

GLENKENS GAZETTE

news from Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Mossdale, New Galloway and St John's Town of Dalry

October/November 2011

ISSUE 66

FREE

Glenkens Award Winners

The 2011 Celebration of Achievement (COA) Awards were held on Thursday 1 September at Threave Visitor Centre.

Last held in 2009, the Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements and contribution made to life in the Stewartry by a wide range of learners, community groups and volunteers.

There are eight categories in total, and the Glenkens was well represented among the winners with Carsphairn First Responders coming in first in the 'Safe & Secure' category, in the category 'Making the Locality Healthier' Glenkens Walking Group came in first and Paddlers for Life third, and in the 'Environmental Award' category Carsphairn Community Garden came third. Well done everyone!

Pictured: Margaret Richmond and Anne Rutherford from Carsphairn First Responders receiving their award from Mike McCormick of the D&G Constabulary.



Keep Our Playgroup Open

Dumfries & Galloway Council are set to cut pre-school funding for the Glenkens Playgroup.

Due to the fact the school nursery has 20 spaces available, not all of which are currently filled, the Council say they have to cut funding to the Playgroup or they are, in effect, 'double-funding' as

effects for our community are far-reaching - if Council funding is withdrawn, the Playgroup will have to close as it isn't financially viable for it to continue without it.

This means there will be no childcare/education facility at all for under 3's within the whole of the Glenkens, with children missing out on at least a year of pre-school education at an age when educational input is of vital importance to child development.

On Page 6 are contact details for a consultation the Council is doing to find out people's views. Please get in touch; the more ideas, thoughts and comments received, the more chance of finding a solution to save our Playgroup.



St Margaret's Church Ladies Guild recently raised £300 for the Playgroup. Pictured are, from left to right, Barbara Johnson, Christina Green (Playgroup Chairperson) with daughter Anona, Christine Rankin and Jennie Repath.

state funded children – from the age of three – could be at the nursery, rather than the Council paying for children to go to the Playgroup.

But they would only be saving around £8,000 a year. And the knock-on

Bowled Over

Saturday 3 September was an important day in the history of Dalry's Spalding Bowling Club.

Spalding won the Intercounty Cup, an event played between the former Dumfriesshire Clubs and the Stewartry Clubs, for the first time since 1979.

To celebrate and make an occasion of the presentation, Spalding entertained the Dumfriesshire highest scoring team to a friendly match (accompanied by suitable refreshments) followed by a buffet in the Clachan Inn. The two rinks from Spalding, pictured here receiving the



magnificent cup, were from left to right, Ian Murray, Peter Hamilton, John Peacock, Hamish Sinclair, Arthur McFegan, John McNally, Jim Findlay and Alex Harvie.



Our skilled head chef uses the best local produce including Galloway beef, Craigadam lamb and venison, cheese from Rowan Glen and fish from the Galloway Smokehouse.

With a warm and friendly atmosphere, outstanding food and lovely locals, it's no wonder The Clachan Inn is fast becoming the place to be in the Glenkens.



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Dalry Community Council: Andrew Holmes was voted as Chairperson, Andrew Mellor was voted as Vice-Chairperson, Moira Jones was voted as Secretary and Gerald Bell was voted as Treasurer. The CC has been given a 'green light' to adopt the telephone box by Bone's Garage. *Next meeting: Mon 3 Oct, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.*

New Galloway & Kells Community Council: It was reported that it was well over two years since LING (Local Initiatives in New Galloway) initiated discussions to take over the management of the Town Hall. It was reported that the D&G Council had cut down the flowering cherry trees at the Memorial Park gates as the trees were diseased, it was agreed that a request be made for replacements of flowering cherry trees on the site. *Next meeting: Mon 3 Oct, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall.*

Balmaclellan Community Council: *Next meetings: Mon 31 Oct, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.*

Carsphairn Community Council: Members of D&G Council Educational Services attended the meeting for a Nursery School Consultation. Carsphairn residents were being consulted because some residents had made use of the pre- pre-school facilities in Dalry. Given there is an over capacity of these facilities in Dalry provided by both the Council and the Glenkens Playgroup, the Council were investigating options for rationalisation. The meeting stressed that the Glenkens Playgroup is the only option for pre- pre- school care in Carsphairn, as there are no child minders in the village. *Next meeting: Mon 31 Oct, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall.*

Full minutes of local Community Council meetings can be viewed at Dalry Library.

GTI WEDNESDAY BUS SERVICE

(registered route)

Outward Journey:

19:00 Dept. Dalry (Underhill)
19:10 New Galloway
19:25 Mossdale
19:35 Laurieston
19:40 Townhead of Greenlaw
19:47 Castle Douglas (Market St)
19:50 Castle Douglas (Tesco)

Return journey:

20:45 Dept. Castle Douglas (Tesco)
20:47 Castle Douglas (Market St)
20:52 Townhead of Greenlaw
21:00 Laurieston
21:10 Mossdale
21:25 New Galloway
21:35 Dalry

To book a GTI bus or for more information please contact Keith Cooper, GTI Administrator, on 01644 420374.

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A Full House for Dalry Library

On Tuesday 26 July local author Margaret Elphinstone came to Dalry Library to read from her books and give a talk about her work.

Given the limited space for seating, the Library was feeling packed to the gunnels.

Margaret began by explaining how she came to write her first novel while working as a Librarian in Shetland. The locals frequenting her library were very keen on Norse Sagas and sea-related fiction, and she found inspiration from that as well as in her involvement in archaeological digs on the

islands. To do the research that was vital to the book she had to walk to a phone box and phone Orkney Library for several hours at a time! This, of course, was somewhat before the days of the internet and other such conveniences.

After reading excerpts from some of her books, there were lots of questions from the audience about her work and the research she does for it.

Much envy was expressed by all when she explained that she has to go and follow in the footsteps of her well-travelled characters as part of the research!

An hour seemed far too short, but it was soon time to close and say goodbye. Everyone



agreed it had been thoroughly enjoyable.

I'd like to thank those who came along and also Margret for her inspiring and fascinating talk.

Angela Miller, Dalry Librarian

RNLI Fundraising Awards

Committee members from the Glenkens RNLI Fundraising Group recently attended a presentation of awards ceremony in Kirkcudbright where Marion Bone and Ann Rusby, both from the Glenkens, receive RNLI awards.

The presentations were made by the Lord Lieutenant, Sir Malcolm Ross, during an enjoyable

evening with wine and canapes.

Last year Marion Bone and Ann Rusby stepped down after many years fundraising for the Lifeboats here in the Glenkens. Ann was Treasurer for over 10 years and received a Special Certificate of Thanks. Marion Bone was Chairman of the Glenkens Group for 19 years and under her stewardship over £11,000 was raised for the RNLI; for her hard work and dedication she was awarded the RNLI Silver Medal.

The Lifeboats receive no Government money but rely instead on voluntary donations to meet the cost of maintaining its 24 hour search

and rescue service.

Residents of the Glenkens have always been generous supporters of the RNLI and with over 900 people rescued by Scotland's lifeboats last year it is gratifying to know the money is going to good use.



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VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by natural power



EVERYTHING listed on the Glenkens Freecycle page is **FREE** - you just need to contact the owner and go and pick it up!

Anyone can list an item they no longer want, and hopefully someone else in the area is looking for just that thing and will come and collect it. You can also list items you are looking for, in the hope that someone else is getting rid of something similar and will get in touch with you. If you would like to list something on this page, please get in touch with Sarah on 07727 127 997 or email glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk.

Furniture

Adult bed with mid/dark brown wooden headboards. Can deliver if necessary. Contact: 430 380

Pine single bed, good condition. Contact: 430 013

Tall posted bedhead and footer, dark wood. Contact: 07885 611 360

Clothing

Pair Jigsaw boots brown suede size 6. Contact: Morag on 430 004

1 pair cloth gardening gloves. Contact: Morag on 430 004

5 white M & S girl's school shirts, age 13. Contact: 430 218

1 Dalry Secondary blue sweatshirt, small. Contact: 430 2181

Baby clothes for a girl - various, but lots of pink! A mixture from 0 to about 18 months. Contact: Sarah on 07727 127 997

Dalry Secondary blue cardigan (girls), 34". Contact: 430 218

1 Girl Guide navy hoodie, size 32". Contact: 430 218

1 black boy's rain jacket with detachable black fleece, John Lewis, age 11/12. Contact: 430 218

Various

12 champagne flutes, 10 matching and 2 a slightly different design. Contact: Jean - Packwood End, High Street, New Galloway, 420 372.

Round mirror with a white painted wooden ornate frame. Contact: 430 212

Scanner: Acer ScanPrisa 340 (USB, PC and Mac compatible). Contact: Margaret on 460 250

Sony Colour TV, 22 inch

Trinitron.

Contact: 460 516

HP DeskJet 930C Colour printer. Contact: Margaret on 460 250

Scanner, Epson. Contact: Sarah on 430 138

Electric radiator. Contact: 07769 696116

Scanner, Packard Bell. Contact: Sarah on 430 138

Demijohns. Contact: 430 281

5 x 15kg butane cylinders (the blue ones). Contact: Morag on 430 004

10 BBC Good Food magazine back issues. Contact: Morag on 430 004

3 (probably a lot more) mountain bike magazine back issues. Contact: Morag on 430 004

1 Indian cloth bound notebook. Contact: Morag on 430 004

Childrens

Backpack carrier for baby. Contact: Sarah on 07727 127 997

For childrens' clothing see 'Clothing' section.

DIY/Home Fittings

20 Brass stair rods approx 1metre wide. Contact: 07769 680 938

New, varnished 4 panel pine door, clear satin varnish finish. 205cm x 83cm. Contact: Dennis or Rhoda on 430 031

14 Cement wall head coping stones each 900mm long. Contact: Alan on 07769 680 938

Belfast (ceramic) double sink, 1 side deep, 1 shallow, it is removed and ready to collect. Contact: 430 520

100 approx engineering bricks. Brand new. Contact: 07769 680

938

Victorian style chrome bath mixer tap with telephone type shower attachment. Excellent condition. Contact: Alan on 07769 680 938

Victorian cast iron bath. Roll top, claw foot. This very heavy bath has been sitting in my back garden for many years and so will need to be renovated if you want a classy item for your bathroom. On the other hand it could be an up-market cattle trough. If you want it you will need some very strong friends to help! Contact: 430 387

Small cast iron Victorian style fire insert with grate and front. 18ins wide by 30 ins high. Contact: Alan on 07769 680 938

60 approx cement bricks. Brand new. Contact: 07769 680 938

WANTED

Stone tumbler. Contact: Emma on 07885 611 360

Car dog guard. Contact: Jean on 07917 683 089

Shoe rack. Contact 07727 127 997

Garden summer house. Contact: Margaret on 460 250

Multi-fuel stove. Contact: 07885 611 360

Welsh dresser/dresser/sideboard. Contact 430 138

Wanted - dog guard for unruly dog! Contact: 430 607

King size bed. Contact Sarah on 430 138

Any house plants looking for a new home. Contact: 07885 611 360

Tumble dryer. Contact: Emma on 07885 611 360

Book Shelves. Contact 07727 127 997

Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power 

Each issue, a member of the community or an expert in the field will submit an article for our Eco Feature. In this issue we have an article by Roland Chaplin on community ownership of renewables and energy storage for local use.

The Scottish Government recently announced a commitment to supporting communities towards their owning at least 500MW of renewable energy generation by 2020.

This comes hard on the heels of the Forestry Commission's proposals for partnerships with local communities to harness renewable energy from their estate. In the draft Local Plan much of the area from just east of the Hidden Road northwards through Blackcraig to Windy Standard is being proposed as suitable for medium or large scale wind farm development.

In the past one of the main concerns about what appeared to be excessive support for wind farms, compared with other sources of renewable energy, was extreme intermittency and moderate unpredictability. Two factors have changed, both of which offer huge potential opportunities for future economic regeneration and sustainability in the Glenkens and surrounding area. These are energy storage and data centre demand for renewable energy. Communities elsewhere in Scotland are going down the route towards storing energy in the form of hydrogen or methane to be used to generate electricity and heat

when required and to fuel local transport. The question is increasingly being asked – why should large energy corporations and their shareholders reap huge profits from a mix of UK Government subsidies and 'our' energy? There still has to be a national grid and part of it badly needs upgrading. However, maybe that does not need to be to the levels proposed now that there is a growing realisation of the importance of using electricity as near as possible to where it is generated.

What only a few people seem to have grasped so far is that in the future energy and data will become increasingly interchangeable. That is where data centres and cloud computing come into the picture. Carbon taxes Europewide (and perhaps worldwide) look like rising from around 17% to 60%.

Data centres are already one of the largest energy user sectors but through cloud computing they can also massively decrease the amount of energy wasted on our present day hard drives, lap tops, etc. There are lots of reasons why this displacement is highly desirable. In order not to have to pay these high and necessary taxes providers of 'data centre' facilities will increasingly want to have multiple dedicated sources of renewable energy.

The Glenkens and surrounding area is particularly well placed to play a leading role in

demonstrating how a community can come together to grasp this opportunity. However, for this to happen there needs to be the strongest possible negotiating team in place to see off exploitative windfarm developers and work with those who are willing to help communities in the Stewartry to own all or at least part of any new windfarms.

The same model could also apply to new hydro schemes, solar farms, biomass plants, energy storage systems and even possibly eventually the harnessing of tidal and wave energy from the Solway.

This may all sound like a fanciful dream and it will take years to realise as well as a great deal of hard work. However, faced with the dual global challenges of resource depletion and climate disruption, there seems no other route to ensure sustainability and balanced communities in this area in the future. What ever we may individually think, the 'multi-media' age and energy revolutions will happen. We have a window of opportunity now not to be exploited but rather be the initiators and the beneficiaries. Do grasp it!

I am happy to remain a contact point for people wanting to find out more about how to be part of this digital multi-media age and energy revolution.

by Roland Chaplin

Tel: 01644 420361

Email: roland@glenkensbb.co.uk

Music & Merriment

On Fiday 7 October there will be an Evening of Music and Song in New Galloway Town Hall.

Terri Farley and Colin Feierabend will be

accompanied by Jim McPhee on piano and keyboard, and music will feature songs from the 1920's and 1930's.

Cheese and wine will be served. The concert is in aid of Balmaclellan & Kells Church Fund and tickets, priced £6, may be obtained from Kirk Session members or by phoning 420 309.

CatStrand Highlights

October/November Highlights

The first days of October 2011 mark the first ever Day of The Region in Dumfries & Galloway, and the people of the Glenkens will be out in force, celebrating all that we have to offer.

At CatStrand we are very excited to be kicking off the weekend with a performance by the CatStrand Youth Players on Friday 30 September. We are also delighted to be presenting an exhibition celebrating both images of the Glenkens and the photographers that live here.

Ted & Morag Leeming, Phil McMenemy and Alan Wright will be exhibiting from Saturday 1 to Thursday 13 October.

The season comes to a close with a performance of The Hunted by leading theatre company Visible Fictions, and a visit by comedian Jo Caulfield who you might recognise from Mock the week, Michael MacIntyre's Comedy Roadshow or Have I got News for you. We can't wait!

We will be well into winter for the start of our November – February season, and what better way to spend the cold nights than with some excellent CatStrand entertainment.

We are taking a wee trip over to Dalry on Friday 4 November for a nautical journey with All or Nothing and StrangeBird Zirkus and their performance Uncharted Waters; a mixture of circus dance and theatre using Chinese Pole and aerial fabrics. This performance has been made possible with the kind support off the Lochinvar Hotel.

All folks over the age of six should come and join us for The Curious Scrapbook of Josephine Bean (Saturday 19 November) brought to us by Shona Reppe puppets, and on Monday 21 November Icarus Theatre bring us a blood- thirsty production of Macbeth, fresh from great reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe.

On Saturday 26 November make sure you join us for Christmas shopping CatStrand style, where you can enjoy a relaxed festive

atmosphere with a range of stalls stocking crafts, produce and lots of gifts. Relax and sip a glass of mulled wine while you ponder your purchases.

In November look out for the launch of our Family Film Club; on the first Saturday of each month we'll show a family friendly film. Join up for the year for entry to all films.

Do you love films? We are also looking to re-launch our CatStrand film Club where members get to choose what gets shown on our big screen once a month and discuss it over a glass of wine or coffee. Please email jodie@catstrand.com or call 01644 420 374 if you are interested in joining.

For information & tickets call CatStrand on 01644 420 374 or visit www.catstrand.com.



Josephine Bean

Pre-school Education in Dalry: Your Views



If you have an interest in pre-school education in your community, then you may wish to hear about

a consultation Dumfries & Galloway Council is carrying out.

Having completed our annual enrolment for pre-school education the Council has identified a significant over-capacity in Dalry, with both the school nursery and Glenkens Playgroup providing pre-school education.

We are now gathering information and collecting views to inform any decisions we make on the future provision of this service.

To find out more or to share your views, please contact us at by email at sandra.fisher@dumgal.gov.uk or call 01387 273950.



Christmas Shopping Event



The CatStrand
Saturday 26th November
2pm-6pm



Take away the stress of Christmas shopping and buy all your presents **locally** at **The CatStrand!**

Choose from an *exclusive* seasonal collection of locally made arts & crafts...

- Gifts & Cards
- Decorations
- Local Produce
- Chocolate
- Jewellery
- Homewares
- Willow Work
- Wine Tasting and much more..

Enjoy live music, mulled wine and mince pies while you browse....

or visit our webshop for your online shopping
www.spendandraise.com/CatStrand



The CatStrand
New Galloway
01644 420 374
www.catstrand.com

The CatStrand is an operating name of Glenkens Community & Arts Trust, a registered Scottish Charity, No. SC032050

THE JOY OF BREATHING WITH AWARENESS

For many years I have experienced breathing with awareness, and found it to be one of the most effective ways to re-balance, calming the mind and emotions and relaxing the body.

Many people say; "but I do breathe or I wouldn't be alive". Yes, but the breath I am speaking of is practised with a gentle awareness, allowing the breath to flow in without stress or strain - just the act of being aware is so important.

Most people breathe high in the upper chest and very shallowly,

without much awareness except during times of exercise, fear and anxiety.

Life is so fast paced and most people seem to rush around in such a highly stressed way that the body, mind and emotions become overwhelmed. Eventually something has to give and unfortunately illness and accidents are usually what stops people from continuing in this destructive way.

One of the ways to avoid this happening is to consider some time set aside to breathe with awareness.

Any time you feel overwhelmed or stressed, try to find a quiet place and bring your full awareness to

your breath. Listen to the sound of your breath and feel it moving in to the nose and flowing down into the body, then flowing out again through the nostrils.

Allow the breath to deepen and slow down and just observe any thoughts that come into the mind without focusing on them, bringing your attention back to your breath. Feel the body soften and relax, the emotions calm, and a deeper sense of wellness and peace fill you.

In my personal sessions with clients we breathe together and this helps the client to move from a mind to a heart space.

The breath of life is a gift - cherish your breath.

by Julie Ann Jones

RELAXATION AND SELF AWARENESS

A new evening course over 4 weeks at

THE CATSTRAND

NEW GALLOWAY

Wednesday evenings 7pm - 8.30pm

Starting 12 October 2011

The course will be fun and empowering and offer much 'food for thought'.

It is suitable for all ages and particularly anyone who is wanting to learn easy ways to manage stress and anxiety and bring more balance and peace into their daily life.

The course will be run by Julie Ann Jones who is an experienced facilitator. Her warmth and compassion gently encourages all who choose to work with her to open to their fuller potentials.

New courses planned for SPRING 2012

Please visit website for more info on the course, tutor, payment and booking

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Reading Picnic at Dalry Library

To get in the mood for those long, hot, lazy days of summer-holiday reading, S1 pupils picnicked on the lawn behind Dalry Library with lunch and a novel.

While there, half a dozen of them collected their new membership tickets, adding to the growing number of junior library members.

Those long, hot, summer days may not have shaped up, but Aaron, pictured enjoying strawberries and Sophie McKenzie's 'The Set-Up', kept reading regardless. He read the whole series of five 'Medusa Project' novels over the holiday.

English teacher Mrs. Nurse and school librarian Jane Banner plan to make the most of the September sunshine and have another reading picnic, this time in the school garden.



CatStrand Youth Players

The Youth Players returned after the summer break at the beginning of September and launched straight into planning their show on Friday 30 September.

The September show is part of the Day of the Region weekend of events. As the idea of Day of the Region is to showcase everything that

goes on in the various communities, the Youth Players' evening will take the form of an 'Oscars Ceremony' to give them the chance to reprise some of their favourite moments from all of their productions to date. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in the fun on the evening and help the members to celebrate their achievements over the past three years.

Plans are also afoot to stage a CatStrand Pantomime before Christmas, involving the Youth Players with a little help on stage from some of the adult members of the '73 Club. Watch out for

Glenkens Horticultural Society Flower & Vegetable Show

There were lots of exhibitors at this year's show, although due to the changeable weather some sections were not as full as usual.

The Decorative and Handicraft Sections were once again very creative with beautiful arrangements and original craftwork in all the categories.

The Flower Section was particularly well entered, which was surprising due to the very wet and windy weather recently that so many blooms were in excellent condition.

The Photographic Section once again had many entries with the theme 'Building or Buildings' there were many interpretations and it was a hard decision for the judge to make.

Mouthwatering entries in the Produce Section were on display and of course did I mention the wine section...?

The Junior Section had lots of imaginative ideas including the miniature garden, painted stone and a birthday card for a 100 year old lady.

The Society would like to thank everyone involved in the show, whether participating, organising, judging or coming along to support it, because without you it wouldn't happen. See you next year!

Joan Berkley on behalf of the Glenkens Society



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Bon Paris

Fourth Year pupil Kirstin Stalker writes...

On Sunday 3 July we gathered at Dalry School at 10.45pm to join Douglas Ewart High School on a trip to Paris. We embarked on an extremely long coach journey down Britain, through the Eurotunnel and across France. We finally arrived at our hotel in Saint Ouen, Paris, and took a stroll around Paris at night.

In the morning we went shopping at Les Quatre Temps shopping centre in La Défense.

After lots of fantastic shopping and lunch, we saw the sights of La Défense, the main business district in France. We then drove through Paris to the Sacré Coeur cathedral which had breathtaking views of Paris. Before returning to our hotel, we went to a chocolate museum which gave us plenty of information about the history of

chocolate, and samples too!

That evening we took the Metro to Les Invalides in the centre of Paris and went on a boat trip along the Seine. We got a brilliant tour of Paris lit up at night - it was stunning, and was the highlight of the trip!

We woke bright and early the next morning and ventured to the top of the Tour Eiffel. It was scary but a fantastic opportunity to see panoramic views of Paris. When we finally climbed down, we drove to Notre Dame where we were entertained by some very talented pigeons. We then went to the famous Louvre museum that houses artwork and sculptures like the Venus de Milo and the Mona Lisa. To round off a great day, we ate at the Auberge du Louvre restaurant then returned to the hotel to pack.

It was a fantastic trip and I will most definitely be returning to Paris one day!

Picture: Pupils taking in the view from the Eiffel Tower.



Crafts for Christmas

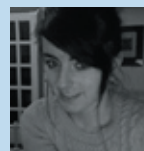
This October and November will see two new craft events happening in the Glenkens.

On Saturday 26 November Mossdale Village Hall will be having a Craft Fair, and over the weekend of 1 and 2 October Dalry's Thursday Craft Group are having an Art & Craft Show.

The Mossdale Fair, which is to raise funds for the village hall, will run from 10am-4pm and will include ceramics, felted jewellery, painting, knitting, cross-stitch and much more. Refreshments will be served and visitors are encouraged to continue on to New Galloway for the CatStrand's Christmas Shopping Evening, which runs from 4 to 6pm.

The Dalry Craft Show is in the Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, and will run from 11am to 4pm. A wide variety of local artists and crafts people will be displaying their work, from woodwork to clogs, spinning to sculpture. Come along and have a look!

CAITLIN'S COLUMN



Daunting?

Yes. Scary?

Absolutely. Exciting?

Most definitely. There are a jumble of different emotions racing around in my brain at the thought of leaving home.

I'm still at that point where it's not really real - it's somewhere in the distant future. In fact, it's in less than two weeks...

The fact is I can't wait to become independent - I've waited so long - but on the brink of achieving this it just feels surreal. I don't think I will get homesick or sad - sure I'll miss my family, but I know I'll be home again for holidays.

My main concern is about finding a good circle of friends. Everyone tells me it will be fine and that I will find loads of people who are just like me.

Right now things are going steady and slow but by the time you read this the wind will have picked up speed and carried me into the whirlwind of excitement that is the great city of Manchester.

From what I imagine I will have so much fun in my first term that it will just fly by and then before I know it I'll be home in Galloway and the narrow lanes, dotted with bare-branched trees, will be sparkling with white crystals of snow. Our house will be decorated with flashing icicle lights, the Christmas tree proudly presented in the window and I will have a chance to unwind.

Christmas in Galloway is my favourite thing in the world! I don't know what, maybe it's the familiarity of tradition or the beauty of the snow-coated landscape or that feeling of nostalgia I get when we decorate our tree... All I know is that I'll be happy to come home.

Are You Entitled to More?

Unfortunately, the Stewartry has lost out again with more money and more qualified staff going to support the Financial Management and Inclusion Teams within the other areas of Dumfries & Galloway.

We have one advisor to cover the whole of the Stewartry but, luckily for us, what a gem she is.

Kay Harper is an angel. She is a thoughtful, compassionate, approachable person whose knowledge and professionalism shines through. I have worked with Kay for three years and have seen the difference she has

made to so many lives with her advice.

She does a basic financial assessment and from there will assist with applications. Applications, that help to put more money in people's pockets. Money which can help in this time of inflation and rapidly increasing prices. Money that people are entitled but are often unaware is available to them.

It is not scrounging or being on welfare it is simply reward/support for the roles that so many people in the Glenkens do. Provide care for loved ones, often when their own health is not great. It is not charity either; supporting carers - husbands and wives or other family members caring within the home for as long as possible saves the local government

a fortune. A fortune in care homes, care staff, etc.

If you are reading this and live alone, you may also be entitled to support that will help you to continue to live independently for as long as possible or help with bills, etc.

Please, if you see that Kay is coming to your area take the opportunity to come along and find out more. We are keen to run more advice sessions within the local halls of the Glenkens but I want to make sure that Kay's precious time is well spent and sessions are well attended.

So, again, please take the jump and make an appointment next time Kay is in the area. Get in touch with me at the CatStrand on 01644 420 374 to find out more.

Catherine Phillips, Community Development Worker

Dalry Angling Association 1930 – 20...?

Dalry Angling Association was formed in 1930, when a meeting was called in Dalry Town Hall to consider a letter from the Hon Henry Mountjoy Upton of The Holm, Balmaclellan.

The letter was an offer to the people of Dalry and Balmaclellan of Moss Roddick and the River Ken from Dalry to Boat Knowe as fishing grounds.

At a meeting on 22nd December 1930, the accounts showed £10 13/- credit balance, and it was agreed to purchase 250 two year old trout and release them in Moss Roddick. They cost £12 13/-. There is no record of how the shortfall was made up!

I am reminded of the words of Norman Fitzroy Maclean who at the age of 73 wrote his iconic novella 'A river runs through it'.

When Norman was asked by an officer of the law how he might help a wayward brother he replied simply; "I would take him fishing".

Today, Junior members fish for the McAdam Trophy - the Winner of the Junior Competition this year was Annabelle McAdam.

Over the years the Committee has changed fairly frequently and although expenses

had always been given, Honorariums were introduced to encourage Officers running the Associations. Efforts have been made to publicise the Association through a new website along with articles in local publications, in the anticipation that new members will join the Association.

The club has been in existence for 81 years but sadly is in danger of closure. Membership is down to 24 and it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit committee members, and as such it becomes difficult to hold meetings through lack of a constitutional quorum.

Residents of Dalry and Balmaclellan can join at £12 and anyone joining now for next season will get the rest of this season for free.

You can join by e-mailing the secretary direct from our web site at www.dalryanglingassociation.co.uk. You can also e-mail the web master direct from the site should you wish to advertise your shop, hotel, guest house, holiday cottage or local events for free.

Jeff Hardman

Christmas Fun on the Bus

Even if you don't want to do Christmas shopping, the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) have arranged three trips which can be just a good day out.

Mon 14 Nov – Hetland Garden Centre (lunch) and Moffat.

Tue 29 Nov – Ayr - Shopping, National Hunt Racing or just a walk by the Sea.

Sat 10 Dec – Historic Carlisle or Shopping.

Over the summer we again provided transport for children attending the D & G Council Disability Playscheme. It is very rewarding to be involved with those less fortunate than ourselves, and also great to see both vehicles being used to such good purpose, including carrying passengers and their wheelchairs on local trips.

GTI were nominated for an award at this years Stewartry Celebration

of Achievement Awards (see front page feature). Although we didn't win the group prize, it was nice to be nominated and we were delighted two of our user groups (Glenkens Walking Group and Paddlers for Life) were also nominated.

Driver Training: By the time you read this Jon Nimmo will be a qualified 'trainer'. Does your 'user group' have it's own driver or does one need training? Please contact Keith at The CatStrand for further details (420 374).

2011 has been an important year for GTI with the purchase of another mini bus. We get busier and busier and as Christmas approaches, I would like to thank everyone who has had anything to do with the success of GTI – the Committee, volunteer drivers, passengers, the staff at The Catstrand, etc.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to planning more events for 2012.

Keith Cooper, GTI Administrator

Tea Party

On a glorious afternoon in July the children and mums of the Glenkens and local residents of New Galloway turned out to support Marie Curie Cancer Care by taking part in a Blooming Great Children's Tea Party.

It was a fun afternoon that everyone enjoyed and we raised a fantastic total of £282 for Marie Curie.

Thanks go to The Smithy Tea Room, Kitty's Tea Room, The CatStrand, Loch Ken Water Ski Centre, Marie at Hopkins shop, Leeming Paterson Photographers, Sarah Ade and Jake and Zoe Hall, as well as the mums and children who baked, and Yvonne Peacock and Sue Rothwell who helped organise the event.



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Update from the Community Garden and Allotment Project

Blimey, that's a bit of a mouthful!

So, to start with, we could do with a new snappy name that sums up what we are all about... 'The Green' or 'Oasis' or 'Sanctuary' perhaps? Any suggestions are very welcome!

Anyway, we are very sorry to be saying farewell to Wendy Fenton, who sadly is leaving the project after getting it off to a good start.

So I will be taking it from here - my name is Catherine Phillips - and I am delighted to have been offered the post.

I'll be sorry to be leaving my role at the CatStrand, where I've had a great three years and it has been a joy to have got to know so many people. Working at the CatStrand has with out a doubt helped me feel more settled and part of this community.

I hope that the Allotment and Community Garden will have the same effect, and will bring people together to work collectively on a specific task or over a cuppa in the communal shelter.

I love allotments, allotment culture and shared community gardens. They play such an important role - not only do they provide a means of providing food for our families, but increase our physical

activity levels, mental health and wellbeing, making us fitter and healthier.

Allotments and gardens can mean different things for different people or at different times in our lives. I am certain that my allotment in Nottingham was crucial in helping me get through a marital breakup by providing me with somewhere to escape to and get physically tired out from - making me sleep better at night and more able to cope with stresses. Now I am looking forward to a place where I can escape to from the never-ending chaos of a household with four kids!

Luckily we plan to incorporate a play area into the site, making it family friendly and enabling parents to dig whilst children are busy playing with others. Bliss...

Anyway, I hope to see you at the allotments, or in the community garden - everyone is welcome to come down and take a look and get involved, whatever their level of expertise.

If anyone is interested in contributing to a regular garden column please get in touch with myself, Catherine Phillips, either on catherinep@catstrand.com or 420 374.

Cheers, Catherine

Uncharted Waters

For the first time since opening in 2007, Catstrand is presenting a performance off-site at Dalry Town Hall.

On Friday 4 November, at 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall will host Uncharted Waters.

This is an exciting new circus dance theatre show currently touring Scotland, and is a creative collaboration between Strangebird Zirkus and All or Nothing aerial dance theatre. Both companies are at the forefront of a dynamic new performance style emerging in Scotland, which crosses the boundaries between circus, dance and theatre.

Thanks go to the Lochinvar Hotel for making this performance possible.

To book tickets, please call CatStrand on 01644 420374 or visit www.catstrand.com.



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LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

The Glenkens Witches



It is often thought that historians are triumphalist about the past they study, but in fact they often have to confront some of the dark stains upon their nation's history.

One of these, in Scotland, was the phenomenon of the Witch Hunt. Between 1563 and 1736 there were 3837 accusations throughout the country of which around 2000 ended in execution. Some 80% were women.

In Dumfries and Galloway there were 128 cases. Many of the victims suffered appalling tortures before being condemned to death. Thankfully, very few were burned alive; they were first strangled. The favoured method for detecting witches in Scotland was sleep deprivation, which then, as now, was an unofficial, but effective, torture.

The first of our Glenkens witches was Janet Macmurdoch of Airds on the shore of Loch Ken where her husband, James Hendrie, was a tenant farmer. Her troubles began when John Moor of Barlay, Balmacellan, baron-baillie of the estate seized some of Janet's livestock for unpaid rent, whereupon she vowed to do him an 'evil turn'. When a cow and calf belonging to Moor died, he challenged Janet who retorted that there was worse to follow. When his child died, "sweating to death", he accused Janet of being a witch of long standing. Soon after others were making similar statements about her. Calves and horses died. One farmer lost 15

cattle, three horses, and his wife; another's child drowned in a peat bog. There were disputes about pasturage.

William Gordon of Minibouie drove Janet's livestock off his grass and she cursed him, hoping he would have fewer cattle to eat his grass next season, which happened when twelve of his oxen and seven horses died. Janet's daughter was employed by Margaret Maclellan in Boghall. When sent to muck out the byre she was found disporting herself in the dung. "Playing some of her mother's devilish tricks" was how Ms Maclellan described it, whereupon her husband fell ill. Disputing with another farmer Janet 'bade the divill pyk out his eyne'. She just could not contain herself, an unwelcome quality in patriarchal Galloway. Before he died the sick man "left his death upon her, and ordained his friends to pursue her as a witch and a necromancer".

Folk began to recall other incidents over the years. She was indicted in 1671 for having taken service with Satan, and practising "sundrie devilische charmes witchcraft and sorcerie". She was tried by jury in Dumfries, found guilty by a majority of one vote, and executed.

Elspeth McEwen of Boghall, Cubbox, Balmacellan was said to be a woman of superior education. Curiously she lived at Boghall, the same place as Margaret Maclellan twenty years earlier. Elspeth allegedly used her talents to bewitch hens into laying extraordinary quantities of eggs or to cause them to stop producing altogether. She also used a wooden pin to steal milk from cows. This was a perennial. The overproduction or underproduction

of milk was almost universally attributed to witchcraft. These are matters that may seem trivial now but they loomed large in agricultural communities.

She bewitched the minister's horse so that it sweated blood when the reverend was sent to bring Elspeth before the session. In later years the road leading to the manse at Balmacellan was known as 'Bloody Brae', a designation that seems to have been forgotten today. She was also accused of correspondence with the Devil. She was arrested and placed in Kirkcudbright tolbooth where she toughed it out for two years before being tormented into confession. One person stood up for her. Janet Corbie "endeavoured to dissuade her to confess" saying that people "sinned their sow!" who said she was a witch. To no avail. We have the accounts for her execution in 1698, late even by Scottish standards.

"Peats to burn Elspeth with" cost £1 Scots, with coals added for good measure.

It cost two shillings to buy a pint of ale for the executioner William Kirk, "when she was burning" and another 13 shillings for further quantities of booze, hopefully to drown his shame.

Neither of the victims were poor; one owned property and the other was well educated. Two independent-minded Glenkens women died for a phantom crime, martyrs to the petty-mindedness of their neighbours, a pitiless kirk and a merciless state.

Ted Cowan

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**Balmacellan
Bonfire Night**

Sat 5 Nov - 6.30pm

£2.50 (soup included)

*There will be a bar, hot-dogs,
mulled wine, and 2 gazebos in
case the weather isn't so good!*

**The fireworks will be
followed by a family-friendly
ceilidh in the Village Hall.**

GLENKENS DIARY...

SEPTEMBER

Fri 30 Sept - Sun 2 Oct, Watson Bird Celebrations, various locations around Dalry

Fri 30, CatStrand Youth Players Performance, CatStrand

OCTOBER

Sat 1 & Sun 2, Day of the Region

Sun 2, Day of the Region Dragon Boat Race Day, Galloway Activity Centre

Sun 2 & Mon 3, Dalry Craft Group Exhibition, Dalry Community Centre, see p9

Sun 2, Day of the Region Walk, starts in field alongside Dalry Church

Wed evenings starting 12 Oct, Relaxation & Self Awareness, 7-8.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 12, 10am - 3pm, Fun with Flowers, £15, CatStrand

Thurs 13, 7:30pm, Film: Life, Above All, £5/4, CatStrand

Tues 25, 7pm, The Hunted, £5/4, CatStrand

Thurs 27, 7:30pm, Jo Caulfield-Cruel To Be Kind, £10/8, CatStrand

Sat 1 - Thurs 13, Photographers of the Glenkens, CatStrand

Sat 15 - Thurs 27, Mossdale Art Group Exhibition, CatStrand

Sat 29 Oct - Thurs 1 Dec, Exhibition: Ross Fulton & Jenny Ford, CatStrand

NOVEMBER

Fri 4, 7.30pm, All or Nothing & Strangebrid Zirkus - Unchartered Waters, £10/8, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 5, Balmaclellan Bonfire Night, 6.30pm, £2.50 (soup included). Followed by family-friendly ceilidh in Balmaclellan Village Hall

Sat 12, 10.30am-12noon, Pickles, Chutneys and Christmas Mincemeat, £2, CatStrand

Mon 14, 5pm-7pm, Introduction to Email, £10, CatStrand

Mon 14, GTI trip to Hetland Garden Centre & Moffat, see p11

Sat 19, 2pm, Shona Reppe Puppets: The Curious Scrapbook of Josephine Bean, £4, CatStrand

Mon 21, 7.30pm, Icarus Theatre: Macbeth, £10/8, CatStrand

Thurs 24, 7.30pm, Film: Potiche, £5/4, CatStrand

Sat 26, Craft Fair, 10am-4pm, Mossdale Village Hall, see p9

Sat 26, 2-6pm, CatStrand Christmas Shopping, FREE, CatStrand

Sat 26, 10am-4pm, Living Willow Structures, £10, CatStrand

Sun 27, 10am -4pm, Building a Community Composting Toilet, £10, CatStrand

Sun 27, 7.30pm, Jenna & Bethany Reid & The Shetland Bus, £10/8, CatStrand

Tue 29, GTI trip to Ayr - Shopping, National Hunt Racing or just a walk by the Sea, see p11

DECEMBER

Thurs 1, 7.30pm, CatStrand Panto, £5/3, CatStrand

Fri 2, 7.30pm, CatStrand Panto, 5/3, CatStrand

Sat 3 Dec - Thurs 26 Jan, Exhibition: Sarah Keast, CatStrand

Mon 5, 5-7pm, Internet Workshop, £10, CatStrand

Fri 9, 7.30pm, Finding Albert, £8/7, CatStrand

Sat 10, GTI trip to Historic Carlisle or Shopping, see p11

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays: Balmaclellan:

12noon 1st, Carsphairn:

10.30am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th, Dalry:

12noon 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th (Oct),

Kells: 10.30am 2nd (Oct) 3rd 4th

Special Services/

Events: 2 Oct, 10.30 am: Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Carsphairn Church, followed by Harvest Lunch in Lagwyne Hall

7 Oct, 7.30 pm: Evening of Music & Song, New Galloway Town Hall

24 Oct, 7.30 pm: Fellowship Dinner at Kenbridge Hotel with Gavin and Des Campbell from South Africa

30 Oct, 10.30 am: United Service with Glenkens Church Choir in Dalry Church

11 Nov, 7.30 pm: Quiz Night in Balmaclellan Village Hall

13 Nov, 11 am: Ceremonies

at New Galloway & Balmaclellan War Memorials followed by Remembrance Service in St Margaret's Church

25 Nov, 7.30 pm: Scottish Night in Dalry Town Hall

Communion

Service: 23 Oct, 12 noon, Dalry Church

6 Nov, 12 noon, Balmaclellan Church

20 Nov, 10.15 am, 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, Castle Douglas: Rev McFadden - 01557 330687.

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

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

23 mobile library stops
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OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

REGULAR EVENTS:

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

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

Beavers: Tues, 6-7.15pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Dog Training: 1st, 2nd, & 4th/5th Tue of the month (not on last Tue of Nov), 7pm, Dalry Town Hall, contact 460 670

Stewartry Camera Club: Wed, 7.30pm, The Tolbooth, Kirkcudbright

Mossdale Painters: Wed, 9.30am, Mossdale Village Hall

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

Thursday Lunch Club: 12.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall, fortnightly starting 6 Jan, £3, contact - Raymond Vincent, 01644 420451.

Lions Club monthly quiz: alternating between The CatStrand & Lochinvar Hotel, contact - Andrew Frew, 01644 420 323

The CatStrand, New Galloway (01644 420 374) :

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am

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

Children's Dance Class: Mon during term time, 3.45-4pm, age 3-7

Carers Coffee & Chat: Tues, 10am-12noon

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

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

Boxercise: Wed, 7-8pm, £4, New Galloway Town Hall

Zumba: Wed: 8-9pm, New Galloway

Town Hall, £4

Gentle Yoga & Relaxation: Thurs, 10-11.15am

Sing it Out: Thurs, 11.30am-12.30pm

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

Family Film Club: 1st Sat each month, 11am, £20/£10 membership

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

Catstrand Youth Players: Sun during term time, 2pm

Glenkens Community Centre (Dalry):

Glenkens Playgroup: Mon-Fri, 9.15-11.45am (contact - Julie 01644 460 687)

Paint & Art: Mon, 1.30-4.30pm & Wed, 7-9pm

Ballroom & Latin Dance drop-in: 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

Thursday Craft Group: starts again Thurs 20 Oct, 2-4pm

Brownies: Wed, 5.30-6.45pm

Guides: Wed, 5.30-7pm

Your Views Wanted

Forestry Commission Scotland has recently acquired Bartagart Farm for new planting and we would like to find out what the local people think – what would be good, what's not so great and what could be changed.

Why?

The aim is to understand and highlight the issues that are important to the community and will act as a guide for the forest design plan for Bartagart.

Who can take part?

We are looking for the views of all age groups. Anyone living in and around Balmaclellan.

Come and have your say at our drop-in:

**Thursday 29 September, 2 - 7pm,
Balmaclellan Village Hall**



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ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE SUCCESS

This year's Games were another great success, with an excellent crowd considering the showery conditions.

All the old favourites such as tossing the sheaf, the tractor pull and of course the gird 'n' cleek world championships were enjoyed, as well as new additions to the day such as archery (provided by Laggan Outdoor) and laser quest

(provided by Galloway Activity Centre).

The Community Council would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Games a great success once again.



Ladies' gird 'n' cleek.

Fantastic Freecycle

The last issue of the Gazette saw our first ever Glenkens Freecycle

page - and it was a huge success!

Almost every item had enquiries, and many were snapped up straight away, which is brilliant news for everyone; those getting rid of things, those getting things

for free, and for the Gazette as it shows how many people read it!

Take a look at Page 4 now to grab a bargain. And if you have anything you would like to list on the Glenkens Freecycle page, please get in touch on 07727 127 997.

Friday 30th September	Saturday 1st October	Sunday 2nd October
■ 10am-5pm Dalry Town Hall Creative Explorer Exhibition ■ 10am-5pm Dalry Town Hall Bird Art Exhibition John Threlfall, Lisa Hooper, Paul Collin, Silvana McLean and others. ■ 10am-4pm Dalry Primary School School Twinning Dalry, Dumfries and Galloway and Dalry in Edinburgh. Dalry (Edinburgh) school come for a day visit to show bird sculptures, make bird boxes and see the red kite feeding station and exhibitions. ■ 7.30pm Dalry Town Hall RSPB film "Eagle Odyssey" With a short introduction about Jeff Watson's work on Eagles.	■ 10am-5pm Dalry Town Hall Creative Explorer Exhibition ■ 10am-5pm Dalry Town Hall Bird Art Exhibition ■ 10.30am-4pm Dalry Town Hall Stalls and information RSPB, SNH, Dalry School crafts for sale ■ 10.30am-12.30pm Dalry Town Hall RSPB Guided walks with Chris Rollie and Andrew Bielinski 1. Low level gentle walk 2. Longer and slightly harder walk <i>Poor weather alternative - A guide to local birds and bird watching - Betty Ross The Clachan</i> ■ 11.30am-2.30pm Dalry Town Hall Drop in Workshops for families 1. Making bird boxes 2. Making bird sculptures ■ 3pm-4pm Dalry Town Hall Watson Raptor Science Prize Award ceremony and public lecture by prize winner ■ 7.30pm-9pm Dalry Town Hall The Conference of Birds Musical entertainment by Peter Cowdrey and his team	■ 11am-4pm Dalry Town Hall Creative Explorer Exhibition ■ 11am-4pm Dalry Town Hall Bird Art Exhibition ■ 1.15pm-3pm Community Bus Red Kite Feeding station £2 adults, children free. Meet at Dalry Town Hall. ■ 11am-12.30pm Dalry Town Hall Guided Walks With Chris Rollie & Andrew Bielinski <i>Poor weather alternative - film "Northern Flights" in The Baily at The Clachan</i> ■ 2pm-2.30pm Dalry Town Hall Dalry Bird race winners announcement ■ 2.30pm-3.30pm Bothy, The Clachan Poetry and Music Kenneth Stevens and the Rhona MacKay Trio (clarsach, flute and cello) ■ 4pm Town hall Festival closes



St John's Town of Dalry

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Submit events, activities, news stories, cartoons, reviews, tips & techniques, fiction, photos, ads or ideas... Contact Sarah Ade on 07727 127 997 or glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

DEC/JAN COPY DEADLINE: Mon 7 Nov



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