

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

October/November 2010

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A Gallery With a Difference

This August has seen the opening of a new visitor attraction on the outskirts of the Glenkens.

Allan Wright and partner Lorna Willock have created a lovely space to visit at their converted old stables on Parton Estate. And as well as browsing beautiful images from around Scotland in a lovely setting, you can also enjoy healthy homemade cakes served in the spacious café area, along with a nice relaxing cuppa.

Just off the A713, the gallery is very accessible both for locals who fancy a break on their way up the road, and tourists wishing to enjoy the area. It is the perfect place to stop and indulge in a little luxury; but with a clear conscience as Lorna's cakes are as healthy as they come (and as a dietician and nutritionist, she really knows what she's talking about).



Allan has been a professional landscape photographer for the past 25 years and has acquired a national profile through the Lyrical Scotland brand of cards, calendars and books. Creating a comprehensive and public showcase for his work has long been a dream of his, so when Allan merged his publishing business with a larger company in Edinburgh earlier this year and the opportunity arose to realise his dream, he grabbed it with both hands.

Lorna is in private practice as a nutritionist and allergy therapist and also has a background in catering - so between the two of them they hope to make a go of things with this appealing double whammy!



Carsphairn Community Garden Grows

Following the award of over £13,000 to Carsphairn Community Garden, Nicola Hill of Dumfries and Galloway LEADER Programme visited the village to present the cheque to Community Council Chair, Matt Hickman – surrounded by a group of Community Councillors and Garden volunteers

David Richmond, who leads the Community Council's Garden Sub-Group, explained: "Over the last two months, the Garden volunteers have been busy working on constructing paths and borders, all in preparation for the next phase of planting this autumn."

Matt Hickman commented that: "Now the project has all its funding in place, we are also working to source suitable garden furniture and renewable power sources for lighting and a Christmas tree installation. All being well, the village should have a very special seasonal display for Christmas this year."

Carsphairn Community Garden is also supported by the Stewartry Area Committee and Carsphairn Windfarm Community Fund.

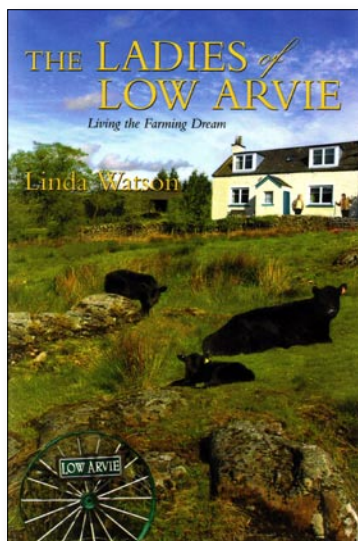


Photo: Nicola Hill from LEADER with Carsphairn Community Councillors and Garden volunteers.

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Local Author: Linda Watson



Linda and Richard came to Corsock in 2002 after their three year search for a farm was successful with the purchase of Low Arvie. The farm was a sadly neglected 120 acres because the previous farmer had died several years earlier and nothing had been done to the land in the intervening years.

Richard had spent all of his working life in one form of agriculture or another - farm worker, University degree in Agriculture, Research student at Wye College, two years as a crop storage adviser in Ecuador and then a career in Lecturing in Agricultural Colleges, and Linda had been a primary school teacher.

"We came to Low Arvie with no equipment and no experience of suckler cows", says Linda. "Helped in the early days by very kind neighbours who made our silage, lent us equipment and gave us good advice, we set about creating a business. We bought a herd of pedigree Galloways from Cairnsmore Estate at Carsphairn and they have become quite famous as 'The Ladies of Low Arvie', through my books and our television appearance on 'The Dales Diary'". (You can view the TV footage on Youtube by typing 'Ladies of Low Arvie' into the search box at youtube.com).

"We have just had our 112th calf and have lost only two, who were the products of difficult births," says Linda. "We have worked hard to improve the land to make it a fitting home for the Ladies and we built an extension to the Galloway cottage farmhouse to make a comfortable home for ourselves."

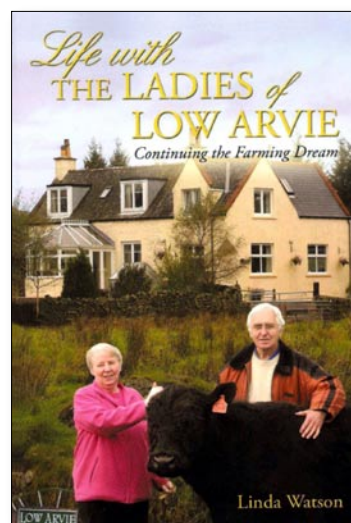
"In 2005 I published my first book, entitled 'The Ladies of Low Arvie', detailing all the trials and tribulations that we faced during the first twenty months of our occupation as we settled into our new life. The book begins on the day we first saw Low Arvie and ends with the successful birth of our first batch of home-bred calves."

Many people who read the book requested a sequel so that they could see how life continued, so Linda wrote a second book to answer these requests which was published in August this year; 'Life with the Ladies of Low Arvie'.

"During these later years, the Ladies have given birth to 80 more calves, I have completed an Open University honours degree and we have survived several calamities, aided in no small part by our new friends and farming neighbours", says Linda.

In conclusion, Linda says: "I am working hard to market my two books about Low Arvie through the internet and I blog regularly on my author page at www.authorsden.com."

Linda's books are available at The CatStrand, New Galloway, or can be previewed at www.amazon.co.uk - for further information visit www.low-arvie.co.uk. Bed and Breakfast guests are also welcomed to Low Arvie, where they can stay in the private suite of rooms in the old part of the house.



NOTICEBOARD

Craft Group
21st October

2-4pm

Dalry Community
Centre

For info contact
Jean Maltman on
430 497

Music & Songs of the 30's
& 40's with Terri Farley,
Jim McPhee & Colin
Feierabend

Sat 23rd Oct, 7.30pm
Mosssdale Hall
Tel: 01644 450666

Coffee Morning in Aid of Abbas Rest Orphans

A coffee morning will be held to raise funds for Abbas Rest Orphans in Malawi on Saturday 30th October from 10am to 12 noon in Dalry Town Hall.

So many children are in desperate need of not only food and medicines, but also help and advice.

In February one family of nine children without parents was discovered, with only the 15 year old girl to look after them all. They are now all being given the food and help they require.

We would gratefully accept donations towards the raffle, baking, sales tables or money.

If you need any more information, please contact Jean Maltman on 430 497, Avril Brown on 430 526 or Barbara Colbenson on 430 090.

Thank you

Balmaghie Community Council Awaits Word on Civic Pride Funding Bid

If successful, everyone living in the three Clachans of Bridge of Dee, Glenlochar and Laurieston will get the opportunity to help plan/join in three public events called 'The Spirit of Balmaghie' - one in each area.

It's also hoped that funding will be provided to recruit/train young detectives (just like they did in Palnackie) and activists of all ages to research, consult and develop community learning/resilience.

Denise Fyfe



Balmaclellan Community Council

Extract from minutes of meeting held 23 August.

Progress has been made towards getting Balmaclellan Village Hall more business, bookings and entertainment for the community. A proposal for a new constitution is to be discussed.

Bonfire Night and Remembrance Sunday arrangements were raised at the latest community council meeting and plans considered for the childrens' Christmas party and the senior citizens' Christmas lunch.

A representative was to attend the Outdoor Access Strategy Stakeholders meeting (Stewartry) and a full report from the four districts will be available to us all in due course. In the meantime, deliberations continue re Barscobe - Corriedoo proposed core-path and the 'Right of Way' enquiry is still available until end of September.

Next meeting: Friday 29 October, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.

Carsphairn Community Council

Extract from minutes of meeting held 28 June.

A presentation was given by 2020 Renewables on the proposed windfarm at Loch Hill. Alasdair Macleod introduced the company and explained they have reduced the number of turbines to 11 after consultation with the MoD and are currently undertaking consultation with local Community Councils. Mr Macleod then outlined the schedule of activity, beginning with planning application submission at the end of September. A discussion took place about the different options for traffic management. It was pointed out that the upgrade of the roads that Mr Macleod had been advised had taken place had never happened and that Mr Macleod should check the logistics. The road is used by timber traffic and there are no passing places. There have been ongoing discussions about this with D&G Council so perhaps he should consult with the roads department there. Power would be taken from the turbines substation at Duchrae and then overhead power cables to the grid. Our Community had a good community model and so perhaps lessons can be learnt both ways.

The legal implications for a core path running on a person's land have been obtained and are available for anyone to read. Bidwells have made objections to proposed core paths with the exception of Kings Cairn. They have stated that routes are not safe due to traffic management. Residents have approved and compromised routes into Knockengorroch and it was felt a letter should be sent to Roderick Leslie Melville. A local landowner pointed out that Mr Melville only works for Bidwells who represent ESN and should not be making objections on behalf of Scottish Power. It was also felt that his arguments were a little weak.

A consultation is to be taking place with the community regarding future plans for felling and replanting of forests in the area. Only some of the residents have received information and a letter which itself is ambiguous. A face to face meeting should be arranged and Historic Scotland involved as there a lot of historic features as shown on the Ordnance Survey map. The Ordnance Survey notebook of 1848 shows many of these historic features. Residents do not want further planting, particularly in the Knockengorroch area. It was suggested that a letter be sent telling them that a face to face meeting is required but also pointing out that grant money is available for self seeding projects instead of manual planting.

A letter has been received by the CC regarding the closure of the Shiel of Castlemaaddy Bothy and a request that the community council maintain the bothies to keep them open. The Mountain Bothy Association (MBA) has had enough of trying to maintain the bothies as quad bikers are going to them and destroying the paths. How can we stop them? MBA to be contacted and find out where things are at the moment.

Next meeting: Monday 25 October, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall.

Dalry Community Council

Extract from minutes of meeting held 5 July.

Regarding the Kindbuild project, Mr Haswell has not responded to any correspondence, particularly in relation to providing an opinion on the original procedure for planning permission dealing with the quarrying aspect of the build. A freedom of information

request has been put in twice, and the last letter to go should be replied to by next week. If this is not responded to then further action may be necessary. It was suggested that a petition be raised as to the issue of reconsideration. It was suggested the petition be distributed to the shops for a couple of months.

2020 renewables provided the CC with an update from their recent Public meeting on the subject of Turbines at Loch Hill. They outlined the current programme. The current layout is for 11 Turbines, not 21 as originally planned, due to an objection by the MOD. The height of turbines are also being changed from 115m to 100m with the turbines to be situated to the east of the site. A question and answer session ensued: (1) Q - There are two applications for the same site (a) Forestry (b) Turbines. A - They do not like their Turbines too close to forestry (i.e. 200m) as this would have an effect on their efficiency. (2) Q - Is it still a viable project for just 11 turbines? A - Yes (3) Q - Community Benefits? A - 28 people turned out for the public information day - it appears people are not yet taking enough interest in the plan and believes it is important to get through issues of Community Benefit before the application goes through. They suggested that they attend further council meetings e.g. October.

Discussions have been ongoing regarding the Donald Watson Trust, and it is understood that GCAT are keen to support projects in Dalry as we form part of the Glenkens - they don't only support projects in New Galloway as perceived. At the Trust meeting in August two projects were suggested - (1) a Centre around Barone and other smaller projects to be linked to it and then look to have Dalry recognised as 'Bird Town', and (2) a Bird Shop/Cafe.

A member of the CC recently sat in on a Stewartry Area Committee meeting and learned that there are grants available to groups for improving communities/villages. Concerns were raised over the state of the Dalry Library building - the property is owned by the Council but needs repairs to it e.g. guttering, painting, cleaning.

Next meeting: Monday 4 October, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.

New Galloway & Kells Community Council

Extract from minutes of meeting held 9 August.

The Chair welcomed David Williams (DGFirst Maintenance Team Leader) to the meeting. He reported to the Committee that DGFirst intend to resurface the High Street (A762) in New Galloway between New Galloway Golf Course (just south of car park) to the junction of the A712 & A762 (Coat of Arms sign) during the period 27th September to 8th October 2010: it is hoped the actual works will take five days to complete. In order to undertake the works the road will be closed to traffic during the working day (08:45 to 17:00). A Traffic Regulation Order will be promoted and this Order will cover a period of two weeks to allow for delays due to weather and breakdowns. A discussion took place and it was agreed that if possible the work would be carried out in four stages: (a) Golf Club to Pomona Terrace, (b) Pomona Terrace to the Town Hall, (c) Town Hall to Wylie's Brae, and (d) Wylie's Brae to A712. This will allow a level of street parking and keep the number of properties affected at any one time to a minimum.

It was reported that income so far from the Scottish Alternative Games (Sunday 8th August) is £4163.78; after deductions the net total (so far) being £3265.78. The Alternative Games Weekend Ceilidh raised approximately £450 after all costs were met. The weekend was the most successful since the games were moved from Parton to New Galloway 10 years ago, with over 1000 visitors to the Alternatives Games on Sunday that included a number of overseas visitors from various countries including Australia, Chile, Kyrgyzstan and the USA. It was regretted that yet again no photographer/reporter was available from the Galloway News to cover the Alternative Games. A member of the CC has arranged a meeting with the News regarding their lack of coverage.

It was reported that there was an increase in the number of adder bites this summer; four dogs are reported to have died after being bitten by adders in the Mossdale/Raiders Road/Slogarie area.

Next meeting: Monday 11 October, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town

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

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

Dalry Primary

Big Green Adventure: On Wednesday 9th June P4-7 put on a performance called the Big Green Adventure. It delivered all sorts of messages about being eco friendly and had lots of funny parts as well! We would like to thank everyone who was able to attend and support this event.



Sports Day: Mon 14th June was a perfect day for Dalry Primary and Nursery 2010 Sports Day! The weather was great, the competition stiff and everyone had a great time. For the third year in a row, Kenbank won the day but all three teams performed extremely well. The individual Awards went to Jake Macmillan as our Boys Sports Champion and Lily Langford who was our Girls Sports Champion. We would also like to thank all the parents that showed up to support us and all the staff, Dalry and Kells buddies, and secondary pupils that helped out on the day!



Netball Tournament: Here are the girls from Primary Six and Seven that came third at our recent Netball Tournament on Tuesday 22nd June at Castle Douglas



High School. They competed against a number of teams, playing well as a team and displaying excellent sportsmanship – well done!



Leavers' Assembly: On Wednesday 30th June 2010 we held our annual P7 Leavers' Assembly. The pupils each got a book to mark the end of a successful year. There were various other presentations and performances from all classes as well. The final part of the Assembly was when the P7 pupils were given their leaving gifts, a calculator and CD of all their special moments at Dalry School...it was a very emotional but enjoyable afternoon for everybody.

The awards for each class were as follows: Citizenship – Olivia Wise, Taylor Kershaw and Cameron Wilkie. Best Prepared – Drife Finlay, Amy McMurray and Annabelle McAdam. Perfect Attendance – Kimberly McAdam and Euan Bielinski.

Carsphairn Primary

Children at Carsphairn Primary have enjoyed growing vegetables and flowers in the school garden during their after school Garden Club.

Green fingered mum Irene McCreath has been leading the club and advising the children on what to grow, how to look after the plants and helping the children to harvest their vegetables.



A bumper crop of First Year pupils joined Dalry Secondary School this year. This is the largest group in the past ten years.



Kells School Christmas Fayre

Sat 20th Nov, 10am to 12noon

Come along and join in the fun at our school! There will be a Santa's grotto, cake stall, chocolate fountain, lucky dip, tea and cakes and much, much more...

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Glenkens Summer Events

The Scottish Alternative Games: A record crowd gathered for the 2010 Games, the tenth year in New Galloway. The Gird n' Cleek World Championship was regained by Neil Armstrong from Kirkcudbright who previously held the title in 2006. In one of the most exciting finals for years he was made to work hard before getting his hands on the World Championship Trophy again, being pushed all the way by former champions Jayde Devlin in second place and Hannah McKenna in third (see picture).

People from all over the world took part in the various events throughout the afternoon with many experiencing the unique day for the first time, but also many returning to the Games for their eagerly awaited annual visit.

Under a perfect blue sky, all the events were keenly contested in the true family spirit of the Alternative Games. The established events such as the Gird n' Cleek, Tossin' the Sheaf, Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane, Tractor Pull, Tug o' War, Balmaclellan Skittles and Snail Racing were all as popular as ever, with the newer events such as Archery, Circus Skills and Laser Quest adding to the choice of activities available. The Classic Car Show attracted a good turnout and added greatly to the day. The Games of course would not be complete without the bagpipes and the day was opened in fine style by The Buccleuch & Queensberry Pipe Band marching in to the main arena at two o'clock. All in all, another great day, many said; "the best ever"! Roll on 2011 - with many of the first time visitors vowing to return again, next year's event promises to be another cracker!

The Community Council would like to thank everyone who came along to support this year's event and a special thanks to all who helped in any way with the organisation and running of the day.



Glenkens Agricultural Show

This year's show held on Saturday 14th August was a great success. Entries for the show were higher than previous years, with increased entries for livestock, the relatively new poultry section and for the horse section.

The warm and sunny weather contributed to a bumper show attendance with lots to do for all.

There were a variety of stands in attendance selling cards, soaps, jewellery, wood crafts and wicker items, delicious ice-cream and refreshments, and lots to see and do including vintage tractors, stockjudging, raffle, and for the kids a bouncy castle, face painting and childrens' races. All in all, a great day out!

Picture: Champion of Champions - Galloway Heifer, J & A Finlay, Blackcraig and Reserve Champion - Limousin Bull, T B Hansell, Nether Barr



GLENKENS HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Well I know I say it every year but, once again, it was our highest number of entries with over 750 in total, including 75 for the photographic class.

Penny Bryson opened the prize giving section of the show. Prior to that Penny walked around the entries and was very impressed with the quality of all the exhibits and I overheard her asking questions and looking for tips on growing some of the vegetables.

The standards again were very high in all the sections with some new exhibitors showing excellent results. We had junior exhibitors taking part and achieving prizes in some of the adult classes, which shows it is not all down to age and experience. We hope more will enter next time ensuring the continuation of the show.

We still need more volunteers to help with the organisation and set up of the show. It would be only two meetings per year and a few hours with the set up.

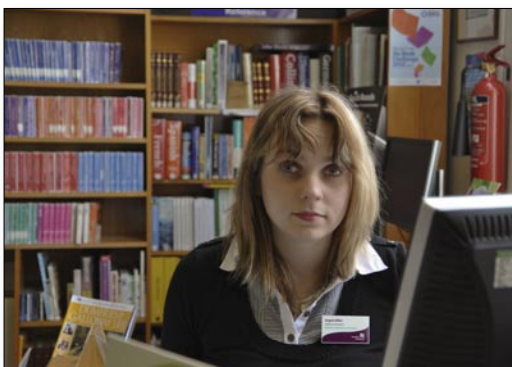
A big thank you to everyone who took part or visited the show - we hope to see you again next year. Oh - and don't forget to bring a friend!

Joan Berkley, on behalf of the Glenkens Horticultural Society. PS Next years' subject for the photographic section will be 'Building'.



What's On Offer at Dalry Library...?

The Dalry Library building was donated to the village by the Gourley Memorial Trust in 1948, after serving as the Studio for the artist HJ Dobson and has served the village as a library ever since.



Angela is always on hand to help you find what you're looking for.

Dalry has become quite a modern little library and that means there is more to it than just our varied selection of books. We have a growing stock of DVD's, including some of the latest films. There's free internet access which can be booked with a library card. We also carry a selection of Talking Books on CD. These days you can also renew your books online from home and even make requests on the web via <http://library.dumgal.gov.uk/vs/> on the Council website.

Because Dalry Library is a small library with a lot of keen readers I take a lot of requests over the counter, which is always an interesting experience for me because of the diversity of books that people request. I now have a list longer than my arm of books I have to read! Users can also request Talking Books and DVD's from anywhere in the region.

Other handy little facilities you can access at the library include faxing, printing and photocopying. Local planning applications are on display at the library as well as Glenkens Community Councils minutes and a lot of local information pamphlets, booklets and posters.

Our selection of books contains Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction, Children's Fiction and Non-Fiction, Teen Fiction, Large Print, Romantic Fiction, Mystery Fiction, Local Interest, Reference and Local Reference. We also have a selection of Local Interest and Quick Reads which can be loaned.

Of course to help pay for all of this there are a few charges. DVD loans are £1.50 per DVD for a number of nights. Requests are 75p and 35p for Children's requests. Photocopying and printing also carries a small charge. A full list of charges can be found in the library.

If you live a bit far out to get to Dalry regularly there are 23 stops in the Glenkens for the Mobile Library service. It visits Parton and Balmaclellan on every 3rd Wednesday and Carsphairn, New Galloway and Dalry on every 3rd Tuesday. **To find out more about the Mobile Library and Dalry Library, you can phone me here on 01644 430234.**

Angela Miller, Librarian

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

At last the Council has given us information about the Town Hall condition survey which was done last year as well as income and expenditure figures. This will enable the committee to put together a plan for options for the future to present to an open meeting. We will need the support of the community for the next stage.

The stall at the Alternative Games raised our first deposit into the bank account - £181. Children pinned the tail on the donkey – courtesy of Tom & Janet Carlyle. Janet had made a brand new colourful tail for Tom's elderly painted donkey! Children also risked their pocket money on the children's tombola and adults supported the adult tombola, and bought plants, garden and home produce and bric-a-brac.

The information stand displayed in pride of place a new painting of the Town Hall produced for the occasion by Tom Carlyle. Thanks to all for their contributions and support.

Rosalind Hill, LING Chairman

Glenkens Business Association

We're nearly there – yes really! Keep a lookout for the publication of the new Glenkens Business and Community Directory. As well as all our business members we have been amazed to find between 40 and 50 community organisations within the Glenkens – things to do, groups to join – active or quiet, something to suit all tastes.

We have also been working with GCAT who have put in a submission for funding for taking part in 'The Day of the Regions' next October. By the time you read this you will know if the Glenkens is one of the chosen five.

Ros Hill, Chairman

Gazette reader Louise McClure has created this great puzzle for you to puzzle out...Using the clues, add a letter to each of the four letter words below to make a five letter word. Place the extra letter in the box on the right. Read down the grid to find a Glenkens event.

Points gained	SORE	
Baking ingredient	FOUR	
Produced by boiling water	STEM	
_____ and tatties	MINE	
Disgrace	SAME	
Shore line	COST	
Extent	RAGE	
Abnormally high body temperature	EVER	
animal	BEST	
Demand what is due	CLAM	
Tears apart	ENDS	

Answer: Clachan Fair

HAVE YOU GOT THE TALENT?

The search is on in Carsphairn once again for local talent to perform in a second pre-Christmas stage show extravaganza after last year's overwhelming success.

This year's event, entitled Carsphairn's Got (Even More) Talent, takes place on Saturday, 4th December, in the village's Lagwyne Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

As last year, the show will feature acts by members of the community, purely for entertainment. So if you can sing, dance, play a musical instrument, tell a joke, recite poetry, juggle or have other talents, you're just the kind of talent the organisers are looking for.

Please let Nigel Martin (tel: 01644 460545, email: Nigel@ProsperCommunications.co.uk) know if you are interested in joining in so that a full evening's programme of entertainment can be drawn up.

"This is purely for fun; there will be no judging and no prizes," says Nigel. "There are also no age limits for performers, so the more people who sign up to take part, the better the show will be."

"People are still talking about last year's show, so it is returning by popular request under the auspices of the Carsphairn Church Social Committee. And, once again, all monies raised will be going to a worthy cause."

CLUB CORNER

DALRY ANGLING ASSOCIATION

It seems to have been an active year on the Associations waters, but until the returns are in, we won't know how successful. We have had very varied weather conditions, often unseasonal, with a dry warm spell in late spring, a decidedly cool and damp midsummer and a glorious hot early autumn. Throughout it all, fish have been caught.

This year we were required to register with the fish health inspectorate and also get permission to stock either with a block or single application. It doesn't cost anything to do so, but the response time from the authorities means it has been a frustrating business. Despite this, both Carsfad and the River Ken have been stocked, the river twice and the Loch once, so that members have been able to enjoy good fishing most of the year.

Sadly there were no competitors for the Junior Competition, though conditions were perfect. It was a bright, warm day for the Seniors, not ideal - the winner was Mr J Comrie.

This year we have introduced Temporary Resident's Permits. Many keen fishers work in the area during the week, going home for weekends. Anyone who can provide evidence of accommodation in Dalry or Balmaclellan on this basis, can apply.

Sadly, there are people who have been seen fishing our waters without a day ticket. They have not paid their membership subscription which is £10 per annum. The cost of stocking increases annually, and it is unfair to paid-up members of our small Association when stock is taken illegally. Members, as well as the Committee, must be prepared to challenge people they do not know and ask for evidence that they are able to fish, and report anyone suspicious to a member of the Committee so that action can be taken.

The closing date for fishing is 31st October.

The date for our AGM is 19th November at 7.30pm in the Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry, and all members are encouraged to attend to express their views. Only subscribing members will receive the Agenda, but any lapsed member is perfectly entitled to attend.

Information can be obtained from our website: www.dalryanglingassociation.co.uk or contact Secretary Mrs B Johnson on 430 271.

NEWS FROM THE STEWARTRY CAMERA CLUB

This summer, as a new venture, members of the Stewartry Camera Club have had the opportunity to enjoy the challenge of some themed evening photography at various photogenic locations around the Stewartry. In addition to expeditions further afield, visits were made to the Glenkens to photograph orchids and bog asphodel, the Lowran Burn and Waterfall and Kenmure Castle. The resulting photographs were presented to members in a slideshow at the end of September.



Amongst the competition judges this year are Morag Paterson, Ed Baxter, Geoff Keating and Phil McMenemy. Ian Biggar will provide a talk 'My Life in Photography' and another of the speakers is photographer Simon Robinson. Glenkens club member, John Houfe, will give a talk 'Landscape: A Personal View' and Mary McIlvenna an audio visual slideshow 'Flora Glenkens'. The full programme can be found at www.stewartrycameraclub.wordpress.com

The club will be holding an exhibition of prints in the Tolbooth from 7th - 23rd October 2010.

The club meets in The Tolbooth, Kirkcudbright, at 7.30pm most Wednesdays during the winter months. It caters for all photographers from beginners through to professional. If you have an interest in photography, do come along. You will be made most welcome.

For further information contact Mary McIlvenna 01644 420613 or George Wishart 01557 870090.

Walking in the Glenkens

The Glenkens Ramblers meet on Mondays for a moderate walk taking around two hours. The Glenkens Walkers meet on Wednesdays for an easier walk taking around 90 minutes. Both groups meet at 1.30pm outside the Bank of Scotland in Dalry. Lists of walks are displayed in shops in Dalry and New Galloway.

Walk Leader's contact numbers are: John & Isobel on 430 539, Gerry on 420 852, Peter on 420 419 and Elizabeth on 430 581.



The Glenkens Ramblers sheltering from a chilly wind at the top of Cairnsmore of Fleet on 4th Sept.

New Galloway Golf Club: The Tilhill Sponsored Four Ball Better Ball Open 2010 was played over the New Galloway course on Sunday 1st August. The weather was fine and dry and the course was in superb condition.

The pin placings were not the easiest to play to but it didn't prevent good scores. In fact 16 two's were scored on the day. The Open was well attended with 62 players contesting for the trophy. The winners were K. Morrison & A.A. McGowan (Kbt) 65-1-64; 2nd - R. McWilliam & R.Barber-Fleming (CD) 66-1-65; 3rd - I.Brown & R. Ritchie (NG) 71-6-65. The scratch prize was won by S. Bendall & B. Kirkpatrick (S) 65-0-65.



The photograph shows Bill Stalker of Tilhill, the winners and R Tulloch, Club Captain.

Applications are now being accepted for membership for the 2010-11 season. There are also special concessions i.e. 4 ball for the price of a 3 ball. For further information please contact the Club Secretary, Ian Brown on 01644 420737 or visit the club's web site www.nggc.co.uk

All the competition scores throughout the season can be found on www.masterscoreboard.co.uk

The Club is looking for sponsors for a number of projects for the 2010/2011 season. If you think you could help please contact the Club Secretary.

Jeff, Vice Captain/Match Secretary, New Galloway Golf Club

The CatStrand: News & Events

Theatre Objektiv – A Promised Land, Sat 2 Oct, 7.30pm, £7/£5. The story revolves around the true story of Dumfriesshire born Jane Haining, 'the Scottish Schindler', who saved many Jewish children from the fate she was to suffer herself in the gas chambers of Auschwitz.



Storytelling Café - Renita Boyle presents Truly Goulie, Thurs 7 Oct, 7.30 – 9.30pm, free but donations for tea and coffee welcome. An informal and relaxing evening.

Film: Alice in Wonderland, Wed 13 Oct, 2pm, £4.50/£3.50. 19-year-old Alice returns to the magical world from her childhood adventure.



Magic Spaghetti by Virginia Radcliffe - Licketyspit Theatre Company & Brunton Theatre, Thurs 14 Oct, Workshop: 12pm, £2. Show: 2.30pm, £3.50. A comedy for children and families from 3-93 with music and cooking.



Andy White, Fri 22 Oct, 8pm, £8/£6. Andy White, one of the great Irish singer-songwriters, tours the world with his 12 string guitar in one hand and a book of poetry in the other.



Storytelling Festival On Tour - Eastern Routes: Authentic Voices, Sat 23 Oct, 7.30pm, £6/£5. Experience firsthand the wonder, mystery and richness of eastern storytelling traditions.

Storytelling Masterclass, Sun 24 Oct, 10am-1pm, £12/£10. Join our special international guest storyteller for an interactive and inspiring workshop aimed at developing and honing your natural oral storytelling skills.



Film: Departures directed by Yojiro Takita, Wed 27 Oct, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50. Academy Award® Winner for Best Foreign Language Film of the year, "Departures" is a delightful and sensitive journey into the heartland of Japan and an astonishingly beautiful look at a sacred part of Japan's cultural heritage.

Madame Bibelots House of Otherworldly Delights, Sat 30 Oct, 5-9pm, £3/£2/under 3's free, under 12's must be accompanied by an adult. Roll up roll up, come and join your hostess Madame Bibelot as she presents a spectacular Halloween event suitable for all the family. **Come dressed for the occasion!**



Stillmotion with Starcatchers present We Dance, Wee Groove - A Dance Event for Pre-School Children, Mon 1 Nov, 1.30pm, £3.50. A unique experience to watch, listen, play and explore the four corners of the dance floor with the best dance partner there is, your wee groover.

Gerry and Donal O'Connor, Wed 10 Nov, 7.30pm, £10/£8. Fiddle playing has been in the family for 5 generations of the O'Connor family. This father son duo are able to draw on this wealth of music learned from Rose O'Connor and also from hand-written manuscripts passed down through the family.



White: Catherine Wheels Theatre Company with Brunton Theatre, Sat 20 Nov, 2pm, £3.50, ages 2-4. Welcome to the beautifully strange world of White. Full of

birdsong and birdhouses, it gleams and dazzles and shines in the night.

Film: A Single Man, Thu 25 Nov, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50. Set in Los Angeles in 1962, at the height of the Cuban missile crisis, it is the story of a British college professor (Colin Firth) who is struggling to find meaning to his life after the death of his long time partner.

Christmas Shopping Evening, Wed 24 Nov, 5-8pm. Take away the stress of Christmas shopping and buy all your presents at the CatStrand! Choose from an exclusive seasonal collection of locally made arts and crafts, gifts and cards while enjoying a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

The Sofa Show featuring Fred MacAulay & Parrot, Sat 27 Nov, 8pm, £12/£10. Fred MacAuley and Parrot combine forces in another New Innovative Comedy Event.

Galloway Gatherings Lecture Series, all lectures 2-4pm, £8 per lecture or £30 for all four. To book tickets contact the CatStrand or Phillipa McNeill at phillipa.mcneill@glasgow.ac.uk or 01387 702131. 'Gaelic place-names' with Professor Michael Ansell, Wed 17th Nov. 'Researching local history: the Covenanters' with Alison Burgess, Wed 24 Nov. 'Galloway at the Centre: South West Scotland and the wider world in the middle ages' with Stuart McCulloch, Wed 1 Dec. 'Cultural Landscapes: the Glenkens' with Professor Ted Cowan, Wed 8 Dec.

Discovery Film Festival – Shorts for Wee Ones, Mon 22 Nov, 1.30pm, free but ticketed so please book in advance. Join us this year as we sail across the sea with a moustached apple, fly through space on board a very unusual ship, and untangle mysteries with sometimes strange and always loveable characters.

Regular events:



Play it by Ear, every Monday during term time, 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 during term time, 3.15-4pm pre school, 4-5pm 8-12 years, free. Dance exercises are created to develop agility, balance, co-ordination, elevation, flexibility and posture.



Teen Spirit, every Tues, 7.30pm-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 contact Catherine on 01644 420374.



Saturday Art Club, 2nd Sat of every month, 10am-12noon, £4. Two-hour workshops run by professional artists and teachers, offering expert tuition and hands-on experience across a range of fun filled visual arts and crafts activities (age 5-12).



CatStrand Youth Players, every Sun during term time, 3-5pm. The Youth division of the Glenkens 73 Club. 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 (age 10-18).



The CatStrand: News & Events

COMMUNITY EVENTS / CLASSES

Regular Classes:

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

Teen Spirit, Tues during term time, 7.30-9.30pm.

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

Taking the First Step in Computing, Wed 5.30pm-

7.30pm.

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

Carers, Coffee & Chat, 1st Tue each month, 10am-12 noon, free. Transport may be available if required, please phone 01644 420374.

NEW! Tone and Stretch, Fri 10am, £4/£3. A workout

to tone muscle and improve body shape followed by a stretch out to ease those tired/ aching muscles; a great way to start the day!

Afternoon Tea Club, 2nd Fri each month, 2pm, annual membership £2. Minibus pick up from Balmaclellan & Dalry by prior arrangement - call 01644 420374.

CatStrand Cafe

LUNCHES: Mon to Fri, 11am-2pm



RSAMD Summer Drama Workshop

Starting on the 2nd August, we attended a Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama course at the world renowned CatStrand. The theme was 'Beg, Borrow & Steal' and we were asked to bring along newspaper and other things that we would normally throw away. The week was going to be brought to an end with a performance made entirely out of rubbish!

The play at the end of the week was entirely written by the course members and was a real treat for the audience of family and friends as it featured the one and only Lady Garbage and his troupe of prima donna backing dancers. His costume was made from the finest rubbish that we had accumulated, including two water bottles on either side of his head!

We were also asked to bring an item of sentimental value but no monetary value. These items were also used in the show as part of a moving photo album and game show based on 'Rock, Paper & Scissors'.

It was a great week of fun, games and learning new acting techniques which will be invaluable to the CatStrand Youth Players. All seventeen of us thoroughly enjoyed the experience and can't wait for the next visit from the RSAMD Drama tutors!

By Kirstin Stalker & Lowena Lindsay



The CatStrand Youth Players: The group started meeting again for the new season on 5th September.

They are currently working towards their first performances of the season in The CatStrand on 3rd December, when they will be performing 'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations' by Alan Ayckbourn along with another piece yet to be decided.

Glenkens '73 Club will also be staging a play on the same evening.

Glenken's Community Garden and Allotment Group

If anyone is interested in getting involved or would like an allotment contact Catherine Phillips at The CatStrand on 01644 420374.

THE BUS : GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

ACTIVITY SCHEME FOR DISABLED CHILDREN: During the School holidays the mini bus helped with transport for disabled children attending an activity scheme in Castle Douglas – 179 children, some with wheelchairs, were taken around the Stewartry, and we hope we get the chance to help with this again next year. Many thanks to Bob Peace, Jon Nimmo and Tom Plummer for the part they played in the success of this scheme.

TRIPS: The trip arranged to Kelvingrove Museum on 18th July had to be rearranged because of industrial action – the new date in August was fully booked very quickly and everyone enjoyed the Glasgow Boys exhibition as well as sunbathing on the lawns!

THURSDAY 21st OCTOBER – a visit to Summerlee Ind. Museum for families – full details from Fiona at The CatStrand.

WEDNESDAY 1st DECEMBER – AYR – Xmas shopping or cheap tickets are available for the Races on this date. (Nat Hunt)

WATCH OUT FOR POSTERS FOR OTHER XMAS SHOPPING TRIPS, ETC.

SWIMMING TRIP; After a few problems, the GTI trip to Newton Stewart on Tuesdays has resumed. People can either go swimming or shopping. The bus will leave Dalry at 11.15am and this trip will be operated only during school terms i.e. NOT IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. Further enquiries please ring Ann McLaughlin 01644-460518

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.

THE BUS: The Bus is now 8 years old, during which time GTI has just grown and grown – we are looking into the possibility of getting another one and perhaps running two – anyone with any good ideas or knowledge of any good sources of funding please speak to Keith – we would also welcome new members on our GTI Committee, which only meets three or four times a year for two hours each time!

*Keith Cooper,
GTI Administrator*

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

LAUNCH OF A GREAT BOOK AND DALRY BIRD TOWN



Many folk in The Glenkens are proud owners of a Donald Watson painting. Some of you had your painting photographed some years ago by Ian Langford as a contribution to a book on the hen harrier, Donald Watson's specialist bird species.

I am delighted to say that the book, 'In Search of Harriers', is being launched at a special event in Dalry Town Hall on Saturday 16th October. Please join us for this special occasion to celebrate the work of one of Dalry's famous residents. Chris Rollie and Louise Watson will lead off and you will be able to purchase copies to see how your painting looks in the published volume. In addition, the second edition of Donald's son Jeff's world renowned book on the 'Golden Eagle' will be available.

You will also be given an update on the Watson project and will be able to volunteer to help us develop the project. Many Glenkens folk attended the special event on 6th March at The CatStrand and no doubt viewed the accompanying exhibition of Donald's superb paintings, and a few of Jeff's special photos. We have made some progress since then.

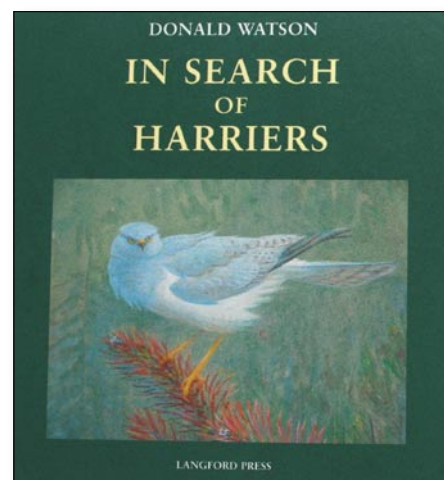
An arts and landscape class for school children will be held in Dalry in the following week; a one-day taster and a four-day special indoors and outdoors class. Sarah Keast has done a wonderful job getting this off the ground and raising the funding. A separate article about this can be found in the 'Youth Update' section of the page opposite.

To pursue the Watson project of developing the old family home at Barone in Main Street, Dalry, and a range of celebratory events, we have decided to develop the project further as Dalry Bird Town. This will be a sister project to Kirkcudbright Artists Town, Wigtown Book Town and Castle Douglas Food Town.

We hope that we shall be as successful as the other projects in due time and give Dalry added momentum and make it a must-visit destination for all bird and arts lovers. We have set up a steering group; its members represent the Dalry community, bird interests and the Watson family. In addition to developing funding applications for Barone, we are also ascertaining the possibility of purchasing the Mace Shop in Main Street as a visitor and orientation centre, coffee shop and retail outlet for bird-related items. We are pleased to have the support of the present owners for this option.

Do join us at Dalry Town Hall at 10am for 10.30am on Saturday 16th October.

For further information, contact: Roger Crofts, 07803 595267, roger@dodin.idps.co.uk.



STEWARTRY BIRDWATCHERS 2010-11 PROGRAMME

Interested in birds and birdwatching? If 'yes', why not come along to the Stewartry Birdwatchers' indoor meetings and excursions?

Officially we are called the Stewartry Branch of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club, (always shortened to SOC), but do not be put off by the scientific-sounding name! The word CLUB is the important one.

This session started with a bang. You may have read Keith Kirk's column 'Nature Notes' in the Galloway News. On 23rd September, Keith gave a talk for SOC at New Galloway School. Keith is an all round naturalist employed as a Countryside Ranger by the local council who spends most of his evenings and weekends observing and photographing plants, insects, mammals, birds and scenery in the Stewartry. He has some splendid shots of our own local Ospreys who nested and raised three young at Threave this summer (see photograph).

On October 14th the speaker, Mike Betts, will talk about the much more exotic species to be found in Ethiopia, that very special destination quite unlike any other country in Africa. A topic which gets much attention these days is the subject on November 11th when Norman Elkins, a birdwatcher who is a retired meteorologist, speaks on 'Climate Change and Wildlife'. On 9th December Richard Hesketh, the manager of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Reserve at Caerlaverock, will talk about those species which he is passionate about, namely ducks, geese and swans all of which can be seen so easily at this reserve.

Next year starts on January 13th with another excellent and prize-winning photographer, retired Dumfries GP Edmund Fellowes, on 'Some Northern Birds'. His photographs are quite stunning and, together with his amusing and knowledgeable commentary, should make for a very enjoyable evening. By popular demand, Gordon Yates returns on February 10th with his annual Film Show which this year is once more about that superb island for wintering flocks of geese... 'Islay: Queen of the Hebrides'. Gordon's racy and knowledgeable commentary always keeps his audience enthralled throughout the evening.

Russell Nisbet, another popular speaker, returns on 10th March to talk about a country to which he has led many birdwatching tours, The Gambia. This tiny country is less than a six hour flight from the UK and has an array of coastal reserves, excellent birdwatching up-river and over two hundred species of tropical birds and other wildlife which can be seen easily in a week. The session ends with the AGM and short illustrated talks by members on 31st March.

If birds and all aspects of the countryside interest you please come along to our meetings - and bring your friends along too!

Contacts: Chairman - Geoff Packard; 01556 670466, Vice-chairman - Peter Swan; 01556 502144, Secretary - Joan Howie;



Threave ospreys nesting by Keith Kirk

Y O U T H U P D A T E

Environmental Workshops in the October Holidays

During the school holidays in October, GCAT will present two inspirational art workshops in Dalry as the first Dalry Bird Town events.

These workshops, the first of a series of Dalry Bird Town events to celebrate the work of renowned bird artist and writer Donald Watson, who lived in Dalry for over 50 years, is planned for the October school holidays.

The workshops are free thanks to the generosity of various organisations such as Scottish Natural Heritage, Room 13, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and Gaelforce.

Workshop 1: Environmental Art Taster Day, Monday 18 October, 10am-4pm, Dalry School, (suitable for young people aged 10-16) - booking essential as places are limited.

This one day event will be run by the Room 13 community arts project in association with the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The workshop will provide a taste of different techniques for creating environmental art. You will be working in Dalry School and outdoors in the nearby countryside to produce your own works which will be photographed. *Please make sure to bring a pack lunch, warm and weatherproof clothing, and suitable footwear.*

Workshop 2: Creative Explorer, Tuesday 19 – Friday 22 October, 10am – 4 pm each day, Dalry School, (suitable for young people aged 10-16) - booking is essential as places are limited.

This is an exciting four day workshop for participants to explore the connection between art making, the local environment in Dalry and themselves. The workshop will be run by the community arts project Room 13, and will take place in Dalry school and outdoors on the hillsides and in the woods.

Creative Explorer is about looking at and thinking about the world in different ways, about having freedom to experiment creatively and having fun. During workshops we will engage with our environment and nature. Creative Explorers start to gain a heightened awareness and an appreciation of their surroundings, of their own resourcefulness and creative potential. Participants will be supplied with sketchbooks and materials, but will also use objects from the environment. Creative Explorer hopes to inspire an open curiosity and excitement about the world. *Please make sure to bring a pack lunch, warm and weatherproof clothing, and suitable footwear.*

These workshops have been funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, Gaelforce and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. To book your place contact The CatStrand on 01644 420374.

GCAT is an acronym for The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust Ltd, a Registered Scottish Charity, No. SC032050.



CARSPHAIRN FIRST RESPONDERS GO LIVE!

The new Carsphairn First Responders group went live on 1 September 2010. When 999 is dialled ambulances are dispatched from the nearest ambulance station - as long as they are available - and precious minutes can be lost waiting for an ambulance to travel 20 miles or so from Castle Douglas. Because of this the Scottish Ambulance Service has encouraged the formation of First Responder groups in rural areas to provide vital aid to people who are perhaps suffering a heart attack or are unconscious.

The group, all volunteers from the community, have been trained by Scottish Ambulance Service in the use of defibrillators and oxygen therapy.

Funding for the group was obtained through the Stewartry Safety Forum who obtained a grant from the Stewartry Area Council for the purchase of life saving equipment for First Responders and further funds were raised by Carsphairn Parish Church Social Committee from their show, Carsphairn's Got Talent which asked for donations rather than ticket sales.

Photo: Responders Margaret Richmond and Ruth Williams make the call to log into the ambulance service watched by other volunteers (from left) Jackie Locke, Anne Rutherford, Zarah Groves, Ken Williams and David Richmond.



LOCAL HISTORY

Connecting Glenkens to the Rest of the World

At one time it was proposed that there should be a canal linking Ayr and Kirkcudbright. That was at the height of the canal mania when, throughout Britain, these waterways seemed to provide a solution to the problem of wretched roads and poor communications. John Loudon MacAdam, born in 1756 at Waterhead, Carsphairn, would turn his attention to roads and the surfacing thereof, but earlier, in 1802, the scheme for the Glenkens Canal was given royal assent. The haemorrhaging of population was already perceived as a problem, particularly from inland parishes with no access to the sea. Between the censuses of 1755 and 1801 Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells all lost population. In 1803 work started on the Caledonian Canal, linking the Atlantic and the North Sea by way of the Great Glen, designed and managed by Thomas Telford from Westerkirk near Langholm. The basic idea was to extend the coast line by providing canal routes into the interior. It was believed, just as with railways later on, that investors, entrepreneurs, builders, industries and even towns would be encouraged to develop along the banks of the waterways so boosting the economy and supplying local employment. As the protocol for the Glenkens Canal stated: 'The object of this navigation is to give facilities for the conveyance of coal, lime, manure and general merchandize, into the interior of the stewartry or county of Kirkcudbright, and for the improvement of the estates which border upon it'.

The route was surveyed by the prominent engineer John Rennie. The canal started in the tideway of the Dee at Kirkcudbright running along the east bank of the river to Kelton and on to Loch Ken. The ten-mile stretch was to require 14 locks. From the north end of the loch it was an estimated three miles to the Boat Pool of Dalry where the project ended. The entire cost was calculated at £33,382. 'The Company of Proprietors of the Glenkens Canal Navigation', comprising 28 individuals who were mostly local landowners, was created to raise the necessary funds. The erection of warehouses and the construction of wharfs along the route was positively encouraged.

Such a canal had actually been mooted at least 30 years earlier by Gordon of Greenlaw, Sheriff of Kirkcudbright, who had suggested the Tarff or the Urr as alternatives to the Dee. New Galloway's native son, Robert Heron, was a keen supporter of the idea but, knowing the Glenkens folk as he did, he suspected they would have no stomach for such a project which, though modest in conception, appeared to them highly ambitious. They did not realise, quite yet, that good communications were the key to future prosperity. Heron, however, remained optimistic. When the canal was built it would open up a district that has 'too long remained in a stationary condition'.

Of course it never was built but when John Rennie, builder of the Lancaster Canal, London Bridge and the Lune Aquaduct, constructed the Ken Bridge in 1820-21, at a cost of £10,960 (approximately £466,000 today), he left spaces for the 'flat boats' or barges that might yet pass under its arches.

There may be a message here for us today, namely that we can talk about the economic potential of new technologies until they become redundant, with no benefit whatsoever to the community.

A final thought - Rennie's splendid granite bridge over the Ken joined that other fine specimen at Tongland designed by Thomas Telford (1808). Bridge of Dee, downriver from Threave Castle, was built in the early 1700s; High Bridge of Ken, above College Linn, must have been built around the same time. Our own bridge is almost 200 years old, the others even older. Are we building any bridges today that will last that long? Are we treating Rennie's magnificent creation with appropriate respect, pounded daily as it is by timber trucks, agricultural traffic and private cars in the middle of the road, fearful of the proximity of the bridge's balustrades? The bridge symbolises the triumph of roads over rivers, an important icon of Glenkens heritage which must be preserved for posterity.

Ted Cowan



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The Bells of the Glenkens

The earliest bell from the Glenkens is quite different from any of the others. It is the bronze covering of an early Celtic bell which was found in a moss at Monybuie at the east end of Balmaclellan parish, and is believed to date from around the fifth century. It is on display in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The other bells all hang in the churches or Town Halls. The oldest of these is the fine bell in Kells Church, which is inscribed 'Ex Dono Gulliemi Gordon. Quirin De Visser Me Fecit. Rotterdami 1722.' This may be translated as 'Donated by William Gordon. Quirin De Visser made me. Rotterdam 1722.' Tradition has it that the well-known Covenanter Roger Gordon of Largmore presented the bell to Kells Church after the times of persecution. It is not fully clear whether he also went by the name of William Gordon or whether a related member of the family gave the bell.

The old bell from Carsphairn Church may be viewed inside the church (see also photo). It was badly cracked after it fell to the ground. It was made by Robert Maxwell of Edinburgh in 1723 and donated to the church by Rev John Reid, who was minister from 1694 until 1737. The current bell hanging in the belfry was presented to the church by the heritors in 1886 and made by John C. Wilson & Co of Glasgow. Dalry Church's bell is simply inscribed 'Dalry: 1754'. It is believed to have been made by Ralph Ashton of Wigan. The



birdcage belfry of Balmaclellan Church has a bell inscribed '1633 / Recast 1886 / JBA McKinnel.' McKinnel's had a foundry in Dumfries. It is unfortunate that the original bell had to be recast.

New Galloway Town Hall has two bells. The Treble bell is inscribed, 'Ex Dono Magistri Gulielmi Cochran, Kilmarnock / R.M. Fecit. Edr 1711. S. Miller & Co, Glasgow, April 1812 / I. Watt Fecet.' The Tenor bell is inscribed, 'For Willeam Viscount of Kenmur. R.M. Fecit. Edin: 1711 / For the Hon. Mrs Louisa Bellamy Gordon. Recast A.D. 1872 / (on the waist the Arms of the Burgh and the Arms of Kenmure.) So Robert Maxwell of Edinburgh cast two bells for the steeple in 1711 and both subsequently have been recast. The larger bell was recast when the present clock, by Gillett and Bland of Croydon, was installed and the latter strikes on it. There is no founder's name but the style is of John C. Wilson of Glasgow. Dalry Town Hall has an uninscribed bell which was presented to the village in 1890 with the clock by James Alexander of Mackilston.

So all of these bells have tolled out across our parishes for over a hundred years and some for nearly three centuries. The information in this article came from a paper on 'The Church and Other Bells of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright' by F.C. Eeles and R.W.M. Clouston, published in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland of 1966-67, which is available on the internet.

David Bartholomew

Community Afternoon at Polmaddy Village

The second annual community walk organised by Carsphairn Parish Church Social Committee took place at Polmaddy Medieval Village.

Following last year's successful walk and picnic at the lead mines the group organised a tour of the Polmaddy Medieval village and Robin Ade was on hand to lead the walk.

Robin delighted the members of the community with tales of community spirit and the importance of the village with its inn to the drovers that used the trail – once the main route through the south west of Scotland.



After the walk the group enjoyed coffee and cakes provided by the ladies of the social committee and Mrs Ade. Nigel Martin offered a vote of thanks to Robin for his enlightening guided tour.

The ruins of Polmaddy are accessible to everyone and there are illustrated signs –drawn by Robin – outlining the sites. The ruins are situated along the forest road opposite Dundegh village on the A713.





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Health Tips: TIPS FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN

by Nutritionist, Dietician & Allergy Specialist Lorna Willock

- 1) Make sure they eat a breakfast low in sugar and containing plenty of fibre such as porridge or weetabix. A lot of boxed breakfast cereals calling themselves 'wholegrain' are loaded with sugar.
- 2) Give them plenty of fruit snacks rather than sweets during the day. Dried fruit such as little boxes of raisins are great for carrying in the car, handbag or schoolbag.
- 3) Make sure they are having plenty of protein for growth and cut back on pasta and pizza for tea – these are loaded with carbohydrates and fat with very little protein.
- 4) Make the bread wholemeal from the start. We all get to like what we are used to so start with wholemeal bread which is full of fibre.
- 5) Give plenty of water to drink or dilute some fresh fruit juice. Cans of fizzy juice are loaded with sugar and a lot of diluting drinks contain colourings and aspartame.
- 6) Try to do as much home cooking as possible e.g. soups, stews and avoid 'ready meals'.
- 7) If the kids are hungry then peanut butter and wholemeal toast makes a nutritious snack rather than crisps or biscuits.
- 8) The food industry advertises a lot of foods unhealthy for children. If they have a good, nutritious start in life this builds powerful immune systems and keeps childhood obesity at bay.

For further info contact Lorna: 01644 470218 www.foods4life.co.uk lorna@foods4life.co.uk

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



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- Crimestoppers: 0845 555 111

Dalry Library Opening Times

Tue: 2 - 4.30pm then 5.30 - 7.30pm

Fri: 11:15am - 1:15pm then 2 - 4.30pm

23 mobile library stops - to find out where and when call 430 234**TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS****CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sundays**Balmaclellan 12noon 1stCarsphairn 10.30am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th (Oct)Dalry 12noon 1st 2nd 3rd 4thKells 10.30am 2nd (Oct) 3rd 4th**Special Services and Events****3rd Oct, 10.30am:** Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Carsphairn Church, followed by Harvest Lunch in Lagwyne Hall**3rd Oct, 12noon:** Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Balmaclellan Church, followed by Harvest Lunch in Balmaclellan Village Hall**3rd Oct, 6.30pm:** Harvest Songs of Praise in Carsphairn Church**11th Oct, 7.30pm:** Fellowship Dinner at Ken Bridge Hotel with Gavin and Desiree Campbell from South Africa**30th Oct, 10am-12noon:** Abbas Rest Coffee Morning, Dalry Town Hall**31st Oct, 10.30am:** United Service with Glenkens Church Choir in Carsphairn Church**14th Nov, 11am:** Ceremonies at New Galloway and Balmaclellan War Memorials, followed by Remembrance Service in Kells Church**19th Nov, 7.30pm:** Quiz Night in Balmaclellan Village Hall**26th Nov, 7.30pm:** Scottish Night with John Douglas and friends in Dalry Town Hall**Communion Service:****24th Oct, 12noon:** Dalry Church**7th Nov, 12noon:** Balmaclellan Church**21st Nov, 10.15am:** Carsphairn Church**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E)**

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

Gatehouse of Fleet: Sat, 6pm

Kirkcudbright: Sun, 9.30am

Dalbeattie: Sun, 11am

St Ninian's Episcopal Church, Castle

Douglas, contact Rev McFadden for info on 01557 330687.

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS**OCTOBER**

Sat 2, Theatre Objektiv - A Promised Land, 7.30pm, The CatStrand

Mon 4, Dalry CC Meeting, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall
Thu 7 - Sat 23, Stewartry Camera Club Exhibition, The Tolbooth, Kirkcudbright

Thu 7, Storytelling Café - Renita Boyle presents Truly Goulie, 7.30-9.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 11, Kells CC Meeting, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Wed 13, Film: Alice in Wonderland, 2pm, The CatStrand

Thu 14, Magic Spaghetti by Virginia Radcliffe - Licketyspit Theatre Company & Brunton Theatre, Workshop: 12pm, Show: 2:30pm

Thu 14, SOC Talk with Mike Betts, see p10

Sat 16, Book Launch & Dalry Bird Town Event, 10am, Dalry Town Hall

Mon 18, Workshop 1: Environmental Art Taster Day, 10am - 4pm, Dalry School, see p11

Tue 19 - Fri 22, Creative Explorer Workshop, 10am-4 pm each day, Dalry School, see p11

Thu 21, Craft Group, 2-4pm, Dalry Community Centre, see p2

Thu 21, GTI bus trip to Summerlee Ind. Museum, see p9

Fri 22, Andy White, 8pm, The CatStrand

Sat 23, Storytelling Festival On Tour - Eastern Routes: Authentic Voices, 7:30pm, The CatStrand

Sat 23, Music & Songs of the 30's & 40's with Terri Farley, Jim McPhee & Colin Feierabend, 7.30pm, Mossdale Hall, see p2

Sun 24, Storytelling Masterclass, 10am-1pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 25, Carsphairn CC Meeting, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall

Wed 27, Film: Departures directed by Yojiro Takita, 7.30pm The CatStrand

Fri 29, Balmaclellan CC Meeting, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Sat 30, Abbas Rest Coffee Morning, 10am-12noon, Dalry Town Hall, see p2

Sat 30, Madame Bibelots House of Otherworldly Delights, 5 - 9pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

NOVEMBER

Mon 1, Stillmotion with Starcatchers present We Dance, We Groove - A Dance Event for Pre-School Children, 1:30pm, The CatStrand

Thu 11, SOC Talk with Norman Elkins, see p10

Wed 10, Gerry and Donal O'Connor, 7.30pm, The CatStrand

Wed 17, Galloway Gatherings Lecture Series, 2-4pm, The CatStrand, see p8

Fri 19, Dalry Angling Association AGM, 7.30pm, Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry

Sat 20, White: Catherine Wheels Theatre Company with Brunton Theatre, 2pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 20, Kells School Christmas Fayre, 10am-12noon, Kells School

Wed 24, Galloway Gatherings Lecture Series, 2-4pm, The CatStrand, see p8

Wed 24, Film: A Single Man, 7:30pm, The CatStrand

Thu 25, Christmas Shopping Evening, 5-8pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 27, The Sofa Show featuring Fred MacAulay & Parrot, 8pm, The CatStrand

Mon 29, Discovery Film Festival - Shorts for Wee Ones, 1.30pm, The CatStrand

DECEMBER

Wed 1, Galloway Gatherings Lecture Series, 2-4pm, The CatStrand, see p8

Wed 1, GTI bus trip to Ayr - xmas shopping or the Races, see p9

Fri 3, CatStrand Youth Players, The CatStrand

Sat 4, Carsphairn's Got (Even More) Talent, 7.30pm, Lagwyne Hall

REGULAR EVENTS:

Glenkens Ramblers, meet Mon 2pm in summer, 1.30pm in winter, outside Bank of Scotland, Dalry

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

Glenkens Walking Group, meet Wed 2pm in summer, 1.30 in winter, outside Bank of Scotland, Dalry

Stewartry Camera Club: most Wednesdays throughout the winter at 7.30 pm in The Tolbooth, Kirkcudbright

Mossdale Painters, starts again Wed 29 Sept, Mossdale Village Hall, 9.30am each Wed for 10 sessions, see p12

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 p6&7)

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 (ages 8-12)

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

Carers Coffee & Chat, starts Tues 1st Dec, 10am-12noon

Teen Spirit: every Tues during term time, 7.30-9.30pm

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

Gentle Yoga & Relaxation, Thurs, 10-11.15am

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

Baby Reflexology, drop-in last Fri each month 10am-12noon

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

Tone & Stretch, Fri 10am, £4/£3

Catstrand Youth Players, will start again on 5 Sept and run every Sun during term time from 3-5pm

Glenkens Youth Choir, Sun, 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 drop-in class: Mon 7.30-9pm, £5

Ballroom & Latin Dance course: Mon 9-10pm, for more info tel Sam Hood on 01644 420672

Good Neighbours Club: Tues 2pm

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

Glenkens Mother & Toddlers: Wed 1.30-3pm

Craft Class: Thurs 2-4pm

Brownies: Wed 5.30-6.45pm

Guides: Wed 5.30-7pm

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 Ade on 07727 127 997 or glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk
DEC/JAN COPY DEADLINE: Mon 1st November

Printing the Glenkens Gazette for the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust is just one way of expressing our commitment to the communities we work in.
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