers which are currently inaccessible to salmon due to the impassable Kendoon dams.

Experimental stockings have proven the viability of young salmon to thrive in these headwaters and in 2003 the group put 60,000 salmon eggs in batches of 100 into man-made gravel nests throughout the Carsphairn parish area. Survivors of this stocking were due back from the sea in late 2006. More may arrive in late 2007 and the group would like to hear from anyone who sees salmon jumping in the Kendoon - Polmaddie area below the dams.

The historical salmon map opposite highlights the significance this fish played in the area prior to the power scheme and afforestation and highlights the scope for recreating the great salmon runs of the past. The Deugh and Upper Ken comprise some 40% of the whole Ken-Dee catchment and have the potential to greatly increase total salmon numbers. These have now fallen to an all time low of only 300-400 fish per year - the runs of the past were counted in many thousands. The new Scottish Power-funded hatchery at Shirmers is vital to current enhancement efforts. The next step is planned in association with the Galloway Fisheries Trust and involves stocking a major tributary in the Carsphairn area. In order to ensure maximum survival the young fish will be trapped when they migrate down towards the sea and then released down the Dee below the dam system.

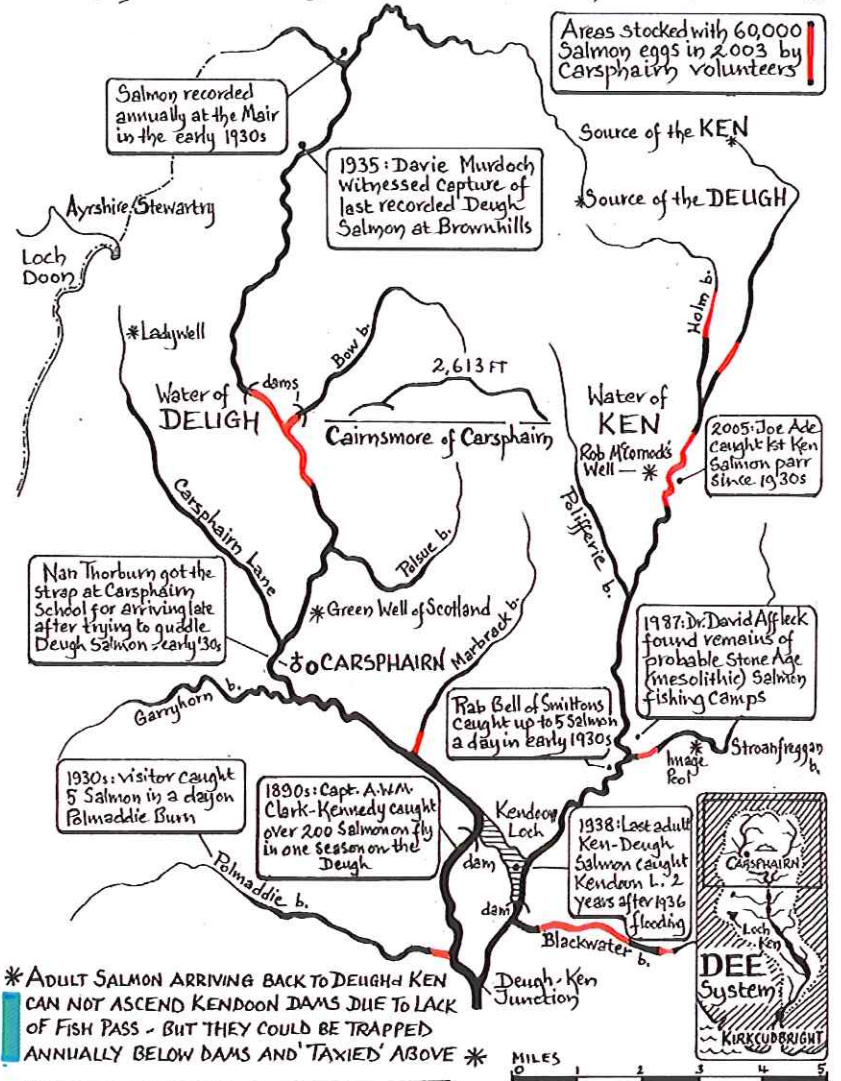
It is hoped that by the time these fish return from the sea in 3 or 4 years time there will be a trap in place below the Kendoon dams so they can be caught and transferred above the dams to continue their way upstream to breed.

The Carsphairn Salmon Initiative is working in cooperation with the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board, the Galloway Fisheries Trust, Scottish Power and other bodies involved in current efforts to enhance salmon on the Ken-Dee rivers system.

Robin Ade

CARSPHAIRN SALMON INITIATIVE • MAP DEUGH + UPPER KEN

Showing former range of Salmon with Current potential for restocking



CARSPHAIRN SCHOOL VISITS WATER COURSE PROJECT

Carsphairn School pupils recently had an outing to a local forest burn where they learned about how land use has affected our water courses, and how we can help. Robin Ade, local expert in this field, is working on a project to stabilise burns in the Carsphairn area which have been damaged by 1970s forestry. The burn at Smittons which was visited is the first to be worked with, and the idea is to show the school children what the burn looks like before any improvements have been made, and to explain the issues effecting the water course. Then the pupils will visit again once the Sitka Spruce trees which border the burn have been thinned out, pools have been created to slow the flow of the water during flood times, and some native trees have been planted along the banks to allow more life to develop in and around the water. It is hoped that this is the first of many burns which will receive such help with the support of local forest managers and the Galloway Fisheries Trust.



FUNDRAISING NEWS

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE IN MALAWI



Glenkens minister David Bartholomew has registered to take part in a Bike Ride in Malawi from 12-21 May, organised by the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society.

The ride will cover more than 280 miles in six days, starting in the capital, Lilongwe, and ending at Mulanje Mission Hospital in southern Malawi. Funds raised from the event will help improve services at Mulanje Mission Hospital and support other health projects in southern Malawi. The hospital was founded in the 1870s by the Church of Scotland and is now under the auspices of the Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian.

The largest orphan centre of Abbas Rest Orphans, the Glenkens based charity which local congregations seek to support, is located not far from the hospital; and he has come to an agreement that half of the sponsorship money that he raises will go to Abbas Rest Orphans and half to the hospital and related health projects. After the bike ride he plans to visit at least some of the orphan centres.

He has committed himself to raise at least £2300 in sponsorship.

PANCAKE LUNCH

Balmacellan & Kells Guild held their 10th annual Pancake Lunch on Tuesday 20th February in New Galloway Town Hall. Since its inception in 1998 the event has raised almost £2,500 for different charities, most of which have had a local connection. This year was no exception as £400 was raised for the chosen charity, "Maximum Attack" - Gordon Clendinning's Fundraising Appeal for The Paul O'Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre, Glasgow.

Around a hundred people came to enjoy the pancakes, each having a savoury and a sweet filling followed by tea or coffee. Background piano music provided by Jim McPhee added to the pleasant atmosphere. A stall with some lovely home baking and a raffle helped to boost Guild funds.

Balmacellan & Kells is a small Guild with only 14 members but they were helped by many friends who came along to serve pancakes, fetch and carry, and wash dishes!



£1000 FOR COMIC RELIEF

On Thursday 15 February, local girl Connie McCallie shaved her hair to a grade one to raise money for charity. Supported by friends and family Connie, aged 13, had decided some months ago that she wanted to do this in order to raise money for the needy. The event was held at Simply Delicious in Castle Douglas and Connie, along with two other friends, raised over £1000 for Comic Relief.

Well done Connie!



NEW GALLOWAY SWRI



In 1921 a new organisation for women, the SWRI was holding its first meetings in New Galloway. The first group in the Glenkens area was formed here, and has now celebrated its 85th birthday. When it began, there were few opportunities for women to socialise outside the home, and large numbers were attracted from a wide area to become members. Soon several groups were meeting in the Glenkens. The aims of the SWRI were to promote rural life, educational opportunities and to socialise and these are still the same today. We do this through interesting talks, outings and sometimes just a good meal and a chat!

We are a charity, but we like to support other worthy causes which we can do provided that we hold a special event and advertise it as such. For several years New Galloway have held a Soup and Sweet Lunch in the late autumn for a nominated charity. In 2006 this was in aid of the "Maximum Attack" appeal which Gordon Clendinning is running. We were pleased to present him with a cheque for £173 at our February meeting, as you can see from the photograph. Afterwards we tucked into a Burns Supper provided by our members!

This year we look forward to a varied programme including "planting for wildlife" and "global warming", and we welcome new members to our small and friendly group. Visitors can join us as guests for a meeting or two, so as the saying goes "you can try before you buy".

Please contact 01644 420664 for more information. *Jenny Repath*

CROCUS WALK FOR BREAKTHROUGH BREAST CANCER

The day of our crocus walk in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer, turned out to be cold, with the odd hail shower, not a day to walk the 4 miles over Waterside hill as planned! My daughter Kirsteen whose idea it was to do the walk (her last idea involved her father and I climbing to the top of Ben Nevis with her, also for charity!) Myself, my niece Zoe Hempleman and my sister Shella Ferdous decided to brave the elements as the two girls were keen to do the walk on Mothers Day as planned. We did however change the route due to the weather conditions, we walked from St Johns Way up past Balmacellan and back to Dalry along the Grennan, at least the original 4 miles! The weather was kind to us for the most part and with our pink bunny ears and purple balloons we attracted a few toots from passing cars! We all agreed it was a fun and rewarding way to spend our Mothers Day.

The other walkers Angela and Alix, and Mandy and Nathan plan to do the waterside route this Sunday, Shirley and Tina McNaught will also be doing the walk, Shirley was ill on Sunday so unable to join us and the weather was a bit cold for our younger walkers Alix and Nathan. To date we have raised £250 with still more sponsors to come. When we have a final total I will put up a notice to let everyone know. Many many thanks to all walkers and to everyone who sponsored us.

Susan Currie



NEW GALLOWAY - *Our Historic Burgh*

by Helen Bolton - PART XXXIV
Tradesmen of Old

Reading through the 1841 Census Records of New Galloway Burgh one cannot help noticing the amazing number of tradespeople who were resident in the village, and also how well-served was the community with shops and other amenities. The wee Burgh must have been almost totally self-sufficient, especially as all the cottages seemed to have extremely productive gardens where most people kept hens, and either a pig or a cow.

The school was well established under the guidance of Schoolmaster Mr John Muir and two other teachers. The Post Office was also in the capable hands of Mr John Muir, a man of many parts! The village boasted a surgeon, Dr Hugh Douglas, who had been in partnership with his father, Dr Archibald Douglas until the latter's retirement in 1840. Their residence was at No 17 High Street.

The Smithy, run by two brothers, William and Matthew Turner, was a very important establishment in the village, as not only did the blacksmith keep all the many horses in the area well shod, he also made and repaired all types of farm implements. He made gates, hinges, latches, household items of many kinds, and he could repair iron cooking pots and make the special chains for hanging pots over the fire on the "swee".

The mill, next to the Smithy, was run by Samuel Martin, and was another vital part of village life. All the wheat and barley meal used locally would be ground at the village mill. Water to drive the mill-wheel was gathered in the dam, now long weeded over and almost invisible, just outside New Galloway on the north side of the Newton Stewart road. The Mill Burn is still a busy, hurrying little waterway following the line of the road towards the village.

Boot and shoe making must have been a very lucrative trade, as New Galloway supported no less than seven of these useful tradesmen, with two apprentices, and four journeyman shoemakers also lived in the village, and they would ply their trade around the outlying farms and houses. Joiners were plentiful, with three plus five apprentices in the village, and five journeyman joiners working in the local area.

There was Mr McCandlish the well known builder, five stonemasons, one journeyman mason, an apprentice, and Mr Hutcheson the plasterer to keep all the buildings in the Burgh in a good state of repair.

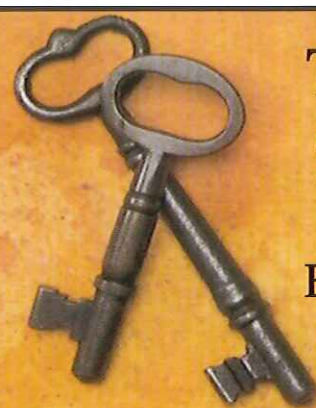
Other trades represented in New Galloway were the saddler, the stocking maker, the straw hat maker, five dressmakers, six tailors and an apprentice, five handloom weavers including one who was a linen weaver, a sawyer, and two coopers!

The shopkeepers were interesting, as apart from two bakers and two butchers there was William Candlish who was a spirit dealer and ironmonger, John McKay who combined his grocery trade with a drapery business, while James Smith was a grocer and nail maker. One hopes the nails were kept well away from the food - modern day Health and Safety Officials would not be amused! A merchant and four tea dealers appear to complete the shopkeepers and suppliers of the village.

Three inns catered for the needs of thirsty locals and travellers, and provided accommodation. Thomas McKelvie ran the "Cross Keys" William Turner had the "Town's Arms", and Isabella Wilson was miné hostess at the "Kenmure Arms" following her husband's death, and her son, John drove the chaise for conveying their visitors.

There was William McKellip, the busy man who kept the roads tidy and in reasonable repair, and last but by no means least, we must not forget the village Constable, Henry Clinton, whose job it was to keep the villagers of New Galloway in order. This was probably fairly easy, but disturbances may well have occurred when visiting drovers/shepherds got a few drams inside them after successful sales of sheep or cattle.

What a busy wee place "Our Historic Burgh" appears to have been in those far-off days, with work for everyone, and no paupers, so the census tells us. There was no need for folk to commute, as so many are forced to do today. Maybe there was a lot to be said for the "Good Old Days", I certainly think there was!



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CARSPHAIRN - THE SPORTING LIFE

This exhibition at the Heritage Centre covers the period from the 1850s until recently. Lots of newspaper extracts, incidents and sporting memories have come to light as well as many of the cups and medals so keenly played for.

Many of the inter village matches were reported in detail in the local papers so we have a wealth of names of those who took part in the various sports from our local clubs.

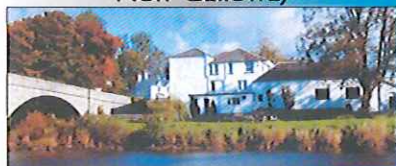
Curling matches took place with Dalmellington, Dalry and New Galloway, cricket with Dalmellington, Glencalm and Kirroughtrie and carpet bowling with the local clubs at New Galloway, Dalry, Balmacellan, Polharrow, Stroanfreggan and Holm of Dalquhairn.

We've learnt over the years that our exhibitions change and grow throughout the season as memories and objects are added. We are always pleased when this happens as it means that the exhibition is enriched by the interest of those who come and see or hear about it.

The exhibition will be open weekends and bank holidays only until the end of May and then daily except Wednesdays until the end of September.

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A RICHT GUID COUTHY NICHT - PARTON BURNS SUPPER

Hoo dis a buddy deal wi' sixty-echt fowk wantin tae get a sate each aboard a sixty-sater bus? That wis the position that faced us jist as the getherin' for the twenty-third Parton Burns Supper wis trysted tae tak place in Parton Village Ha'. Somebuddy must hae sellt ower mony tickets! Whit daes a buddy dae? Ye cannae sell them tickets an' then turn aroon an' tell the fowk there's nae where tae plank their dowps. It's easy in the bus situation - ye can alloo the extras tae stan along the passageway, whaur they can hing ontae straps hingin' frae abune. But ye couldnae really git away wi daen sic a thing in Parton Ha' - there's naethin tae hing outae, an' ony wey ye couldnae hing on if ye were haudin-on toae yer plate o' broth, ye micht even git a plate o' "warm, reekin, rich" haggis doon yer blouse bi the waiters tryin tae squeeze past. Sweat wis dreepin doon ma face an' the pint o' ma neb. What could be din, apairt fra hopin or prayin that some cars wid brek doon or some o' the fowk wid tak no weel? But there's a sayin, that the Deil is guid tae his ain, an' we were let aff the hook. Twa or three had tae gaun tae their bed, yin wis held up doon sooth wi trouble on the motorwey, an anither had lost the pump o' his pushbike. We still had oor fingers crossed when a' the fowk were comin in, gettin a free drink an' sittin doon, an thank God there wisnae onybuddy left stannin without a place in front o' them.

The Heid Bummer, Maister Alistair Nelson an' the rest o' the notorious (sorry) celebrities had their photos took, hoping the camera wid dae its stuff this time - fingers crossed again. The Heid Yin then introduced the rest o' the tap table o' speakers an' entertainers - Maister Gordon Johnstone frae Dumfries; Dominie Fraser Simpson frae St John's Toon; Mistress Alison Barrett, Hach o' Urr (sometime o' Parton); Piper George Galloway frae the Michal (no the big tae kisser frae Big Brither); twae young yins frae the Glenkens, Wullie McTurk an' Henry Sainsbury; Maister Ivanovitch Roschottka an' his wife Anne Lindsay, a Scottish lass, wha divide their time atween Canada and Kirkcudbright. Ivan, by birth a Ukrainian, but at heart is Scottish.

Efter the Selkirk Grace wis said, the Great Chieftain o' the Pudden Race wis ably piped in bi Maister George Galloway, an' carried weel alaf bi oor Cooncillor George Prentice an' addressed bi Maister Gordon Johnstone in a robust fashion but no cutting onybuddy's heid aff.

The Caterers then took ower the next pairt, dishin' oot the Nicht's Fare - guid Galloway broth like nither made, haggis an' neeps, aircakes an' kebbuck - an' decent dauds they were tae, nane o' yer wee skittery tablet sized bits in siller paper; followed bi an assortment o' minty sweeties, but ah wis ower dreich in wraxin fornit tae git a haud o' the Efter-echt yins. There wis a wee lull efter that, I suppose tae pey a veesit an' tot up yer glasses for the toasts.

Gin a' buddies had gotten sat doon Maister Gordon Johnstone had the honour o' deliverin the main toast o' the nicht, namely 'The Immortal Memory' which he did in a guid solid appraisal o' the Baird's life intersperses wi selections from his poems. Dominie Simpson frae the 'Clachan' made a great job o' 'Toasting the Lassies' but oor Alison did jist as weel wi her reply.

The proceedins were mixed wi items bi the entertainers - Willie Mc Turk an' Henry Sainsbury, twa young scarts wi the hippens hardly aff their hurdies but, wi plenty o' gumption sang 'Ye Banks an' Braes' an 'The Dells awa wi the Exciseman'. At the ither end o' the age scale Ivan and Anne sang duets 'O went thon in the cauld blast' and 'Ae Fond Kiss', and were joined later on at mair singin an' reciting. Mistress Doreen Prentice wis her usual competent self at the music pairt.

The croupiers for the nicht were Maisters Rusby, Maclaren an' Yates makin' shair that a'buddies kept their glasses chairged. Ha' Chairman Rusby brocht the proceedins tae a close wi a comprehensive vote o' thanks tae a' buddies concerned, and 'Auld Lang Syne' pit the Tin Hat on a great nicht. Whae the dickens needs television? Floreat Partonal!

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Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

THE GLENKENS COMMUNITY AND ARTS TRUST – A PROGRESS REPORT

Time marches on, evidenced by the progress being made by 'Grahams', the building company tasked with converting New Galloway's old school building into a 'state of the art' community and arts centre. It will be known as 'The CatStrand', and its purpose will be to serve the Glenkens community and to attract visitors from outwith the area whom we hope will spread the 'good news' and return time and time again. Why CatStrand? Regular readers of this gazette will know the answer, but for those who are not, then simply, CatStrand is the name of the burn whose course has had to be slightly adjusted in order to avoid running through the middle of the site of our new centre. In spite of this unforeseen difficulty, together with the excessive amount of rain experienced during the autumn and winter months, conversion work is broadly on track for completion in the summer.

Meanwhile, and in parallel, much work is underway by the 'GCAT Team' to identify and determine the fittings, furniture and decoration of the centre. Anyone who has moved into a recently constructed house or office block will be aware of the vast amount of detail that must be reviewed and considered when determining style and decoration and in deciding on how best to equip the rooms and spaces. Floor tiles, carpets, colour schemes, notice boards, display areas, public facilities; the list is huge although the task of determining what should and can be provided is both fun and very rewarding when at last it all begins to come together.

In addition to the interior decoration, there remains a question of access to the centre, footpaths and hard standing and finally the outstanding question of how best to landscape the grounds to ensure that they are in sympathy with the aims of the centre and is likely to appeal to a broad span of the intended target population. This work is underway; consultations are taking place between the Board of Directors and local landscape gardeners to create a garden that will be in harmony with the purpose and aspirations of CatStrand.

So much then for the construction and landscape work; what else is currently receiving attention? Clearly, if the CatStrand is to succeed with its aim of

developing into an epi-centre of cultural interest and entertainment for the Glenkens Community and importantly, visitors, then CatStrand's programme of activities must have broad appeal. With this in mind therefore the Board of Directors, most ably assisted by the staff, are presently conducting an audience development audit that seeks to target groups with a developing or ongoing interest in 'The Arts' from within and without the area. Specifically the aim is to target residents of the Glenkens and the business community and of course tourists and visitors to the region, whom we hope will enjoy the cultural experience and spread the good news.

Finally it is important to address the question of what is it that we believe will attract people of all ages from within and without the region to visit and importantly, to return to the CatStrand? It will be the programme of events. As you will expect therefore, the management team is very much involved in discussions with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD), and with a number of youth organisations to determine a schedule of events that will appeal to a broad spectrum of interest groups. For example, there are plans in hand for 8 visual arts exhibitions per year that will support a full programme of drama, music and local exhibitions of historic and cultural interest catering for a broad spectrum of interests – something for all – both within the Community and importantly, for our visitors too. In addressing CatStrand's target population it will also be important to consider those residents in the Glenkens who are interested in participating in the programme and to make use of the many other facilities that CatStrand will provide but who may find transportation to and from New Galloway difficult. In recognition of this, management is investigating ways of making increased use of the Glenkens community bus facility.

Interested and want to know more? Then watch this space or visit the GCAT Office located in the old Clydesdale Bank, New Galloway.

Bob Williams



DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Arts Festival

A feast of live music, theatre, literature, films, family events and exhibitions in this beautiful corner of south west Scotland

Friday 25 May - Saturday 2 June 2007

Festival 2007 Opening Street Party, Saturday 26 May, Dumfries Town Centre

Highlights of the festival also include:

- KIT AND THE WIDOW * THE SCOTTISH WORLD WITH BILLY KAY, ROD PATERSON, DEREK HOY AND NORMAN CHALMERS * RAPTURE THEATRE CO WITH ARTHUR MILLER'S BROKEN GLASS * CRAIG HILL * CALEDON * ANGUS LYON AND RUARIDH CAMPBELL * THE BALLIOL CONSORT * KEITH STEPHEN'S GYPSY JAZZ WITH JOHN HALLAM AND CAROLINE IRWIN * WRITER'S FREE FOR ALL * FIONA KNOWLES IN A CLUCKING GOOD HEN NIGHT * THE APHRODISIACS, WARPED MEMORIES AND LITL MASOKIST * FANTASTIC FAMILY PROGRAMME WITH OLGA THE BROLGA BY YDANCE, JABBERWOCKY, THEATER SGARAMUSCH (SWITZERLAND) AND PUPPET STATE THEATRE CO.

Plus lots more...

For a full programme call 01387 360447 or visit www.dgartsfestival.org.uk
Tickets will be available nearer the time at www.thebooth.co.uk



THE SCOTTISH WORLD

Billy Kay with Rod Paterson, Derek Hoy and Norman Chalmers.

Dalry School, Thursday 31 May, 7.30pm - £6

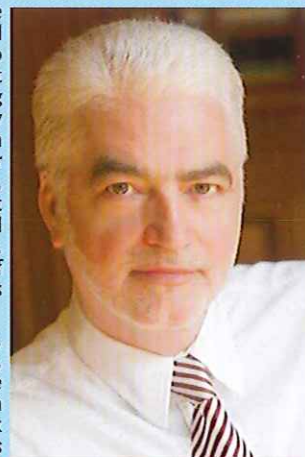
GCAT has joined forces with the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival to bring "The Scottish World" to the Glenkens in May. This event promises to be a hugely entertaining evening of music, poetry, story and song celebrating the Scottish diaspora and its influence all over the world. For centuries the Scots, many of them from south west Scotland, have been travelling and settling in the lands beyond the seas. This programme is a celebration of the enormous contribution the Scots have made to the modern world.

It is presented by Billy Kay, charismatic and eloquent writer, performer and broadcaster, and one of the great chroniclers of Scottish language and culture. His book "Scots: the Mither Tongue" was chosen by Alan Taylor of Scotland on Sunday as one of "the best 100 Scottish books ever written ...". For a quarter of a century Billy Kay has collected oral history, which has been edited into over two hundred radio documentaries and published in his Odyssey books and elsewhere. He is a master of the guide Scots tongue and a great champion of our living language.

In The Scottish World he is aided and abetted by Rod Paterson, Norman Chalmers, and Derek Hoy of the band 'Jock Tamson's Bairsns.' They celebrate with story and song from the siege of Orleans, through Scandinavia, Germany, Poland, Africa, Canada and India and back to the green fields of France.

The show was a sell out at the Edinburgh Festival in 2006. Bill Dunlop in 'EdinburghGuide.com' said, "Jam-packed with historical anecdote and appropriate songs, Kay narrated and presided over a well tempered account of Scots men and women's contribution in lands other than their own"

A truly international event!



Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

PETER & THE WOLF

Theater der Schatten (Germany)

Monday 9 April, 3.00pm

Balmaclellan Village Hall - Ages 5 years +



GCAT is teaming up with the Scotland-wide Puppet Animation Festival again this year to present the ever popular Easter Monday Puppet Show at Balmaclellan Village Hall! This year's puppet company, Theater der Schatten, will be coming all the way from Germany, with their highly acclaimed version of the well loved story, Peter and The Wolf. The show will be presented by one of Europe's leading puppeteers, who performs with great skill, warmth and gentle humour. His technique seems so simple: objects cut from cardboard - trees, Peter's house, the fierce wolf, the beautiful lake - all animated with small hand-held lights. We walk with Peter through his garden and alongside the Duck as she waddles towards the water, we creep with the Cat as he moves stealthily through the grass. These images are extraordinary and complement perfectly the music of Prokofiev's famous score.

Tickets £3.00 available in advance from GCAT on 01644 420374

FRANKIE GAVIN & TIM EDEY

Balmaclellan Village Hall, Wednesday
16 May 8.00pm £10.00/£8.00



Frankie Gavin, who was born in 1956 in Galway City, is generally reckoned to be the greatest living traditional Irish fiddle player. He has worked tirelessly to promote Irish fiddle music and is probably best known for being the founder of the wonderful traditional band, De Dannan which turned heads and ears around the world for over 25 years. He will be joined by musician, composer and producer, Tim Edey, who is regarded by many to be one of the finest DG melodeon/accordion and guitar players and multi-instrumentalists of his generation in the Celtic music folk scene worldwide. A musician of remarkable skill and dexterity and a marvellously sympathetic accompanist, Tim is also in Frankie's new band, Hibernian Rhapsody.

BRUCE MOLSKY AND MARY ANN KENNEDY

Balmaclellan Village Hall, Friday 27 April, 8.00pm - £9.00/£7.00

Bruce Molsky, the remarkable American musician will be teaming up with Mary Ann Kennedy for an evening of traditional music at Balmaclellan Village Hall at the end of April. Bruce is an outstanding fiddle, banjo and guitar player and singer, who has been exploring traditional music from an astonishingly broad range of cultures over the past two decades - from his old-time American first love, to Appalachia, and more recently to Ireland and Eastern Europe as a member of Irvine and Lunny's Mozaik. More information on Bruce is available at www.brucemolsky.com. Mary Ann Kennedy, Gaelic singer, clarsach player and founder of the 'Gaelic supergroup' Ciar, is also a well known radio presenter, familiar from her regular shows on BBC Radio Scotland. Together they delight in common ground and musical tangents alike, shedding new light on familiar territory and re-uniting distant musical cousins.



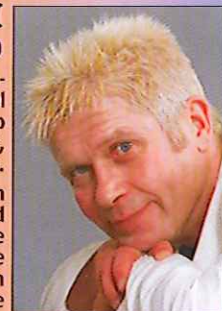
Tickets, which cost £9.00 (£7.00 concession) are available from GCAT on 01644 420374.

VLADIMIR MCTAVISH

Dalry Town Hall, Saturday 5 May 8.00pm £7.00/£5.00

One of the most popular - and certainly most successful - of modern-day Scottish comedians, Vladimir McTavish is a stunning professional in every sense of the word. Whether using his renowned skills as a top class compere or closing a multi-act bill as a first-rate headline act, Vladimir can adapt to any situation and let his quality shine through.

Vladimir McTavish serves up a delightful feast of social observation and topical satire, seasoned with his caustic wit and presented via a platter of breakneck-pace patter. In addition to his headline appearances throughout the UK, Ireland, Holland and at the Norwegian Comedy Festival at Stavanger, Vladimir has appeared on a number of popular TV and radio shows. These have included 'The Empire Laughs Back' (BBC1), the football game show 'We're On Our Way To Wembley' (ITV) 'Velvet Cabaret' (BBC Radio Scotland) and the 'Live Floor Show' (BBC Scotland). He 'is nothing short of superb' (Scotsman), and 'gleefully indulgent' (Guardian).



A regular star of the annual 'Best of Scottish' comedy showcase at the Edinburgh Fringe, Vladimir's shows are critically acclaimed sell-outs. Equally at home discussing the celebrity status of the Beckhams or the political intricacies of the Scottish elections, Vladimir's broad range of targets is matched by his equally broad appeal to all sections of the audience.

'Scotland's top satirical Stand-up' (Morning Star) - 'Gleefully indulgent, highly appealing' (Guardian)
'Affable and abrasive...nothing short of superb' (Scotsman) - 'lively, sharp and skillful' (Time Out)

WOLF UNDER THE BED

THEATER SGARAMUSCH (SWITZERLAND)

Kells School, Thursday 31 May 2007 4.30pm

Each spring the Edinburgh based Bank of Scotland International Children's Festival organise a touring programme to enable younger audiences in rural areas enjoy the best theatre on offer from around the world. This year GCAT and the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival have teamed up to bring a fantastic theatre production from Switzerland to the Glenkens. Three Finnish folks are sitting in a lonely hut somewhere out there in the forest. They are very bored. Having seen wolf tracks in the snow outside, they start telling each other stories about wolves. Then the action begins...



BRUNO BUHRER

Baboró Notes: The performance is based on 12 stories about wolves written by schoolchildren especially for Sgaramusch. The stories, accompanied by a jazz and blues guitarist, are outrageous, funny and thrilling. 7+

Duration: 50 mins. Bookings from GCAT : £3/£2

ON-LINE BOOKING FOR TICKETS : TICKETS FOR GCAT PERFORMANCES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE FROM THE BOOTH TICKETING AGENCY, AT www.thebooth.co.uk

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

JENI MONTROSE AND GEOFFREY DUCE

Wednesday 30 May, The Lochinvar, St John's Town of Dalry 7.30 p.m.

£8.50 (to include interval refreshment of choice)

Stunning mezzo-soprano Jeni Montrose accompanied by pianist Geoffrey Duce, return to the Glenkens for their annual Summer Concert of popular classical music. Their concert this year will appeal to a broad spectrum covering Handel, Schumann, modern American composers as well as Cole Porter and 2 spectacular piano solos.

Both Jeni and Geoffrey were trained at leading music schools in New York City, USA. Jeni initially read history at the University of Aberdeen before pursuing music in NYC. She has performed at the Carnegie Hall and Merkin Hall in New York and has lately appeared as Maddalena, Dorabella and Cherubino in Munich. Geoffrey has studied in Manchester and at the UdK Berlin. He has appeared as a soloist with the Sinfonie Orchester Berlin in the Berlin Philharmonie as well as with numerous British Orchestras. He has given solo recitals at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester and the Wigmore Hall, London. Jeni and Geoffrey will also be performing at Kirkcudbright Parish Church on Monday 28 May at 7.30 p.m.



Tickets for the Lochinvar event are available in advance from

The free Tai Chi taster session on 8th March at The Lochinvar was a great success, with 21 people participating, both men and women. A six week course will be commencing on the 19th April and taught by Elaine Cameron. The cost will be £3/£2 concessions. For further details please contact Liz at GCAT on 01644 420374.

TAI CHI CLASSES FOR THE OVER 50'S

Free taster: 10.30 am - 12 noon
Thursday 8th March

The Lochinvar, St. John's Town of Dalry

Classes start 10.30 am - 11.30 am
Beginning Thursday 19th April
(£3/£2 concessions)
6 weeks of classes

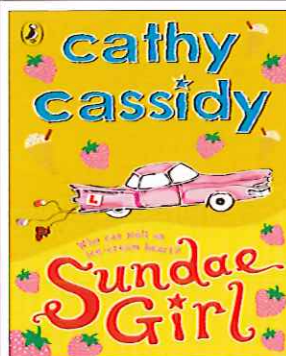
Please contact Liz Cole for more details
Phone GCAT: 01644 420 374



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SUNDAE GIRL - NEW BOOK FROM LOCAL AUTHOR, CATHY CASSIDY

Local children's author Cathy Cassidy's new book, Sundae Girl, will be released on the 5th of April. To celebrate the release, she will be at holding a Friendship Festival at Waterstone's book shop in Dumfries on Saturday 28th April, 11-1pm, with book signing, face painting, friendship bracelets and other fun things to do - so if you know of anyone aged around nine to fourteen who you think would like to join in, send them along!

To find out more about Cathy's books, and for any young people who would like to contact Cathy about her books or who have any questions about writing, please visit www.cathycassidy.com

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

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TEL: 01644 420 374

LATEST NEWS FROM GTI

TRIPS continue to be very popular, with an extra trip being run to the Kelvingrove Museum, as the original trip became fully booked. Early indications are that trips to Portpatrick and the Isle of Aran will also be fully booked, but don't worry - extra trips will be arranged, so please let me know if you want to book seats for these particular trips.

REGISTERED ROUTE; Please see the New Timetable starting in April - It has been changed for your benefit, so please make use of it - remember there is no charge if you have a 'Bus Pass'.

TICKETS are now being sold for all trips a few weeks before the date of the trip. Early purchase of these tickets means you can obtain them at discounted prices!

TOM PLUMMER has decided because of other commitments he will not have the time to continue training our drivers. We thank Tom most sincerely for all his efforts over the last 4 years, and if anyone fancies being involved in this training please contact me at the GCAT office.

TRAINING COURSE; Tom will be holding a final training course in the near future - the Bus is being used more than ever, so we are always looking for drivers to help with trips and other commitments. If you fancy attending a FREE course, please let me know as soon as possible.

Keith Cooper

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE - BUS TRIPS

Full details are advertised regularly in the Bus Shelter - Please book early as they are very popular and get fully booked.

MONDAY 23RD APRIL 2007 : THE SOLWAY COAST

NEW ABBEY, KIRKBEAN & SANDYHILLS

Dept. Dalry 10.15am, New Galloway 10.30am, Mossdale 10.45am and Laurieston 10.50am
£5 (£4 if booked/paid by 16/4/07) - Concessions £4 (£3 if booked/paid by 16/4/07)

SUNDAY 29th APRIL 2007 : PORPATRICK & PORT LOGAN

Dept Dalry 9.30am, New Galloway 9.45am

£6 (£5 if booked/Paid by 16/4/07) - Concessions £5 (£4 if booked/paid by 16/4/07)

SUNDAY 13TH MAY 2007 : CASTLE KENNEDY GARDENS, STRANRAER

Dept Dalry 10am, New Galloway 10.15am

£5 (£4 if booked/paid by 1/5/07) - Concessions £4 (£3 if booked/paid by 1/5/07)

ALL TRIPS ARE SUBSIDISED BY 'HELP THE AGED'

TO BOOK PLEASE TELEPHONE 01644 420374 OR CALL AT THE GCAT OFFICE IN NEW GALLOWAY.- TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THESE TRIPS FROM THE OFFICE.

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE (GTI)

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO WEDNESDAY BUS SERVICE (REGD. ROUTE):

With effect from Wednesday 4th April 2007, the Service operated every Wednesday evening by GTI will have slightly earlier timings, and a different route. It will mean people can be picked up in Dalry, New Galloway, Mossdale and Laurieston, spend nearly an hour in Castle Douglas shopping etc, and return via the same route.

Timings are as follows:

1900 Dept Dalry (Underhill)
1910 New Galloway
1925 Mossdale
1935 Laurieston
1940 Townhead of Greenlaw
1947 Castle Douglas (Market Street)
1950 Arrive Castle Douglas (Tesco)

The return journey:

2045 Departs Castle Douglas (Tesco)
2047 Castle Douglas (Market Street)
2052 Townhead of Greenlaw
2100 Laurieston
2110 Mossdale
2125 New Galloway
2135 Arrive Dalry

CONCESSIONARY BUS PASSES ARE ACCEPTED ON THIS ROUTE, SO PLEASE MAKE USE OF THIS EXTRA SERVICE

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.

C L U B C O R N E R

THE MOSSDALE PAINTERS

'I wish I could paint, but I can't draw a straight line.' It was this comment, heard a number of times around the Glenkens that set three local painters thinking. The result was the formation of an informal group, based in Mossdale Village Hall, who met once a week, initially, for six weeks, to paint and enjoy the painting. The group contained complete beginners as well as people who had a varying amount of experience. The only limitation was that everyone had to live in the 01644 telephone area, in other words, the Glenkens.

Isobel Ellis, Wendy Davis and Beryl Hamilton got together and worked out a suggested set of topics called 'Chasing Colour'. These involved the absolute minimum of drawing, and had watercolour work as the main medium. However there has always been the option of people 'doing their own thing'. Eighteen people came for two hours a week and such was the enthusiasm that at the end of the 6 weeks another block of time was organised, and another and another!

There have been full day workshops organised with visiting tutors, and such has been the enthusiasm that a display of the groups' work was put into the former office windows of GCAT for all the Glenkens to see. The group were encouraged to have their work framed and some exhibited in the Glenkens Art Exhibition in the summer of 2006.

New people have joined the group in 2007 and new and different media have been introduced, so that there is something to suit everyone. The Mossdale Painters are going from strength to strength. Their work is getting more exciting by the week. Challenges abound.



MUGA TENNIS CLUB

The MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) which was built last year at Dalry school is a wonderful space for sports such as tennis, badminton, volleyball, football and more.

The school makes good use of the facility during weekdays, but it is also open in the evenings and at weekends to members of the public. With this in mind, and as a keen tennis player himself, Mathew Newton has suggested that an Informal Tennis Club be created. He would like people to get in touch with him if they are interested in playing tennis, and then he can get a list together of interested people who can exchange numbers and arrange to meet for tennis matches when it suits them. This way, there is no rigid schedule to adhere to, and hopefully it will be possible to find at least one other person who fancies a game of tennis when you do.

Mathew Newton is our local co-ordinator for this facility, so if you would like to put your name down for the Tennis Club, or if you would like to book the MUGA for anything else, please contact Mathew on 01644 430 225.



GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT**SMALL SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL NEWS**

Kells, Crossmichael and Dalry all competed recently in the Small Schools' Football League, with the games being played in the MUGA at Dalry School. The league was organised by Chris Topping, the Active Schools Coordinator.

Games were played over 3 weeks and all the teams and their supporters thoroughly enjoyed it. It was a very closely fought contest with all teams playing really well, and in the end it came down to a play off between Kells and Dalry, with Dalry scoring the "Golden Goal." This result meant that they qualified for the final which was held at Castle Douglas High School on 1st March. The whole team played fantastically well in their games against Castledykes, Gatehouse and Sprigholm Primaries. Two narrow defeats were followed by the tournament's biggest winning margin when Dalry defeated Springholm 5-2 finishing a very creditable third. Well done boys!!



The picture shows some of the Dalry pupils, with their Italian ski instructor, who enjoyed a week of sunshine and snow in Aprica during the February holiday.

Dalry joined a long established Dumfries Academy ski trip for the first time this year, and what a great experience it turned out to be. All those in the group, which also included pupils and staff from Castle Douglas and Dalbeattie, had a super time ending the week as very accomplished skiers and snowboarders. Our thanks go to Messrs Findlater and Sloan from Dumfries Academy (both former Dalry teachers) who organised the trip down to the smallest detail and to all staff and pupils from the 4 schools who helped make a friendly, fun and exhausting nine days. Roll on Aprica 2008!

ROMANS AT CARSPHAIRN PRIMARY

On the afternoon of Monday 26th February a Roman centurion came to Carsphairn Primary School to tell us about his life in the Roman Army. His name was Jefficus Romeus Flavius. He told us about different kinds of soldier.

A Roman citizen could join the army as a legionary. A legionary soldier wore the lorica (body armour) which is made of metal strips held together by leather straps. It was noisy, sharp and heavy to wear. Skye tried on the big one and Amber, Lucy and Daisy tried on a small one.

If you were not a Roman citizen you joined the army as an auxiliary. An auxiliary soldier wore chain mail. It was made of metal rings joined together. It was spiky and cold to wear. Kieron tried on the full size chain mail and Jenny, James O and James B tried on the small one.

The soldiers' shoes had metal studs on them. When they marched, the shoes made a loud noise. They hoped that the noise of the armour clanking and the sound of the shoes on the road would scare the enemy. Underneath their armour, soldiers wore warm underwear and a woollen tunic.

The Roman legionaries had weapons such as javelins, swords and daggers. In Latin the sword is a gladius, a javelin is a pilum and a dagger is a pugio. Each unit carried its own standard. If a small patrol went out, they carried a standard in the shape of a flag, called a vexillum. The legion had a standard called the Aquila. The Aquila was in the shape of a golden eagle and only left the camp if the whole legion was going out.

An auxiliary soldier has a bow and arrows, a stabbing sword and a sword. You might see in a book about Romans that the soldiers hold their swords vertically but they actually held it horizontally so that it went between their enemies' ribs easily.

Jefficus also told us about how they got washed. Roman soldiers went to a bathhouse to clean themselves. There were several rooms in a bathhouse. They started in a hot room to make them sweat. The sweat was scraped off with a strigil and the dirt came off with it. Then they went into a warm pool to rinse the sweat and dirt away. Last they went into the cold pool to refresh themselves. When soldiers went to get a bath they sometimes had to take a guard to watch their clothes because they might get stolen.

When Romans went to the toilet there were several toilets in the same room. Seats were cut out of a long plank of wood above a trough full of running water. There was no toilet paper – they used a sponge on a stick to wash their bottoms and then they washed the sponge in another trough of water. The sponge was put in vinegar to kill the bacteria so that the next person could use it. We're glad that we have toilet paper and privacy!

Pupils of Carsphairn Primary School

**KELLS SCHOOL SUCCESS AT MUSIC FESTIVALS****Trophies awarded at Dumfries & District Music Festival**

Elizabeth Narcott Shield for schools up to 5 teachers
Trophy for Choir (pupil conducted) for schools up to 5 teachers
Orchestra Cup for Hymn Singing :
The Wallace Cup : 'class choir' conducted by teacher
The Laurieknowe Cup for Boys' Choir
Millennium Glass Trophy: Choir - Scots song (accompanied)
Dumfries Male Voice Choir Shield and Saltire Society Frame :
Choir with own choice of Scots/Hebridean Song -(unaccompanied)
Beeswing Rosebowl for Singing Game (Primary 4 and under)
Mrs.A. Milne Cup for Action Song (Primary 4 and under)
Girls & Boys Solos: P5-P7 Scots Song - Winner: William McTurk
Vocal Solos P4-5 Boys - Winner: Jordan Pears
Vocal Solos P6/7 Boys - Winner: William McTurk, 2nd: Henry Sainsbury
Vocal Solos P7 Girls - Winner: Caitlin Ramsay
Combined Musical Activities (Voices and Instruments)
The Frank Davies Quaich for Primary 4 and under : 'One Eyed Jack'
The DeRussette Shield for P5-7 : 'Bring me Sunshine' Both Classes
gained Outstanding Awards for these performances.

Trophies awarded at the Wigtownshire Festival (05-09 March)

This, too, was a very successful Festival and the following awards were attained:

The Music Shop Trophy for Scots Verse P6/7 : William McTurk (joint award)
Machars Trophy for Standard Verse P1-3 : Aaron Fergusson
The Lorimer Cup for Standard Verse P4-7 : William Glasby
Kells Trophy for Scots Verse P4/5 : Zoe Kirkpatrick
Cree Cup for Vocal Solos (Beginners Class) : Zoe Kirkpatrick
WMA Trophy for Vocal Solos (Grade 3 - Boys) : William Glasby
Galloway Music Festival Trophy for Hymn and Folk Song :
Choir-Outstanding Category
Winners of Boys Choir : Treble Voice. 1 Mark off Outstanding!
Saltire Trophy for Scots Choral :Choir
Lochryan Trophy for School Choir gaining highest marks at the Festival
There were lots of 2nd and 3rd places.

Kells School – both Staff and pupils - would like to thank, most sincerely, all the Organisers and officials who welcome us to this Festival. It is such a happy week and we all appreciated the wonderful concert at the Ryan Centre, Stranraer. There is an amazing amount of talented youngsters in Galloway!

Y O U T H P A G E



The Army came to Dalry Secondary to give Teambuilding exercises to S4 pupils. This was an excellent afternoon which required groups of pupils to solve practical puzzles as a team. Some tasks were carried out blindfolded and over a walkie-talkie. One member of staff appears to have stepped out of line however!

FIRE CADET NEWS

CADET MODULES 2007-2008 The Glenkens Cadets have recently ended their first year of the new modularised set-up which has been a success. During this year the Cadets have experienced a wide variety of Fire Service equipment and training including 'working at heights equipment', breathing apparatus exercises, and urban search and rescue equipment to name but a few. They participated in a team building road traffic accident scenario under realistic conditions as it was a very wet, dark night.

This year the course will be run in the same Modular format but I hope to be able, through new contacts in other Fire and Rescue Services, to join other Cadet groups on 'Camps' during the summer. Already booked, is an Outward Bound Weekend in Ullswater, in Cumbria where the Cadets will, under the supervision of trained "outward bound" staff experience and hopefully complete a variety of exciting activities. This is booked for the last weekend of the School Easter Holidays.

Cadet Module 1 - 2007 will start at 6.45pm on Wednesday 25th April. At the moment we have 9 Cadets but if anyone between 11 and 16 is interested they should, in the first instance, have their parents/guardian contact myself regarding their possible joining.

New Galloway Fire Station has two new trainee firefighters to add to their crew, but have to say goodbye to Peter Hamilton who is retiring after 20 years service.

Susan A Maxwell - Community Safety Officer, Stewartry.

With work on "The CatStrand" progressing well, Glenkens Community & Arts Trust's long list of other projects are also coming along, one being of course our film project which is being coordinated by Chris Helson and Sarah Jacketts.

The idea of the project is to combine young and old views and experiences of the Glenkens and we are currently on the look out for young people who would want to get involved both on camera and off.

This will provide great experience for any young person whether they are following a career in film and T.V or are just keen to get involved. Chris and Sarah are both very experienced and willing to pass on their expertise to interested young people.

For more information contact GCAT on 01644 420374

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust has recently completed a youth survey which is currently being circulated amongst young people in the Glenkens. We would like as many young people as possible to fill out the questionnaire in order to achieve results which are as accurate as possible for future use.

The survey is aimed at young people between the ages of 15 and 25, if you have not yet completed your form, please contact GCAT on 01644 420374 to receive a copy.

GYRO-SCOPE IS GETTING A MAKE-OVER!

As the youth committee is beginning to develop we want to change our image. We want a new name, a new logo and new members! Anyone can have a go! Your logo can be created either using a computer or by hand, whatever you think will give you the best results!

There is also a lot of scope for a new name (Within reason!).

Something which will embody all that GCAT stands for and what young people of the Glenkens can do. As you will probably know, our new building will be named "The CatStrand" so it may be a play on that or even with "GCAT"NOTHING CHEESY!!

If you would like submit an entry, please send your design to GCAT, The Old School, High Street, New Galloway, DG7 3RN on A4 paper with your contact details on the back. If you would simply like to get involved with our committee, please contact GCAT on 01644 420374 or email us at gcat@glenkensbb.co.uk.

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.

LOCAL TEAMS IN EUROPEAN TAMBURELLO CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Scottish womens and mens tamburello teams travelled to Cologne, Germany last weekend to compete in the European Tamburello championships. The tournament was held at the university of Cologne, one of the biggest sports campuses in Europe. The Scottish teams were joined by Norway, Ireland, England, Spain, Catalonia, Italy, France, Hungary and the home nation - Germany.

Both Scottish teams played well, making a marked improvement on their final placings from last year. The men beat Norway in the first round, followed by Spain in the finals to come fifth overall, while the ladies beat Ireland in the first round and Catalonia in the finals, also coming fifth overall. Final results were:

Ladies: 1st France, 2nd Hungary, 3rd Italy, 4th Germany, 5th Scotland, 6th Catalonia, 7th Ireland, 8th England

Mens: 1st Italy, 2nd France, 3rd Germany, 4th Catalonia, 5th Scotland, 6th Spain, 7th Hungary, 8th England, 9th Norway

Scottish teams were as follows:

Mens: Malcolm Heyes, Andy Priestman, Alex Satchell, Daisuke Harada
Ladies: Isla Craik, Morag Paterson, Indy Priestman, Elisabeth Tindall

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**TIMES OF WORSHIP
IN THE GLENKENS**

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays

Balmaclellan 12 noon 1st
Carsphairn 10.30 am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
Dalry (Apr) 12 noon 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
Dalry (May) 9.00 am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
Kells 10.30 am 2nd 3rd 4th

Special Services and Events

1st Apr 6.30 pm
Palm Sunday Songs of Praise, Kells Church

6th Apr 7.30 pm
Good Friday Service, Carsphairn Church

8th Apr 7.00 am
Easter Dawn Service at Carsphairn War Memorial, followed by breakfast in Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

29th Apr 10.30 am
United Service with Glenkens Church Choir in Balmaclellan Church

Communion Services

6th May 12 noon Balmaclellan Church

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

Easter Services

Palm Sunday (1st Apr) 10.30am
Mon 10.30am, Tue 6pm, Wed 10.30am
Maundy Thursday 6pm
Good Friday 12.00 - 1.00pm
Easter Day 10.30am

**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

ON THE BEAT :

**Community Police News With Pc Ian Wilson
Spring visitors are not always welcome ones**

At this time of year as Easter approaches many forms of wildlife and tourists appear in the Glenkens. Unfortunately so do traveling criminals. The number of crimes committed by persons traveling to our region increases yearly. As I have said before we are very trusting and often lax with our security as we see no threat from our neighbours. It is imperative we try harder to ensure our property is safe. Take a moment to look around your property and envisage what could be stolen in a few seconds by a passing thief and move it somewhere safer or lock it up inside!

The new Police phone number for all calls except emergencies is now 0845 600 5701

Many motorists in the area now have 3 points on their licences thanks to the new mobile phone laws which ban driving whilst using your mobile! Locally the new 20mph zones for schools at Carsphairn, Dalry and New Galloway will be introduced very soon so take care and slow down on traveling through these zones! Complaints regarding inconsiderate driving of 'Log lorries' should be made through the well driven scheme 0800 225 533. This scheme generates a letter to the owners of the lorry and the Timber Haulage group and can cause serious repercussions for firms hauling timber through our area!

Let's all try to make the Glenkens a safer place to live!

W BONE

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**GLENKENS
WALKING GROUP**



Easy: Mondays
Moderate: Wednesdays
Strenuous: Sundays
Sorry, no dogs

For info on walks or transport please contact:

June: 430318, Gordon: 420632,
Christine: 430209, John and Isobel: 430539

**COMMUNITY FIRE
SAFETY MESSAGE**

Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue Service offer the free service of the Home Fire Safety Check where two experienced firefighters will check your home to make sure it is safe from fire risks and fit and new 10 year alarm to your property - whether you own it or rent it. Please contact either any of your local firefighters or call 01387 252222 and ask for Community Fire Safety, who will then arrange for you to be visited.

**For any Home Fire
Safety advice please
call Susan Maxwell,
Community Safety
Officer [Stewartry]
on 07795451904 or
01387 252222**



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DALRY

Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)

Contact the Leisure and Sport Office on 01556 503806 for details of activities, opening times and prices for any of our MUGAs



Dalry



Kirkcudbright



Castle Douglas



Dalbeattie

Hire Costs

	Adults	Juniors
Football - Peak (Sept – March)		
Full Surface - 2 Court Facility (per hour)	£22.00	£11.00
Football - Off Peak (April – Aug)		
Full Surface - 2 Court Facility (per hour)	£16.00	£8.00
Tennis (per Court, per hour)	£5.50	£3.00

Football / Hockey / Tennis

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 Sarah McAdam 01644 430393 (Very reasonable rates for private hire)

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 Dowdell 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.

DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY ISSUE 40:

Wed 9th May 2007
glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk



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GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

The Carsphairn Heritage Centre will be open weekends and bank holidays until the end of May

APRIL

Wed 4th History Stop Project, Volunteer Meeting, Ken Bridge Hotel, 7.30pm

For existing volunteers as well as anyone interested in being involved with the project.

Sat 7th, 8th & 9th Open Gallery - Rosemary & Ian Gascoyne, 57 Main Street, Dalry

Mon 9th Balmacellan Village Hall, age 5+

Sat 14th Craft Fair, Dalry Town Hall, 10am - 4pm, entry 50p (for Dalry Town Hall markets, contact 01644 430461 or suzanne166@btinternet.com)

Thu 19th 50+ Tai Chi, six week course, £3/£2 conc, call Liz at GCAT to book

Mon 23rd Solway Coast bus trip, £5/£4 early bird, call GCAT to book

Tue 24th Glenkens Business Association talk, Ken Bridge Hotel, 7.30pm

Fri 27th Bruce Mosky & Mary Ann Kennedy Balmacellan Town Hall, 8pm, £9/£8 conc, call GCAT to book

Sat 28th 11-1pm Cathy Cassidy 'Friendship Festival', outside Waterstones book shop, Dumfries, 11am - 1pm (age range 10 - 14ish)

Sun 29th Port Patrick & Port Logan bus trip, £6/£5 early bird, call GCAT to book

MAY

Thu 3rd, 4th at 7pm & Sat 5th at 2pm & 7pm Julie Swift's Moniaive Musical Theatre presents "The Sound of Music" at Glencairn Parish Church, Kirkland Adults £5 conc & children £3

Check with GCAT for possible bus trips to this event.

Sat 5th Vladimir McTavish, 8pm, £7/£5 conc, call GCAT to book

Sat 12th Farmers Market, Dalry Town Hall, 10am - 4pm, entry 50p

Sun 13th Castle Kennedy Gardens bus trip, £5/£4 early bird, call GCAT to book

Wed 16th Frankie Gavin & Tim Edey, Balmacellan Village Hall, 8pm, £10/£8 conc, call GCAT to book

Fri 18th, 19th & 20th World Ceilidh, Knockengarroch Farm (along the A713 between Carsphairn and Dalmellington), for tickets or further info call 01644 460662 or visit www.knockengarroch.org.uk

Wed 30th Jeni Montrose & Geoffrey Duce, Lochinvar Hotel, 7.30pm, £8.50 (incl. refreshment), call GCAT to book

Thu 31st The Scottish World, Dalry Town Hall, 7.30 pm, call GCAT to book

Thu 31st Kells School, 4.30pm, theatre performance 'Wolf Under the Bed', £3/£2 conc, call GCAT to book

REGULAR EVENTS

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 7pm - 9pm, Dalry Community Centre. £3 entry - adults welcome

GCAT - 01644 420 374

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