

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

April / May 2009

ISSUE 51

www.glenkensgazette.com

Audience Vote Youth Players Top Act

The CatStrand Youth Players marked their debut at the Stewartry One Act Play Festival in fine style by winning the Meg Imrie Memorial Trophy after gaining the most votes from the audience.



The play 'We'll Be Home Tomorrow' by Wayne Denfhy centres around the escapades of a family during a holiday to the seaside and demands a great deal from the cast with no scenery or props involved.

The actors simply had two black boxes to help them present the different holiday scenes depicted. The two boxes became a car, a mountain, a diving board, a roundabout, a stage, an ice cream stall and even a picnic table at various times throughout the play.

The adjudicator, Mr Dave Bennett, praised the imaginative use of the boxes to give variety of stage pictures and also the very efficient and natural movement of the actors and the boxes around the stage. He was particularly impressed with the excellent attack, projection and confident comedy timing shown by such a young team.

Overall he was very impressed by the direction and interpretation of such an entertaining play and although this was easily the youngest team in the competition he could clearly see that all of the young actors on stage were enjoying performing and this was reflected in the warm reception from the audience. He

recognised great potential in all of the cast and encouraged them all to continue acting and enjoying the experience in the future. During his summing up at the end of the Festival he picked out one of the lines from the play as the best comedy moment of the week.

The cast (pictured above) were as follows: Back Row - Josie Oliver, Lowena Lindsay, Kirstin Stalker, Dylan Blore, Fionnghal Wolfe; Front Row - Tessa Maxwell, Cameron Lindsay, Eleanor Jones. The play was directed by Brian Edgar and Nancy Plummer, the prompter was Sue Lindsay.



100 Years in the Royal Burgh

It is not every day that one of our residents celebrates their 100th birthday and one who was born and bred in the Burgh at that, so the Community Council were delighted to arrange a special presentation to Miss Nettie Murray on 3rd March to mark her special day.

On behalf of the Community Council, Brian Edgar presented Nettie with a framed and inscribed picture of New Galloway views by local artist Derk Pelly. Councillor George Prentice presented her with an arrangement of flowers on behalf of the Stewartry Area Committee, and the Lord Lieutenant Sir Malcolm Ross delivered the Queen's telegram. The children from Kells School arrived to sing Happy Birthday to Nettie and presented her with a birthday card that they had made.



Nettie said: "I enjoyed my birthday and I was touched by all the lovely gifts and cards I received. Thank you very much to everyone. It was a lovely surprise when the children from Kells came down to sing Happy Birthday to me... I never thought I'd ever be on the front page of the Galloway News!"



photographs courtesy of the Galloway News

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Local Artist: PHIL MCMENEMY



Phil McMenemy is a local photographer based in Laurieston. Recently, he judged the Glenkens Transport Initiative photo competition, which must have been a challenge as there were so many great photographs.

"I really enjoyed judging the GTI competition and was chuffed to have been approached to do so," says Phil. "I judged the images on display from a purely personal perspective and not necessarily from a technical one. The winner was a fantastic effort – full of fun and a great human perspective. Some of the images really made me smile – they were great."

In May last year Phil opened the Gallery at Laurieston at his home, Woodbank House, situated in the village. Phil says he has "really enjoyed the experience of being open regularly on Sundays and at other times by appointment. I've met some really nice, informed and friendly folk through the Gallery and my work."

When asked what inspired him to take up photography as a profession, he states; "I was having a bit of a mid-life-crisis and had left the nursing profession after many years and really wanted to do something completely self-directed and different to what I was used to doing – and here I am."

With the beauty of nature all around, it's easy for Phil to work on his favourite subject "the outside". He says: "We are incredibly lucky to be where we are, I try to appreciate it every day – when I'm fortunate to have the time to get out with my camera it completely reinvigorates me. What strikes me about our landscape is the variety on offer – we've got the lot."

"I am originally from Barrow-in-Furness but spent many years in London and Manchester before settling in Galloway. We had visited the area many times on holiday and were lucky that an opportunity arose for Louise (my partner) to progress her Doctoral career in this splendid region – fate, really. Since we have been in Galloway we have had two boys Alex aged three and Joe aged six months, so, as you may imagine, things are rather busy for us!"

Spring Fling

This year's Spring Fling is fast approaching once again, with an opportunity for locals and visitors alike to go and see the work of artists and makers around the region.

Studios usually closed to the public open from 23 to 25 May for this annual event – a great opportunity to catch a glimpse of the wonderful artistic talent hidden among our hills!

Participants around the Glenkens this year are Ted Leeming and Morag Patterson (fine art photography) in Dalry, Godfrey Smith (handmade clogs and shoes) in Balmaclellan, Jennie Ashmore (pressed flower art) near Corsock, Amanda Simmons (glasswork) in Corsock, Phil McMenemy (photography) in Laurieston, Cressa McLaren (glasswork) in Laurieston, and local artist Natalie Vardey (jewellery) who is based outside Balmaclellan but, as her studio space is so small, is participating in the event from Trevor Leat's studio in Auchencairn.



Glenkens Business Association

The Annual General Meeting was held on 17th March at the Ken Bridge Hotel.

Members were updated on the various activities and projects which had been undertaken in the previous year as well as plans for the future.

The GBA are keeping abreast of discussions to set up a Dumfries & Galloway Destination Management Organisation and plan to be involved with it. Application for grant funding is being made to the Stewartry Area Committee in order to produce the next issue of the Business Directory. This will be expanded to include local organisations. Funding application is also being made to enhance the information content on the visitglenkens website, particularly related to the Homecoming themes.

The association has also registered an interest in funding which may become available through the new Targeted Support Fund set up by the Stewartry Area Committee for projects aimed at economic development.

Following the formal business meeting and light refreshments members had a chance to network informally and to discuss ideas for the coming year. The Association is grateful to Sue and David Paterson for providing accommodation for meetings.

Membership of the GBA provides opportunities for networking, advertising your business and taking part in opportunities to promote businesses in the Glenkens. To join the GBA or renew your membership contact Secretary Alan Rumble on 01644 420250 or email alanrumble@gmail.com

Rosalind Hill, GBA Chairman

Car Boot Sale

Mossdale Village Hall

Sun 10th May, 10am-1pm

Tables £5, contact Jill

Haslam 01644 450666

Fiddlers' Concert

by the Gallovidians

Fri 3rd April, 7.30pm

New Galloway Town Hall

Access to Soldier's Memorial

As this issue goes to press, the Forestry Commission has nearly completed improved access to the soldier's memorial overlooking Loch Ken, which involves creating a new path and hopefully some signs.

For those unfamiliar with the memorial, it is beside the Lowran burn between New Galloway and Mossdale (further details at the HistoryStop in The CatStrand). The improved access means that visitors will be able to enjoy walking up to the memorial, where there are excellent views across Loch Ken, for the first time in many years. We hope to have further details and a photograph of the work in the next issue.

Paul Goodwin

The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Community Council

It is hoped to install an electricity supply to the burgh sign to allow it to be lit and also provide a power point for the Christmas Tree. Estimates have been requested and a funding application will be submitted to the Area Committee.

Funding from the Homecoming Fund would also be applied for to help with the promotion of The Alternative Games weekend.

PC Bruton reported several cases of vandalism and one of suspected fire raising in recent weeks. Police enquiries into the incidents were progressing well. He is also aware and concerned about children riding their bikes after dark without lights. Several people have reported witnessing 'near misses' with cars and even youngsters riding down West Port at speed and straight across the High Street without stopping! PC Bruton is addressing these issues through the schools and the imminent cycling proficiency training.

A new raised flower bed has been installed at the junction near Clearwell. Various maintenance issues have been attended to recently, mainly potholes etc.

Residents are asked to report any maintenance matters around the parish to Vic McIntosh who collates the items and reports them to the relevant council departments.

The April meeting will be held one week later than normal on Monday 20th to avoid the Easter Holiday.

Dalry Community Council

Proposed development of 28 Affordable homes in Dalry:

Mr Lynch, Operations Manager with Dumfries & Galloway Council, opened the presentation by explaining that they had a legal requirement to produce affordable housing and it was their aim to tackle the shortfall of affordable homes across the region. Dalry had been specifically identified as a 'pressured settlement' with a priority need to invest in social rented houses and shared equity homes. Funding comes from the Scottish Government, the Council and DGHP. It is therefore proposed that 20 rented homes are built and eight shared equity homes (40% ownership by DGHP). The January Housing Sub-Committee agreed to support the Dalry project to the

tune of £200,000 and also to support additional infrastructure costs.

Mr James Shirazi from DGHP then took the floor. He explained who they were and what their aims are. He confirmed that there would be no flats, the 2-3 bedroom homes would be 1 ½ story and there would be two single level homes along with a central play area.

Their application is due in next week and plans would be made available to view thereafter. Copies of the plans would also be provided to the committee for circulation to residents. He was adamant that there was sufficient need locally for the proposed development.

Upon questioning he confirmed that DGHP would own the site by next week. He was also asked to explain why the change in ratio. The original plans by the private developer had 20 private homes and eight affordable homes. He believed that the new proposal would work and did not want to have un-saleable stock on his hands by keeping to the original ratio.

He was further questioned on the prospect of guaranteeing local people will be given the properties. He suggested that, along with D&GC, they would look at introducing a 'local letting initiative'.

Among other concerns raised one was about Road Safety. Mr Shirazi informed us that a speed table would be built to slow down traffic upon entering the site but he made no mention of any traffic measures for the A702. The other concerns included medical care and policing.

Mr C Frame, the architect, also gave a presentation on the design of the houses and the layout of the estate. Whilst the presentation was visually acceptable, unfortunately many of the people present could not hear him very well. The general consensus was that whilst the majority accepted that some social housing was needed in the area, they were more concerned with the amount of homes proposed and who the property would be eventually given to.

The presentation was duly concluded and G Bell thanked everyone for attending and the meeting moved on to matters on the committee agenda.

Next meeting Monday 6th April 2009 at 7pm in Town Hall.

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

PANCAKE LUNCH

The 12th Annual Pancake Lunch organised by Balmaclellan & Kells Church Guild was held in New Galloway Town Hall recently and was most successful.

Mild weather seemed to bring out plenty of customers and Guild members along with several helpers were kept busy. A very happy atmosphere prevailed, with pleasing background music from Jim McPhee on the piano.

The lunch was in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care and the sum of £450 was raised for this deserving charity. After expenses were met the stall and raffle provided £200 for Guild funds which will eventually be given to the Church. Altogether a great day – many thanks to all who helped and supported it.



CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE CENTRE

The Centre opens for the season on Good Friday (April 10th). Until the end of May it will be open weekends and Bank Holidays only, and then from the start of June until the end of September it will be open every day from 10.30am to 5pm, except on Sundays when opening hours are 2pm to 5pm and Wednesdays when the centre is closed.

The current exhibition is called *Carsphairn Coming Home* and will take a look at all the genealogy that have been amassed over the last 20 years. There will be information on over 30 family histories and displays and artefacts which will be of interest even to those with no family ties to Carsphairn.

The families included are: Affleck, Bone, Cameron, Clark Kennedy, Garmory, Good, Gilchrist, Guffie, Hastie, Hunter, Jamieson, Martin, McAdam, McCormick, McCrae, McCulloch, McDonald, McFadzean, McGill, McKay, McMath, McTurk, McMillan, McTaggart, McCall, Milroy, Mitchell, Park, Paterson, Seaton, Weir and Wilson.

DALRY HERITAGE GROUP

**Memorials in the Glenkens
Friday 22nd May, Dalry Town Hall**

Paul Goodwin will be giving a talk with slideshow on the subject of 'Memorials in the Glenkens'.

The talk will be based on the thirty war memorials to be found in the Glenkens, but will also include war graves, covenanters memorials and a few notable civil memorials.

Come along to Dalry Town Hall on Friday 22nd May at 7pm for a new perspective on some familiar landmarks, as well as some that you may not have considered. Admission is free, donations welcome. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided.

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GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT



Glenkens Schools Teamwork

The appointment in February of Mrs Kelly Devine to the post of Deputy Head Teacher of Kells Primary School was the final piece in the Glenkens schools' new management structure.

With effect from February 2009, Fraser Simpson becomes Head Teacher of the three local schools; Carsphairn, Dalry (primary and secondary) and Kells. Each of the three primaries has a teacher with day to day management responsibilities; Mrs Devine at Kells, Miss Tracy Lamont, Depute Head at Dalry, and Mrs Margaret Heuchan, Principal Teacher at Carsphairn.

Mrs Devine, who was previously employed in Twynholm and Sheuchan Primaries, lives with her husband and young son in Newton Stewart. Prior to moving to this area she worked in schools in Peterborough and Kent.



Already the new arrangement is producing closer working arrangements with two very successful staff in-service sessions looking at the practicalities of the Curriculum for Excellence; pupils from the three schools have worked together during the Tree of Knowledge day and the First Base Drugs and Alcohol Awareness Session. This is a foretaste of the types of shared developments that will be beneficial for all the youngsters in the area and, from a staff viewpoint, it will make curricular development work more efficient and effective.

The success of GCAT has shown what collaborative working in the Glenkens can achieve – our schools must now seek to emulate that success.

Mr Simpson



School Ski Trip – Aprica 2009

Ten Dalry pupils joined 149 others from Dumfries High, Dumfries Academy, Dalbeattie High and Castle Douglas for the 2009 ski trip to Aprica in Italy.



Our group, made up of Ruth from S3 and nine second year pupils, left Dumfries on Saturday 14 February at 4.30am – sometimes referred to as the middle of the night – and arrived in Aprica at 11am on Sunday.

The snow conditions were perfect, huge amounts having fallen the previous week, and for our six days in the resort, the sun shone continuously. Most of the Dalry group were beginners but by midweek all had mastered enough technical expertise to jump aboard "the bubble", leave the beginners' slopes behind and go up the mountain to ski blue and red runs. This is a great achievement reflecting credit on the youngsters and their Italian instructors.

The pupils also enjoyed a full programme of "après ski" activities including visits to the local nightclub, ten pin bowling and Pizza Night; despite being exhausted by five hours on the slopes, they miraculously regained enough energy to enjoy the night life with new found friends from the other four schools involved.

Another wonderful ski holiday and all at Dalry would like to thank Mr Findlater and Mr Sloan from Dumfries Academy for all their hard work organising the trip.



Carsphairn Primary News

Pupils at Carsphairn Primary were learning about Robert Burns throughout January and made paper lanterns with art teacher Mrs Bielinski. Ian Wemyss of the Kirkcudbright Pipe Band visited the school and the children paraded their lanterns around the school playground.



Well Done Kells!

Congratulations to all the children who participated in the music festival this year. Lots of fun was had by all, with as many children achieving personal goals and building confidence at the same time. We also got lots of constructive feedback, to help us improve for the future.



Dalry Edged Out in Cup Final

Dalry School under 14s football team were narrowly defeated 4-3 by Wallacehall Academy in the final of the D & G Small Schools' Cup. A large Glenkens element in the crowd provided much appreciated backing on the night. The team, having previously knocked out Castle Douglas and Sanquhar, took the game to the Thornhill boys right from the kick off and it was no surprise when William McTurk hooked home at the back post to put Dalry ahead. Superb shot stopping from young Ryan Wilson preserved the lead before a quick burst through the middle by Greig Lawrie was foiled by a last ditch clearance. From the resulting corner, Henry Sainsbury powered in a header to put Dalry two ahead.

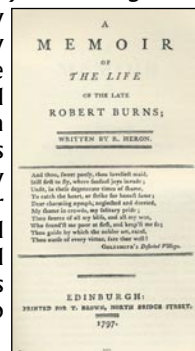
In the last few minutes of the first half the game was turned on its head with Wallacehall converting a penalty and Dalry missing a guilt edged chance – half time 2-1 Dalry. Despite plenty of near things, it wasn't to be and the cup headed north to Thornhill, but the Dalry boys were roundly praised for their effort, skill and sportsmanship in a thrilling cup final. Well done boys, you were a credit to the school throughout this competition.



A Look At New Galloway's Robert Heron by Ted Cowan

Robert Heron was no slouch himself. At age 11 he became a pupil-teacher; at 14 he was in charge of Kelton school. He trained as a minister at Edinburgh University but was rescued by his love of literature, becoming a prolific editor, writer, translator and hack. Many of his works are still worth reading. He wrote on Law, Natural History, the French War, the Hebrides, Chemistry and Geography and he produced a six-volume History of Scotland. Perhaps his most lasting publication is *Observations Made on a Journey through the Western Counties of Scotland* which presents a brilliant picture of Galloway and the Glenkens written by an amusingly knowing insider who sought to assess the impact of Enlightenment and improvement

In reality Heron could hardly have been more fulsome on the subject of Burns. He perceptively observed that "he exalts for a time the genius of his reader to the elevation of his own; and for the moment, confers upon him all the powers of a poet". He never knew Burns to be guilty of any deliberate meanness. Through his writings he had exercised a greater power over folk and "by consequence, on their conduct, upon their happiness and misery, upon the general system of life, than has been exercised by the most eminent statesmen of the present age". Heron was convinced that as a child of nature Burns must return to nature, because this son of a New Galloway weaver regarded himself as similarly fated, an astonishingly gifted individual whose remarkable talents could admit of no explanation and who, for all his achievements, was a sadly flawed individual. So far as Heron was concerned he and Burns were kindred spirits. When his detractors criticise him they also condemn Burns.



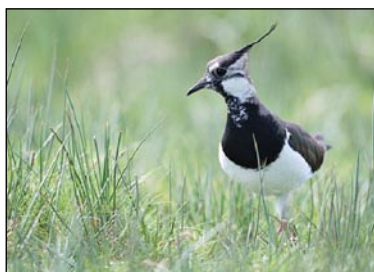
Robert Burns in England (1759 - 2009)

250th Anniversary of the Birth of Robert Burns

To subscribe, submit your payment of £15 to Chris Rollie along with contact details, either by letter, at his house next to Dalry PO, or through a subscription form from one of the local shops or hotels. There will be a book signing by Chris at The CatStrand later in the summer.

NATURE & WILDLIFE

Midsummer Cushion in Spring



Lapwing, RSPB



Wood of Cree by Angus Keys

Apart from enjoying that lovely image, I am also amazed and cheered that those cottagers just couldn't get enough of nature; surrounded by it as they were, with no artificial trappings of our modern times – and far more nature besides – and yet they wanted even more and brought it into their very homes! Modern medical research tells us what deep down we probably all already know; that nature and wildlife watching is very healthy and good for us. Indeed, they say that it has even has benefits without our realising it. Of course, they don't know why, but could it just be that we're a part of nature and it's a part of us, whether we like it, know it, or not? Who knows. But I do know that those primroses, those catkins and those croaking frogs were all wonderful to behold again as winter eases into spring and the sun gets ever higher in the sky. Bring it on.

Chris Bellin

Chris Rollie

The CatStrand: News & Events

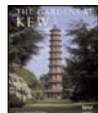


Gentle Jazz, Fri 10 April, 7.30pm, £8/£6. Galloway band with 60s 'bebop' jazz style. The line-up includes John Fenner, Howard Bradley, Terri Farley, Geoff Keating, and Fergus Henderson.

Puppet Animation Festival: Vélo Théâtre presents The Postman, Mon 13 April, 3pm, £4. A happy-go-lucky postman opens one of his packages and discovers a fantastic, magical world inside. A wonderful, wordless adventure from France's Vélo Théâtre, full of tenderness, humour and theatrical magic, ages 5+.



Illustrated Talk - Allen Paterson: The Gardens at Kew, Wed 15 April, 7.30pm, £5. In his beautifully illustrated book, Allen Paterson charts the evolution of Kew, one of the world's best-loved gardens. Allen will be signing copies of his book after the talk.



Exhibition: Ailie Matthews, from Sat 18 to Thu 30 April, CatStrand opening hours. Ailie Matthews, DA, studied under Robert Sivell at Grays School of Art and won a Diploma and travelling scholarship. She lives in New Galloway.



CCC Film: Burn After Reading, Wed 29 April, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50. An all-star cast, including George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Frances McDormand, Tilda Swinton and John Malkovich, come together in this outrageous spy comedy about murder, blackmail, sex addiction and physical fitness!



D & G Film Festival: Scotland on Film - The Movie followed by a talk from producer Richard Downes, Sat 2 May, 2pm, £5/£4 incl. coffee and cakes. A journey through life, from the cradle to the grave, told through footage from the Scottish Screen Archive. Screening will be followed by coffee and cakes and a talk by the film's producer, Richard Downes.



Exhibition: Archie Sutter Watt, from Sat 2 May to Thurs 4 June, CatStrand opening hours. Archie Sutter Watt (1915-2005) was one of Dumfries & Galloway's most successful artists and teachers with a career spanning over fifty years.



Benny Gallagher, Fri 15 May, 7.30pm, £10/£8. For sheer quality and distinction you need look no further than the career of Benny Gallagher. One half of hit-makers and songwriters Gallagher & Lyle, he began his career as a staff writer with the Beatles' Apple. On record he has worked with Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton, Pete Townshend, Ronnie Wood, Mary Hopkin, Elkie Brooks and Fairport Convention.



Magnetic North presents After Mary Rose, Sat 16 May, 7.30pm, £7/£5. Harry, a shell-shocked soldier, is trying to piece his life back together with the help of a psychiatrist. Digging deeper, the psychiatrist uncovers a mysterious secret that takes Harry back to his childhood home.



CCC Film: Changeling, Wed 27 May, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50. Inspired by real life events in 1920's Los Angeles, Clint Eastwood's film, Changeling, tells the story of a woman driven to confront a corrupted LAPD after her abducted son is retrieved and she begins to suspect that the boy returned to her is not the same boy she gave birth to.

Regular events:



Storytelling Café, Thurs 2 Apr & Thurs 7 May, 7.30pm. This is a regular event on the first Thursday of every month. Cakes and coffee will be available and audience participation will be encouraged! Eat, drink and let your imagination run away with you! No booking necessary, donations on the door.

Youth Drama Group, every Sunday, 2pm. The Glenkens 73 Club Youth Drama Group will meet on a regular basis on Sunday afternoons. If you are interested in acting, directing, costumes, sound, lighting, stage management or any other aspect of drama or theatre, then come along and have some fun. All welcome (age 10-18).

Play it by Ear, every Monday, 1.30-2.30pm, £2 per adult/child + 50p for each additional child. A weekly song, music and storytelling session for pre-school children and their parents or carers which now takes place every Monday afternoon. Juice and biscuits included in the price.



Children's Dance Classes with Margaret Morris Movement, every Monday, 4-5pm, £3. A series of classes designed to develop creativity and wellbeing. Dance exercises are created to develop agility, balance, co-ordination, elevation, flexibility and posture. With dance teacher Sara Lockwood. Please wear loose clothing. (Age 8-12 years)

Saturday Art Club, 2nd Sat of each month, 10am-12noon, £4. These two-hour workshops are run by professional artists and teachers, offering expert tuition and hands-on experience across a range of fun-filled visual arts and crafts activities. Advance booking recommended to avoid disappointment and do wear old clothes as things can get messy. (ages 5-12)



DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY ARTS FESTIVAL at The CatStrand



Qawali Sham Sufi Group, Fri 22 May, 7.30pm, £8. More than a decade ago the Taliban banned all music. Following their departure, musicians took up new instruments or recovered old ones, and Afghanistan began to wake up to a new musical dawn. The Qawali Sham Sufi Group has been performing music for more than 30 years and is one of the most highly regarded Qawali groups in Afghanistan and part of a vibrant musical tradition spanning over 700 years.



Phil Kay: Gimme Your Left Shoe, Sat 23 May, 5pm, £5. Phil is back with his hilarious children's show 'Gimme Your Left Shoe' hot on the success of performing at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Guaranteed to have your kids rolling around with laughter and shrieking with joy.

Phil Kay, Sat 23 May, 8pm, £10/£8. Phil's ramshackle style of late night comedy will blend together mad one-liners, two-liners and never-ending inter-woven recollections of things he has been up to that day, that week and this life. Over 16s only.



Robert Burns and The Merry Muses of Caledonia with Pauline Gray, Sun 24 May, 7.30pm, £7/£6. Pauline Gray's talk will consider Robert Burns' contribution to the originally suppressed collection of bawdy verse The Merry Muses of Caledonia (1799), some of which are by Burns and some of which are attributed to the poet.

are attributed to the poet.

New Redwing and A Wing and a Prayer, Thurs 28 May, 7.30pm, £8/£6. Louise and Alan Mairs of New Redwing were formerly one half of the influential and hugely popular Old Hickory Band. Dave Dick and Jim Gilbert of A Wing and a Prayer play a mixture of blues standards, their own compositions and a wee bit of country and folk.



Giant: The Weatherman, Sat 30 May, 3pm, £3.50. Giant's new touring show, The Weatherman, uses live musicians, dance and video to explore music and exotic instruments. The concert is interactive and fully participatory with finale that has the entire audience playing! This interactive music concert is suitable for all children aged 6-11 years and their families.

Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival
22nd - 30th May 2009
www.dgartsfestival.org.uk : 01387 245566

The CatStrand: News & Events

COMMUNITY EVENTS/CLASSES

Welfare Rights Surgery, Wed 1 April & Wed 24 June. Are you getting what you are entitled to? If so we may be able to help, come along to The CatStrand and get advice from the Benefit Maximisation team who will be having a series of surgeries. Please phone The CatStrand to book your individual appointment.

REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene, Thurs 2 April, 9am-4pm, £60/£30. This one day course is aimed at all food handlers and covers a number of topics and legislation relevant to the food environment, resulting in a Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland Elementary Certificate. Some subsidies are available please phone for details.

The Digital Switch Over Talks, Wed 8 April, 3-4.30pm & 6.30-8pm, free. The Digital Switchover will take place on the 24th June in Dumfries & Galloway. Ivan Kennedy from Digital UK will be here to talk to us about the change, give advice and answer questions. Transport to and from this event may be available on request.

Speak Easy, Thurs 16 April, 1-3pm. Speak Easy is a fun and relaxed course designed to help parents/carers talk to their children/young adults about sex, relationships and growing up. Come along to the Speak Easy taster session and learn more about what the course has to offer. The Speak Easy course will then run for one session a week, for 8 weeks. The course is free and is being run by Laura Fairbairn (Dumfries and Galloway NHS). Childcare may be available if required.

Back to Work Skills, Tues 21 April & Wed 22 April, 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, in small friendly groups and lots of individual help. Childcare may be available if required.

Community Fund Raising Training, Wed 6 May, 10am-3.30pm, free. In conjunction with Stewarty Council Voluntary Services (SCVS). If you are involved with a community group and are thinking about possible funding, this may be the course for you. It includes 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.

Regular Classes:

Exercise to Music, every Monday, 10-11am, £4/£3.

Boxercise: every Monday, 6-7pm, £24/£18 per six week block.

Circuit Training, Every Monday, 7.30 - 8.30pm, £24/£18 per six week block.

Teen Spirit: Every Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30pm.

Gentle Yoga & Relaxation, Thursdays 10-11.15am, £30 per 6 week block.

Taking the First Step in Computing, Wednesday evenings, 5.30pm - 7.30pm.

Taking the Next Step in Computing, Monday evenings, 5.30 - 7.30pm.

Afternoon Tea Club, 2nd Friday of the month, 2pm, annual membership £2. Minibus pick up from Balmaclellan and Dalry by prior arrangement - to book call 01644 420374.

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

Seeks A Qualified Exercise Instructor

to provide maternity cover for an over 50's class - must be available Monday mornings

For Details Call: 01644 420374

Digital Switchover and IT Evening

Come along to The CatStrand on Wednesday 8 April for Talks on the Digital Switch Over, from 3-4.30pm & 6-7.30pm.

Also, there will be an IT Centre Open Evening from 4.30-6pm. Chris will be available to talk about the different courses on offer at The CatStrand. Classes range from IT to Family History, Silver Surfers to Digital Photography.

THE BUS : GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

BURNS CELEBRATIONS - In January The Bus took a number of people to Dumfries to witness the celebration of Robert Burns 250th birthday. The event held on the Whitesands featured an open air concert (which nearly had disastrous consequences owing to the stage being enveloped in smoke following an electrical fault!) and the burning of an effigy of Tam o'Shanter in the middle of the River Nith - this was made more spectacular as the river and weir were in spate following recent floods!

MONDAY 6th APRIL 2009 - To follow on the Burns theme a trip has been arranged to Souter Johnnies Cottage, near Maybole, the Burns Monument and Brig o'Doon in Ayr and to the Batchelors Club in Tarbolton. Details of this and other trips arranged for April and May (including a visit to Beamish Open Air Museum) have been advertised locally and tickets are now available from The CatStrand. Look out for details each month for new trips and the date tickets are available.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TRIPS AND USE OF THE BUS: The Bus is well used but we are always looking for new ideas. Recently we have had some excellent ideas for trips (including one for younger children) but please let me know if you have any requests/ideas.

We like to think all our volunteer drivers have your safety at heart. Some people are obviously better drivers than others but if you have any serious concerns please put them in writing to Bob Peace at The CatStrand rather than muttering to other people about them - that way any problems we have can be addressed - thank you.

Keith Cooper, Administrator

WEDNESDAY BUS SERVICE (REGD. ROUTE):

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

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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

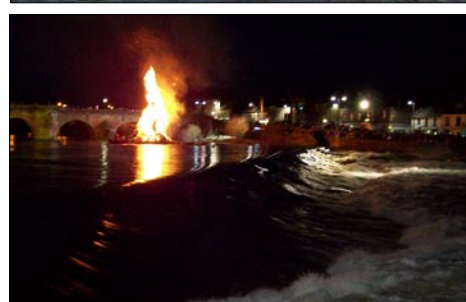
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2125 New Galloway

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.



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

BAVARIAN EVENING SET TO GO WITH A SWING

Residents of the Glenkens are in for a hand-clapping, thigh-slapping night out when a visiting ten-piece brass group from the north-west of England puts on a Bavarian-style bier kellar evening in Carsphairn on Saturday 25th April.



The event is being staged as a fund-raiser for community facilities and, in particular, the local primary school. Nigel Martin, who recently moved into Carsphairn from Lancashire, has arranged with the village church social committee for the Phoenix Brass Ensemble, of

which he is still a member, to come to the area for the weekend to provide the entertainment.

On Sunday, 26th April, the group will also be playing the music for a morning Songs of Praise service in Carsphairn Church, to be conducted by the Reverend Robert Hamill.

Tickets for the Bavarian evening at the Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, are priced at £6 each, which includes a frankfurter sausage supper. They are available from the village shops in Carsphairn and St John's Town of Dalry and from Designs Gallery, Castle Douglas.

Nigel added: "We are grateful for the support we have received from the Lochinvar Hotel in Dalry and the Sulwath Brewery in Castle Douglas which has enabled the Carsphairn Church Social Committee to maximise the proceeds from the event for the benefit of the community."

A World of Music in the Hills!

This year's Knockengoroch festival, held at Knockengoroch Farm outside Carsphairn, will yet again host some of the biggest names in UK and world music.



The four day World Ceilidh music festival, which runs from the 21st to 24th May 2009, will be headlined by dance music greats The Orb and drum and bass legend Roni Size. Of course there will be the more traditional reels, jigs and ceilidh dancing, but to add some spice there will also be cabaret, cocktails, and comedy from renowned comedians Phil Kay and Phil Nichol at the new Comedy Club venue. The Jackdaws, winners of The CatStrand Battle of the Bands, will also be performing at the event.

The event does its best to cater for all, with a children's area, family camping and disabled facilities, as well as special family rates on tickets. Tickets are available from the box office 01644 460 662 or the website www.knockengoroch.org.uk

CLUB CORNER

Glenkens Walking Group

The group generally meets twice a week, with one easy walk and one moderate walk.

Please call one of the walk leaders for further information:

John & Isobel on 430 539, Elizabeth on 430 581 or Peter on 420 419

'73 Club

While the CatStrand Youth Players made their mark at the Stewartry One Act Play Festival, unfortunately the adult team were forced to withdraw their entry, 'Chips with Vinegar' by Harry Glass, due to illness.

Ewan McIntyre, who was playing one of the main characters, contracted glandular fever a week before the festival and the timescale and size of the part made it impossible for anyone else to learn the part in time. We are pleased to report that Ewan is now on the mend and it is hoped to stage 'Chips with Vinegar' at The CatStrand soon, once a suitable date can be arranged. It will then be entered in next year's Festival when we hope to emulate last year's triple trophy success with 'Murphy's Law' which went on to compete at the West of Scotland Finals inspired by the much acclaimed performance of Ewan in the lead role.

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The Parton Burns Supper by Sam Callander

Here we are, here we are, here we are again, hae'in oor Burns Supper in Parton Village Ha'. I can hardly believe it, but it's actually oor Silver Jubilee – five an' twenty years comin' tegither tae celebrate the life of Robert Burns, but he can add anither zero on the end o' his life style.

Wi' a' the rain an' wind we've been battered wi' lately we hoped it wid hae dried up bi Friday an – Lord preserve us – the weather wis great, an the tickets went like snaw aff a dyke. Mair nor echty folk turned up tae fill the chairs, when Alistair Nelson, Heid Bummer, welcomed a'body an' introduced the occupants at the tap table and then pronounced the Selkirk Grace. Michty me, when the Chiefain o' the Pudden Race appeared he wis piped in bi a female, the first time sic a thing had happened at a Parton Burns Supper! Hooever, Hannah Wright frae Castle Dooglas made a rale guid job o' piping in the haggis, borne aloft bi Maister Dauvit Nelson, an' addressed bi Robert McTurk in that inimitable style o' his. Clashin' o' tongues gied wey tae clatterin' o' knives an' forks as a'body delved intie the dacent helpins o' guid Scots fare laid before them bi the Cartner Caterers. Aince the tables were cleared, chairman Alistair introduced Maister Mike Duguid, ex Squadron Leader RAF, and entrusted him with the main toast o' the nicht, namely that of the Immortal Memory to Robert Burns. This was delivered in an accomplished and informative manner, different, full of knowledge, how the Bard dealt with the different situations and different people – a rale pleasure tae listen tae – Mik Duguid was guid!!

Maister Grierson Dunlop frae Edinburgh, originally frae this airt, tackled the toast of 'The Lassies'. It wis well pit tigither, weel delivered, humorous and plenty o' anecdotes. Hooever, oor ain Alex Bryson frae the Boreland faced up tae the doughty Dunlop and, for a first-timer as a speaker, acquitted herself gey weel. Like the twae speakers afore her, she got a standin' ovation. Next on the bill wis Robert McTurk fae the Glenkens, nae stranger tae Parton, or anywhere else for that matter, because his face is in the press oftener than Gordon Broom or Alex Salmond's. But whit a stunner o' a performance he gaed as 'Tam o' Shanter', especially when he pu'ed oot o' his sporran a – wait for it – naw, it wis yin o' thae lang reid-haired tammies that fitba' fans wear, an' did he no' 'go tae town' efter that. I think his act will be famed as the nicht's 'piece de resistance'. Personally, ah wid ca' it mair o' a 'tour de force'. Sic energy an' agility – it remind me o' the tun an'

sang ca'ed 'Phil the Fluter's Bell' – up doon, roonaboort facin' tae the wall, hadnae we the gaety at Rab McTurk's Ball. The TV should hae been here recordin' the ongauns here – it wis a hunner times better than the 'muck' (this is the polite word) they broadcast on Hogmanay last. Of coorse, nae Burns Supper at Parton would be complete without Mistress Doreen Prentice and her ability an' fondness at the keyboard, as shown when she accompanied Maister Colin Mair, a guest frae Toonheid o' Mouswald, when he sang 'The Star o' Robbie Buns' an' 'The Glesca Cat', no bi Burns but extremely entertaining, an' it let the company air their tonsils.

But youth wisnae tae be outdone, because the young Hodson brithers frae Parton House Gardens had brocht their instruments wi' them. Joe an' Sam played like professionals, a joy tae listen tae. Did they just play yin tune? Twa tunes? Naw. Keen an' confident they jist telt the accompanist what they were playin' next. Quite a repertoire! Bendetti an' Kennedy – Watch Oot! Maister Vincent Mason, a doonhamer noo resident in fair Edina, but wi ties here in Parton, wis trusted wi' the Vote o' Thanks, whish wis weel put tegither. He thanked the speakers, the entertainers, caterers – in fact, everybody that had helped tae make this anither guid nicht. Everybody joined hands and sang Auld Lang Syne bringin' anither freenly getherin tae its close. Floreat Partona!



Robert McTurk addressing the haggis

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ON THE BEAT

Spring is on its way, although winter still has time for one last hurrah. Take care on the roads as we can never allow ourselves to become complacent. Our rural roads require due respect all year round - remember, there's no such thing as a bad road, only bad drivers. As spring brings in the lighter nights we all look forward to getting out and about more. I will soon be involved in our annual program of cycle training for primary seven children and I remind parents that they must take responsibility for instilling basic road sense in all their youngsters and if they don't have the ability to keep themselves safe on the road then it is your responsibility to accompany them or keep them off public roads. Remember the High Streets of our small villages are all main roads, not playgrounds. I don't wish to be all gloom and doom, but please keep expensive garden equipment under lock and key.

A couple of recent rural thefts could almost certainly have been avoided by any form of security measure other than "it's in the middle of nowhere so nobody will touch it". During lambing, as always take that extra minute to remove the quad keys and lock up about the steading, it may be an inconvenience when you are busy and tired but not nearly so inconvenient as losing valuable equipment. Finally, several acts of petty, mindless vandalism have also occurred over the last few weeks across the Glenkens. These appear minor in isolation but as a community we must pool information in order to secure evidence to detect and deter these offences becoming commonplace as they are in some larger towns. Don't allow this minority to spoil our beautiful area. If anyone has any information regarding any of the incidents mentioned above or if you require advice or assistance regarding any Policing matter, please do not hesitate to call in at Dalry Police Office or contact me via the Force Control Centre 0845 600 5701 or bryan.brunton@dgp.police.pnn.uk

Bryan Bruton

YOUTH UPDATE

Glenkens Youth Choir

The newly formed Glenkens Youth Choir has already had much success at both the Galloway and Dumfries Music Festivals.

Both Primary and Secondary groups gained Distinction in their performances and the Mixed Choir won the Galloway Music Festival Cup with a grand mark of 88. The Adjudicator, Mr Michael Ball, noted that their enjoyment in their music making was very evident throughout -and that's what choral singing is all about!

At Dumfries, they excelled even further by gaining the only Outstanding for Choral Work at the Festival and won the Robert Adams Cup for Youth Choir.

It has been a lot of fun but also a lot of hard work for the choir to reach this standard, and we welcome others to come and join us!

Rehearsals are held at The Catstrand on Sundays from 5-6pm. At present the choir consists of children from Primary Year 5 to 5th Year Secondary, from Dalry and Kells Primaries and Dalry and Castle Douglas High Schools. We welcome any children in that age range and from all areas of the Glenkens.

The Choir's trophies and adjudications are on display in The CatStrand.

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

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

Special Services and Events

3rd April, 7.30pm: Concert with Gallovidians, New Galloway Town Hall

10th April, 7.30pm: Good Friday Service, Dalry Church

12th April, 7am: Dawn Service outside Dalry Church followed by breakfast in Dalry Town Hall

20th April, 7.30pm: 'The Problem with Atheism', meeting with Robert McQuistan, Kenbridge Hotel

24th April, 7.30pm: Quiz Night, Dalry Town Hall

31st May, 10.30am: United Service with Choir in Dalry Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E)

St Margaret's, New Galloway: Holy Communion - 10.30am every Sun & Wed

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

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

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS**APRIL:**

Wed 1, Welfare Rights Surgery, call The CatStrand for info

Thurs 2, REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene, 9am-4pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

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

Fri 3, Gallovidians Fiddlers' Concert, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Mon 6, Dalry Community Council Meeting, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Mon 6, GTI Bus Trip, see p7

Fri 10, Gentle Jazz, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 10 until end Sept, Carsphairn Heritage Centre opens - see p3

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

Sat 11, Corsock Village Market, 9.30am-1.20pm, Corsock Village Hall

Mon 13, Puppet Animation Festival: Vélo Théâtre presents The Postman, 3pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 15, Illustrated Talk - Allen Paterson: The Gardens at Kew, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 16, Speak Easy, 1-3pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

From Sat 18, Exhibition: Ailie Matthews, CatStrand opening hours, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 20, 'The Problem with Atheism'; meeting with Robert McQuistan, 7.30pm, Kenbridge Hotel

Tues 21 & Wed 22, Back to Work Skills, 9.30am-3pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 24, Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 25, Bavarian Evening, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, see p 8

Sun 26, Bavarian musicians for Songs of Praise service, Carsphairn Church

Wed 29, CCC Film: Burn After Reading, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

MAY:

Sat 2, D & G Film Festival: Scotland on Film, 2pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

From Sat 2 May to Thurs 4 June, Exhibition: Archie Sutter Watt, CatStrand opening hours, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 6, Community Fund Raising Training, 10am-3.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 7, Storytelling Café, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 8, Digital Switchover (3-4.30pm & 6-7.30pm) & IT Evening (4.30-6pm), The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 9, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 9, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 9, Scottish Place-Name Society, 10.30am-4pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway. For info call 07769680293

Sat 9, Corsock Village Market, 9.30am-1.20pm, Corsock Village Hall

Sun 10, Car Boot Sale, 10am-1pm, Mossdale Village Hall

Fri 15, Benny Gallagher, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 16, Magnetic North presents After Mary Rose, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Thu 21 to Sun 24, Knockengoroch World Ceilidh, Knockengoroch Farm, Carsphairn, see p8

Fri 22 to Sat 30, Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival, see p 6

Fri 22, Dalry Heritage Group Talk - Memorials in the Glenkens, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 22, Qawali Sham Sufi Group, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 23 to Mon 25, Spring Fling, various locations across the region

Sat 23, Phil Kay: Gimme Your Left Shoe (for children), 5pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 23, Phil Kay (for adults), 8pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 24, Robert Burns & The Merry Muses of Caledonia with Pauline Gray, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 27, CCC Film: Changeling, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 28, New Redwing & A Wing and a Prayer, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 30, Giant: The Weatherman, 3pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

REGULAR EVENTS:

Scouts: Mon, 7-8.30pm, New Galloway Scout Hut
Mother & Toddlers Group: Tues 9.45-11.15am, New Galloway Town Hall

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

Cub Scouts: Wed, 6.45-8pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Lions Club monthly quiz, alternating between The CatStrand & Lochinvar Hotel. For further info contact Andrew Frew on 420 323.

The CatStrand, New Galloway (see p7)

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am

Play it by Ear: every Mon during term time, 1.30-2.30pm

Children's Dance Classes with Margaret Morris

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

Boxercise: Every Mon, 6-7pm

Circuit Training: every Mon, 7.30-8.30pm

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

Teen Spirit: Tues, 7.30-9.30pm

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

Yoga: Thurs 10-11.15am

Afternoon Tea Club: 2nd Fri each month, 2pm

Saturday Art Club, 2nd Saturday each month, 10am-12noon

Youth Drama Group; every Sun 2pm

Glenkens Youth Choir, every Sun from, 5-6pm

CatStrand Playstation Tournaments: contact The CatStrand for info.

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

Glenkens Playgroup: Mon-Fri, 9.15-11.45am

Paint & Art: Mon 1.30-4.30pm

Ballroom & Latin Dance: Mon - Beginners 7.30-8.15pm, Improvers 8.15-9pm, Improvers 9-9.45pm

Good Neighbours Club: Tues 2pm

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

Glenkens Mother & Toddlers: Wed 1.30-3pm

Craft Class: Thurs 2-4pm

Aerobic Classes - toning & conditioning: Wed 7.30-8.30pm

Brownies: Wed 5.30-6.45pm

Guides: Wed 5.30-7pm

Drama Club: for further info contact Brian Edgar on 420 288

WRITE FOR THE GAZETTE!

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

If you have a submission, contact Sarah on 07727 127 997 or glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

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Balmacellan
Castle Douglas
DG7 3QE
Tel 01644420465
Fax 01644420777
footwear@clogandshoe.co.uk



Opening Times 10am-5pm weekdays
In winter ring before making a special journey
12 miles north of Castle Douglas,
follow the "thistle signs" from the A713
(footwear for special needs only by appointment)

