

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

October / November 2008

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POST OFFICE CLOSURES

Balmaclellan and Corsock Post Offices are two of the rural branches under threat of closure. The Government has suggested an outreach service in the form of a van which would visit each village for a few hours each week.

Godfrey Smith, owner of Galloway Footwear at The Clog and Shoe Workshop in Balmaclellan, says this may be the death knell for his business. Godfrey is the last traditional clog maker in Scotland and people come from far and wide to visit the workshop and buy his footwear.

Godfrey, who uses the Balmaclellan Post Office every day for business, is angry. He says: "The gradual whittling away of the heart of rural life denudes the villages of their younger populations and leaves them with no future but homes for the retired and unemployed. In the 40s and 50s every village had a pub, cobbler, smithy, bank, school, usually a library and also a garage up until quite recently. What services are there now in our villages?"

Due to the threat of the Post Office closing, the village shop in Balmaclellan has lost a full-time employee and owners John and Lesley will have to take on the extra workload themselves. Lesley says: "We've already lost Sandra, who was with us for five years. We don't blame her - she had to take the chance of another full-time job as her job here was unsure and local jobs are few and far between."



DAD'S BIG HEART WINS AWARD

Local man Robin Hood, Scottish director of the Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association (DebRA), recently won a Bighearted Scotland Special Achievement Award at a News of the World ceremony.

Robin dedicated his life to finding a cure for dystrophic epidermolysis (EB), a condition from which his daughter Alex suffered. Children with the illness are known as 'butterfly children' because their skin is damaged by the slightest contact, like a butterfly's wing.

Tragically, Alex died in July of this year from skin cancer caused by EB, but her father will continue his battle with the illness. "I'm going to continue doing what I do even though my daughter died, just to make sure they (others with EB) don't suffer like she did. Her dying wish was that I fight on to try and put this terrible condition into the history books where it belongs."



CATSTRAND 1ST ANNIVERSARY

The CatStrand is officially one year old and the last weekend in September saw its first anniversary celebrations. The building has hosted hundreds of events, workshops, conferences and exhibitions as well as providing a venue for community projects and activities. From comedy to tai chi, storytelling to opera, the CatStrand has had an incredibly diverse and productive first year.



Harris & Lewis, working horses from Barfil Farm, visited The CatStrand for World Potato Day. Local school children enjoyed meeting the lovely Percheron horses.

Cathy Agnew, Chairman of Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT), says: "The CatStrand has become an established and welcoming focal point for the local community.

Looking back over the Visitors' Book for the last year, it is interesting to note that we have had visitors to the CatStrand from each and every continent. It's good to realise that news of the Glenkens and the whole of Dumfries and Galloway is spreading far and wide!"

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Over the Summer

GLENKENS ART EXHIBITION

This year's Glenkens Art Exhibition was host to a selection of wonderful works by young and old.



SCOTTISH ALTERNATIVE GAMES



The Games were opened in traditional style by the Buccleuch & Queensberry Caledonia Pipe Band marching into the main arena and entertaining the crowd. The Balmaclellan Skittles, forerunner to ten pin bowling, was one of the most popular events,

and the other main attraction on the day was the famous snail racing.

Everyone enjoyed a good old-fashioned family day out and it is hoped that the event still manages to fulfil the original aim of the founder, the late Mungo Bryson, to bring a smile to everyone's face.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who helped and also everyone who came along on the day whether it was to run a stall, take part in events or simply to watch and enjoy.

GLENKENS SHOW



The Glenkens Agricultural Show was a great success with many wonderful entries and tough choices for the judges.

Pictured is Stuart Jamieson presenting the Stuart Jamieson Plumbing and Heating Trophy to Emma Murdoch from Glenlee who won the beginners show jumping class which he sponsored.



WHAT A BLOOMING SUCCESS

Yet another excellent show for the Glenkens Horticultural Society. There were over 600 entries, not including the juniors section. This must be one of the highest for a very long time.

The weather held well for the day, not that you could say that for the rest of this summer, and everyone was in a sunny mood. The judges were impressed by the quantity and quality of the produce and the industrial section had the tables bending under the weight of delicious preserves and baking, not to mention the home-made wine section. This was wisely judged last after all the other bakery and preserves.

The craft and themed displays were admired by all and, considering the weather, the flower displays were magnificent. There were a large number of quality entries in the ever-growing photography section. The judge in the juniors section took a great deal of time choosing from the large amount of entries as they were of a very high standard.

Lord Sinclair gave a very informative and amusing opening by giving facts on the size of some of the entries at other shows. Some of us will have to go a long way to better them as you would need a crane to get them off the back of a wagon, let alone get them through the doors. Next year perhaps...

A very big thank you to all who helped with setting up the show and clearing up afterwards, as well as the judges, who had a hard task this year (and hopefully even harder next year), and not forgetting all the entrants without whom there would be no show. Let's hope to get more of you interested for next year's show, when the theme for the photography section will be 'A Celebration in the Glenkens'.

Joan Berkley

The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Parish Community Council

There are no further developments yet regarding the Town Hall situation – the Community Council will continue to press for answers and action on the ongoing maintenance. Some repairs have been carried out to the roof.

The proposed red kite information post site in the Lower Car Park has been looked at and it has been agreed that a site slightly further away from the bridge, virtually on the footing of the old information sign, would work well. The majority of members agreed that this position was better suited and if additional maintenance, landscaping and facilities such as benches could also be incorporated in the site it would lead to a more attractive area for visitors and locals alike.

The bridge on the right of way beside Greenhead is now extremely dangerous and in need of urgent repair. There has been an ongoing issue of who is liable, but a sign which had been placed there in the past by D&G Council is still legible and would therefore seem to indicate that they should carry out repairs. Councillor Prentice will investigate again to try to bring a satisfactory conclusion to this long-running issue.

Cutting of all grass verges within the town boundary is still not being carried out and verges on many stretches of rural roads throughout the parish have also been left uncut, leading to serious road safety issues in some cases.

It was noted that the installation of the traffic calming measures at Kells School have commenced. Despite the fact that Kells CC had requested amendments to the original plans, it seems that the original speed humps proposed are being laid. Enquiries are to be made as to why our views were accepted initially and then subsequently ignored.

A brief discussion on the Alternative Games weekend followed. Attendance at the Games was very good and the weather held up for most of the afternoon. The Friday night Ceilidh, however, was poorly attended. Last year it was a sell out and the funds raised helped meet the costs of the Senior Citizens Xmas Dinner. This year the Ceilidh will have been lucky to cover its costs. Some thought will be given before making a decision on repeating the event next year.

Next meeting will be on Monday 6 Oct at 7.30pm in New Galloway Town Hall.

Carsphairn Community Council

Discussion took place on the ever-increasing demands, expectations and responsibilities of Community Councillors who are, after all, unpaid volunteers. The Scottish Government's view is that Community Councils (CCs) should be taking increasing responsibility. The Council was informed that the consultation carried out by the Scottish Government on the future of CCs was now complete, and views are being sought on formulating national guidance on governance, codes of conduct and funding for CCs. Local Authorities will be responsible for ensuring compliance.

Funding available from the Area Committee for projects was discussed and a footpath to Lagwyne/Bridgend was considered.

The Well Driven scheme was discussed and Councillor Prentice said it did not appear to be working as well as it should and the police were reviewing it. He advised that complaints should be made to the police 0845 number, where they will be logged (this number is at the back of the Gazette).

The recent closure of the A713 and misleading road signs was brought up. As the road will be closed again in the future, for continuation of road repairs, PC Bradley suggested that it may be constructive to meet with Charles Clemie to consider how signs for diversions could be made less confusing.

The meeting was informed that someone had been prosecuted following demolition of the bollards on the traffic island to the north of the village.

The proposals appear to be positive for the future of rural schools in Scotland as Councils must now justify reasons for closure.

A project management committee has been formed for the Community Garden project, on the understanding that it will have to be progressed within the parameters of the time members have available.

Comment was made on the high cost of fuel and heating oil. Councillor Duncan was asked if any influence could be brought to bear by making a concerted protest from both CCs and D&G Council. He advised that we take it up through the Association of Community Councils. Dumfries & Galloway Council has already written to the Chancellor on this matter.

The next meeting will be on Monday 27 Oct at 7pm in Lagwyne Hall.

The Kirkcudbrightshire Companion



There has never been any doubt about the fact that the Glenkens is right at the heart of the Stewartry and, unaffected by controversy, it features large in this book.

Balmacellan, Carsphairn, Dalry and New Galloway all receive substantial coverage in the first part – a place by place treatment of towns and villages which includes notable aspects of their history and accounts of some of the colourful characters who hailed from them or came to settle in them.

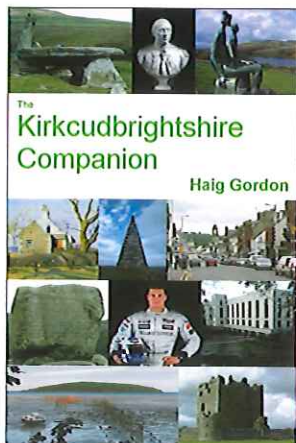
Old Mortality, James Clerk Maxwell, the Gordons of Lochinvar and Kenmure and the Covenanters all make appearances, as do some of the more prominent estate owners and builders of big houses.

The second half of the book is ordered thematically, covering early history, the land and the sea, the language, the Pirate (John Paul Jones), the Hydro, the Bards, the Novelists, the Artists and the Movie (The Wickerman). The final chapter, 'Other Pairs of Eyes', gives an interesting overview of how visitors to the Stewartry through the ages have seen it.

It is around a hundred years since a book dealing exclusively with the Stewartry was published. This entertaining, informative compendium, that will surely contain something new for everyone who opens it, more than makes up for lost time.

The Kirkcudbrightshire Companion and Tales of the Kirkcudbright Artists are on sale at the CatStrand or can be ordered online from:

www.glenmurraypublishing.co.uk



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NATURE & WILDLIFE

A TIMELESS HOUR IN THE GLENKENS

For many years, Mossdale has been a good place to go for a walk – along the old railway line on Airds Estate to Loch Stroan, or even to Loch Skerrow beyond if time and weather allow. Of course, there was a time, in the days of steam, when the walk would have been more difficult and so different.

Gordon Riddle



I remember well my late friend Derek telling me of the excitement he felt arriving by train for the first time in Galloway as a sixteen year old boy in 1946. He described the vast sweep of open moorland opening out before him towards Shaw Hill as the train eased over Stroan Viaduct with its impressive four arches of grey Galloway granite. Then the upper valley of the Black Water of Dee was virtually treeless, save for Tannoch wood and a few trees around the steading of Laggan o' Dee; a wild and beautifully desolate country. It still is, in spite of the exotic conifers planted in their hundreds of thousands by the Forestry Commission over the last half century or so. Another late friend, Donald Watson of Dalry, recalled the sadness he felt when boarding the last train to leave Mossdale (New Galloway Station) for the far west, and I still cherish his little black and white 'wash' print of a puffer passing the Clints of Dromore at Gatehouse Station all those many years ago. Of course, the original line was laid out to Portpatrick, in recognition of it having been the principal seaport for Ireland for centuries before, in fact until 1868 when steamships from Loch Ryan became the more viable option and the ferry service transferred to Stranraer.

As ever here, such thoughts drifted through my head as Catherine and I walked under the bridge at Mossdale, pausing as usual to enjoy the fantastic echoes from a few hand claps and loud ha ha's. What an assortment of people would have passed under that fine bridge over the years, including author John Buchan, who took holidays in Gatehouse and famously set Hannay's escape from the train beyond Mossdale in his celebrated novel, *The Thirty Nine Steps*. I've been told that followers of Buchan still occasionally walk the old line to seek out the very culvert that may have given him inspiration. They'll certainly find some of the most remarkably distinctive granite drystone dyking and bridge work in Galloway.

Mossdale has been a brilliant place to see kites since the first birds were released from the nearby 'secret cages' in 2001 and it is a focal point on the Galloway Kite Trail with its distinctive kite sculpture and information board. The circular or, more technically, 'lollipop' walk over Airds Estate to the Raiders' Road and Garels Wood is an absolute delight, enjoyed by locals and increasing numbers of visitors. With the predictably changeable weather of June continuing into early July, this was the perfect place to risk a Saturday afternoon stroll in the hope of a dry hour, without ever being too far from the shelter of trees or even the car if necessary. However, our luck was in, and the leaden afternoon sky brightened slightly, with just sufficient breeze to keep the midges and July flies at bay. Following the waymarks, we turned off the old railway line to our right a couple of hundred yards west of the bridge and made our way across the field towards the forest. We soon came on a noisy family of whinchats, summer migrants from Africa, with mum and dad keeping up a steady supply of insect food to their fledglings in the thistly bracken, whilst mildly remonstrating at our presence. On the path just beyond a kissing gate we came on a mass of round-leaved sundews, small prostrate insectivorous plants with bright red/green leaves festooned with sticky tentacles that trap tiny unsuspecting insects, allowing the plant to digest them and gain much needed nitrogenous nutrients. As often happens, the grey skies seemed to accentuate the depth of their colour, and this inconspicuous little plant seemed super abundant for a stretch. We soon reached the Raiders' Road and turned right to follow it to the point where the walk returns to the woodland, dropping down through the conifers to reach the more attractive and largely oak woodland of Garels Wood. A great-spotted woodpecker chipped menacingly, but the tranquillity of Mossdale Loch defeated it for our attentions as we gazed across the lightly rippling open water to distant Airds Wood beyond. A kite circled low over the grasses and bog myrtle on the far side of the loch, no doubt on the lookout for tiny frogs, voles or even the remains of perch or other such dainties on the bank.

On leaving the wood, the path rises over a knoll with a fine old oak before dropping down again into a wee sheltered neuk in the field of the high forest behind. This area of old and relatively unimproved pasture was ablaze with wild flowers, none of them gaudy or dominant, but which collectively comprised a compelling community of colour. Red and white clovers, tiny blue forget-me-nots, yellow buttercups, tormentil and birds' foot trefoil provided this modest yet arresting tapestry. A host of dancing butterflies, mostly ringlets and meadow browns, but with the odd small heath, visited the larger of these flowers. Here they were, silently taking advantage of the shelter and a rare blink of half sun. There were odd butterflies elsewhere on the walk, but this was the place to be that afternoon and they knew it. We marvelled at their industry for a few minutes, recalling similar and much more common scenes in the more unimproved parts of the Massif Central in France and elsewhere on the continent. But this was the Glenkens, and not on the best of days. A second kite circled up into view and it was clear that they too were drying their wings and resuming normal service until the next heavy shower came along.

We completed the 'lollipop' circuit and retraced our steps back across the open ground to Mossdale. The walk, originating in this pleasant and attractive hamlet, had taken us through ancient pasture, moss, young and old conifer plantations, mature oak woodland, fen, carr and loch, with views beyond to hills and rugged rocky outcrops; truly Galloway in miniature, and timeless at any time. We knew it, too.

Chris Rollic



Chris Rollic

TREASURE TREES

Trees are amazing! We all know the importance of the tropical jungles but our own trees are also very important.

Our ancestors worshipped them, and with good reason, although they may not have understood their significance at the time. Consider the tree in your garden, or your neighbour's garden; it is providing extremely valuable ecological and economic services.

Trees, or their leaves, absorb carbon dioxide and give off oxygen; they filter harmful UV rays, dust and other pollutants, and provide shade from the sun. Trees act as a windbreak; they also intercept water and store it, helping to reduce the risk of flooding. In addition they can add up to 20% to property value where they are found within the surrounding landscape. Houses shaded with trees have lower air conditioning costs in summer, and the windbreak effect helps reduce heating costs in winter; they also help reduce noise from traffic.

For centuries trees have been landmarks in the countryside and were used, in some places, as boundary markers. A treeless landscape is often considered unwelcoming and featureless, and many people derive comfort and solace from being able to see trees or walk in woodland. Studies have even shown that people recover from surgery more quickly if they can see trees from their room!

All kinds of trees offer a home for countless wildlife. For example, over

300 species of lichens have been found growing on oaks, 65 species of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts), and hundreds of insects, moths and beetles find homes and/or food in oak trees. These, in turn, provide food for many different species of birds; squirrels and birds help distribute the acorns from which new trees may grow. Many mammals make their home in oak woodland; apart from squirrels, wood mice, bank voles, badgers, pipistrelle bats, red and roe deer can all be found. In one oak wood in the north of Scotland 106 species of trees and plants have been recorded. Many trees live a very long time - oaks can live for over 1,000 years; yews may live for 2,000 years.

Dead or decaying wood is also very important. It provides food and shelter to around 1800 species, including bats, many birds and squirrels. A number of the species that live on or in it are protected by law. Just because a tree is old, or has holes or hollows in it, does not mean that it needs to be removed.

If someone comes to your door suggesting that your trees need to be cut down because they are in a dangerous position or condition, be suspicious. If you are worried about a tree near your property, get an expert to look at it and give you advice. It may be that drastic action is not required and crown thinning, or the removal of some branches, would solve the problem. If you are concerned about the possible removal of a favourite tree, you can apply to the Council who may grant a Tree Preservation Order.

by Maggie Kay

LOCAL HISTORY

THE HISTORY STOP BALMACLELLAN (CARD 7)

Over the next few issues of the Gazette we will be featuring areas of historical interest around the Glenkens as highlighted on the Glenkens HistoryStop cards. These cards focus on a particular local area or feature which you can then choose to visit if you like. The full set of History Stop cards is available for purchase at The CatStrand, New Galloway (you can also purchase them individually).

Balmaclellan is built on a steep hillside, with Torwilkie 12th century earthen Motte standing to the north of the village. The T-plan Parish Church has a magnificent 20th century stained glass window, with a statue of stonemason Robert Paterson (Old Mortality) and his pony in the cemetery. Barscobe Castle (1648) is an L-plan laird's house restored in 1971-87 and still in use as a private home. Grennan Mill (1834) has evidence of milling on the site since 1506. The Holy Linn covenant meeting and baptismal place commemorates the killing times of the 1680s. Ironmacannie still has working reminders of its 19th century industrial past and is also a private house. The Hidden Road is a 4m/7km circular walk joining Ironmacannie, Blowplain, Corse and Ironmacannie Mill. The large house at Troquhain was built in the early 19th century but has since been altered; its sundial dates from 1855.



GLENKENS OBJECT OF THE MONTH Photographs of the Galloway Hydro-electric Scheme



This photograph and aerial post cards were commissioned by the Galloway Water Company in 1935 and 1936 to record the completion of the Galloway Hydro-Electric Scheme. The larger photograph by the commercial photographers, T & R Annan of Glasgow, shows Glenlee Power Station soon after its completion, whilst the post cards, by Altigraph Ltd of Hooton, provide aerial views of the same site and also of the Clatteringshaws Loch which provided the water supply to Glenlee by tunnelled pipes.

The whole scheme was constructed between 1931 and 1935, and involved the creation of dams sufficient to drive the turbines of five power stations, four of which are located in the Glenkens at Kendoon, Carsfad, Earlstoun and Glenlee. When fully operational in the later 1930s, this was the largest hydro-electric scheme in Britain and the most technologically advanced. Designed with care, the scheme has now blended into the Glenkens landscape, and continues to provide 'top-up' electricity to the National Grid at peak demand times.

These photographs are part of a larger collection about the Galloway Hydro-Electric Scheme which was donated to the Stewartry Museum in Kirkcudbright by Mr Joseph Clark in 2005. Each month a different 'Object' from The Stewartry Museum, Kirkcudbright, is on display at The CatStrand, New Galloway

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The CatStrand: News & Events



Children's Dance Classes with Margaret Morris Movement:
Every Mon during term time, 4-5pm, £3 per session
A series of classes designed to develop creativity and wellbeing (Age 8-12 years).

Storytelling Café

Thurs 2 Oct, 7.30pm, donations on the door

The October guest host is Dr Donald Smith, Director of the Scottish Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh with the theme 'Halfway to Everywhere'. This is a regular event on the first Thurs of every month.



Storytelling Café

Thurs 6 Nov, 7.30pm, donations on the door

The November host will be Tony Bonning with the theme 'Fabulous Fables'.

Glenkens Young Arts

Sat 8 Nov, 10am-2noon (5-9 years), 1-3pm (8-12 years), £4

A rich variety of music for soprano, clarinet, 'cello and piano.

Galloway Rhapsody

Sat 8 Nov, 7.30pm, £8/£6, proceeds to charities selected by the performers

A rich variety of music for soprano, clarinet, 'cello and piano.



International Guitar Night

Fri 3 Oct, 8pm, £12/£10

An annual touring showcase bringing together some of the world's foremost acoustic guitar players.

Play it by Ear

Every Mon during term time, 1.30-2.30pm, £2 per adult & child

Popular song and storytelling session for pre-school children - every Mon during term time.



Jive LeRoc Night

Sat 4 Oct, 7.30pm for 8pm, £8

Sam Hood's hugely popular dance evening. Suitable for complete beginners and all ages! Price includes light refreshments.



Tom Pow, GU Crichton, Storytelling Ceilidh

Thurs 13 Nov, 7.30pm, free admission.

Join Tom Pow for an evening of Winter Tales with an international flavour at The CatStrand's Storytelling Café.

Sara Maitland

Sat 15 Nov, 7.30pm, £5

Sara's new book, 'A Book of Silence', is published this month. She describes how she set out to explore, spending periods of silence in the Sinai Desert, the Scottish hills and a remote cottage on Skye, in conversation with Tom Pow from the Crichton Campus.



Antje Duvekot

Tues 18 Nov, 8pm, £8/£6

Originally from Germany, Antje Duvekot has become something of a phenomenon in the United States in the ten or so years since she began writing and performing her own songs.



Exhibition: GTI Photographic Competition

From Sat 22 Nov, CatStrand opening hours

An exhibition of photographs taken by users of the Glenkens Transport Initiative minibus on days out and trips around the region and beyond.



The Balliol Consort presents The Lover's Ghost

Tues 7 Oct, 7.30pm, £7/£5

Founded in Dumfries in 1992 The Balliol Consort has developed into the foremost mixed voice a cappella group working in South-West Scotland.



Glenkens Young Arts

Sat 10 Oct, 10am-12noon (5-9 years), 1-3pm (8-12 years), £4

Two-hour monthly workshops are run by professional artists and teachers - expert tuition and hands-on experience.



Home to Neverland, A Window on J.M. Barrie, Splinters Productions

Fri 17 Oct, 7.30pm, £7/£5

From Neverland to the Scottish glens, from society drawing-rooms to country firesides, J M Barrie is the master storyteller.



Tale-Blazers Storytelling Training Course (Advanced)

Sat 18 & Sun 19 Oct, 10am-4pm each day, £20 for the weekend

A two day training course devoted to advanced storytelling technique.



The Sportinghouse Strings

Sat 18 Oct, 8pm, £8/£6

Trio of jazz musicians, formed in 2001 as a musical tribute to their leader Tommy Burton.

Locked In, Half Moon Young People's Theatre

Fri 31 Oct, 7.30pm, £5 (£3 under 18s)

Locked In is a powerful hip hop drama by multi-award winning writer, Fin Kennedy.



Exhibition: Valerie Sadler

From Sat 1 Nov, CatStrand Opening Hours

Kirkcudbright based artist Valerie Sadler has a special interest in water-based media.

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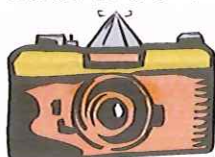
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Supported by Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

The CatStrand: News & Events

THE BUS : GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE



G.T.I. PHOTO COMPETITION

For the first time, a display of pictures taken by users of our minibus will show everyone what they're missing.



If you have been on the bus, did you take photos? If so, why not enter our competition and share your memories. Categories will include: The Bus, People & Places, Landscapes and A Mixed Bag. There is no limit to the number of entries and no entry fee. Entries must be received at the CatStrand by 3pm on Friday 21st November at the latest.

Entries will be judged by Phil McMenemy of the Laurieston Gallery on the afternoon of Friday 28th November. Results will be announced at 5pm, when everyone is invited for light refreshments.

An exhibition of the images will run from Saturday 22 November to Saturday 6 December. If successful, this could become a regular event.

WEDNESDAY BUS SERVICE (REGD. ROUTE):

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

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

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.

CATSTRAND CINEMA CLUB

Stone of Destiny

Fri 10 & Sat 11 Oct,
7.30pm, Sun 12 Oct,
2pm & 7.30pm

On general release from 10th October. See it first at The CatStrand! Based on the audacious true-life attempt to bring the Stone of Scone back to Scotland. 'Kids Go Free' offer available - see press for details.



There Will be Blood

Wed 29 Oct, 7.30pm

Following the rise to power of Daniel Plainview. Over time, Plainview's accumulation of wealth and power causes his true self to surface.

Juno

Wed 26 Nov, 7.30pm

Juno is a cool, confident teenager who takes a nine-month detour into adulthood when she's faced with an unplanned pregnancy - and sets out to find the perfect parents for her baby.



COMMUNITY EVENTS/CLASSES

Boxercise; a great stress reliever:

Every Monday from 27 October, 6.30-7.30pm, £24/£18 per six week block. This class will work the whole body with a non-combat boxing style circuit and pad work to practise your boxing skills. It is great for all levels of fitness. The aims of the training are improved strength and endurance, improved muscle definition/tone, improved co-ordination, weight loss and stress relief. To book a place on this fun workout contact Catherine Phillips on 01644 420374.

Circuit Training: Every Monday from 27 October, 7.30-8.30pm, £24/£18 per six week block. An effective and fun workout for the whole body. Combining exercises to tone and strengthen your muscles and raise your heart rate helping to improve your level of fitness and health.

Teen Spirit: Every Tuesday 7.30-9.30pm. A new weekly club for young people to hang out, chill, listen to music, eat munchies, play console games on a big screen, watch films and plan trips and activities. If you are interested in coming along just turn up and see what happens.

Gentle Yoga & Relaxation: Thursdays 10-11.15am £4/£3. Release the free flow of energy in body and mind using gentle practices to mobilise joints, easing stiffness and muscular tension, meditative standing sequences, simple breathing practices and led relaxations. Sessions taken by Lesley Vine (British School of Yoga).

Taking the First Step in Computing: Wednesday Evenings, 5.30pm - 7.30pm. An informal introduction to computing. Courses are run by tutors from the IT Centre in Castle Douglas in six week blocks throughout the year. Please call for further details and course dates. Ages 18+.

Taking the Next Step in Computing: Tuesday evenings, 5.30-7.30pm. Computer Literacy and Information Technology Level 1.

If you have the basics in computing and wish to progress further, this course is for you.

There are a range of units to choose from and each unit involves approximately 12 hours of study. An exam can be taken for which a certificate will be awarded. Units include: File Management and e-Document production; Creating Spreadsheets and Graphs; Database Manipulation; e-Publication Creation (PowerPoint) and Online Communication.

ILA grants of £100 or £200 may be available! Please contact the CatStrand Community Project Worker on 01644 420374 for further details of costs and ILA grants. These courses run in six week blocks throughout the year. For people aged 18+.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Community Fund Raising Training Day

Wednesday 12 November, 10am-4pm, free admission. The CatStrand in conjunction with Stewarty Council Voluntary Services (SCVS) are putting on a community fund raising training session. If you are involved with a community group and are thinking about possible funding, this may be the course for you. Information on how to put together a good funding bid, and examples of the types of supplementary information that need to be included. Lunch will be provided.

Back to Work Skills

Wednesday 26 November, 9.30am-3pm and Wednesday 3 December 9.30am-3pm, free admission. A flexible course designed to help people return to work and learn new skills. The course covers basic computer skills, applying for a job, CV and letter writing, interview skills and confidence building. Small friendly groups and lots of individual help. Childcare may be available if required.

For further info & to buy tickets visit
www.catstrand.com
or call 01644 420 374

YOUTH UPDATE

Glenkens Fire Cadets

The Fire Cadets are currently busy covering Road Traffic Collision (RTC). They are covering equipment used at incidents and have just received trauma training and learned how to deal with persons involved in a RTC.

During the course of the training Cadets will cover how to use the cutting equipment and other items to safely remove an injured person from a RTC, how to deal with the medical needs until an ambulance arrives, and how to

make an area incident safe for others and themselves. They will also learn the cause and effect of RTC's and how to reduce incidents.

The Cadets train out of New Galloway Fire Station on a Wednesday night from 6.45-8.15pm, over a seven week period. They then have a break and re-commence for another seven weeks.

Currently we have vacancies for four new Cadets. If you are aged 12-16 and live within the Glenkens area, contact New Galloway Fire Station on a Tuesday night (drill night) or the Stewartry District Office 01557 332028 and leave your contact details.

Iain Campbell

TEEN SPIRIT

Teen Spirit is a new weekly club for young people to hang out, chill, listen to music, eat munchies, play console games on a big screen, watch films and plan trips and activities. If you are interested in coming along just turn up and see what happens. Every Tuesday, 7.30-9.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway.

LOCKED IN

Locked In is a powerful hip hop drama by multi-award winning writer Fin Kennedy.

On the 20th floor of an abandoned East End tower block, Blaze (a Caribbean MC) and Tariq (a Bengali DJ) rip up the airwaves on a leading pirate station.

Their last CD was a massive hit and they're all set to hit the big time with their first live set at Exile FM's birthday bash coming up. Then Zahida comes into their lives and cracks begin to appear in their friendship. When a local gangster asks Blaze for a serious favour, suddenly there's a choice to be made that could split their world wide open. Suitable for adults and young people aged 13+.

Performed by Half Moon Young People's Theatre, Locked In will be held on Friday 31 October at 7.30pm in The CatStrand, New Galloway. Entrance is £5 (£3 for under 18s).

NEW FACES AT DALRY

The new term started on 19th August and 'new' was the right word! We had 12 new pupils, three new teachers and a new School Support Manager, Mrs Martin.

In Primary, Miss Lamont has joined us as our Depute Head and P6/7 teacher; Mrs Green replaces Mr Brown (confusing isn't it) as Principal Teacher Curriculum and English in Secondary, and Mrs Hermon becomes our Support for Learning teacher in Primary and Secondary.

A big welcome to Dalry to all of you – we know you will love it here!

Heidi Bartholomew

Fire Safety Wordsearch

The first 10 correct entries to arrive at the CatStrand will receive a special fire safety edition comic of The Broons and Oor Wullie. You can collect your prize when you drop in your completed word search. There are 32 words to find, going up, down and diagonally.

Z	S	C	A	R	B	O	N	M	O	N	O	X	I	D	E	Y	E	L	B
A	M	W	D	F	9	R	T	I	I	M	N	B	I	P	P	U	S	K	R
H	O	M	E	F	I	R	E	S	A	F	E	T	Y	C	H	E	C	K	E
S	K	9	A	L	A	R	M	D	V	B	X	F	S	H	F	N	A	L	A
F	E	U	S	G	W	W	E	R	S	F	I	I	J	I	I	F	P	O	T
G	A	R	D	E	H	A	W	D	S	F	T	D	P	M	R	G	E	P	H
H	L	O	U	D	F	I	R	E	O	H	9	H	A	N	E	U	P	C	I
J	A	W	9	T	L	I	G	H	T	O	H	9	X	E	F	H	L	H	N
K	R	E	G	V	A	S	T	J	P	S	R	L	9	Y	I	9	A	I	G
L	M	W	E	R	M	O	N	D	E	E	R	Y	H	F	G	U	N	P	A
Y	S	M	O	K	E	W	E	T	G	R	O	P	E	I	H	J	K	P	P
I	K	A	L	K	S	B	D	E	T	E	C	T	O	R	T	T	L	A	P
O	F	G	F	T	Y	H	K	O	P	E	R	L	K	E	L	V	F	N	A
P	C	A	D	E	T	S	H	F	G	L	W	J	L	S	A	F	E	E	R
S	H	O	U	T	T	E	L	E	P	H	O	N	E	Y	D	W	E	D	A
F	I	E	D	E	T	Y	W	R	T	U	O	U	Y	N	D	D	D	F	T
N	E	W	G	A	L	L	O	W	A	Y	E	H	O	S	E	F	F	C	U
Y	Y	S	A	F	E	A	N	D	S	O	U	N	D	M	R	C	V	Y	S
G	G	L	E	N	K	E	N	S	H	S	T	A	Y	L	O	W	W	E	D
S	M	O	K	I	N	G	F	F	I	R	E	E	N	G	I	N	E	I	L

CARBON MONOXIDE
HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECK
SMOKE ALARMS
ALARM
EXIT
SAFE
NEW GALLOWAY
FIRE ENGINE
TELEPHONE
LIGHT
FIRE FIGHT

CHIMNEY FIRES
ESCAPE PLAN
FIRE DOOR
HOSEREEL
DETECTOR
LADDER
GLENKENS
BREATHING APPARATUS
SAFE AND SOUND
STAY LOW
SMOKING

HOSE
ROPE
SMOKE
FLAMES
FIRE
SAFETY
LOAD
999
SHOUT
CHIP PAN

CLUB CORNER

GLENKENS STROLLERS

Nicky McMath being presented with a watercolour of the Glenkens Strollers which was painted by Mr Pelly.



DALRY ANGLING ASSOCIATION

A Junior Competition was held on 12th July on the River Ken. It was won by Kimberly McAdam who was proud to have won the trophy donated by her grandfather, George. A delighted grandmother, Hilda, witnessed the presentation by Ray Cotterill, President of the Association, as did father Gordon. The runner-up was Annabelle McAdam.

The Senior Competition took place on 16th August. The weather forecast threatened a rainy day and five competitors turned out. In the event, though overcast, it stayed mainly dry with just a smattering of raindrops at the start. It was fairly warm with a SSW breeze. Five fish were caught and the winner, Andrew Ruddock, was given the prize by the President.



ON THE BEAT - Farewell & Welcome

The Gazette would like to thank PC Wilson for his regular contributions to the Gazette during his years of service to the communities of the Glenkens and to wish him all the best in his retirement. We would also like to welcome our new community policeman, Bryan Bruton, who took over the post in August.



PC Bruton lives in the Stewartry and has been with D&G Constabulary for 15 years. Having previously worked in Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie and the Traffic Department in Dumfries, he will now be based at Dalry and is keen to keep Gazette readers up to date through the regular 'On the Beat' column.

PC Bruton says: "The most satisfying part of my career in the police has been beat policing, or community policing as it is now often called.

"I feel that it is important to maintain links with small communities such as those in the Glenkens. The older residents need support and reassurance and the younger ones need to trust and develop a relationship with the police.

"I would like to be as approachable as possible and anyone with concerns should feel free to contact me in confidence, either by calling at the office, stopping me in the street or by phone or email. I aim to spend most of my duty time working in the community and hope my presence can make a difference."

FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKS

The Fire Service are offering a Free Home Fire safety Check. Fire fighters from New Galloway Fire Station will visit for a short time and check your smoke alarm if you have one, and give advice on how to make your family and home safe from fire. If you have no smoke detector, the Fire Fighters will fit one for you free of charge. Call 01557 332028 to book a check or have an alarm fitted. **CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARM TODAY!**



The Cross Keys Hotel - New Galloway Dates for the Diary

Cross Keys Quiz Nights
Held every other Wednesday - the next quiz night will be Wed 1st October

Pool tournaments held every other Friday - the next tournament will be Fri 10th October
Restaurant open 7.00 - 8.30pm Mon & Tues, 6.00 - 8.30pm Wed to Sat
Phone for other opening times or to book CatStrand pre-event meals

Telephone: 01644 420494
enquiries@thecrosskeys-newgalloway.co.uk
www.thecrosskeys-newgalloway.co.uk

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Please note new normal opening hours
as from week commencing 27 October:

Thursdays: 9am-6.30pm (Gents
Barber Shop 4.30pm-6.30pm)

Fridays: 9am-5pm

Saturdays: 9am-1pm

Closed on Mondays

Tuesday and Wednesday times may be
available strictly by appointment only.

TEL: 01644 420 616



Glenkens Business Association

The GBA have been liaising with Howard Wilkinson from Business Mentoring Scotland* to bring to its members a **FREE 12 month group mentoring programme to run throughout 2009.**

The aim of the group programme is to support, stimulate and challenge us, both on a personal and business level. Those who have taken part in previous programmes have found the following benefits; raised business horizons, an external 'warts and all' viewpoint, greater self-awareness, a more focused approach to developing the business. Those wishing to take part next year will be able to choose the aspect of business to focus on.

*Business Mentoring Scotland is a partnership between Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Chambers of Commerce. Mentoring is "the process by which one person assists another to grow and learn in a safe and sympathetic environment".

To join the GBA or renew your membership contact:
Secretary Alan Rumble on 01644 420250 or alanrubble@gmail.com

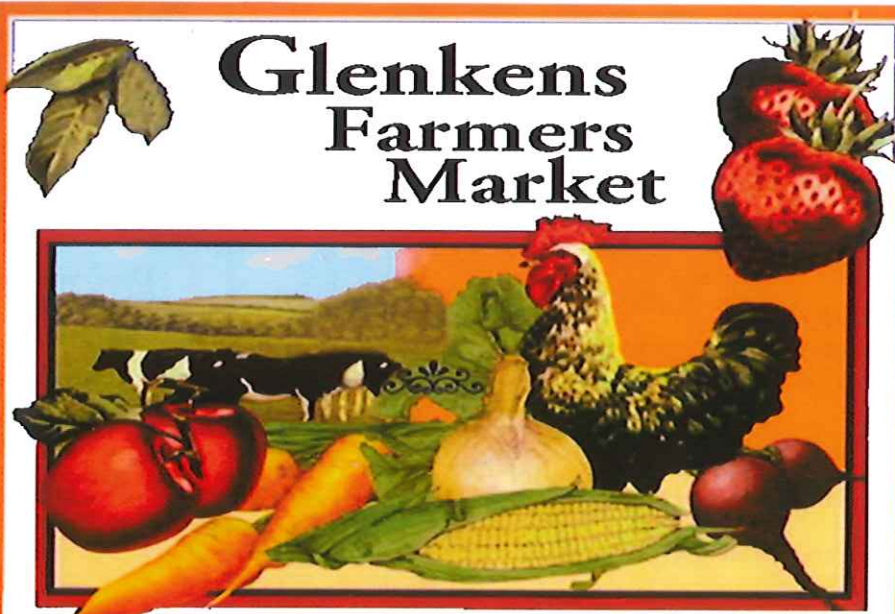
Rosalind Hill, GBA Chairman

Glenkens Gazette : Advertising Rates 2008

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 13cm	£35.00	10%
Quarter page	Colour	9cm x 13cm	£65.00	25%
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



2nd Saturday Monthly

October 11th 2008

November 8th 2008

10am - 1pm

See the website for booking details;
www.st-johns-town-of-dalry-town-hall.co.uk

Entrance Fee 50p - Proceeds towards Dalry Town Hall Refurbishment Fund
North of Castle Douglas A713 Ayr Road

advertising feature

Are the foods you eat making you ill?



It is a well established saying that "you are what you eat". However, whilst you think you are eating a healthy diet, you may in fact be eating foods which disagree with you. This can result in rashes, eczema, I.B.S. constipation, bloating and tiredness, to name but a few common ailments.

Lorna Willock, local dietician and nutritionist, says: "Many health problems are related to foods we consume on a daily basis. It is a fact that certain elements in our diet and our environment can aggravate these.

"We generally look after our cars, giving them services and keeping them in top condition - we really should do the same for our bodies! A

dietary MOT would give us a fresh start and added vitality, whilst possibly relieving some niggling health issues."

Lorna has been treating clients within the area for the last ten years, specialising in the areas of weight loss and food allergies and intolerances. Her clients range from babies to the elderly, and results, in most situations, have been spectacular.

A happy client says: "You have transformed my life - ill for 42 years, better in three days. Thank you!" Mrs Hawker, Kirkcudbrightshire.

Lorna Willock's specialist clinics are held at the Dumfries Holistic Health Centre (01387 267617) and at Parton Stables, near Castle Douglas (01644 470218).

For further information email lorna@foods4life.co.uk or visit www.foods4life.co.uk

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or 07767 795 498
(Jonathan)

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The Glenkens Grand National is postponed until May '09.

Organisers have decided that because of the weather of late it would be better to put the event off until spring. A date will be decided in the new year.

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- Crimestoppers: 0845 555 111
- Well Driven Scheme (to report dangerously driven HGV's): 0800 225533

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**Sundays**

Balmaclellan 12noon 1st
 Carsphairn 10.30 am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
 Dalry 12noon 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
 Kells 10.30 am 2nd 3rd 4th 5th (Nov)

Special Services and Events

5th October: Harvest Thanksgiving Service, Carsphairn Church, 10.30 am, followed by Harvest Lunch in Lagwyne Hall.
 Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Balmaclellan Church, 12 noon, followed by Harvest Lunch in Balmaclellan Village Hall.

28th November, 7.30pm: Scottish Night with Tommy Edgar and friends, Dalry Town Hall
30th November, 10.30am: United Service with Glenkens Church Choir, Kells Church.

Communion Services

26th October, 12noon & 4pm, Dalry Church
 2nd November, 12noon, Balmaclellan Church
 16th November, 10.15am, Carsphairn Church
 9th November, 11am, Ceremonies at New Galloway and Balmaclellan War Memorials, followed by Remembrance Service at Kells Church.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E)

St Margaret's, New Galloway; 10.30am Holy Communion Every Sun & Wed

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

St Ninian's Episcopal Church, Castle Douglas; Mass - Sat 6.15pm & Wed 7pm

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS**OCTOBER:**

Thurs 2, Storytelling Café, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 3, International Guitar Night, 8pm, £12/£10, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 4, Jive LeRoc Night, 7.30pm for 8pm, £8, CatStrand, New Galloway

Tues 7, The Balliol Consort presents The Lover's Ghost, 7.30pm, £7/£5, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 10 & Sat 11, 7.30pm, Cinema: Stone of Destiny, £4.50, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 11, Corsock Village Market, 9.30am-1.30pm, Corsock Village Hall

Saturday 11, Glenkens Young Arts, 10am-12noon (age 5-9), 1pm-3pm (age 8-12), £4, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 11, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 12 Oct, 2pm & 7.30pm, Cinema: Stone of Destiny, £4.50, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 17, Home to Neverland: A Window on J.M. Barrie, Splinters Productions, 7.30pm, £7/£5, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 18 & Sun 19, Tale-Blazers: Storytelling Training Course (Advanced), 10am-4pm each day, £20, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 18, The Sportinghouse Strings, 8pm, £8/£6, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 26, Cinema: Juno, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 29, Cinema: There Will be Blood, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 31, Locked In: Half Moon Young People's Theatre, 7.30pm, £5 (£3 under 18s), CatStrand, New Galloway

NOVEMBER:

From Sat 1, Exhibition: Valerie Sadler, CatStrand opening hours, CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 6, Storytelling Café, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 8, Corsock Village Market, 9.30am-1.30pm, Corsock Village Hall

Sat 8, Glenkens Young Arts, 10am-12noon (age 5-9), 1pm-3pm (age 8-12), £4, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 8, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 8, Galloway Rhapsody, 7.30pm, £8/£6 (proceeds go to charity), CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 12, Community Fund Raising Training Day, 10am-4pm, free admission, CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 13, Tom Pow: Storytelling Ceilidh, 7.30pm, free admission, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 14, Carsphairn Heritage Group AGM, 7.30pm, followed by 'How Well Do You Know the Glenkens', a pictorial quiz

Sat 15, Sara Maitland, 7.30pm, £5, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 22, Ceilidh with Reel Rhythm, 8pm-12 midnight, Mossdale Hall. There will be a light supper & raffle, tickets £6 from Y Grant, tel: 01556 502 508

From Sat 22, Exhibition: GTI Photographic

Competition, CatStrand opening hours, CatStrand, New Galloway

Tues 25, Box Club, 8pm, £10/£8, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 26, Back to Work Skills, 9.30am-3pm, free admission, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 28, Scottish Night with Tommy Edgar and friends, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

REGULAR EVENTS:

Mother & Toddlers Group: New Galloway Town Hall, Tues 9.45-11.15am, £1.50 per session

Scouts: Mon, 7-8.30pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Beavers: Tues, 6.30-7.45pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Cub Scouts: Wed, 6.45-8pm, New Galloway Scout Hut
 Glenkens Farmers Market: 2nd Sat each month, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Corsock Village Market, 2nd Sat each month, 9.30am-1.30pm, Corsock Village Hall

Cross Keys Quiz Night: every other Wed (next will be 1 Oct), The Cross Keys, New Galloway

Cross Keys Pool Tournament: every other Friday (next will be 10 Oct), The Cross Keys, New Galloway

The CatStrand, New Galloway (for more info see p7)

Children's Dance Classes with Margaret Morris

Movement: Every Mon during term time, 4-5pm, £3 (age 8-12)

Play it by Ear: Mon during term time, 1.30-2.30pm, £2 per adult/child

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am, £4/£3

Boxercise: Mon from 27 Oct, 6.30-7.30pm, £24/£18 per six week block

Circuit Training: Mon from 27 Oct, 7.30-8.30pm, £24/£18 per six week block

Teen Spirit: Tues, 7.30-9.30pm

Gentle Yoga & Relaxation: Thurs 10-11.15am, £4/£3

Taking the First Step in Computing: Wed evenings, 5.30-7.30pm

Taking the Next Step in Computing: Tues evenings, 5.30-7.30pm

CatStrand Playstation Tournaments: contact The CatStrand for info.

Dalry Community Centre (for more info or to book contact Sarah McAdam on 01644 430 393)

Paint & Art: Mon 1.30-4.30pm

Glenkens Playgroup: Mon-Fri 9.15-11.45am

Glenkens Mother & Toddlers: Wed 1.30-3pm

Good Neighbours Club: Tues 2pm

Craft Class: Thurs 2-4pm

Drama Club: for info call Cathy Polkinghorn on 01644 430 393

Kickback Martial Arts: Tues & Thurs 7-9pm, £5, adults welcome

Ballroom & Latin Dance: Mon - Beginners 7.30-

8.15pm, Improvers 8.15-9pm, Improvers 9-9.45pm

Aerobic Classes - toning & conditioning: Wed 7.30-8.30pm, £2.50

Preschool Dance: Thurs 3.30-4pm

Under 8s Ballroom, Latin & Modern Dance: Thurs 4-4.45pm

9yrs+ Ballroom, Latin & Modern Dance: Thurs 4.45-5.30pm

WRITE FOR THE GAZETTE!

Submit events, activities, news stories, cartoons, reviews, tips and techniques, fiction, photos, ads or ideas...

Any contributions to the Gazette are always welcome by anyone and everyone, and all submissions will be considered for publication.

For more information contact Sarah on 07727 127 997 or glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

NEXT GAZETTE DEADLINE:
for Issue 49 (Dec/Jan): Wed 12 Nov

Don't miss this year's

LOCH ARTHUR

AUTUMN FAIR

Saturday 1st November

12.00 to 4.30

Exciting marketplace of
 organic & homemade
 foods and local crafts

- Delicious Teas, Coffees, Cakes, Soups & Rolls
- Creative activities and demonstrations for adults and children
- A wide variety of stalls and producers

....all in the beautiful setting of Loch Arthur

Loch Arthur Community, Beeswing, Dumfries



LEADER
 Dumfries and Galloway