

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

June / July 2007

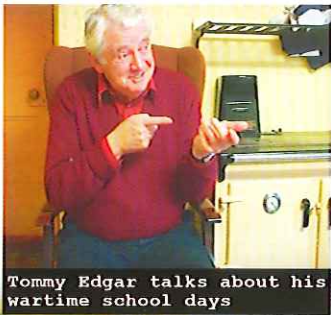
ISSUE 40

www.glenkengazette.com

http://www.glenkens.net

Tanks

journeys
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purity
murray
snow
tanks
doctor
backhill
water
rebellion
chaos
strange gaels
help
contact



Tommy Edgar talks about his wartime school days

GLENKENS.NET

Video Artists Chris Helson and Sarah Jackets have launched a new website at www.glenkens.net. Chris and Sarah have been working as Digital Artists in Residence with GCAT since November. They have spent the past few months exploring life in the Glenkens as part of their research for a new artwork. They have been meeting lots of people, filming interviews, collecting stories and taking photographs. The result is a fascinating portrait of the Glenkens, presented as a video website.

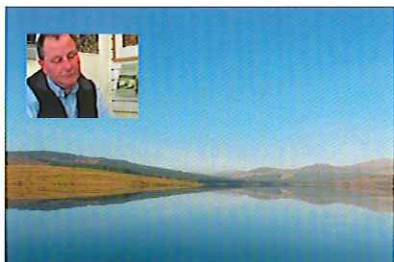
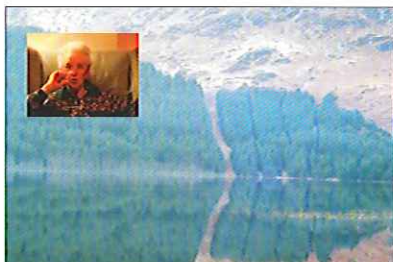
And they haven't finished yet. They are now planning to create a new video artwork for GCAT exploring James Clerk Maxwell's Demon. Maxwell's Demon is an imaginary creature at the centre of his 1867 thought experiment, created to explore the possibility of contradicting the second law of thermodynamics.

"Maxwell's Demon is an icon for our times, sitting at the crossroads of information and the physical universe".

Thought experiments are often used in physics, philosophy and history to explore ideas a priori, using techniques such as 'reduction to the absurd'.

"Maxwell's Demon and the structure of the thought experiment provides us with a conceptual framework from which to explore some of the complex subjects revealed through our research and as a basis for the construction of the video work/s. For example; the relationships between people and place, allegory within storytelling or defining territory through dialogue."

The artists are looking for people to get involved in all aspects of the making of this new video work, if you're interested in thought experiments, building sets, making costumes, operating a video camera or performing please get in touch with the artists on tel. 01557 840262, by email. info@glenkens.net or pop into the GCAT office.



FERGUSON EXCITED BY CHALLENGE OF NEW POST

Commenting after his election as Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Galloway & Upper Nithsdale MSP Alex Fergusson said:

"There can be few greater honours than to be elected by your fellow MSPs to preside over their affairs in Parliament. Furthermore, the duties as the civic face of the Parliament will encompass the great degree of responsibility as well as some wonderful experiences. There can be no doubt that there will be enormous challenges ahead given the political make up of the Parliament, but the fact that we are about to embark on a period of minority government offers the exciting prospect of issue by issue decision making and consensus politics. I believe this is what the Scottish electorate has been looking for in its Parliament and I am thrilled at the task before me in helping to bring that consensus about".

"At the same time I am very mindful of my responsibilities to all of my constituents as the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Galloway & Upper Nithsdale. I hope this appointment reflects positively on the constituency and I have no doubt that I will be able to promote the unique assets within Galloway & Upper Nithsdale in ways that were previously undreamed of. I have been overwhelmed by the number of supportive messages I have had from constituents, and I look forward wholeheartedly to the challenges that lie ahead".



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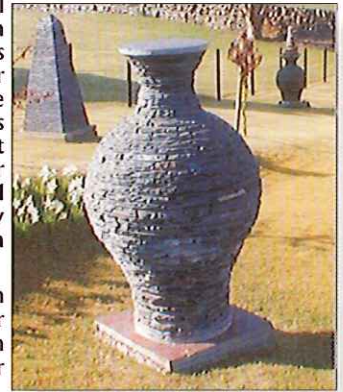
LOCAL ARTISTS : Jim Gourlay - Sculptor



Driving along the Throughgate in Dalry you may well have noticed Jim Gourlay's unusual slate sculptures which decorate his garden. Jim, a former builder, took up his unique form of sculpting only five or so years ago after he retired. With a working knowledge of slate and stone through his profession, he decided to put his practical skills to a more creative use. The sculptures range from giant urns made from thick slate, which Jim calls stone rather than slate, to an obelisk of very fine slate and beautiful water features of alternating red Welsh slate and grey Lancashire slate. There are even purpose built cavities in some sculptures to act as nesting spaces for birds.

Some of the water features have a marble ball which balances in a concave top stone and spins gently under the pressure of water piped up from the pond below, creating a beautiful fountain illustrating the strength of water - it only takes a little water pressure to keep the relatively heavy marble ball floating.

Jim feels he has probably made as many sculptures as their garden can hold, and is finding it more difficult to make them due to health reasons, so we'll have to wait and see what his next creative avenue will be.



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COMMUNITY NURSE RETIRES



A presentation lunch was held at New Galloway surgery on 21st April 2007 for Mrs Elizabeth Peacock, who retires as our community nurse after 27 years service. The lunch was attended by staff past and present and Elizabeth was presented with a crystal decanter and set of glasses, engraved with a Rennie Mackintosh floral design, and a mahogany tray with an engraved brass plaque. Elizabeth said the gift was "Just what I've always wanted!" and described herself as being "Gobsmacked!". Donations from patients were also presented. Elizabeth gave a lovely acceptance speech and said that she had enjoyed working as part of a great team and felt that she had been privileged to have grown up with, and to have worked amongst, the people of the Glenkens.

A couple of weeks earlier, to celebrate Elizabeth's last day at work, the community nurses organised a coach trip to Ayr for a ten-pin bowling night and dinner at the Hollybush. Elizabeth, her family, nursing colleagues and members of the practice staff all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening, aided, as I understand matters, by an abundance of liquid refreshment. Elizabeth was presented with flowers and cards at the Hollybush restaurant. Elizabeth was very well liked by both patients and staff. She was an exceptionally capable, dependable and caring nurse. Elizabeth won the gold medal at the time of achieving her nursing qualification and it has been a pleasure to have worked with someone of such high calibre as well as such humility. Elizabeth will be very much missed from our Practice team.

Bernard Jones



Glenkens Business Association

Members of the GBA held their Annual General Meeting on 24 April at the Ken Bridge Hotel to complete the election of members to the committee, which now comprises: Chair: Bob Williams, Vice Chair: Andrew Case, Secretary: Alan Rumble, Treasurer: Annette Williams, Members: Ros Hill, Dave Patterson, Chris Macneil, Ronnie Bradford, Nick Roper-Caldbeck

Maggi and Mike Kaye, the retiring Chair and Secretary have provided a stalwart service to the Association. They are able to take credit for the production of the hugely successful Glenkens Business Directory, which has been widely circulated throughout the region. Further, Mike and Maggi have been largely responsible for the introduction of a series of keynote monthly presentations during the winter months, encompassing a wide range of topics of direct interest to the business community. In parallel, Maggi has developed a network of contacts within local government and regional organisations through which the GBA might exercise some influence on matters that effect tourism and the establishment of the Glenkens as the heartland of Dumfries and Galloway. Simultaneously, Mike will be remembered for his tireless efforts in encouraging members to participate in the activities arranged by the management committee and of course for the huge amount of work that he has put into the establishment of a GBA website. It is clear that without them the GBA would have had difficulty in maintaining the momentum that it presently enjoys and for this alone the membership owes them a huge vote of thanks.

So where do we go from here? Given that the underlying purpose of the GBA is to seek to identify, create and develop opportunities and initiatives that will assist local business and enterprises to thrive and prosper, the Committee's priority is to do whatever it can within the limited resources that are available, to promote the 'Glenkens' as the jewel in the crown Southwest Scotland.

As the incoming Chairman I feel confident that a priority for the GBA is to focus upon initiatives that will help promote the Glenkens as the heartland of Dumfries and Galloway. The management committee is therefore seeking to introduce promotional activities with broad appeal, which will be specifically focussed upon the Glenkens. The committee's first initiative is to produce a flyer that is both prominent and succinct. When published, it will be widely circulated to distribution points most likely to be seen by our target audience. Timing is important; May is upon us marking the beginning of the main tourist season. With this as a backdrop the GBA has set to work and produced a 'Visit The Glenkens' brochure that we hope will be both eye-catching, Glenkens specific and which includes activities and information for all age groups.

In parallel the GBA Committee is looking at and seeking advice from government sponsored organisations, on how best to 'Brand' the Glenkens. This is proving to be a slightly more difficult task than initially envisaged. The Brand, in seeking to reflect the natural beauty and endless activities that take place throughout the seasons, must be inclusive but 'snappy and concise'. Time is not on our side and presently we are attempting to generate the drive that will ensure we are able to target this year's potential visitors and tourists.

Finally, the other matter that is in the committee's pending tray is a follow on to the hugely successful Glenkens Business Directory. It is clear that if the Association is to encourage new members then it will be important to re-issue the directory or at the very least to publish an addendum of new members, planned for later in the year.

In conclusion, I hope that readers of the Glenkens Gazette will have found the contents of the committee's in tray of interest and even thought provoking. Feedback is always welcome either verbally or by email to the Secretary whose address may be found in the Business Directory. Should you not be a member of the association and are interested in joining then do please contact the Secretary or any member of the committee and we will do the rest.

Everyone is welcome to attend all our presentations.

Please check the web site for more information
www.glenkens-business-association.org.uk

Bob Williams - Chairman Glenkens Business Association

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS ELECTED

Ward 5, which encompasses Castle Douglas and the Glenkens, has been elected three regional councillors:

Brian Collins - SNP

Peter Duncan Scottish - Conservative and Unionist

George Nicol Prentice - Independent

BALMACLELLAN ON THE WEB

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

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Nature & Wildlife



ANGUS HOGG



ANGUS HOGG

SPRING IN THE GLENKENS

Yesterday (Saturday 28 April), I sat amongst flowering gorse on Mulloch Hill, Dalry, overlooking the Ken valley in the hope of seeing nesting red kites. We have found 22 nests already this year, including a sprinkling in the Glenkens, but we know there is at least one other female of breeding age out there – but where? In recent weeks, Red Kite Officer George Christie, who lives in New Galloway, and myself, have seen considerable kite activity in this area, including courtship, but as yet nothing concrete has resulted. With so much afterbirth etc around following lambing, kites are appearing everywhere and it is sometimes difficult to interpret their behaviour when they meet up and interact together. However, although happy with our tally so far, a significant increase on the 17 nests found last year, we will continue to keep our eyes open for new sites and would be grateful to hear from anyone who sees a kite going into a wood over the next couple of months.

If the weather stays fine, we can perhaps expect to have another fine breeding season for many birds, although spare a thought for whaups (curlew), peases (lapwing) and other birds that rely on wet areas to find insects and worms. The ground is so dry at present that they are having trouble, and this is borne out by the lack of waders and thrushes in many of the drier areas. A bird that has benefited from last year's fine weather is the black grouse, and I'm pleased to report that numbers at several leks (display areas) in the Glenkens are slightly up on recent years. Last week I visited a lek in a forest near Carsphairn, in early morning, and was enthralled by the antics of at least 6 dancing and jousting males. Numbers of these magnificent birds have declined over the last twenty years due largely to the closure of the forest canopy over much of the region. However, we are working very closely with Forestry Commission

Scotland and private woodland owners to ensure that future woodland management benefits black grouse.

Most of our summer migrant birds are with us now, and I saw my earliest ever (Scottish) swifts at Ken Bridge on 27 April. Swallows have been around the houses, and wheatears around the hill dykes, for several weeks now, whilst the descending cadence of the ubiquitous willow warbler, or 'weety', is seemingly everywhere. This latter species is decreasing rapidly in southern England, but increasing and pushing further north in Scotland. Whilst climate change is undoubtedly affecting the pattern of things in the countryside overall, regional weather can also have a huge impact in any given year. So, for example, the same high pressure causing the wonderful sunshine that has brought our oaks and hawthorns into leaf three weeks early, has pushed rain and cold down into Spain and southern France – holding up millions of these migrants and initially leading to a dearth of birdsong despite the fine weather. However, they are all here now and what wonderful music they make.

Anyway, all of this was ambling through my head as I sat on the Mulloch, looking in vain for elusive breeding kites, but listening to relaxing songs of willow warblers amidst the heady coconut aroma of blooming gorse. Presently, I spotted a dessicated puff ball fungus and idly tapped it gently with the tip of my stick to send up tiny wee puffs of brown spores. Just then, a big bumblebee arrived and flew low over it, the down-draft of its wings sending up a wee puff of its own. This made my day and again made me realise that there's always something new to see in the countryside, and how lucky we all are to be alive and living in the Glenkens in such a wonderful spring, or at any other time.

Chris Rollie, RSPB Area Manager and resident of St John's Clachan of Dalry.



RSPB

NEW GALLOWAY - *Our Historic Burgh* by Helen Bolton - PART XXXV **Tradesmen in the Thirties**

Having had a peep into the lives of the folk of New Galloway in the mid 19th century, it is interesting to compare that with life in the 20th century. By the 1950's some of the old trades had vanished. No longer did we have a mill in the village, although the "Mill House" is still standing in the High Street today. The old mill buildings were used as workshops and stores by local tradesmen.

We could no longer boast the straw-hat maker, the stocking maker, the many handloom weavers or the coopers, all these old trades having gradually died out over the intervening years. However, there were two tailors in the village, three dressmakers, and Alexander Bell the upholsterer, cabinet maker, furniture dealer, and dealer in loose covers, curtains and all manner of soft furnishings. Mr Bell's workshop and shop premises were in Sunnyside, and he and his wife lived at "The Gables" up the High Street on the corner of Greenhead Brae.

The Smithy, run by George Walker, was always an important part of village life. In the 1930's there were still a great many horses used on the farms, and some people used horse-drawn transport in preference to motor vehicles. Farm machinery was made and maintained by George Walker, as were many household tools and implements.

Robert Johnstone, the builder, who lived on the corner of Greenhead Brae, opposite to "The Gables", employed a large number of tradesmen, and in the early years of the century had built St. Margaret's Church, The Rectory, and many houses in the village, including "Ardlaggan", opposite to the Golf Club. Mr Johnstone was a fine tradesman with a good reputation in the neighbourhood. He was also the undertaker for the village.

Up on the Newton Stewart road Mr McWilliam had his garage and haulage business, and his horses were kept in the fields beyond the garage, where the houses of Braeside are now situated. Lewis Milligan ran his motor agents and car hire business, together with a radio and electrical specialists and repairs workshop. James Robertson was the local plumber, and John Martin was a carrier and cartage contractor.

In the 1930's New Galloway was served by a goodly number of shops. The Post Office was up at the top of the High Street where later many will remember the dress shop called "The Pillar Box". The Postmaster was James Mitchell, a versatile gentleman who was also the Registrar for the Burgh, the assistant Secretary at the Golf Club, hirer of bicycles, golf clubs, and the publisher of many local picture post cards!

John Paterson ran the butcher's shop at the corner of Wylies Brae and the High Street, and he also delivered meat to Dalry, Balmacellan and many out-lying houses and farms. Miss Lansborough had a bakery where our present Post Office is now situated, and was famous for her delicious home-made cakes and pastries.

Robert Cowan's grocery shop, at "Alexandra House" on the corner of the West Port, was famed for a special blend of tea known as "The Ralders". This shop was later bought by Miss Agnes Thomson, formerly the manageress of The Stewartry Dairy Association Ltd, at their premises now known to us as Williamson and Henry, Estate Agents, in the High Street. Miss Thomson later became Mrs Lewis Milligan.

McKnight's grocery shop, Grain and General Merchants, was "bought by Mrs Kay and run as a very successful business with a mobile shop which served the remote farms and houses in the area. Today we know the shop as Jim Hopkins' most valuable "Village Shop". Up beyond the West Port, almost opposite to James Mitchell's Post Office, was Miss McJanet's sweets and groceries shop. She sold special home-made lemonade, a great favourite with the younger generation, and she also sold clogs - obviously a most useful and versatile shop! Miss Hobison's drapery store was in the High Street, and that just about rounds up the retail premises in the village. There was, of course, the Clydesdale Bank on the corner of the Kirk Road.

Two hotels, the Cross Keys and the Kenmore Arms, catered for the needs of the holiday-makers who came to sample the peace and quiet of the Glenkens, and to enjoy our somewhat strenuous but beautifully situated Golf Course. Locals and visitors alike would gather in the bars of an evening to exchange news and discuss local events. In the fishing season, no doubt many tales would be told over a dram or two, and many a good salmon would assume wondrous proportions! Perhaps it is appropriate here to quote the Fisherman's Prayer -

*"Lord, grant that I may catch a fish
So great that even I,
When telling of it afterwards
Will have no need to lie!"*



CARSPHAIRN - **THE SPORTING LIFE**



The exhibition opened at the Heritage Centre on 6th April. During the following week a private viewing was held for all those who had contributed to the exhibition. On that occasion we were able to view the valuable Berbeth Gold Medal awarded to the club winning the annual curling competition between the parishes of Carsphairn, Dalmellington and Straiton.

In the exhibition there are 54 photographs and illustrations, some of people who participated in a sport in the past, some of those who have given us their memories of their involvement as well as some of sporting events and others of buildings and places where the sport took place.

Newspaper reports of matches and memories are displayed as well as an account of a murder which took place after a game of quoits in around 1850 at a site very close to the Heritage Centre.

Artefacts include many of the trophies so keenly played for between the parishes, old skates, carpet bowls, minute books, game books and a magnificent set of antlers.

We hope that by the end of the season we may have some answers to the questions we still have. Already, one month after the exhibition has started, additional material has been handed in and we look forward to more.

Do come and see the exhibition which will be open weekends and Bank Holidays until the end of May and then from 1st June until the end of September it will be open daily except Wednesdays. Should you wish to contact the Heritage Centre the number is 01644 460653, the web site is www.carsphairnheritage.co.uk and our email address carsphairnhg@hcentre.fsnet.co.uk



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LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

CATSTRAND PROGRESS

The project to convert The Old School in New Galloway is progressing well and the new Arts, Business and Community Centre – to be called The CatStrand after the original small stream under the building – is due to open in the autumn. The project is both on time and on budget. Contractors T.G. Graham and Sons from Langholm are determined that all will be completed in time for the Launch Festival in September.

A general leaflet is soon to be distributed to all households in the Glenkens giving more details of the building project and the planned uses of the building. But in the meantime you might be interested to know that the building is to be heated by green renewable energy in the form of a wood pellet boiler. This boiler, sourced from a specialist Austrian company, is now on site and all the underfloor heating pipes which it feeds, are now in place.



A mechanical ventilation system with heat exchange, which will maintain the auditorium atmosphere at a fresh and comfortable temperature, has now been installed; the plasterwork is complete and the painters have started. So the end is definitely in sight.



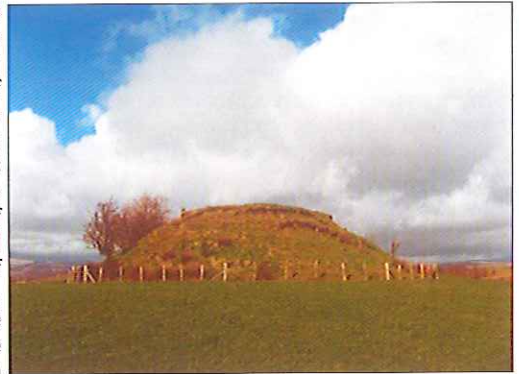
But all has not been plain sailing. As New Galloway residents will be aware, the main road opposite the CatStrand had to be dug up. The reason for this unforeseen disruption was that it became necessary to replace the connection to the main sewer. A camera had been sent down the original pipe only to discover that it had collapsed right under the middle of the road. Many apologies from GCAT to anyone who was inconvenienced by this.



C.L. Mason

THERE'S NO STOPPING THE HISTORY STOP!

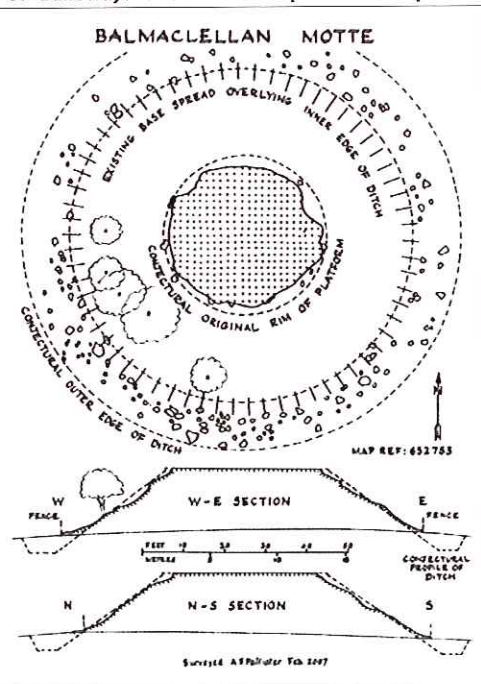
GCAT's History Stop Project continues apace as research volunteers reach into the past. Since the project began in the autumn of 2006 a variety of subjects have been studied including: The Galloway Hydro-Electric Scheme; Covenanters; Robert the Bruce's Wars of Independence; Sheep Farming; The Gordon Family and 'the Pathfinder of Modern Science' James Clerk Maxwell (Albert Einstein, the godfather of Relativity, called him "a genius"). Whilst the overall topic list for the project is wide and varied, some researchers have concentrated on particular subjects and have already managed to gather together enough material to produce studies which are suitable for making into booklets.



Alan and Phillippa Pallister are studying mottes in the Glenkens. A motte is an early strongpoint formed by erecting a wooden fortification on top of a man-made hill then surrounding it with a wooden stockade and/or a defensive ditch. These primitive castles were the means by which areas of countryside could be dominated, as they provided a base from which troops could sally forth or a defensive stronghold in times of attack. One of the important mottes in Galloway is at Balmaclellan, dating from around the beginning of the 13th Century and attributed to Roland, grandson of Fergus of Galloway. Alan and Phillippa have completed a survey of Balmaclellan motte including its history and architecture. They provide a fascinating look at the construction and destruction of this remarkable historical structure.

Keith Wilson used his research to build on his knowledge of a family affair. Keith had long been interested in a poem produced by his grandfather to commemorate the Carsphad Murder of 1862 (see article opposite). Keith has produced a booklet of the poem, with illustrations, which is now on sale in outlets such as Carsphairn Heritage Centre.

These are but two examples of the work being carried out by the History Stop project. If you would like to get involved, please contact the GCAT office on 01644-420374 or Bob Martin, project co-ordinator, on 07772 877 443. Our next public meeting is at 7pm on Wed 13th June in the Kenmure Hotel, New Galloway. All welcome!



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POEM HIGHLIGHTS TRAGEDY AT CARSPHAD

IN APRIL 1862 the last public hanging of a woman in Scotland took place in Dumfries. Mary Timney was hanged after being convicted of murdering Ann Hannah at Carsphad farmhouse in the Glenkens in January of that year. A poem describing both occasions has recently been released. 'Carsphad Tragedy' was written by Alexander Wilson in the 1930s and has only recently been put into publication by his grandson Keith. Keith said: "He wrote it in 1932 during the building of the dams. He was interested in poetry and had this wee black book where he had written the poem. That's how we knew how he did it. I originally had 50 printed and they've all been sold, so I'm going to get some more printed."

The poem may have been written 75 years ago and remained in the family ever since, but Keith has only discovered in the past few years why his grandfather wrote it. He explained: "I've realised all this recently through doing my family history. I discovered he was interested in the farm, Greenloop, because his grandfather used to work there as an agricultural labourer in the 1840s. His mother was also born there. It was mentioned during the trial that Ann Hannah's brothers were working on the farm the morning she was killed. That's why Greenloop is so important from my grandfather's point of view. I think that's why he was so interested in the case, because in the whole area there was a lot of talk about it at the time. It's not the sort of thing you'd expect to be happening in the middle of nowhere."

The cottage where Mary Timney lived is still standing by the roadside, across from Carsphad Power Station just outside Dalry. People can also walk through the meadow where the brothers were working the morning of the murder, as it is now part of the Southern Upland Way.

Copies of the poem, which cost £3, can be bought at the Stewartry Museum in Kirkcudbright, the Carsphairn Heritage Centre, Newton's and the Southern Upland Way shop in Dalry and Barry Smart's in Castle Douglas.

Courtesy of the Galloway News" - Stuart Gillespie

SCOTTISH ALTERNATIVE GAMES

The famous Scottish Alternative Games will be held in New Galloway Park on Sunday 5th August at 2pm. The Games will include the World Gird n' Cleek Championship as usual together with all the other popular events. The Buccleuch and Queensberry Pipe Band help to set the atmosphere on the day. Any local clubs and organisations who would like to have a fund raising stall at the Games should book a space now by telephoning 420288 or 420374. Local craftsmen and producers would also be very welcome to attend with a sales stall or a demonstration.

The weekend will kick off in appropriate style with a Ceilidh in New Galloway Town Hall on Friday 3rd August from 8pm – 12.30pm. Dancing will start at 8pm and there will be a haggis supper served at 9pm with dancing continuing from 10pm onwards. Please book your tickets early for this popular event, tel. 420374.

LATEST NEWS FROM GTI

A new programme of trips for July onwards will soon be published – This will include trips to the Kippford Regatta, Floors Castle (Kelso), The Victorian Fayre (Lanark) and many other popular venues – Look out for posters in your local shops.

WANTED- Driver for the School Bus Run to Kells Primary School. This is only in term time and is 'mornings only' (you're finished by 9am!) This job is paid, and is ideal for a retired person. For more information please contact Keith Cooper at the GCAT Office 01644 420374).

We also require a person prepared to train our drivers to MIDAS Certificate standard. This is a voluntary job but very rewarding and the training can be arranged to suit the 'trainer'. Training for both roles will be provided free of charge.

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(Jonathan)

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 18TH JUNE 2007 :

HADRIANS WALL AND/OR THE HOUGHTON GARDEN CENTRE.

Dept Dalry 9.30am, New Galloway 9.40am, Mossdale 9.50am & Laurieston 10am.
Return by approx 5.30pm FARES: £6 (£5 if Booked/Paid by 12/6/07)

SUN. 3RD JUNE 2007 AND SAT. 9TH JUNE 2007: THE ISLE OF ARRAN

Following popular demand two trips are now being arranged
These trips are getting quickly booked, but there may still be a few spare seats.

Please Note: The Trip to Newton Stewart etc on 4/6/07
has been postponed but will be re-arranged late in the year.

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE GCAT OFFICE ON TUESDAY MORNINGS,
OR BY CONTACTING KEITH COOPER ON 01644 450201.**

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.**

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT**DALRY S3 HISTORY TRIP**

In March the standard grade history class set off for the People's Palace and Winter Gardens in Glasgow to find out more about the brave women who fought to win the vote. We had the distinction of being the first school to take part in this new venture for The People's Palace so we felt quite special in that sense. The pupils were greeted by an eager and enthusiastic member of the Glasgow branch of the Women's Social and Political Union. The pupils changed into period costume from the early 1900s and set off to the local rally to hear what the women had to say in an attempt to convince all, including the government of the day, that women should have the vote. This was a difficult exercise since most men believed that a woman's place was in the home and not in the turmoil of politics. The pupils heard about the escapades of these women as the movement became increasingly militant.

The other aspect of the standard grade curriculum that was touched on was that of Housing, and the various stages through which housing evolved in Glasgow as the authorities tried to provide adequate housing for the ever increasing urban population. Glasgow was famous for its "single end" and the pupils had first hand experience of just how small these homes were. Apart from experiencing life in a "single end" they also had access to a wealth of pictures, artefacts sound and smells related to Glasgow's living conditions in the early 20th century which they had fun identifying. This is history at its best where pupils have "hands on" experiences, sampling life as it really was and being allowed to empathise with the people from that time.

HIGH ACHIEVERS AT KELLS

We have been nominated for The School of Excellence award, and the Scottish Executive came and visited the School and spent 3 hours 'inspecting' us and talking to the children. There are only 4 schools selected for this High Achievement Award, and, like the Oscars we don't find out who has won until we attend the City Halls in Glasgow, on June 15th.

Again going to Glasgow, we have seven finalists, who won the regional competition of Gift of the Gab. They will be talking on their specialist subjects on 11th June.



A team of 4 girls from Kells won the regional championships in gymnastics and went to the finals in Perth, where everyone had a great day but, unfortunately didn't win this time.

At the speech and choral festivals Kells won an impressive 18 class trophies and 11 individual trophies. Well done to all our children for taking part.

Our P4's were in the final of the Fun 4's Football tournament and our seniors are in the Final of the Paul Jones Tournament in Kirkcudbright on Saturday 23rd June.

Our team went to the Athletics Finals held at the David Keswick Centre and received a prize for their sportsmanship in the golfing event.

We entered a competition held by Badminton Scotland and sent our project and flag supporting Scotland and won first prize - a course of Badminton lessons and tickets to the Badminton Finals in Glasgow.



Our Eco greenhouse is coming on well, thanks must go to everybody who has been kind enough to send in their plastic bottles.

We have also entered "Search for a choir for Joseph" competition. You can listen to our video on the website and please of course VOTE for us.

Jayne Brydson

DALRY VOLUNTEER READER SCHEME

For a number of years the VRS at Dalry School has been helping primary and secondary pupils improve their reading and language skills.

This session twelve volunteers worked with twenty five youngsters, one to one, on a weekly basis from September to March. There is no doubt that the scheme brings success and confidence which benefits the pupils in all areas of the curriculum as well as being a valuable and enjoyable social experience.

Mrs Nicol, who organises the VRS, is now looking for new volunteers to join her team from September, and would be delighted to hear from any locals who would enjoy working with our pupils.

CLUB CORNER

Kickback Martial Arts held their 3rd annual National Inter-club Competition recently. Clubs from England and the South West of Scotland entered in great numbers. The trophy count was evenly distributed with students from both sides of the border coming first second or third and many students excelled in their chosen categories. The winners will now use this experience as a springboard to further competitions throughout England, Scotland and Wales. Glenkens girls Hannah McKenna and Hannah Sainsbury did particularly well, picking up several trophies each. The team event The Hilton Shield was as popular as ever with Scotland winning it in a close fought contest. Although the end result was five wins to nil each of the five matches were closely contested.



We would like to thank the sponsors of the event and sponsors of the Scotland Team Kit: Brian Hilton Photography, Nith Valley Embroidery, Glen Build Construction and Common Thread, all based in the Dumfries and Galloway district. Also, all the students who travelled to compete on the day, and all the helpers who ran the event, especially Joyce and Ronnie Moffat, Margaret Sainsbury and Sandra Harkness. Without these people such competitions would not take place. A special mention to Chloe Boyle aged seven who won student of the tournament, Ronnie Moffat who won best technique on the day and Matthew Boardman who won best sports person.

Well done and a huge thank you to you all from Brian and Nancy
Anyone interested in joining our Martial Arts Heroes should contact Nancy on
01659 66 020 or mobile 07798 725 813

ON THE BEAT :

Community Police News With Pc Ian Wilson
Summertime started early this year...

And as predicted so did the travelling Criminals - to date two Quad bikes, one from Carsphairn and one from over towards Monalve, have been stolen. I would ask all farmers, please lock up your quads and park them out of sight!

Visitors and day trippers using forest car parks and beauty spots have also been targeted by thieves. Lock your valuables in the boot when using out of the way or remote car parks! It only takes a minute to break into a car, and having your handbag, mobile or Sat Nav on display is sometimes all the incentive a thief needs!

The roads in this tranquil area are buzzing with visitors, so ease back on the throttle. Not everyone knows the roads as well as us locals! (Watch out for the Safety Camera Van on the A713!) There are many events and shows on during the coming months and I hope to make it to as many as I can, so don't hesitate to come over and speak, especially if you have any questions or problems that I may be able to help with.

Once again may I remind you that the new Police
Phone number is 0845 600 5701

I HOPE YOU ALL ENJOY THE SUMMER SAFELY!

**COMMUNITY FIRE
SAFETY MESSAGE**

Home fire safety checks are continuing in the Glenkens area, where they have been fitting 10-year smoke alarms whilst carrying out a safety check of the residence. 100 homes benefited from this service in 2006-2007 with a similar number expected to be carried out this year.

If you do not have a smoke alarm in your house, or wish to have a Home Fire Safety Check carried out, please telephone 01387 252222 and leave your details. The Fire & Rescue Service will contact you to arrange for a mutually suitable time and date to attend and fit one for you.

For any Home Fire Safety advice please call Susan Maxwell, Community Safety Officer [Stewartry] on 07795 451904 or 01387 252222

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Basic Small	Black & white	6cm x 6cm	£15.00	10%
Basic Small	Colour	6cm x 6cm	£30.00	10%
Quarter page	Black & white	9cm x 13.5cm	£35.00	10%
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Half page	Colour	13cm x 18cm	£120.00	25%
Full page	Colour	18cm x 27cm	£200.00	25%

(Prices exclude VAT @ 17.5%)

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

the WICKERMAN Festival

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Tickets Scotland - 0870 220 1116
Ticketmaster - 0870 154 4040

Online ticket sales at www.thewickermanfestival.co.uk

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**Dumfries & Galloway
COUNCIL**

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

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays

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

Special Services and Events

17th June 3.00 pm

Conventicle by Blackwater near the youth hostel on B7000

22nd June 6.30 pm

Midsummer Pot-Luck Supper at Manse, Dalry

29th July 10.30 am

United Service with Glenkens Church Choir in Dalry Church

Communion Services

1st July 10.15 am Carsphairn Church

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

10.30 am Holy Communion
Every Sunday and Wednesday

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

St John's, Castle Douglas

Mass on -

Saturday 6 pm & Thursday 7 pm

Y O U T H U P D A T E

YOUTH BAND NIGHT

On 16th June in Castle Douglas Town Hall local youth group REASON will be holding a band night for young people. REASON is a new organisation which has been formed to provide youth led activities in the area. Organisers Zack Tybalt and Ben Wilson are inviting young bands who would like the chance to play at the gig to get in touch.

Email: reasonyouth@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01387 265749

SUMMER PLAY SCHEME

All through the summer holidays the Keswick Centre at Dumfries High School will be holding various sports activities and games for young people. The day is split into three portions: 8.45-12, 12-2, 2-5.15.

For more info contact the Keswick Centre on 01387 269 423 or email Chris Jardine on chrisj@dumgal.gov.uk

FIRE CADET NEWS

Glenkens Cadets have started year 2 of their revised programme. We have now 10 cadets within the group who participate on a regular occasion on a Wednesday night as per Module dates. There is still a vacancy for another 2 should there be anyone between the ages of 11 and 16 who would like to benefit from Fire Service fun and training.

The new year for the cadets started with a free weekend away to the Outward Bound Centre at Ullswater where the cadets and two accompanying Retained Firefighters enjoyed an action packed weekend which was made all the better for them by the sunny weather. There is a possibility of this becoming an annual event as it was so enjoyable. The cadets have divided into 2 'squads' this year and each have a cadet who showed promise throughout last year as a 'Crew Manager' with responsibilities for some cadet matters.

Also being planned will be an end of year trophy for the best squad which will be awarded for behaviour, enthusiasm and attendance amongst other items. More parental involvement will be given this year with all parents being able to regularly view the cadets portfolio and a quarterly report being sent to each parent about their child. This module the cadets have refreshed their knowledge of ladders and pump drills and hose running to name but a few. With 3 new cadets this has given them the opportunity to experience this for the first time with the experienced crew members assisting in their training in an enthusiastic manner. Photographs of the Outward Bound trip will be available in the next issue. The Parents' Evening will be on Thursday June 14th at 7pm at New Galloway Fire Station. All parents and cadets are cordially invited to attend.

Any young person or parent wishing to have more information on joining the cadets should approach either one of the new Galloway Firefighters or myself on 01387 252222, and an application pack will be sent out.

Susan A Maxwell - Community Safety Officer, Stewartry.

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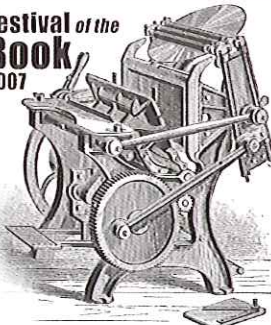
**BOOK
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Thursday to Sunday
7th June to 10th June

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information:-
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01644 460244/460647

FUNDRAISING NEWS

GLENKENS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW



This year's Glenkens Horticultural Society Show is to be held on Saturday the 25th of August 2007 in Dalry Town Hall. Schedules are again free and can be obtained from your local Post Offices and Dalry Garden Centre. Apart from the horticultural side there are many other sections such as decorative, handicrafts, photographic and produce. The under 17's sections cover a variety of crafts and is open and free to all, even though they may not be a resident of the Glenkens.

Again the ever popular "Grow the Largest Sunflower" section is open to everyone who is 12 years of age and under. The flowers are to be grown in the garden and will be judged in situ prior to the show. The sunflower seedlings are free and to be ONLY from Alan Wright at Dalry Garden Centre. They should be available from the beginning of June but please call Alan to ensure that they are ready for collection. The results again will be announced on the day of the show. Judging will be on the morning and the show will be open to the public from 1.30 pm. The Trophies will be awarded at 3.00 pm.

Last year produced a record number of exhibitors but as ever we need as many exhibitors and visitors as possible. If you have any queries or require advice on exhibiting or if you would like to help with the show in anyway ring Alan Wright 01644 430 291

WE VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

CROCUS WALK UPDATE



On Sunday 25th of March we completed the Crocus Walk for Breakthrough Breastcancer, which our group had had to postpone from Mothers Day because of the bad weather. Kudos to the brave souls that did it that day! Taking part in our walk were : Angela Miller, Alex Davidson, Amanda Jane Quinn and Nathan Quinn, as well as Iain Davidson and Ben Jones (the top shop dog) who came along for the fun of it. The weather was glorious for us and we walked up over Waterside Hill and back down the Garroch Glen. Between the two walks we managed to raise a grand total of £292.50, which was wonderful. Many thanks to all our sponsors who helped us to raise this! Extra special thanks go to LA & MW Jones at the Top Shop for making our total up to a nice round £300!

South of Scotland Marie Curie Cancer Care would like to thank the communities and participating outlets in the Glenkens for raising £253.16 during this year's Daffodil Appeal.

A volunteer for the charity said, "The Glenkens has always supported this charity generously. This year donations are up by over 50% which is very encouraging. Marie Curie nurses care for people with terminal cancer at home and the money raised will fund nurses in our area."



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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 Downswell 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

Fri 22 June, An Evening with Bernie Marsden, Dalry Town Hall, (page 5)
Fri 22 June, lunchtime guitar workshop with Bernie Marsden, Dalry School, (page 5)
Wed 13 June, History Stop public meeting, 7pm, Kenmure Hotel, New Galloway (page 6)
Sun 24 June, McMillan Cancer Support Summer Fair, 2pm, Newfield Farm opposite the Lochinvar in Dalry
Mon 18 June, Bus Trip, Hadrian's Wall &/or Houghton Gdn Centre (page 7)
Sun 3 June, Bus Trip, Isle of Arran (page 7)
Sat 9 June, Bus Trip, Isle of Arran (page 7)
Fri 20 - Sat 21 July, Wickerman Festival, near Dundrennan, (page 9)
Sat 16 June, Youth Band Night, Castle Douglas Town Hall (page 2)
Sat 25 Aug, Glenkens Horticultural Show, for more info or to enter contact Alan Wright 01644 430291

REGULAR EVENTS

Keswick Centre summer play scheme for young people - runs the whole school summer holiday (page 8)

Pringles Open Mic Night Corsock, every 2nd Wednesday (folk night every other Wed).

Play it by Ear Balmacellian 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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