

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

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MATT'S DAY AT MURRAYFIELD

Nine year old Mathew Maclaren from Parton got to meet the national rugby team recently when he was chosen as a Scotland mascot for the Scotland vs New Zealand match. Here's the story of a very memorable day:



Matt & sister Rebecca with two members of the Scottish rugby team

We arrived at Murrayfield at 2.30pm, long before the game was due to start. All the mascots and their families gathered in one of the reception lounges, where we were given our Scotland strips and instructions on how the day would proceed. Then we had lunch before putting on our strips and going out onto the pitch to have a practice.

We ran onto the pitch and were shown what to do. The Scotland players were warming up and Nathan Hines gave me a high five. Soon it was time and we all ran out in a line just like the Scotland team.

I had my Stewartry Rugby Club tracksuit on, and lots of the Scotland players said I must be good because Stewartry is such a good club! We all left Murrayfield at 9 o'clock and came home. I had such a fantastic day and will remember it forever. Lots of people have been asking me about my day and I even got to tell my class at school and show them all autographs. I got to wear my Scotland strip on Children in Need day which was great.



heading for the pitch

'73 CLUB XMAS SHOW

Rehearsals are well underway for the club's Christmas show to be held in The CatStrand on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th December at 7.30pm. The adult section of the club are following up their highly successful 2008 Festival production of 'Murphy's Law' with the popular Alan Ayckbourn play 'A Cut in the Rates'.

The junior team are presenting 'Is it time yet, Dad?' by Wayne Denfhy. The play is a fast moving and amusing look at all aspects of the Christmas season through a child's eyes. Whether you are young or old, you are sure to recognise the scenes which will be played out before you, most of them will have happened in your house at some time! This play won the SCDA Youth Festival for Young Portonians Drama Club earlier this year and has proved to be great fun in rehearsals. Hopefully the audience will enjoy it just as much.



'73 Club junior team rehearsing

Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children, and are available from The CatStrand. The ticket price includes mulled wine and mince pies which will be served at the interval.

After Christmas, the club will be starting rehearsals for the 2009 Drama Festival productions. All new members are welcome at any time whether you would like to take to the stage or stay behind the scenes! For further information please contact Marie Davie (430 293), Brian Edgar (420 288) or speak to any of the club members at The CatStrand on 12th & 13th December.

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Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all our readers!

Local Artist: PAUL MOSLIN



Paul has been living in the Stewartry for six years now, the last year and a half of which have been in the Glenkens. Originally from the north of England, he developed an interest in woodworking whilst living in Ireland where, as a builder and plasterer by trade, he often did various joinery work and found that this was an area he really enjoyed.

Working with native Scottish hardwoods, Paul sources almost all of his wood locally. At present his workshop is based near Kirkcudbright but he hopes to find a suitable workshop space somewhere closer to home in the Glenkens in the near future.

Paul's work ranges from decorative, delicate mirror frames to huge double gates, practical, space-saving Irish settle beds to last-a-lifetime tables. His newest creation is a set of rocking chairs which he's christening the 'Granny and Granpa'. All of Paul's pieces are of a very high quality - solid and built to last - and are really tactile and welcoming.

The settle bed is an interesting item as the design is from an old Irish style that stopped being made years ago, and Paul doesn't know of anyone else who is making these. It is a straight-backed bench (see image below left) which folds out into a boxed-in bed - this design was used in days gone by to make efficient use of space and to keep the drafts out whilst you were sleeping.



Glenkens Business Association

Following their Open Meeting in November a group of local businesses have signed up to take part in the Business Mentoring Programme. The group will be

looking at aspects of their own business which they wish to improve as well as how everyone can benefit from networking. If any other business would like to be involved they should contact Alan Rumble as soon as possible.

Scotland's most recent best kept secret is now out. Over the last few years the Scottish Government has been supporting a Scottish Homecoming 2009 to attract those with a Scottish background, or who have a love of Scotland, to visit next year. 2009 is the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. Susan Garnsworthy from the Dumfries & Galloway Arts Association explained how businesses can be involved.

This is an opportunity for Glenkens businesses to be seen across the world through the GBA membership website.

A new organisation is being set up to look at community projects in New Galloway. Two have been highlighted so far - the future of the Town Hall and of the Village Shop which is up for sale.

Following re-organisation of local government in the 1970s, ownership and management of the Town Hall was taken away from the then Burgh Council and ended up with Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council. A year or so ago the Regional Council indicated they would like the Town Halls to be owned/managed locally but the way in which local government is now organised prevents the Community Council taking direct control. Hence the need for an independent body to be set up. The shop and attached residential premises was put on the market in the summer. Whilst it is possible that it may be purchased by someone who has the intention of carrying on the business, this is not necessarily so. New Galloway as a community would be much the poorer without their shop. Other community shops in the area include Carsphairn and Auchencairn where the premises are owned by the community and leased to the shop proprietor.

It is planned to apply for grants to carry out a feasibility study on both projects and if possible to apply for appropriate funding.

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

Rosalind Hill, GBA Chairman

Carsphairn Community Council

Exerps from minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2008:

Information was circulated on the research which has been done so far on the creation of a Carsphairn website. A public meeting will be called before the end of November to find out what the community wants on the website.

No new planning applications have been made for the Carsphairn area. Three members of the CC had viewed a consultation pack for a proposed development in the Carsphairn parish. The timescale meant that it could not be brought to the full meeting, but they were of the opinion that the development was of a style sympathetic to the area and saw no cause for objection by the CC.

Discussion took place about the grounds on which the CC could object with regard to planning. It is part of our remit to liaise with Planning and Roads and our opinion will carry a lot of weight with the planning authorities. However, if the application satisfies all policies and planning criteria, objections are unlikely to be considered. Discussion also took place on how Developments may affect the 'Right to Roam' and effects on Core Paths.

A progress report for the Community Garden was presented on behalf of the steering group. An artist's impression of the community garden has been commissioned. Quarry stone is available from a forestry site for dyking. Discussion took place on the practicality of transporting it and the amount of waste that would result on site leading to increased costs.

The Combined Services group has sent recommendations for improving street lighting. However, the Lighting Section has no budget at this time to carry out work and suggested that the Area Committee be asked for funding.

There have been suggestions in the community that there is a need for a Community notice board as well as the CC one. It is thought grants are available.

The next meeting will be on 26th January 2009, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall.

Full minutes of local Community Council meetings are available to view at Dalry Library.

The Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells Parish Community Council

The Provost and the Community Councillors cordially invite all Senior Citizens of Kells Parish to

Christmas Lunch

on

Sunday 14th December 2008

12.30 for 1.00pm

at The Town Hall, New Galloway

(Transport will be available on request)

Please confirm your attendance by adding your name to the list in - Hopkin's Shop, New Galloway Post Office, Mossdale Post Office, Glenkens Hair Studio, The CatStrand or by Telephoning 01644 420288

Homecoming Scotland 2009: Glenkens Business Association and The CatStrand are getting together with a group of organisations, businesses and individuals to promote Homecoming Scotland 2009 in the Glenkens.

Homecoming Scotland 2009 celebrates the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth with a year-long programme of events across the country starting on Burns Night, on 25 January, and running through until St Andrews Day, on 30 November.

The themes of the Homecoming Scotland 2009 are Burns, great minds & innovations, whisky, golf, and ancestry. Whilst linking in to those themes, there is opportunity to expand them more widely to raise the profile of the area.

Anyone with ideas for celebrations or events, or who would like to be involved, should contact Rachel Thompson at The CatStrand on 01644 420374 or Ros Hill, GBA Chairman, on 01644 420632, or come along to an initial meeting on Wednesday 10th December at 7pm at The CatStrand.



POST OFFICE UPDATE



Despite widespread feedback from local communities that rural Post Offices provide a vital service, the decision has been made by Post Office Ltd to close five Post Offices around the Stewartry.

Three of these are in the Glenkens - Corsock, Balmaclellan and Mossdale Post Offices will be replaced by a mobile service. Balmaclellan will receive the mobile service for five hours a week, Corsock for two hours a week and Mossdale for four hours a week.

CHRISTMAS GIFT HAMPERS

NEWTONS SHOP, DALRY

We have a large range of local and Scottish produce.

All our hampers are made to order to suit each customer's taste and budget.

Call in to view the range of contents and make a unique gift for you or a friend.

17 Main Street, Dalry
gmnewton@btinternet.com



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

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

Barmurrie Farm

Free range hen, duck & quail eggs



NEW - free range Gloucester Old Spot pork

Free range oven ready chickens farm reared on grass from day old chicks

SEASONAL FRESH VEGETABLES

Christmas orders taken now!

Day fishing permits available for trout fishing

Visitors welcome - come and see where your food comes from!

01644 420249

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

Small Schools' Cup:

Castle Douglas HS 4 - 7 Dalry School

Dalry's under 14 team put in a superb display at Castle Douglas to record a convincing victory in the local derby match. A squad of twelve boys including two from P7 and another two who had never played an eleven-a-side game battled hard from start to finish and thoroughly deserved this unexpected win.

A hat trick from Connor and four goals from Captain Marvel, Greig, were backed up by a first rate team performance. Young keeper Ryan was faultless and supported by two solid central defenders, Jack and Darrel, whilst inexperienced full backs Ronan, Jamie and James stuck well to their defensive duties. Martin on the right wing provided the 'escape' ball by clinging to the touchline.

The midfield of Henry, Calum and William, who was unlucky to have what appeared to be a good goal chalked off, were totally dominant throughout, providing the ammunition for the deadly duo of Connor and Greig. All in all a fine team performance with a semi final against either Langholm or Sanquhar next.

Kells Primary - 2nd Green Flag!

Kells Primary School has been awarded a second green flag by the Eco School's assessors for the pupils' achievements in sustainable living.

One of their 'green' projects was the greenhouse made from discarded fizzy drinks bottles collected by New Galloway residents.

The children use graphs and charts to record the progress of recycling, and garden projects have become a part of the maths curriculum!



Chloe Adams, Galloway News

A Day of Culture in the City

On 13th November all seventy six of the secondary pupils at Dalry School took to their coaches for a day out in the city. The trip began at Kelvingrove Museum where students were dazzled by architecture, art and archives. Museum displays covered nature, culture and some famous works of art including a Salvador Dali and work from the Scottish Colourists.



Connor Smith tries out Santa's Sleigh at the Glasgow Museum of Transport

A large group of pupils took the opportunity to walk to the Transport Museum and another group were invited to the art exhibition to enhance their Intermediate Art course. Lunch was accompanied by an organ recital in the museum. The afternoon was spent at the Theatre Royal watching a fifty year anniversary production of "West Side Story". The set was magnificent and the dancing was tightly choreographed. Pupils were stimulated by several contentious issues and honed their critical skills through discussion of the characters, actors, music, dancing and set. All returned enriched as a result of the foray into some of Glasgow's cultural offerings.

A Busy Year So Far at Dalry!

On the 22nd of September P4/5 went to a Tri-golf Tournament at Castle Douglas High School. They played Kells, Hardgate and Lochrutton, practising various skills at four different stations. The trickiest station was where you had to chip the ball through the hole and into the net – almost impossible! The children had a great time and enjoyed the opportunity to mix with different schools.

Last term P6/7 covered the topic 'The Olympics and China'. To give the children a chance of experiencing an Olympic style event, P6/7 took part in a Mini-Bowling Olympics organised by P6/7 from Kells. The children played in mixed teams and tracked their own points. At the end of the morning they celebrated the three top scoring teams; each team got either a gold, silver or bronze medal created by the P6/7 pupils from Kells.

The children had a fantastic time and really appreciated the children and staff from Kells organising the event, and the fabulous weather!

P1/2/3 have also been busy at sport and

are currently challenging themselves to sprint certain distances and improve their times. They had an initial training session with Sean Laird, Active School Primary Co-ordinator, and really did rise to the occasion with excellent sprinting times. Now it's up to P1/2/3 to improve their times before Sean returns for the final sprinting session!

Finally, the Nursery children have been working hard baking cakes to raise money for Children in Need. This was their fourth year running the event. The children at Dalry really enjoyed their home-made cakes - well done to the Nursery children and staff!



Windy Wigtown Book Festival

The end of September saw all of S1 and S2 wending their way down to Wigtown to join several other schools from the region to sample a day of authors and workshops. The marquee nearly blew away but did not dampen

pupils' spirits. They were, rather, inspired by the likes of J A Henderson and James Jauncey who both entertained and informed the troops. Afternoon workshops with the writers gave pupils the confidence to create their own

pieces of writing, including poems.

The staff mingled with the authors in the green room over refreshments and both staff and pupils agreed that this was a most worthwhile adventure which they hope to attend again next year.

Y O U T H U P D A T E

Teen Spirit!

A new weekly night for young people to meet with friends, watch films, play console games and enjoy being in the CatStrand space. Teen Spirit is a new group open to young people aged 11+ which meets on Tuesdays from 7.30-9.30pm. So come along, bring a friend and have your say in what activities you would like to do!

Your Ideas for Youth at The CatStrand

If anyone is interested in becoming involved or voicing their opinions regarding what they would like to see at The Catstrand please get in touch. We are hoping to develop provision for young people and are open to suggestions.

Some examples of the type of provision we would consider are: a regular monthly dance/disco (music style may vary for example alternative/EMO, hip-hop, student night), a specific exercise class for young people to get into shape, regular day/evening trips up to Glasgow, life skills training - how to cook, prepare for work, computer classes.

Please get in touch with Catherine on 01644 420374 and help make the Glenkens a bit more hip!

LOCAL HISTORY

NEW GALLOWAY - *Our Historic Burgh*

by Helen Bolton - PART XXXVIII

At Home During the War

During the second world war, while our young men and women were away serving their country, life at home continued, despite rationing, black-outs and other restrictions to add to the general gloom around us. However, there were some bright moments to cheer the inhabitants of New Galloway, and one of these occurred on 13th March 1940. On that day Mrs Margaret Paterson, the mother of Mr John Paterson, the local butcher and Senior Magistrate of the Royal Burgh, celebrated her 100th birthday at the home of her daughter in the High Street.

A telegram came from Buckingham Palace with the following greetings: "The King and Queen are much interested to hear that you are celebrating your 100th birthday and send you hearty congratulations and good wishes." Mrs Paterson also received a telegram from the Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of New Galloway, and later in the day Provost and Mrs John Courtenay called to offer their personal good wishes and presented Mrs Paterson with a beautiful bowl of white hyacinths. A quiet but cheerful party, attended by family and close friends, was held in the afternoon, an enjoyable and memorable occasion for everyone present.

14th June 1940 brought rumours of German paratroopers landing in the Mossdale district of the parish! While the police and military personnel searched the area the school children were sent home early - no doubt much to their delight. Of course, it all turned out to be a false alarm!

The New Galloway Book Club went from strength to strength during the war, and in 1942 the membership stood at sixty

six. Over 150 books had been donated by members of the community during that year, and a good selection had also been sent from the County Library. All were very much appreciated by the members. The number of actual issues to readers had increased over the previous year, from 2,538 'borrowings' to 2,996 in 1942. New Galloway residents were obviously keen readers.

In June 1944 the sudden death of the teacher at Clatteringshaws School resulted in the pupils being sent, temporarily, to Kells School. There they remained until November 1945 when a new teacher was appointed at Clatteringshaws.

8th May 1945 saw the end of hostilities in Europe, and the young men and women who had been away gradually began to return home to resume their normal lives among their families and friends. A celebration to welcome them was planned by the Council, and in June 1946 a Presentation and Supper was given as a Welcome Home to the Service Personnel of New Galloway and Kells Parish. The Presentation took place in the Park, and after an address by Provost Paterson and ex Provost Warnock, Sir Andrew Agnew, CBE of Glenlee, presented Commemorative Scrolls to relatives of those who had given their lives. Lady Agnew then presented a Welcome card and £14.10/- to each of the women of the Services, followed by Sir Andrew presenting similar gifts to the men.

Later that evening around 130 service personnel and families enjoyed a splendid supper and dance in the Town Hall, a happy occasion for all present.

HistoryStop - Glen Trool (card 13)

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).

Glen Trool is a Forestry Commission village which was built in the 1950s to house their workforce and is within Galloway Forest Park. There is a Visitor Centre in the village. Nearby, Caldons contains a memorial to six Covenanters (1638-88) killed on the spot whilst attending an open-air prayer meeting, and Bruce's Memorial Stone commemorates a famous victory against the armies of the English in 1307; said to be the turning point in his wars of independence.

There is an inscription inspired by Sir Walter Scott on the bridge at Buchan Burn and the Old Bridge of Minnoch is an archaeological site of a remote bridge. A Bronze Age hoard was discovered some

years ago and you can see King's Cairn, Sheuchan Cairn and The White Cairn that are more than 3,000 years old. Directions: Glen Trool is close to Clatteringshaws Loch on the A712 Queens Way road through Galloway Forest Park, to the west of New Galloway.



GLENKENS OBJECT OF THE MONTH

A 'Cribbie' or 'Niddy-Noddy'

This wooden tool was used in local farms and cottages in the 19th century and earlier for making up hanks of linen or wool yarn after it had been spun on a spinning wheel. The yarn was wound between the two short ends. The winder kept count by repeating the verse:



UP THE CRIBBIE,
DOON THE CRIBBIE
CRIBBIE, YE ARE YIN
UP THE CRIBBIE,
DOON THE CRIBBIE
CRIBBIE, YE ARE TWA
ETC...

This example is believed to be from Knowehead in Carsphairn Parish, but this was a common implement in use throughout Galloway.

Each month a different 'Object' from The Stewartry Museum, Kirkcudbright, is on display at The CatStrand, New Galloway.

The CatStrand: News & Events



Exhibition : Valerie Sadler CatStrand Opening Hours

Valerie Sadler was born in Fife, but could almost call herself a Gallovidian as she has lived and worked within its borders for many years, including in the parish of Dalry. Her particular interests and range of subject matter cover landscape, still life and domesticated animals, using a variety of materials to interpret the mood. She is a graduate of Edinburgh College of Art, a professional member of Visual Art Scotland and Glasgow Society of Women Artists. *The exhibition runs until the end of December.*

Discovery - Scotland's International Film Festival for Children and Young People: Short Animations for Wee Ones

Wed 3 Dec, 10am & 1.30pm, free of charge

A collection of the best short animated films from all over the world for young children aged 5 and under - touring Dumfries & Galloway as part of the Discovery Film Festival from Dundee. The film stories have no dialogue and are great fun no matter what age you are! *In partnership with CREATE and the Dumfries & Galloway Film Officer.* Running time: 60 minutes.



Storytelling Café

Thurs 4 Dec, 7.30pm, donations on the door

This month's guest host is Anne Errington with the theme, '1001 Nights'. This is a regular event on the first Thursday of every month. Cakes and coffee will be available and audience participation is encouraged. Eat, drink and let your imagination run away with you!

Domestic Godley: Janey Godley

Sat 6 Dec, 8pm, £10

Janey Godley - award-winning comedienne, bestselling author, weekly columnist for The Scotsman and a regular on Radio 4's 'Just a Minute' - brings her latest 5-star Edinburgh Fringe sell-out show Domestic Godley to The CatStrand. Adults only; contains strong language. Not for the faint hearted!



The Snow Bird and Other Wintery Tales with Storyteller Sylvia Troon

Tues 9 Dec, 4pm, £3

An afternoon of magical, festive storytelling and puppets with one of Scotland's best loved children's performers, Sylvia Troon. The Snow Bird is a mysterious solstice tale from southern Scotland which conjures up

scenes of woodlands, hidden streams, moorlands and rolling hills. *Suitable for ages 8+*

The Glenkens '73 Club presents...An Evening of Christmas Comedy

Fri 12 & Sat 13 Dec, 7.30pm, £5/£3

Two one act plays with a Christmas theme, 'Is it Time Yet, Dad?' by Wayne Denfhy. This play will be presented by the newly reformed



Glenkens '73 Club Youth Team and takes an alternative look at the festive season through the eyes of the child.

'A Cut in the Rates' by Alan Ayckbourn: When a lady from the council arrives at a normal house in a normal street to review the Council Tax rating she soon discovers that everything may not be as it seems!



Battle of the Bands

Sat 20 Dec, 7pm, £3

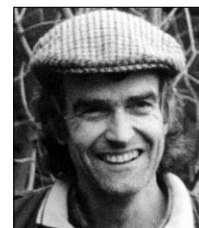
It's the annual CatStrand Battle of the Bands event which aims to showcase the best young bands from around Dumfries & Galloway. Each band will be given the opportunity of performing up to 3 songs to a live audience and panel of judges, with big prizes for the winners.

If you are in a band and would like to take part please give us a call on 01644 420374 or email info@catstrand.com. The closing date to register your band is Friday 12 December. Over 14s only. The bar will be open for soft drinks. No bottles please.

Exhibition: Going Places

From Fri 9 Jan, CatStrand opening hours

A selection of paintings from the Gracefield Permanent Collection inspired by foreign travels and places featuring Scottish artists' work from the 1880s to the present day. *The exhibition will be running until the end of February.*



Storytelling Café

Thur 8 Jan, 7.30pm, donations on the door

This month's guest host is John Wheeler with the theme, 'Free Wheeling'.

Dogstar Theatre Company: The Tailor of Inverness – Krawiec z Inverness, written and performed by Matthew Zajac

Wed 28 Jan, 7.30pm, £8/£6

Violin: Gavin Marwick/Jonny Hardie. Directed by Ben Harrison. Words, music, dance and video combine to tell the moving story of this ordinary man caught by the murderous tides of the Second World War. Performed by one of Scotland's leading actors, two of Scotland's best traditional musicians and directed by the acclaimed Ben Harrison of Grid Iron.



The Auvo Quartet

Sat 31 Jan, 8pm, £8/£6

The Auvo Quartet create an explosion of sound and texture which reverberates throughout their home cities of Newcastle and Helsinki.

Described as a 'groove-machine'. The much anticipated return to Scotland of Tom Oakes (Flute), Suvi Oskala (Vocals, Fiddle), Julian Sutton (Melodeon) and Roope Aarnio (Guitars), sees a night of Finnish song and new composition coupled with deep traditional music resonances and an electric stage presence which few can rival.

The CatStrand: News & Events

COMMUNITY EVENTS/CLASSES

December/January

Back to Work Skills: Wed 3 Dec, 9.30am-3pm, free. 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. Please book in advance.

Festive Cookery Demonstration with Catherine Braid: Fri 12 Dec, 10.30am-12pm, £2. The return of The Organic Country Cook, Catherine Braid from the Green Tea House in Moniaive, demonstrating how to make sensational, mouth watering Christmas dishes which will then be raffled off at the end of the demonstration.

Cycle Maintenance Workshop for Young People: Sat 24 Jan, 9.30am-1.30pm, £2. This emergency cycle repair workshop will be looking at common problems that can arise whilst out cycling and give you the skills and knowledge required to fix the problem and get back home safely. The session will be practically based and people will be required to bring their bikes. The Workshop will be run by Bob Peace. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Regular Classes

Circuit Training: Every Monday, 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 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. ILA grants of £100 or £200 may be available - please contact the CatStrand Community Project Worker on 01644 420374 for further details. 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. ILA grants may be available - please contact the CatStrand Community Project Worker on 01644 420374 for further details. Courses run in six week blocks throughout the year. For people aged 18+.

New Group: With the winter drawing in, The CatStrand's new Afternoon Tea Club for retired members of the community may be just the ticket! Come along and enjoy a movie and cream tea. Screenings will be at 2pm on the second Friday of the month. Annual membership is £2. Cream teas at a cost of £2.50.

Minibus pick up from Balmaclellan and Dalry by prior arrangement - to book call 01644 420374.

Ideas Welcome! Anyone interested in having a say in community provision for retired people please get in-touch. We are hoping to develop a panel of retired people, made up from local people and hopefully representatives from the local existing groups, to look at activities and provision The CatStrand put on and to discuss how we can meet your needs/interests. Please contact The CatStrand if you would like to get involved.

Forgotten Stories: Following the success of Forgotten Voices, set up by the Sounds of the Stewarty to record the dialects of the region before they are lost forever, The CatStrand is embarking on the next stage: Forgotten Stories. Forgotten Stories is an intergenerational project, in which young people meet and chat to older members of the community and hear their stories. The young people will receive training from local policeman Ian Howie on using sound recording equipment and will then be sent to record these tales from times past of the Glenkens and surrounding area for posterity. If you are interested in getting involved in the project, or have stories to tell, please contact Catherine Phillips on 01644 420374.

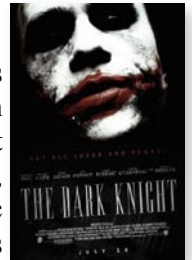
CATSTRAND CINEMA CLUB

Entry is £4.50 (£3.50 CCC members & concessions)

The Dark Knight

Wed 17 Dec, 7.30pm

Batman and James Gordon join forces with Gotham's new District Attorney, Harvey Dent, to take on a psychotic bank robber known as The Joker, whilst other forces plot against them, and Joker's crimes grow more and more deadly. Cert 12A, 152 minutes.



Mamma Mia

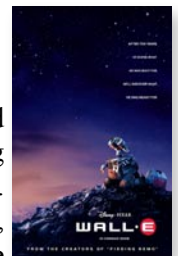
Sat 27 Dec, 2pm & 7.30pm

Dress for the occasion and get dancing in the aisles at this sing-along version of the immensely popular, all-star cast feature-film of the beloved musical, featuring timeless lyrics and melodies of iconic super group ABBA. Cert PG, 109 minutes.

Family Matinee - Wall-E

Tues 30 Dec, 2pm

The year is 2700, and planet Earth has long been uninhabitable. For hundreds of years, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) has been taking out the trash, and collecting precious knick-knacks in order to stave off boredom. Little does WALL-E realize that he has recently stumbled onto a secret that could save planet Earth... Cert U, 98 minutes.



Notes On A Scandal

Thurs 29 Jan, 7.30pm

Cate Blanchett and Dame Judi Dench star in this psychological thriller. Judi Dench plays Barbara Covett, a domineering and solitary teacher whose world changes when she meets the school's new art teacher, Sheba Hart (Cate Blanchett). Cert. 15, 88 mins.

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

CLUB CORNER

Ideas Please! At The CatStrand we have had a few suggestions for possible new groups (open to any age group.) Bridge for beginners and also a monthly gardening club with a mix of practical advice/demonstrations and guest speakers.

If anyone would like to get involved in setting up such a group or taking part, get in touch or watch this space!

FIRE CADETS

The Fire Cadets in New Galloway will be commencing early December after a short break.

The Cadets will be covering within this next phase 'Breathing Apparatus; Its Use and Construction', and will undertake, after several weeks of training, a practical session in the Realistic Fire Training Unit (RFTU) at the Fire Service Training Department in Dumfries. The Cadets will be facing a realistic fire in a controlled environment. They will experience a Flash Over, Roll Over and have the opportunity to tackle the fires, using the skills they have learned.

The Fire Cadets have several vacancies at present. If you are 12 to 16 yrs old and free on a Wednesday evening from 6.45pm - 8.15pm and would like to know more about the New Galloway Fire Cadets, please contact Iain Campbell, District Team at Kirkcudbright Tel Service HQ on 01387 252222.

To Book THE BUS Call:
01644 420374

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

The Surgery *The Surgery*
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New Galloway *Dalry*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

Gordon McAdam Plumbing & Heating Engineer

22 Kirkland Street
St. John's Town of Dalry

01644 430393

07834 321789

THE BUS : GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

Letter to GTI: We had a fantastic day out to the Lake District. The weather was bright and sunny as we set off at 9am. Jean and Joan from New Galloway had requested a trip to Lakeland Plastics, but some people just wanted to visit the Lakes in good weather – not always easy! Our first call was at Stainton, near Penrith, for coffee – a farm shop with facilities – very nice and well worth the visit any time!

We then drove by Ullswater to Windermere over Kirkstone Pass (quite exiting). Lakeland Plastics is a very well stocked store with a restaurant, although some people preferred the lakeside at Bowness where the swans were very attentive. After losing (and then finding) some passengers we proceeded to Grasmere via Rydal Water. Grasmere is a lovely village with quaint shops (and lots of Japanese tourists!). Now late in the afternoon we turned for home passing Thirlmere (Manchester's Water Supply), and we were lucky the rain didn't start until on the M6, so nobody cared. Keith is a good courier – he knows the area well and is able to point out places of interest – a great day out for us all.

Kath Bates, Kendoon

TESCOS SUPERMARKET: During October numbers using the Wednesday evening shopping trip dwindled apparently due to the empty shelves at Tesco Supermarket in Castle Douglas. On behalf of GTI I have written to the Manager of the store as well as Tesco's Head Office complaining about the situation. I also wrote a personal letter to the Galloway News. A reply has now been received from Tesco head office, and I hope the situation will improve and we can tempt you back on the bus!

WEDNESDAY EVENING BUS SERVICE – XMAS & NEW YEAR'S EVE: On the 24th and 31st December 2008, Tesco's Supermarket closes at 6.00pm - therefore the weekly bus service will NOT run on these dates. This decision has been made by Dumfries and Galloway Council, on whose behalf we operate this service.

MONDAY 29TH DECEMBER 2008 – TRIP TO GLASGOW: If you fancy a day out between Xmas and New Year we are running a trip to Glasgow. Visit Kelvingrove Museum, the Transport Museum or City Centre sales. Dept New Galloway 9.30am, Dalry 9.45am and return by approx 5.30pm. Fares £5 per person (Concessions £4). Tickets must be booked and paid for by 19/12/2008.

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.

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FIRE SAFETY

New Galloway Fire Station is still carrying out free Home Fire Safety Checks. You might think that fire is something that can't happen to you, but in reality every hour of every day someone in Scotland has their home damaged by fire.

Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue is keen to raise awareness of the potential risks and urge householders to take the necessary steps to protect themselves, their family and their property throughout the year. Help us to help you - request a Home Fire Safety Check: Call Service HQ on 01387 252222.

Three Days of Christmas Message: On the First day of Christmas... Make sure you test your smoke alarm, and if you or anyone you know haven't already got one why not buy one as stocking filler. Make sure you have one properly fitted on each level of your home, and don't be tempted to remove the batteries to power a Christmas present!

On the Second Day of Christmas... Check your Christmas tree lights, make sure the wiring isn't split, and check they conform to a British Standard. In addition check you have the correct fuse. Always switch them off and unplug them when you go to bed or leave the house.

On the Third Day of Christmas... Never leave candles burning whilst unattended, and make sure they are on a non-flammable base, and keep

10 Top Tips for Health

1. Avoid ready meals. A quick meal can be a piece of grilled meat or fish served with salad or vegetables.
2. Eat home-made soup every day (if you can). It helps to ensure we reach our '5 a day' health target.
3. Cut back on caffeine - tea and coffee inhibit the proper absorption of many vitamins and minerals e.g. tannin in tea inhibits the absorption of iron.
4. Go for whole grains - try brown basmati rice, whole-meal seeded breads, etc.
5. Cut back on crisps - try a few unsalted nuts instead.
6. Cut out aspartame as this has been linked to health problems such as headaches, migraine and depression.
7. Avoid products containing heated sunflower oil. Sunflower oil is polyunsaturated and should not be used for frying as it is an unstable compound. Try to minimize fried foods. Try stir-frying gently in olive oil.
8. Go for lean cuts of meat.
9. Eat more fish, preferably oily. If vegetarian, take flax oil or use as a dressing on salads (do not heat).
10. Cut back on biscuits as they provide little nutrition, lots of sugar and may lead to us putting on weight.



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 26th November.

Regular pool tournaments & domino matches - ring for dates and details.

Restaurant open 6.30- 8.30pm

Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat -

other times by arrangement

Phone for other opening times or to book CatStrand pre- event meals.

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enquiries@thecrosskeys-newgalloway.co.uk

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You can also contact your MSP via e-mail at
alex.fergusson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

GLENKENS HAIR STUDIO

DUKE STREET, NEW GALLOWAY

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for their support throughout
the year and wishes everyone
a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours –

THURSDAY 18th Dec: 9am –
6.30pm, Gent's Barber Shop: 5 – 6.30pm

FRIDAY 19th Dec: 9am – 5pm

SATURDAY 20th Dec: 9am – 1pm

TUESDAY 23rd Dec: 9am – 6pm,
Gent's Barber Shop 5 – 6pm

WEDNESDAY 24th Dec: 9am – 5pm

TUESDAY 30th Dec: 9am – 5pm

WEDNESDAY 31st Dec: 9am – 5pm

Open as normal from 8th January 2009

**PLEASE BOOK EARLY FOR
CHRISTMAS APPOINTMENTS**

TEL: 01644 420 616

Corsock Craft Fair

Corsock's annual Craft Fair is coming up soon and is an event not to be missed! Spokesperson Jools Cox says: "The Corsock Craft Fair has won the reputation of being where Christmas starts - it is a great social event and a fun way to support rural sustainability. The Corsock Events committee hope the public will shop locally this Christmas to support their local craft workers and reduce shopping miles."

Some of the local crafts people you will find at the fair are Lizzie Farey with willow weaving, Joanna Gisbey with handmade hats, Cressa McKlaren with glass work, Jennie Ashmore with unique handmade cards and artworks, John Hills with HoneySam Samson wood products, Amanda Simmons with handmade glass, Jem Cox with decorative and functional brooms, Hannah McAndrews with ceramics, Erin Popov with jewellery, The BareNaked Soap Company with local handmade soaps, Linda Corson with a range of delicious chutneys, The Afghan Schools Trust with Afghan clothes and jewellery sold to raise funds for children in Afghanistan, Castle Douglas Enterprise group and more!

Corsock Craft Fair will be held on Sunday Dec 7th from 10am to 4pm. Entry is £1 and includes tea and a cake. Tickets for the renowned Corsock Christmas ceilidh on 27th December will be on sale on a first come first served basis.

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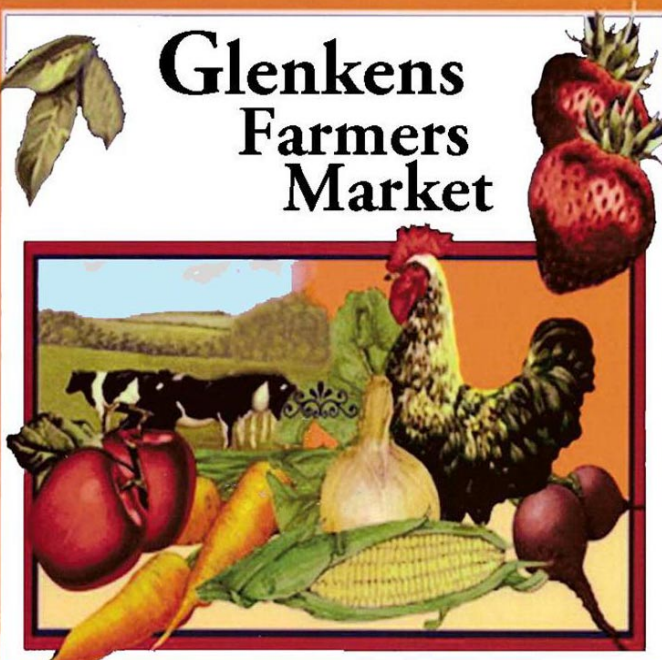
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Glenkens Farmers Market



2nd Saturday Monthly
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January 10th 2009
10am – 1pm

See the website for booking details;

www.st-johns-town-of-dairy-town-hall.co.uk

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

Floreat Partona

To the uneducated, Floreat Partona means 'let Parton flourish' and did it no dae that the other night? Some time ago a question in a quiz asked, "what is black and white and red all over?" The answer was - a newspaper. I ask the question again; "what is black and white and red all over?" The answer is not a newspaper - it is Parton Village Hall, after its facelift to celebrate the opening of the hall one hundred years ago on January 16 1908.

The hall committee discovered that a fair bit of work would be needed to bring the old lady up to scratch before applying the rouge and the mascara to the newly moisturised skin.

The night was fair, the hall was cleaned and the tables well set out, complete with posies, ready to receive the 75 folk who were trusted to attend. Mr Paul Rusby, chairman, welcomed everyone and invited each table in turn to partake from the well laden buffet table. Not aspiring to the banqueting style of the 1908, the Cartner Caterers provided an excellent meal of similar ingredients, much enjoyed by everyone.

A miniature of the hall adorned the birthday cake, baked and decorated by Mrs Sheelagh Rusby, who had also executed the

greatly admired programmes. Mrs Jean Turnbull, nee Murray, cut the cake and is a great niece of George Murray who provided the hall in 1908.

As his great grandfather had before him, at the opening of the hall Mungo Bryson was entrusted with the toast to Parton Hall and to Mr George R Murray who built the hall for the benefit of the community, and to leave the school reserved for purely educational purposes and the present library would be transferred to the new hall.

It was left to Mr Alistair Nelson to give the vote of thanks to speakers Mr Alex Fergusson and Mr Mungo Bryson, Mrs Jean Turnbull for cutting the birthday cake, the caterers and croupiers and anyone who had helped to make the evening a success with memories of Auld Lang Syne.

During an interval Sam Callander was 'knocked for six', being presented with a tartan clad box containing a bottle of 'mountain dew' and crystal glass inscribed with 'Floreat Partona 1908-2008' (the hall's, not Sam's, age) by the members in recognition of the time he gives to the community.

Sam Callander

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



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

Balmacellan 12noon 1st 4th (Dec)
 Carsphairn 10.30 am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th (Jan)
 Dalry 12noon 1st 2nd 3rd 4th (Jan)
 Kells 10.30 am 2nd 3rd 4th (Jan)

Special Services and Events

14th Dec, 6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight Service with Glenkens Church Choir in Balmacellan Church.

22nd Dec, 5pm: Carsphairn Community Christmas Service in Carsphairn Church.

24th Dec, 11.30pm: Watchnight Service in Dalry Church.

30th Dec, 10.30am: United Service with Choir in Balmacellan Church.

Nb. there will be a United Service in Balmacellan Church on the 4th Sunday in December, so the normal 4th Sunday services in the three other churches won't be taking place on that Sunday.

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**DECEMBER:**

Exhibition : Valerie Sadler, CatStrand opening hours, The CatStrand, New Galloway. Runs until end December.

Wed 3, Discovery - Scotland's International Film Festival for Children and Young People: Short Animations for Wee Ones, 10am and 1.30pm, free of charge, The CatStrand, New Galloway
 Wed 3, Back to Work Skills, 9.30am - 3, free, The CatStrand, New Galloway. Please book in advance.

Thurs 4, Storytelling Café, 7.30pm, donations on the door, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 6, Domestic Godley: Janey Godley, 8pm, £10, The CatStrand, New Galloway

6 Dec 08 - Feb 09, Exhibition: Amanda Simmons (Corsock Glass) - Impressions of Galloway, McGill Duncan Gallery, Castle Douglas

Sun 7, Corsock Craft Fair, 10am - 4pm, £1 entry (includes tea and a cake), Corsock Village Hall

Tues 9, The Snow Bird and Other Wintery Tales with Storyteller Sylvia Troon, 4pm, £3, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 12 & Sat 13, The Glenkens '73 Club presents An Evening of Christmas Comedy, 7.30pm, £5/£3, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 12, Festive Cookery Demonstration with Catherine Braid, 10.30am - 12pm, £2, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 13, Corsock Village Market 9.30am - 1.30pm, Corsock Village Hall

Sat 13, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am - 1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 14, Kells Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch, 12.30pm, contact 01644 420 288 for further info.

Sun 14, Carols by Candlelight Service, 6.30pm, Balmacellan Church

Wed 17, CCC film The Dark Knight, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 20, Battle of the Bands, 7pm, £3, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 22, Carsphairn Community Christmas Service, 5pm, Carsphairn Church

Sun 24, Watchnight Service, 11.30pm, Dalry Church

Sat 27, CCC film Mamma Mia, 2pm & 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 29, GTI bus trip to Glasgow, see p8 for further details

Tues 30, CCC family matinee - Wall-E, 2pm, £4.50/£3.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 30, United Service, 10.30am, Balmacellan Church

JANUARY:

Thurs 8, Storytelling Café, 7.30pm, donations on the door, The CatStrand, New Galloway

From Fri 9, Exhibition: Going Places, CatStrand opening hours, The CatStrand, New Galloway

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

Jan 10, Corsock Village Market 9.30am - 1.30pm, Corsock Village Hall

Sat 24, Cycle Maintenance Workshop for Young People, 9.30am - 1.30pm, £2, The CatStrand, New Galloway

From 25 Jan, Homecoming Scotland, various

events and venues, for further info contact 01644 420 374

Wed 28, Dogstar Theatre Company: The Tailor of Inverness - Krawiec z Inverness, 7.30pm, £8/£6, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 29, CCC film Notes On A Scandal, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 31, The Auvo Quartet, 8pm, £8/£6, The CatStrand, New Galloway

REGULAR EVENTS:

Mother & Toddlers Group: New Galloway Town Hall, Tues 9.45-11.15am, £2 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

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

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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 50 (Feb/Mar): Wed 9 Jan