

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

December/January 2011/12

ISSUE 67

FREE

Creative Cookery Winner

Agnes Holden from Carsphairn recently beat off a host of other entrants in the Daily Record 'Love Food Hate Waste' competition.

The competition is part of a government initiative to raise awareness about food wastage. The Love Food Hate Waste website states: "In Scotland we throw away 566,000 tonnes of food waste from our homes every year and of that 69% could have been avoided if we managed our food better. This is an expensive habit and costs each household an average of £430 each year!"

The idea of the contest was for entrants to make the most of the food in their fridge, and the task set was to create a great recipe using leftover ingredients, plus a few store cupboard essentials. The leftovers included roast lamb, tomato, onion, potatoes and red pepper.

The finalists were judged by Michael Kilkie, Sunday Mail chef, John Quinn, Head Chef at Tennent's Training Academy, and Chris Morrison

of Zero Waste Scotland.

Agnes' winning dish was Patties and Pakora with a Tomato and Pepper relish.

Michael Kilkie said: "To come up with a dish like that and then make it

under competition conditions showed a lot of skill".

Agnes will be running a regular slot with seasonal recipes for Gazette readers - so keep your eyes peeled for this in our next issue!



Agnes Holden with Michael Kilkie

BIRD CELEBRATIONS TAKE OFF

Dalry School children with their bird sculptures.



The first ever Watson Bird Celebrations attracted over 300 guests and participants to Dalry during the weekend of Fri 30 Sept to Sun 2 Oct.

The programme of events was organised to celebrate the life and work of renowned local bird artist and ornithologist Donald Watson and his son Jeff, the well known international expert on the golden eagle and former Director at SNH. See p3 for more.

We would like to wish all our readers a happy Christmas and a wonderful start to 2012.

Why not shop and eat local this Christmas? There's tons on offer around the Glenkens, from locally made Christmas wreaths and delicious hampers to handmade gifts. And enjoy a festive feast at one of our great local eateries, all of which are offering wonderful Christmas and New Year menus.

Support your local community this festive season.

Throughout 2012 we will look at what it is that makes the Glenkens special, and what it takes to keep our community vibrant and active. What do you think?

THE KEN BRIDGE HOTEL New Galloway



Christmas: Pre-Xmas lunches and evening meals will be served from Thursday 1st December.

New Year: On Saturday 31st December there will be a special three course menu and entertainment with live music from Jim Howard.

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New Galloway Golf Club

New Galloway Golf Club's annual Dinner and Prize Presentation Night was held at the Ken Bridge Hotel on Saturday 5 November, with over 40 members and guests in attendance.

Captain Dick Tulloch presented trophies to the winners of the Ladies Competitions, and the Lady Captain, Elena Rogers, then reciprocated by presenting the winners of the Gentlemen's Section. The season has been a great success, with good competitive golf mixed in with social golf and other events.

Applications are being taken for membership and anyone interested should contact Club secretary, Ian Brown on 420 737 or visit www.nggc.co.uk.

Dalry Library

Dalry Community Council (DCC) has been researching the history of ownership of Dalry Library. The library was given freely to Stewartry District Council in 1946 so has never been the property of the village. There are, however, heritable burdens attaching to the deed; it has to be used as a library and known as Gourlay Memorial Library and if the Council no longer want the library, they have to hand it back to the Gourlays.

A legal opinion was sought on the matter, and it seems that if the Council wish to sell the library, the burden attaching to the building would need to be overturned and at that point DCC could challenge the application.

Dalry Community Council: It was agreed that the CC would support the continuation of Glenkens Playgroup. Next meeting: Mon 5 Dec, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.

New Galloway & Kells Community Council: Next meeting: Mon 12 Dec, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall.

Balmaclellan Community Council: Next meeting: Mon 30 Jan, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.

Carsphairn Community Council: Regarding the village pub, the late owner's executor has approached the Community Council - it was agreed that an estimate the cost of restoring the building fabric would be looked into. Next meeting: Mon 30 Jan, 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.

CARSPHAIRN BURNS SUPPER

Thurs 19th January, 7.30pm

Guest Artists Include:

Mark Laird (Immortal Memory)

Walker McKenna
Margaret Heuchan

Tickets £10

Phone Jean Gibbon on
01644 460 244

Continued from Front Page...

Dalry Town Hall was the centre for the Creative Explorer Children's Art Exhibition, and an Exhibition of works by artists John Threlfall, Lisa Hooper, Paul Collin and Silvana McLean. Donald Watson's family also generously made available a selection of his own work.

On Saturday the art exhibitions were supplemented with information stands promoting wildlife organisations and children's workshops. For the more active there were Guided Walks led by RSPB's Chris Rollie and Andrew Bielinski, both Dalry residents.

Watson Bird Project Director, Roger Crofts, said: "We are delighted by the number of people – locals and visitors – who attended throughout the three days, and by the real 'buzz' created in the village by

the wide variety of events. Over 500 attended one or more event. The very positive reaction from both audiences and participants is extremely encouraging as we begin planning for annual Watson Bird Celebrations in the future."

There were some unique events over the weekend. On the Friday, Dalry Primary School hosted pupils from Dalry Road Primary School in Edinburgh. The Edinburgh children brought beautifully carved and painted bird sculptures and donated some to their hosts. The local children made birds boxes for distribution around the area. We hope that the visit will be the beginning of twinning between the two schools.

The Watson Bird Celebrations were supported by Day of the Region, and the whole Watson Bird Centre and Celebration project is funded by LEADER, SNH and the Big Lottery.

Such was the success of this year's events, especially the very positive feedback from participants and from the Dalry community, we are making plans for our second celebration in autumn 2012. Watch this space for details.

For more info contact Sarah Keast at sarah@watsonbirds.org or on 07716 170 871.

DOORS OPEN ADVENTURE

Nine children, six locations, two days and almost 200 miles – it all adds up to the first ever Youth Challenge, held as part of this year's Doors Open Days weekend.

The group of 12 to 14 year olds from Teen Spirit, the Glenkens youth club that meets at the CatStrand on Tuesday evenings, took to the road on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September. They took a whistle-stop tour of six of the 36 local sites taking part in Doors

Open Days.

Celebrating 21 years in Scotland this year, Doors Open Days is the national weekend event that opens up all manner of places to the public free of charge.

The Youth Challenge and internship were new Doors Open Days initiatives introduced and managed by Glenkens Community & Arts Trust this year, and made possible by funding from Dumfries-based charity the Holywood Trust alongside financial support from Dumfries & Galloway Council.

Stag Tea Room & Garden



Carricks, Main Street, Carsphairn, DG7 3TQ

Tel: 01644 460 211

We hope you enter a stranger, leave as a friend and return as a regular!

During the winter months enjoy a light meal in front of our open fire with home-made pies, scones and soups, and rolls with hot or cold fillings.

We hope soon to introduce a range of gluten & wheat free pastries and cakes.

Our garden has a wonderful view and the tea room is open all year round.

Hours for Christmas / New Year are:

Xmas Eve - 9am to 4pm

Xmas Day – closed

26th Dec to 3rd Jan - open 10am to 3pm



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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

Navy blue child's sofa bed - 135cm wide x 65cm deep x 70cm high. Contact: 430 218

Pine single bed, good condition. Contact: 430 013

Various

Leather briefcase, complete with brand new Filofax inside. Contact: Jean 420 372.

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

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

7 Iain Banks paperbacks (fiction). Contact: Ellie on 430 607

Nikon Coolpix 775 Digital camera complete with case, instructions, charger and memory card. Contact: Fiona on 07789 903127

Drawing/draught board. Contact: 07796 268 995

Filing cabinet files - small and large size ones. Contact: Sarah 430 138

Small wooden dog kennel with flat metal roof, 2'6" deep, 1'9" wide and 1'9" high - suitable for small dog to live outside. Contact: Keith Cooper 01644 450 201

Man's bike, three-speed hub gears, old but everything works, needs new brake blocks. Contact: Ian on 450 618.

Childrens'

2 almost never used booster seats. They just need a wash as they've been in storage. Contact: Morag 430 004

Box of 'pirate' lego including 2 ships and lots of men. Contact: 430 218

2 child's sleeping bags - one with teddys, the other with animals. Contact: 430 218

Selection of Thunderbird toys, including Tracy Island. Contact: 430 218

Rocking horse needs pastures new. Wooden with painted Native American style patterns. Excellent rocking on gliders. Base frame 38" long. Saddle height 27". Contact: Jane on 430 199 or 07768 481554.

Selection of Dr Who toys, including 3 daleks. Contact:

430 218

DIY/Home Fittings

Pair of black wrought iron wall lights each with 2 bulb holders. Contact : Fiona on 07789 903127

Pair of pretty floral curtains (Jane Churchill), lined and interlined, 134cm long x 128cm wide (each). Contact: 430 218

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

3 Ceramic Butler's sinks. Not good enough for a kitchen but suitable for planters or outbuilding use. Contact : Alan on 07769 680938

Victorian cast-iron corner manger. Tatty - needs wire brushing and re-painting. Would be good for plants. Buyer collects - very heavy. Ring Sue in the evenings on 07554 644 993

2 Brand new railway sleepers each 2.6m long. Contact : Alan 07769 680938

WANTED

Lego (not Duplo) for busy boy aged 4. Contact: Ellie on 430 607

Wooden supports for 4 poster bed. Contact: 07796 268 995

Children's wooden train set. Contact Sarah on 430 138

PLAYGROUP UPDATE

On Thurs 17 Nov, Dumfries & Galloway's Education Committee met to discuss the 'Rationalisation of Pre-School Education in Dalry'.

The Committee voted that the funding for pre-school children (aged three to five) to attend Glenkens Playgroup be withdrawn from August 2012.

During these difficult economic times I believe that the council should be investing in our young people and supporting our vulnerable rural communities. I have heard council officials say Dalry has been 'privileged' to have had a choice of pre-school provision for so long. Surely education

is a right, not a privilege? Every two-year-old in the Glenkens and elsewhere should have the right to pre-school education. That has now been taken away from us as Dalry Nursery cannot accept a child until the term after he or she turns three.

I will do my utmost to try to keep the Glenkens Playgroup running in some capacity. Many members of the community have pledged their support in finding alternative funding. However, the future does not look very promising. I'm sorry to say that after 40 years, it looks as if the Glenkens Playgroup will soon shut.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who showed their support for Glenkens Playgroup. Your support has been overwhelming.

Christina Green, Chairperson, Glenkens Playgroup

If you have any ideas for alternative funding to keep the Glenkens Playgroup open, please get in touch Christina on 07787 182 597 or kk.rgreen@btinternet.com.

Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power 

Each issue, a member of the community or an expert in the field of green energy will submit an article or question for our Eco Feature. This issue we have a question which is answered by local expert Ted Leeming.

Q: Most people who have solar panels rely on the domestic electricity supply to drive the pump. Therefore, if there is a power cut, the potential energy from the panels cannot be used.

I suspect similar problems apply to domestic wind turbines. Can a standby battery be wired up for use in such instances, and if so, what sort of battery, how is it installed, etc?

I also heard something about installing an adapter into which you can plug a standby diesel generator - what is involved in this process? In short, how does one protect alternative energy supplies that rely on mains power from mains failure?

A: A good question indeed, and great to have

some feedback.

Using my own personal situation of a wind turbine as an example, we are looking to install a generator as a backup when there is a power outage for our water supply which comes direct from a borehole (we do not have a large storage tank) and because we have an electric cooker (run off the wind turbine).

We did look into going off grid and having a battery/diesel setup but if already on the grid this is a very expensive option if only installed for the relatively rare occasions of power outage, and requires a level of maintenance that we were not prepared to commit to.

We looked at this option for our 15kW wind turbine however, and it might be cheaper if

looking at this for a smaller array of PV. We decided that the grid (the best battery in the world!) was preferable to dealing with lots of lead acid and maintenance (we are away a fair amount with work) and we would take the hit when there was a power failure.

P.S. I should note that in two years we have had one power failure that lasted about eight hours (plus several lasting not more than a few seconds/minutes) and it simply would not be cost efficient to install a back up for such rare circumstances.

Keep the questions (and articles or suggestions for articles) coming folks - that is the idea behind this feature; to raise awareness and discuss issues.

Big Thank You

On Saturday 22 October a very successful coffee morning was held in Dalry in aid of Abbas Rest Orphans in Malawi.

We would like to thank everyone who donated towards the raffle, cakes and sales tables and the many generous donations of money which helped to raise an amazing total of £801.50.



Our thanks go out to Jim Walsham, treasurer of Abbas Rest Orphans, who came from Ayr to show films of the children, and to all the many helpers who manned the stalls, provided transport, and helped in the kitchen. Without you, all this would not have been possible.

Abbas Rest Orphans

Clarification from our last Eco Feature: What is Cloud Computing?

Cloud computing is the delivery of computing as a service rather than a product, whereby shared resources, software, and information are provided to computers and other devices as a utility (like the electricity grid) over a network (typically the internet).

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CatStrand Highlights

Uncharted Waters in Dalry Town Hall

As the Catstrand's first off-site event since it opened in 2007, these uncharted waters proved to be very successful.

The performance of Uncharted Waters by Strangebird Zirkus on Friday 4 November at Dalry Town Hall was a sell-out, with audience members enjoying the thrill of this unusual spectacle. Combining circus and dance theatre in an aerial dance theatre show, Uncharted Waters wowed spectators from start to finish.

Glenkens Community and Arts Trust General Manager, Sean Paul O'Hare, said: "It was a stunning show! Really unusual

and the venue suited this performance so well. We were delighted to be using the Dalry Town Hall for the first time and I would like to thank the town hall committee for their support and assistance in putting the show together. The audience were in awe of the athleticism, inspiring music and sheer brilliance of the performers. Those who attended will remember this performance for a very long time."



For information on upcoming CatStrand events and to book tickets call 01644 420 374 or visit www.catstrand.com.

A Grand Birthday in Dalry

Thursday 29 September saw a great gathering in Dalry Town Hall, the likes of which has not been seen for many years.

Friends, family and neighbours of Mrs Wood came in their droves to help her celebrate her 100th birthday. Known as Auntie Bella to many, she is a strong independent lady who is well respected in the locality. Still living independently in Dalry, she enjoys baking and is a keen gardener.

Over 200 people turned up, with some travelling from as far away as Australia and New Zealand; the Town Hall ran out of standing room! The party was generously paid for by three local benefactors.

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant presented the card from the Queen, Councillor Prentice presented her with flowers on behalf of the council and her daughter Mary spoke about many of the events of her long life. Then 'Auntie Bella' rose to thank all those who had come, with such a strong and clear voice that no-one was left in any doubt that she intends to celebrate a good few more birthdays.

Paul Goodwin



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A BUSY BUS YEAR

Who would have thought 12 months ago that Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) would now be where it is now...

We have two buses, a qualified Midas trainer, are operating a school run both morning and afternoon, and are also one of only two Transport Initiatives in SW Scotland to be on the approved Council list able to tender for work during the next four years!

The year started with a generous donation for a new VW mini bus which is being very well used and appreciated. With the aid of further funding, Jon Nimmo recently attended a course in Edinburgh qualifying him to train volunteer drivers to Midas Standard – he is the only such qualified person in the area and will be a huge asset to not only GTI but to other groups in the Stewartry requiring training.

The ability to tender for work with the Council during the next four years is also very important. There is no obligation on submitting tenders, but without being on that all important list we could not do school runs or help with the play scheme run by the Council for disabled children. Trips have continued to be popular with visits to Cumbrae Island and Callender House being new to the itinerary and suggestions have already been received for the 2012 program – keep them coming.

New volunteer drivers are being trained – there is always a need for more – and a number of new user groups have recently registered with GTI; one of the more unusual names for a group being 'Mid-Life Crisis'!

The photograph taken in Penrith on a recent trip shows the new mini bus parked near a commercial operator – perhaps a step too far for me...(see photo).



GTI Administrator Keith Cooper

Many people are involved with the success of GTI and I would thank them all and in particular the people of the Glenkens for supporting the bus and making it very much part of the area

– Happy New Year to you all.

*Best Wishes, Keith Cooper,
GTI Administrator*

STOP PRESS: Wed 28 Dec – Trip to Braehead Shopping Centre including Ikea – departs New Galloway 9.30am and Dalry 9.45am. Fare £6, concessions £5 – to book now call 420 374.



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Milestone Memories

Alverie Weighill of the Milestone Society and the Dumfries & Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society is surveying and researching all the milestones in the region. She is particularly interested in the ones leading to old railway stations (as at Mossdale, Parton and Gatehouse of Fleet) and wondered if any Glenkens residents have information they'd be willing to share with her. "Any snippet, however small, would be most welcome," says Alverie. Contact either 01387 850371 or valerieweighill@yahoo.co.uk.

GLENKENS SNAPS

The Stewartry Camera Club's first competition of the season was 'The Built Environment' and was judged by Pauline Saul and Vivienne Dania from Kirkcudbright. The club now boasts five members from the Glenkens and these members were very successful in this competition.

In Group 1, Mary McIlvenna came 2nd with 'Framed' and also won Best Landscape with 'Snake and Snail Mounds'. John Houfe was 5th with 'Ironbridge' and won the 'Best Monochrome' with 'Black & White'. In Group 2, John Repath was 5th with 'The Summer 2011 House' and won



Best Monochrome with 'Through the Bus Shelter'. In Group 3, Rhona Houfe was 4th with 'Linlithgow Palace' and won Best Landscape with 'Castle Stalker'.

Get in touch if you would like to join - our programme can be found at www.stewartrycameraclub.wordpress.com, or contact Mary McIlvenna 420 613.

'Photo: 'Through the Bus Shelter' by John Repath

Fantastic Fireworks

Balmaclellan bonfire night was a massive success with over 400 people attending.

The amazing fireworks display, bonfire, hot dogs, mulled wine and more were very much enjoyed as well as the ceilidh afterwards which was also well-attended.

OPINION:

The decision by The Scottish Parliament to grant permission for the wind turbines at Blackcraig Hill is truly a case of the pen being mightier than the sword. For, with one stroke they have instigated the desecration of a beautiful part of the Scottish landscape, destroying the habitat of countless flora and fauna and heartlessly altering the lives of the people who live in close proximity to these ineffective and inefficient monstrosities.

*Yours despondently,
Nick Edwards, Torwatletie Cottage, Balmaclellan...(in the shadow of the beast!)*



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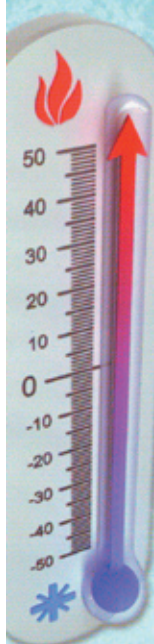
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Youth Cafe Revs Up

The Glenkens Youth Project for a Bus Cafe is well underway, and the group will soon be looking to purchase a double decker bus to convert into an affordable youth cafe.

We hope to be up and running in the new year- we've got loads of great plans to utilise the bus: Friday nights in Dalry for the young folk of the Glenkens, Tuesdays after mother and toddlers in New Galloway to offer a quirky experience for tots and help extend their session, and on Wednesday afternoons pupils from Dalry High School will be looking to run an affordable community cafe. It is a really exciting project and offers so

many possibilities.

If anyone is looking for some thing new to do in the new year, a chance to meet new people and an opportunity to put something back in to the community please get in touch - we've a range of jobs that we will need help with from helping to refit the bus, to sewing new seat covers, driving the bus (anyone with experience of driving heavy vehicles), running the kitchen occasionally or cake baking. Any amount of time that anyone can give to us will be extremely appreciated! Contact the Glenkens Youth Project on 420 327.

We would like to thank the Galloway Association of Glasgow, the Holywood Trust and Awards for All for their support in getting this project started.

Catherine Phillips

Wonderful Walks

Dogs and owners enjoyed the series of fundraising walks in the beautiful Glenkens - despite the wet weather!

Gerry Cinderby started us off in New Galloway. There were few of us as the rain was coming down in stair rods. Fortunately, Gerry was able to use his local knowledge to alter his planned walk; we had a lovely time walking through the forest and discovering a hidden lochan in the countryside behind New Galloway.

Our next walk had the best of the miserable weather and more than a dozen people set off with Janette Dickson from The Thistle Inn in Crossmichael. They raised a stunning total of £336 for Dumfries & Galloway Canine Rescue Centre.

Then came the Day of the Region on Saturday 2 October - it was almost dry! The pet blessing service alongside Dalry Church was conducted by the Rev. David Bartholomew. Vorna Gilkes had planned a lovely walk for us round Dundough Island

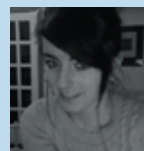
but the heavy overnight rain meant the bridge to the island was impassable, so a lovely Polmaddy walk was had instead.

Donations and sponsor money from all the Glenkens activities contributed a wonderful net amount of £539 to the Rescue Centre to help them continue to rescue and rehome unwanted, abandoned and mistreated dogs. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Here is a poignant portion of Rev. Bartholomews prayer about pets;

"...rejoice in the moments of our days - the early morning dew on the grass; the cheerful, chattering and gurgling tumbling of a burn; the reflection of light on the water; the scent of new mown hay; the skylark rising in song. Set us free from our preoccupation with events of our past lives, or fears and anxieties about the future, to savour more of the present. May we learn from the alert senses of our pets how better to celebrate each moment..."

CAITLIN'S COLUMN



Well what can I say? It's been a life-changing past few months.

One minute I'm in the depths of the countryside in my parents' cosy little cottage sipping on a nice cup of tea and the next i'm flung headfirst into one of the busiest and most hectic cities in Britain...

Not an easy move, I must admit, but I welcomed it with open arms. It takes some getting used to but I'm actually loving it here in Manchester. Everything I ever need or want is right on my doorstep and the public transport is amazing! We have trams, trains, buses, taxis...you name it! Everyone is so nice as well, I couldn't have asked for nicer people to live and study with. I get a lot of friendly jokes about my Scottish accent which is amusing - I feel 'one of a kind'! I feel like I've really settled in.

I suppose, in a way, I do miss Galloway. Life is a lot more easy-going in the country, there isn't the constant sound of traffic and sirens or the sound of drunk students outside my window at 3am. If I wanted to concentrate on a good book or some school work I could just go outside and sit in my garden (if it was a nice day of course). In Manchester, though, I have to lock myself away inside my room if I want any kind of concentration for my uni work. Sometimes you need a break from the fast pace of city life, and it's a comfort to know that there always will be a place for me back home. But hey, I'm young, I want to have fun and what better way to do so than living in a place like Manchester. It seems I have the best of both worlds...

On the Farm

On one of the few dry, sunny days of late, the Standard Grade Geography class set off to visit two contrasting farms in the local area.

The first venue was the Crichton Farm at Dumfries where pupils could see the workings of a modern dairy farm.

The next venue for the day was to Fellend and Barstobrick farms. These are beef and sheep units well suited to the conditions found in this area.

Finally, pupils were shown around a variety of diversification enterprises and enjoyed a trip to the restaurant at Barstobrick to round off the day. The pupils agreed the trip had been both enjoyable and informative.

Harvest Festival

Dalry Primary School held their Harvest Festival in school on Monday 3 October.

Each class performed a musical item and P3 read an acrostic poem that they had written. The Harvest table was laden with produce which had been given generously and was also from the school garden. P1/2/3 had made the bread for the harvest table too. After the assembly the children delivered the produce to residents in the village.

Shop for Dalry School

Friends of Dalry School is pleased to announce their new online shopping e-store.

Anyone can shop and find lots of great offers from 1000s of your favourite retailers such as Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, Sainsburys, Debenhams, Hamleys and Sky. Every time you spend, you're donating money to Dalry School in the form of a cashback from the retailers as you shop online.

To date, we've raised £1,000 for the school, and are aiming to raise a further £500 by 2013.

Together we can make a big difference to Dalry School this Christmas and into the year ahead. Please join us when it comes to your Christmas shopping.

To shop and raise funds for Dalry School visit:

www.spendandraise.com/dalryschool

A Pie in the Face for Youth Players

Pantomime returns to the Glenkens this year after a break of several years, with the CatStrand Youth Players production of 'The Legend of Cinderella'

by Alistair Ferguson & Alan Richardson.

The tale adds a Scottish twist to the traditional story of Cinderella but all of the favourite ingredients and characters are still there including Buttons, who acts as the narrator of the story, the dashing and brave Prince, the skinflint Baron (or the Laird in this case) and of course the famous Ugly Sisters.

Most of the parts are played by the youth members but a few of the veteran Glenkens panto stars from the past are also making an appearance!

The cast were honoured to receive a visit

from one of the authors, Alistair Ferguson, on Sunday 13 November when he came down from Edinburgh to run a Panto Workshop in the afternoon. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned all about the history of Pantomime, the origin of the different characters and also took part in practical exercises in acting styles and even learned how to throw a custard pie for maximum effect!

Rehearsals have been held twice a week since September and everyone is looking forward to 'curtain up' on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 December - "Oh yes we are!".

Panto Workshop



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Energy Efficiency at Kells

Kells Primary School have been learning the message about saving energy - the fun way!

Primary 6/7 pupils have benefited from 'energy lessons' as part of their Eco-School project given by Alan Nicolson from the Energy Agency. As part of the project, they have taken part in 'Save It' - a large floor game which challenges the pupils on who is the best at saving energy.

Anne Shearlaw, Education Co-ordinator of the Energy Agency said: "These pupils are the home owners of the future. The lessons are a great way of introducing the importance of energy efficiency and the effect it has in reducing fuel bills and saving energy".

Forrest Fundraiser

Forrest Estate Experiences, a new venture at Forrest Estate, Dalry, held its first charity clay pigeon shoot amongst stunning scenery near Dalry on Sunday 6 November with nearly 100 entries taking advantage of the glorious weather.

The 50 Bird Sporting Competition was keenly fought for with the overall winner being Gordon Boertien from Lockerbie. The ladies winner was Kate Little from Ringford and the Junior Angus Milby from Kirkcudbright.

The day was a huge success

with £714.49 being raised in aid of the charity Help for Heroes. Shoot manager Andrew Case said "We are delighted with the turnout to our first annual charity shoot and I would like to thank all those who supported the event especially the main sponsors TransK9.com and Brandecosse.com as well as all the local businesses who kindly provided many superb prizes in aid of this very worthwhile cause".

Forrest Estate Experiences is a new sporting venture at Forrest Estate, outside Dalry. Sports



Winner Gordon Boertien (left) with shoot manager Andrew Case.

include various country pursuits from clay pigeon shooting to red and roe deer stalking to trout fishing. For more info visit www.forrestestateexperiences.com.

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Safer Winter Roads

Winter is well and truly on its way; the clocks have changed and many of us find ourselves travelling to and from work in the dark.

Perhaps now is a good time to take a moment to stop and think how we could make our journeys on winter rural roads as safe as possible.

Keep your vehicle well serviced and check tyre pressures and tread depth weekly (RoSPA

the legal minimum is 1.6mm.

Ensure all your lights are all working and clean; it is surprising how much light a film of road grime or salt blocks. Simply wiping them with a damp cloth can really help you see and be seen.

Make sure your windscreen is clean inside and out, your wiper blades are in good condition and that you have plenty of washer fluid mixed appropriately to prevent it from freezing.

recommend a minimum tread depth of 3mm)

Drive at a speed appropriate to the road and conditions. Consider the width of the road and how wide a lorry coming the other way may be. Several crashes have happened recently when vehicles, especially lorries, have pulled over to allow others to pass and sank into the verges.

If you need any help or advice on staying safe on the road this winter contact your local Police office on 08456005701 or email bryan.brunton@dg.pnn.police.uk

*Bryan Bruton,
Community Police Officer*

Glenkens Joint Action

Representatives from Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Dalry and New Galloway Community Councils have decided to work together to develop a joint approach to dealing with the many offers of community benefit payments now being made by aspiring wind power developers in the Glenkens.

A meeting was held in New Galloway on Monday 10 October. All present agreed that this new initiative would not take any position on the desirability or otherwise of particular

developments. Organisations and individuals must remain free to support or oppose any proposals as they see fit. However, the saga of the prominent project at Blackcraig - which lies within the area of Balmaclellan Community Council but which will have an impact on the scenery over much of the Glenkens - shows that national government is determined to force these developments through even when there is widespread local opposition.

Although this was the first time that elected representatives from the four parishes had met to discuss this matter it was agreed that it was important to work together to push things forward.

Andrew Mellor



Winter opening 10.30-4.30 daily (closed Tuesdays)

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01644 470260

Loch Ken Gallery & Cafe

Recently renamed, The Loch Ken Gallery & Cafe is a showcase for leading Scottish photographer Allan Wright. His stunning collection of images extends across Galloway and most of Scotland with prices to suit all budgets, the perfect Christmas gift for lovers of both Galloway and the rest of Scotland.

Every weekend from 25th November through until Christmas the Gallery café is serving complimentary mulled wine and mince pies to all our visitors. Gallery admission is free as always and we offer a free deluxe gift wrapping service on all purchases.

The cosy ambience of the Wholesome Café is there for you through the winter from 10.30 – 16.30 and offers health boosting daily specials from hearty soups to “guilt-free cakes” and features local Organic Produce.

We look forward to welcoming you this winter at the Loch Ken Gallery, for table reservations please call 01644 470218.

Gallery and facilities also available for evening event hire.

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

John Gordon Barbour of Bogue



Hogmanay is the traditional occasion to think upon times past and folk that are no more, while contemplating the promise of a new year.

For those sensitive to the 'genius of place' the scenery and environment of our everyday surroundings preserve memories of the lives and activities of our predecessors and ancestors. One native of Glenkens who was extremely aware of such places in the landscape was John Gordon Barbour of Bogue, just east of St John's Town of Dalry.

Born in 1775, Barbour was a notable radical in politics and religion whose unconventional views have condemned him as nothing more than an eccentric in the view of some commentators, as just another Glenkens daftie. In fact he was a fiercely independent-minded and patriotic Scot inspired by the twin fonts of Robert Bruce's exploits (especially in Galloway) and the Covenanters of whom he wrote that 'if there be a God who has distinguished betwixt probity and perjury, betwixt sinning and suffering, betwixt patriotism and impurity, still must the memories of our forefathers be embalmed in the recollections of every right-minded Scot!'

Barbour was a collector of folklore, notably that of Galloway, but he travelled extensively throughout Scotland and he communicated with many members of the Scottish literary establishment. He deplored Scott's treatment of the Covenanters and the smugness of contributors to Blackwood's Magazine whom he termed 'Blackadders'.

James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd and John Wilson visited him at Bogue. Indeed, Hogg's Brownie of Bodesbeck and Barbour's 'The Brownies' Well' share the same motif. Barbour's story concerns Ramsay, tenant of Bogue, who is imprisoned for his religious sympathies. His covenanting supporters are mistaken for brownies when they secretly and

silently, and generally under cover of darkness, carry out all the necessary tasks on his farm. The difference is that Barbour purports to relate historical fact while Hogg produced a novel.

Barbour basically preserves a vanished world for posterity. In his *Lights and Shadows of Scottish Character and Scenery* (1824) numerous sites in his own backyard conjure memories of a departed world and its people. He explains place-names in his own neighbourhood which are no longer on the Landranger Ordnance Survey map but which were preserved on the first O.S. production, the 1854, six inches to the mile, sheets.

At the close of 'Brownie's Well', for example, he wrote that he would never forget the perils and sufferings of his forefathers. Writing in the third person he is insistent that 'while he can wander through the woods, or saunter by the sacred stream, he will not easily forego such reminiscences. To him shall Holy Linn and Holy Croft have renewed charms. Often he shall walk by Society Holm and Cushat Craggs; nor will he cease to bless the Brownie's Croft and Brownie's Well'.

Of these names only Holy Linn on the Garple Burn now survives on maps; the others have disappeared. Barbour may now be the sole source of the tradition that the Rev. Verner, or Warner, outed minister of Balmaclellan, who lived on a farm on the shore of Lochinvar, carried out baptisms at Holy Linn and at Holy Croft just to the north, whence they had to flee to escape Claverhouse's persecuting dragoons. There are now marked trails to the Linn.

About a mile west of Holy Linn was Jean's Wa's, named for Jean Gordon of Shirmers, who, jilted by her faithless lover, retreated to the woods by the Garple where she built a cottage and spent the rest of her life communing with nature. Barbour spells the name Skirmars which may indicate how it was pronounced locally; the 1854 map has Shirmers, as at present. Barbour consistently uses Garpel for the burn. A rock shelf just above the water provided refuge for a Covenanter named Duncan who was chased by dragoons. The place was still Duncan's Pantry in Barbour's day. Society Holm must have been named for meetings of the 'Societies', those who

believed in the central importance of the Covenant but who differed in some points of detail. Court Knowe, which is still on the map, said to be the site of a baron court of the Kenmures, prompts an account of witchcraft. Old names now gone, such as My Lord's Cleuch and Deer Den allegedly originated when a prize roe stag head-butted a Kenmure over the bank and into the Garple, giving rise to the proverbial expression, 'a great lord's as easy cowpit as a wee man'.

Two names that survive on the modern map are Kate's Hill and Kate's Wood, named for Katherine Ramsay of Bogue whose marriage to Thomas Barbour was delayed due to the religious war, during which Kate provided what relief she could to the persecuted, who continued to worship at Society Holm.

John Gordon Barbour believed that the 'embryo' of the Glorious Revolution of 1688 was the Glenkens Rising, which was launched at Dalry in 1666.

After the revolution the young couple were duly joined in matrimony. Fiddler Bog where they danced, and Supper Thorn, where they dined, have both now vanished, as have several 'chapel' names north of Trolane, or Torlane as it used to be, along with 'Tower' and a motte site northwest of the same farm.

It is perhaps tempting to think that Barbour simply made up the stories for these place-names but he had too much respect for the past and the ancestors to pull that stunt. It may also be suspected that Barbour was the informant on nomenclature for the Ordnance Survey team but the team did not arrive until 1849, by which time he had been dead for six years. He was not intent upon turning landscape into storyscape. Rather he hoped to preserve some local knowledge of the past for posterity and for that we should be grateful. He is a fascinating character to whom this column will undoubtedly return at some time in the future.

Ted Cowan

GLENKENS DIARY...

NOVEMBER

Tue 29, Bus Trip to Ayr - Shopping, National Hunt Racing or just a walk by the sea, see p7

Wed 30, 2-4pm. Crichton College Exploring Galloway Through History & Literature Lecture, £8, CatStrand

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

Wed 7, Money and Benefit Advice, free, CatStrand

Wed 7, 2-4pm, Crichton College Exploring Galloway Through History & Literature Lecture, £8, CatStrand

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

Sat 10, Bus Trip to Historic Carlisle or Shopping, see p7

Thurs 15, Open Stage, 7.30pm, £3/2, CatStrand

Sat 17, Feral Choir: Forgotten Carols, 7.30pm, £10/8, CatStrand

Sat 17, Craft Fair, 10am-4pm, free, Dalry Town Hall

Thurs 29, Wizard's Workshop, 2pm, £7, CatStrand

Wed 28, Bus Trip to Braehead Shopping Centre incl. Ikea, see p7

Thurs 29, Film: The Wizard of Oz, 3.30pm, £5/4/3, CatStrand

Sat 31, New Year Meal & Music, Ken Bridge Hotel, see p2

JANUARY

Wed 18, GCAT AGM, 6pm, CatStrand

Thurs 19, Film: One Day, 7.30pm, £5/4, CatStrand

Thurs 19, Carsphairn Burns Supper, 7.30pm, see p2

Sat 21, Winter Pruning for Fruit Trees, 11am - 1pm, £5, CatStrand

Thurs 26, Napoleon: A Defence, 7.30pm, £10/8/6, CatStrand

Mon 30 Jan to Fri 10 Feb, Dalry School Exhibition, CatStrand opening hours, CatStrand

FEBRUARY

Sun 5, Janice Galloway, 4pm, £7/5

Wed 7, National Osteoporosis Society, 1-3m, free, CatStrand

Dear Gazette,

On Friday 18 November, after taking my wife to Newton Stewart to have her hair done and to do a little shopping, we started to make our return home.

At about 1pm we broke down near the Glen of the Bar, and, with no mobile phone coverage, I started to panic and get a bit frightened in my old age. To our relief, a passing car stopped to offer help. The two ladies in the car tried to use their mobile phones, with no luck, but as they lived in New Galloway they called our breakdown service from their home phone.

We would like to thank these ladies for their kindness, consideration and help as we do not know what we would have done without it. In this day and age it is a rare thing that people stop to help others in trouble and these two ladies are to be commended for their actions. Should any local resident know who these ladies are please email me their name and address so we can thank them personally as they are truly Knights of the Road.

Len Swallow, Ford House on the Garroch Estate, len.swallow@sky.com

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays:

Balmacellan: 12noon

1st(Dec), Carsphairn:

10.30am 1st 2nd 3rd

4th(Jan), Dalry: 12noon 1st

2nd 3rd 4th 5th(Jan), Kells:

10.30am 2nd, 3rd 4th(Jan)

Special Services/

Events: 11 Dec,

6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight in Carsphairn Church, with Glenkens Church Choir

22 Dec, 5pm: Carsphairn Church Community Christmas Service and Children's Party

24 Dec, 11.30pm: Watchnight Service, Dalry Church

25 Dec, 10.30am: Christmas Day Family Service, Carsphairn Church

1 Jan, 10.30am:

United Service with Choir, Balmacellan Church

29 Jan, 10.30am: United

Service with Choir, Carsphairn Church

Communion

Service: 23 Oct, 12 noon, Dalry Church

6 Nov, 12 noon, Balmacellan 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

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Dalry Library

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**

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

REGULAR EVENTS:

The CatStrand, New Galloway (01644 420 374):

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am

Play it by Ear: Thurs during term time, 10-11am

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: Tue during term-time, 6.15pm, contact: Kath 430 281

Various Locations:

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: Tue, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall. Not on 27 Dec or 17 Jan. 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.

Advice Surgeries with Alex Fergusson MSP, 2nd Friday of the month from 5pm, contact: 0800 028 7260

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

Glenkens Hair Studio Duke Street, New Galloway

Eileen thanks all her customers for their support throughout the year and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christmas & New Year Opening Hours:

Thurs 15 Dec: 9am - 6pm, Gent's Barber Shop 4.30-6pm

Fri 16 Dec: 9am-5pm

Sat 17 Dec: 9am-1pm

Thurs 22 Dec: 9am-6pm, Gent's Barber Shop 4.30-6pm

Fri 23 Dec: 9am-5pm

Sat 24 Dec: 9am-3pm

Fri 30 Dec: 9am-5pm

Sat 31 Dec: 9am-3pm

Open as normal from Thurs 5 Jan

Please book early for Christmas appointments:

01644 420 616

 **Visit the CatStrand for festive events, handmade local gifts and delicious Christmas baking.** 

FORREST FIREWOOD

01644 430 230

A Blooming Success for Carsphairn

Alex Fergusson MSP in his Opening remarks on Saturday September 24 congratulated Carsphairn Community Council for its perseverance in transforming a derelict piece of ground into a beautiful outdoor amenity for the residents and visitors alike.

He also praised the work of the large group of volunteers who have been involved in the project since its inception, and made a special presentation to David Richmond who has project managed the Garden's development.

Over 130 Carsphairn residents and their guests enjoyed piping by Andy McCartney from the Kirkcudbright and District Pipe Band and a magical song performance by the Children of Carsphairn School conducted by Principal Teacher Walker McKenna. This was followed by



refreshments, then a chance to socialise and admire the Garden in the extremely welcome late summer sunshine.

Matt Hickman, Community Council Chair, explained: "Over the years funds have been raised, initially in 2002 to purchase the site with the aid of a donation from the John Scott Trust. The project then

was driven forward with grants from Dumfries & Galloway LEADER Programme, Stewartry Area Committee, Carsphairn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund and a number of other funders. We are also very grateful for gifts and donations from local businesses. All donors are recorded on the colourful plinth notice board at the entrance to the Garden."



*Book your Christmas meal
at the Clachan Inn, the place
to eat in the Glenkens...*



CHRISTMAS MENU

Starters

- Butternut squash, boney and sage soup with crusty roll
- Haggis and cranberry croquettes with caramelised red onion
- Salmon and prawn marie rose parcel with dressed salad and lemon

Mains

- Roast turkey crown
- Lamb wellington
- Pan-fried duck breast
- Leek and blue cheese tart

(all served with delicious festive trimmings)

Desserts

- Sherry trifle
- Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
- Cheese board

2 courses for £18.95
3 courses for £22.95

(One course available on request)
All meals come with a complimentary glass of mulled wine

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

FEB/MAR COPY DEADLINE: Fri 6 January



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