

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

June/July 2012

ISSUE 70

FREE

Glenkens Children's Club



Eilidh, Rosie and Noah at the Easter Bonnet Parade held by Glenkens Playgroup to raise funds for the new Glenkens Children's Club.

A new children's group is set to launch this July in the Glenkens.

The Glenkens Children's Club has been set up for children, along with their parent/carer, to come and enjoy the wonderful set-up created by Glenkens Playgroup. The Playgroup sadly will close at the end of this school year due to Council funding cuts.

Glenkens mums are disappointed to be losing the Playgroup, but are taking a positive angle and looking to the future. The hope is that the Club will provide a platform for events and activities to happen, adapting to meet the needs of local parents and children. One main difference from other groups is that sessions will continue during school holidays and older siblings are welcome to come along too.

Continued on p7...

Charity Begins at Home

The 'Top Shop' in Dalry has undergone a transformation - from general store to charity shop.

On Monday 23 April the former Mace grocery shop at 34 Main Street, Dalry, once again opened its doors to the public, but this time as the *Glenkens Community Shop*.

This charitable venture is the initiative of Dalry resident Shirley McNaught who, after working in a charity shop in Castle Douglas, wanted to bring the benefits of supporting the local community closer to home.

"I set up the shop to raise funds for local projects in the Glenkens, such as the Good Neighbours Club, the Mothers and Toddler group and the Scouts and Guides," says Shirley. She spoke of her vision for the Glenkens Community Shop: "I want the shop to be

a place where people can come together and meet one another, socialise and interact. This is a good thing, and support from the community will help the community."

Shirley welcomes donations of any kind - coat hangers and clothes rails are especially needed. They are also on the look-out for volunteers. Avril Brown has signed up to be the first volunteer and is hoping others will join her.

The shop is open every day from Monday to Friday, 10am to 3pm, and the second Saturday of the month to coincide with the



Manager Shirley McNaught (right) with volunteer Avril Brown

Glenkens Farmers' Market.

Shirley would like to thank Larry and Moira Jones for their support and generosity in offering a month's free rent of the shop and to all who have donated goods so far.

If you are interested in volunteering, drop by the shop or phone 01644 430 182.

Gill Stanyard

WATSON BIRDS



Dalry's Donald Watson Bird Project has a new logo.

The logo (above) depicts the three birds that quintessentially form the project: On the outside is the golden eagle (central to Jeff Watson's work), in the middle the hen harrier (Donald Watson's key bird) and on the inside the swift which has nested successfully at Barone (the Watson's former residence) for years. We hope they will also now nest in the clock tower of Dalry Town Hall as the protective netting has been removed to allow this to happen; what a wonderful gesture by the Town

Hall Committee.

A successful event on Saturday 21 April celebrated the work of Jeff Watson. Chris Rollie of the RSPB gave an exhilarating perspective on golden eagles in south west Scotland, and Vanessa Halhead, Jeff's widow, introduced the film In the Company of Eagles about her husband's outstanding work.

Mon 6 to Wed 8 Aug:

Room 13 Young Persons Art Workshop. Contact sarah@watsonbirds.org to book.

Fri 21 to Sun 23 Sept: Dalry Bird Festival.

For more about Watson Birds visit www.watsonbirds.org

Local Elections

A successful hustings meeting was held at the CatStrand in April with five of the Castle Douglas and Glenkens ward candidates in attendance.

Various local issues were raised and discussion took place about what plans each candidate had for next five years if elected.

The elected councillors for the Glenkens are Finlay Carson (Scottish Conservative and Unionist), Brian Collins (Scottish National Party) and George Prentice (Independent).

Over the next few issues of the Gazette we will interview each councillor about their plans for the area over the next five years.

Centenarian for Centenary

Honoured Guest Mrs Bella Wood was just six months old when Spalding Bowling Club opened in 1912.

Evergreen centenarian Mrs Wood threw the Silver Jack and delivered the first bowl, declaring the green



Hamish Sinclair (President), Mrs Bella Wood & John Peacock (Vice President) with the centenary cake.

open for its 100th year. There were over 70 past and present members along with friends and family present, with everyone having a cuppa and a piece of centenary cake before a friendly game to round off the afternoon. Glencairn Bowling Club, from Moniave, came for a friendly game to officially open the green on 12 May 1912, and we invited them back on Saturday 12 May 2012.

There will be an invitation tournament on Saturday 4 August where clubs from other areas will come and enjoy a friendly competition. New Members are always welcome! For further info about the Club, contact president Hamish Sinclair on 01644 430 422.

Liz Peacock

Dalry Community Council:

Next meeting: Mon 2 July, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.

New Galloway & Kells

Community Council: Next meetings: Mon 11 June & 9 July, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall.

Carsphairn Community

Council: Next meeting: Mon 25 June, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall.

Balmaclellan Community

Council: Next meetings: Mon 25 June & 30 July, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.

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



DALBEATTIE MOBILE POST OFFICE

MONDAY

Corsock: 12:30-1.30pm, Balmaclellan: 2.30-3.30pm, Mossdale: 4-5pm

WEDNESDAY

Balmaclellan: 2:45-4:45pm

THURSDAY

Mossdale: 9:30-10:30am, Balmaclellan: 11am-1pm, Corsock: 2-3pm

Bill payments, postage, banking, motor vehicle licences, travel insurance, bureau de change, key charging and mobile top-up.

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.

GIANTS IN THE FOREST

On Monday 30 April children from Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells Primary Schools, along with members of the CatStrand Artexpresso carers group, headed into Galloway Forest Park to be part of an exciting project happening this summer at the Otter Pool – Giants in the Forest.

The groups worked with botanist Clair McFarlan to learn interesting facts about wildflowers before planting them in seedling form into three giant heads which were then suspended high in the trees in the forest. This was the first activity in a project that will take place between now and October, and which is happening not just in Galloway Forest Park but in forests across Scotland, England

and Wales.

Giants in the Forest is run by Vision Mechanics, the group responsible for Big Man Walking in Dumfries two years ago. They will be working with the CatStrand in partnership with SW Scotland's Biosphere and Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival to deliver a series of activities in the community. The project encourages people to visit forests and enjoy art in non-traditional settings. Vision Mechanics Artistic Director, Symon Macintyre, says; "the project aims to connect people and their communities and invites them to reflect on their relationship with the environment, the seasons and life cycles."



Children from Kells primary school with one of the giant heads

People are encouraged to visit the Giants and ask themselves what the heads are thinking, then take a photo and upload it onto www.giantsintheforest.com along with your thoughts.

A picnic will be held on Sunday 10 June – everyone's invited – and there will be lots more on over the next few months. If you are part of a group and would like get involved in the project contact jodie@catstrand.com

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OPENING TIMES:

7.30am - 5.30pm Mon, Tue, Thurs & Fri, 7.30am - 12.30pm
Wed, 7.30am - 4.30pm Sat, 8.30am - 11.30am Sun

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. 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.

Please remember that people list their items in good faith that they will go to an appreciative home - items are not to be collected simply to sell on.

Furniture

Kingsize mattress, pocket sprung, good condition. Very heavy - will need 2 people to lift it. Contact: Trevor on 440 683. Please leave a message and I'll get back to you.

Couch, green leather, 3-seater, nearly as new except one seat cushion missing. Call 460 673

Various

Pine framed cork pinboards: 61 x 92cm and 46 x 61cm. Contact: 430 218

Ladies bike. Good overall condition but needs two new tires through lack of use. Contact: Fiona on 07789 903 127

Large tent, sleeps 6. Contact: Paula 420 221

Watson portable television with remote control. Contact: Nigel on 460 545

Panasonic video player/recorder, as new, complete with Scart lead. Anyone still want to play their old videos? Contact Alan on 07769 680 938

Curtains: pair extra long curtains (258cm long x 384cm wide), Liberty fabric (warm

colours, mainly green and pink), interlined pair shorter curtains (134cm long x 256cm wide), pretty Jane Churchill floral fabric, interlined. Contact: 430 218
Lampshade for standard lamp, height 42cm, bottom diameter 52cm, top diameter, 26cm. Contact: Ken on 460 516

Plants/Garden

Scarborough lilies: House plants, small bulbs, potted and ready to grow on, produce spikes of coral red flowers from July to September. In this case I wouldn't mind if people want to take these to sell on to raise money for good causes, eg. Scouts, Guides, etc. Contact: 07554 644 993 (evenings)

Patio Heater: Homebase 'Nevada' table-top patio heater (stainless steel) with gas connector, several years old but never been used. Contact: 430 218

Childrens'

Children's desk/easel - moulded plastic (make is 'smoby'). Contact: Sarah on 430 138

DIY/Home Fittings

Window handles. Contact: Ken

on 460 516

Door bell and wireless chime. Contact: Nigel on 460 545

Selection of Double Glazed units from our old windows. Will need frames made, but might suit a carpenter with a chilly house. Contact: Andi on 430 255

WANTED

Air Compressor, chainsaws or chainsaw parts, any condition, working or not. Contact: Gareth on 460 661.

Wooden crates, the kind used for beer or cider, any size, I don't mind if they're grubby as long as they're not broken or have wood worm. Contact: 07554 644993

Small sturdy work bench or wooden table which could serve as one. Contact: 07554 644993

Calor gas stove. Mei on 460 528

KX80 motorbike parts wanted. Contact: Gareth on 460 661.

Does anyone commute to Glasgow on a Friday morning? If so, would you be open to giving me a lift? I am happy to split fuel costs. Contact: Gill on 07807 106 799

LITTER BUGS

Whilst walking along the Gatehill road, a few senior citizens picked up two bin-bags full rubbish. We could not, unfortunately, carry the microwave oven, computer, oil drums and tyres dumped there!

This isn't litter dropped by tourist-season visitors... Why do some of us who live here care so little about the beautiful countryside and treat it as a rubbish dump? You know who you are, so please think before you litter.

A Walker



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Eco Feature

sponsored by **natural power**

In this issue we are going to look at a domestic-scale renewable energy technology that has grown in recent years – wood pellet heating systems.

There are a few examples of wood pellet heating systems in the Glenkens, the most notable being the biomass heating system at the CatStrand in New Galloway.

Wood pellet heating systems are well established and widely used in many countries world-wide, including Sweden, Austria, Italy and Canada. Boilers are available in a range of sizes, capable of heating everything from a family home (15 Kilowatts) to a medium-sized commercial building or school (100 Kilowatts).

Stand-alone pellet burning room stoves are also growing in use, but to provide heat to radiators or under-floor pipes, and therefore heat a whole building, a pellet boiler is required. The heated water is pumped to an insulated thermal store (basically a large hot water tank), and the heat is then drawn off via heat exchangers in the tank to supply domestic hot water or to feed radiators/pipes. Combination systems are available which combine a room stove with a back-boiler, therefore providing direct space heating as well as feeding radiators and providing hot water.

The systems burn small wood pellets (6-8mm diameter and 1-2cm in length), that are delivered either in bulk (by tanker) or by pallet (a pallet carries 1 tonne, usually in 10kg bags). The pellets are made from compressed sawdust, which is typically waste from sawmills. A typical three bedroom house will burn 4-6 tonnes of pellets per year, so pellet storage and delivery is a consideration. A number of distributors provide

regular wood pellet deliveries in the Glenkens area, and a wood fuel co-operative has been established in Dumfries. The price per tonne has stayed pretty constant over the last five years, at about £240/tonne, during a period that has seen significant rises in oil, gas and electricity prices.

A wide range of efficient stove and boiler technologies are available, and can achieve efficiencies of over 90% in terms of converting the energy content of the pellets into useable heat.

People often ask if burning wood pellets can be considered to be renewable and whether or not it has the potential to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. The answer to this is simple - providing the wood comes from sustainable sources (i.e. commercial forestry that is replanted, as is the case in the UK), then the carbon dioxide released in burning is equal to that absorbed whilst the tree was growing, so it is considered to be carbon neutral. The energy used in production and transportation also needs to be considered when looking at the overall carbon and energy

balance, but there are now a number of well-established pellet producers which produce good quality pellets from sustainable wood sources. The Energy Saving Trust estimates that a pellet central heating system in a three-bedroom house will save between three and eight tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, and save between £100 and £700 per year.

A new support scheme is currently being considered by the UK Government to encourage the uptake of domestic biomass, which will also cover log and wood chip central heating systems. Support is available for non-domestic applications through the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), which pays a tariff for each unit of heat generated.

It is expected that the RHI will be extended to cover domestic applications later in 2012.

In the meantime there is a one-off grant payment for domestic systems of £950 available through a scheme known as the Renewable Heat Premium Payment.

Take a look at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk for further information and practical advice.

Neil Douglas

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New Zealand Flatworm Frenzy

Our native earthworm - friend of farmers, fishermen, and gardeners - has seen a rapid decline in its numbers across Scotland.

Where once scientists looked to find millions of the little creatures for every acre, there are now areas of Scotland where their numbers are undetectable. Our population of invisible workers that help aerate the soil and transport nutrients are under attack from a foreign predator.

This predator, the New Zealand flatworm, introduced through the importation of plants, has now been in the country for 40 years, and has managed to spread through most of Scotland, Northern Ireland, and some areas of northern England.

The New Zealand flatworm is a rather unappealing creature. 3-8cm long, they range in colour from cream to peach to a uniform brown, with a slight red tinge towards one end. They are flat and unsegmented, with a pointed head. The flatworm is covered in enzyme-laden mucus that allows it to slide along and follow its prey through its own burrows,

and on capturing a victim it coils itself around the prey. The underside of the midsection of the flatworm has a retractable, extending mouth that secretes juices that allows the prey to be liquefied externally before being sucked up through the mouth in to the body of the flatworm.

The flatworm is particularly prevalent in the west of Scotland, and many gardeners here in the Glenkens have commented on the amounts that they are finding; they are definitely present in Dalry and Balmacellan, but it seems perhaps not yet in Carsphairn or New Galloway...so let's make sure they don't spread!

At the moment there are no chemical or biological solutions to the problem. The difficulty is that there are no approved compounds that would exterminate the flatworm without also killing the earthworms that we are trying to protect.

There are, however, measures which can be taken to stop the spread of this insidious invertebrate:

- put plants into the ground with bare roots, or grow from



seed in clean soil.

- Precautions should be taken with any soil from infected areas, and knowledge of the flatworm in all its stages gained to allow easy recognition.

- if you are moving any plants, remove excess soil, immerse roots in warm water and leave overnight; flatworms can't swim and will tend to sink to the bottom, where they can be collected and disposed of.

They can also be trapped, collected and disposed of: Tiles, weighted black plastic sacks or other similar objects with a smooth surface that can be laid flat and create a damp, dark area can be put out overnight. These traps should be checked daily, and the flatworms disposed of by dropping them into hot, or salty, water.

Soil scientist Dr Boag monitors the spread of the NZ flatworm and would like to know of their presence in any agricultural fields. He can be emailed on brian.boag@hutton.ac.uk

Sara McNeill

Crayfish Conundrum

Something must be done about the American signal crayfish...

The man from Marine Scotland wants to do nothing; it's all too difficult. And from an office in a city that may well be the case. But in the Glenkens and Ken/Dee valley, the situation is different. Let's look at what we know: The American signal crayfish is a non-native and highly invasive species which consumes vegetation and invertebrates. Their numbers



are increasing, and the consequences are a damaging downwards spiral both for the natural environment and for the recreational fishing and tourist trade. Does it not make sense, therefore, to consider carefully the whole range of options, to assess the relative risks of each one and decide on a way forward?

The Cabinet Secretary for the Environment and Rural Affairs needs to undertake a thorough assessment of the environmental and economic aspects and come up with solutions.

There are clearly risks, such as wholesale commercial exploitation by unscrupulous

operators seeking to extend the territory of the crayfish through seeding other rivers. But we have experience of how to put in place effective regulations, and we have made progress in eradicating other introduced pest species such as the capture of mink and rats from bird breeding islands which few thought possible a couple of decades ago. Surely it is not beyond the government to find a solution which allows locals and visitors to eat the crayfish and for the rivers to become more natural again.

So please join the efforts of Alex Fergusson in campaigning for full assessment and action to progress towards a better outcome.

Roger Crofts, Dalry

Continued from front page...

The club will come under the umbrella of the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) which can offer charitable status as well as strategic advice on various aspects of running the group.

The new club will run on Mondays and Fridays, from 9.15-11.45am, at the Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry. It is designed particularly for children from birth to age four but is open to all ages, especially in the holidays.

A snack will be provided, and the cost will be £2 per child and £1 for any subsequent children.

We will have regular activities such as Storytime provided by Dalry Library, music, outdoor activities, and messy and creative play, tying in with other local groups where possible.

The new Club will be launched on Monday 16 July at 9.15am. Entry will be free and there will be a toy sale and tea/coffee and biscuits – so please come along to

support this new venture!

The Club would like to thank Glenkens Playgroup for their donation of equipment and funds to the new Club, and also thank Julie and Sue for all their hard work and for the wonderful service they have provided to the children of the Glenkens over the years. Our children are going to miss you!

To find out more or get in touch with the Glenkens Children's Club, please visit www.glenkenschildrensclub.co.uk

Fundraising Cake & Plant Sale

A recent cake and plant sale organised by the Ladies Guild at St Margaret's Church in New Galloway raised over £400.

The money went to Waverley Care, Scotland's leading charity providing care and support for HIV and Hepatitis C sufferers and their families.

CatStrand Youth Players

The Youth Players had a very successful day at The Palace Theatre in Kilmarnock on Saturday 24 March. Winning the Youth Festival at Lochside Theatre in February earned them the honour of representing the Stewartry District at the West of Scotland Finals for the second time in the past three years. Competing against the five other district winners from throughout the West of Scotland, they were placed a very creditable second, and they came home with the Ross Arthington Memorial Trophy as runners up.

The Youth Players' next appearance on stage will be at the CatStrand on Friday 8 June with an evening of short plays and sketches to end another successful season.



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, Dalry, is fast becoming the place to be in the Glenkens.



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Hadrian's Wall Visit

On Tuesday 27 March S1 pupils from Dalry Secondary School visited the Army Museum, Vindolanda and Hadrian's Wall.

James Banner, S1, reports:

"We went to Hadrian's Wall and the Roman Army Museum which was good. A hologram taught us about life as a Roman and their language and numerals. Then we went around the museum looking at things and we had our activity book that we filled in as we went, after that we watched a 3D Roman film called the Eagle's Eye. After that we got put in groups and explored the rest of the museum with my friends. Then we went to the shop and had some lunch."

After lunch, which was enjoyed outside in almost tropical weather, the pupils had the



chance to see Hadrian's Wall before we visited the Roman fort of Vindolanda, famous for housing the 'Vindolanda writing tables' which provide detailed descriptions of life at the fort from the words of the people who lived there. The Vindolanda fort allowed pupils to investigate a replica of the fort's features as Daisy Hickman, S1, describes:

"The first thing we did when we got to Vindolanda was have a talk from an archaeologist about the things they had found at the site. We sat on a wall in the tropical heat and looked at

some of the finds and talked about what they had been used for. Then we went and looked at some of the remains of the buildings. We were put into groups and sent to find different rooms or buildings in and around the site. Then we went to these buildings that had two models inside. One had the inside of a Roman house and the other had the inside of a Roman shop. You looked through a glass screen and you heard someone talking about living or working in the different buildings. We then went down to the gift shop and bought an ice-cream!"

simon winstanley architects

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COMING SOON!

A Lottery Terminal is being installed in June 2012.

Keep an eye on our shop window for the latest information!



Take out menu available - ring in your order in and we can have it ready for collection.

Glenkens Cluster Residential

Recently P6 and 7 pupils from the Glenkens visited Edinburgh for a three-day residential experience.

On the first day the pupils from Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells stopped off en route to visit the Falkirk Wheel. After the boat trip and picnic lunch the next stop was the National Museum of Scotland, and the day was rounded off with a 'Ghost Tour' around the old part of the city. The pupils found it hilarious when Mr McKenna and Mr Gray were chosen to be whipped at the 'mercat cross' when our guide was telling stories of everyday life in Edinburgh hundreds of years ago.

Day two began with a walk up Arthur's Seat in glorious sunny weather. After some super views of the city of Edinburgh we walked to the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood. The group was fortunate to be given a guided tour around

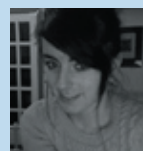


Pupils with Alex Fergusson MSP

the Parliament by Mr Fergusson, our local MSP. After lunch at the Parliament we walked across the road to visit the galleries in Dynamic Earth which explained how our planet was created and how it has changed over millions of years.

On the last day of the residential we visited Edinburgh Castle. The pupils especially enjoyed seeing the Scottish crown, Stone of Destiny and the one o'clock gun. We then walked from the castle to the Camera Obscura on the Royal Mile. After lunch in Princes Street Gardens we all headed back home.

CAITLIN'S COLUMN



Manchester, like any city, is bursting with opportunity.

For a young country-bumpkin kid like me, the city seemed like heaven. I guess young people growing up in the city would take it for granted somewhat, just as I did with Galloway, but when you go somewhere so alien for a while nothing else seems to compare.

The possibilities Manchester throws my way seem endless; I'm forever going to music events or taking part in art projects and going to galleries. Especially in the art school, I meet unlimited amounts of lovely and interesting people who inspire me, teach me and introduce me to new things. Right now my course-mates and I are working on a big art project based in a rundown mill which has been converted into an independently run space for up-and-coming artists, makers, thinkers and doers. The potential in a place like that is phenomenal. It actually reminded me of the CatStrand; how it's run by volunteers and encourages local artists, musicians and people to become more involved. I think little things like that are vital for that sense of community. In a huge city a sense of community is key or else you may become lost in the bright lights and crowds of people.

Sometimes in Galloway it seems like there isn't much going on - that people, especially youngsters, are isolated just when they need most to connect with others their age. A huge part of this problem is the transport system. It's beyond me why in Manchester there is every kind of transport under the sun - even a free bus service! - yet in a place where it's needed most the buses are so few and far between.

Take a look around you - there is loads going on in Galloway! Music nights, craft workshops, artists by the dozen - just like in a city but on a smaller scale. So doesn't that make them even more important?

Bonanza Bagz

Glenkens Guides would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who kindly contributed sewing materials to enable the creation of bags for the fundraising Bonanza Bagz project.

Their first venture into the sale of these bags, and other sewn items, took place during the recent Guide/Brownie/Rainbow 'Soup & Sweet Lunch' fundraising event. Thanks to the support of the community,

the total income from this event was £394.50. Included in this amount was £63 from the sale of Bonanza Bags. The guides have agreed that 25% of this amount will go to their chosen charity, Children 1st.

Girls can be Guides between the ages of 10 and 15 years, and any girls interested in joining our unit should contact Mrs Kathryn Peace (01644 430 281). We meet on Tuesday evenings in the Glenkens Community Centre, and would

be so pleased to have a few more girls join our small but active unit. Plans for the near future include a day at the Galloway Sailing Centre, and going to County Camp during the summer holidays.



CatStrand Highlights

There's so much on at the CatStrand this summer!

We are delighted to be working with the Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival again this year, and presenting an Anglo/Scottish double bill of veteran singer-songwriters whose combined careers total more than the average lifetime with performances from Rab Noakes & Allan Taylor (Friday 1 June).

Did you love Woody Pines or Pokey la Farge when they visited last year? Then I think you're going to like these guys... All the way from Boise, Idaho, the group Hillfolk Noir (Sunday 10 June) have built themselves a huge Stateside following. Their music is described as being inspired by a half-century of folk, country and rock 'n' roll, and fed by family history and an affinity for acoustic mountain music,

medicine show culture and depression-era string-band blues...

With 5-star reviews and sell-out audiences at last year's Edinburgh Fringe, we are delighted to present Scotland's Little Sparrow Christine Bovill with her show PIAF (Friday 15 June). Piaf's life was as dark as her iconic black dress, but PIAF the show will expose the colour and hope in spite of it all. A breathtaking musical homage to the much-revered French star.

Don't forget that on Thursday 28 June we will be screening the multiple award-winning The Artist. One of the year's most original films, this is a charming tale of two actors during the silent movie era.

The CatStrand will be spreading its wings again on Saturday 23 June and heading out to Balmaclellan Hall where Wee Stories will present their show



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COMMUNITY BUS NEWS

I know from many people's reaction that there are concerns about the hold on Council funding for the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) bus.

Well, hopefully by the time you read this our application will have been granted – fingers crossed!

Giants in the Forest is one of the local projects we are providing transport for this year. Part of the Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival, it runs between April and October and aims to encourage various local groups to explore our woodlands. On the first visit 32 pupils from Dalry School came along, and many more are to follow from other schools and groups in the area (for more on this see p3).

This year GTI are also providing transport across the Region for

Spring Fling (have you booked your seats yet?) as well as for the Council-run play scheme which runs during the summer holidays in Castle Douglas for children with special needs.

The trips continue to come and go and there is an additional one to Kelvingrove Art Museum on Thursday 28 June to coincide with an Exhibition of 500 years of Italian Art. Tickets are on sale for this now; even if you don't fancy going to Kelvingrove we can drop you off at Silverburn Shopping Centre or feel free to do your own thing in Glasgow – all for £6 return!

In the next few months we will travel far and wide, so why not take some photos and write a few lines about one of these days out – I am sure it will make interesting reading in the next issue of the Gazette...

*Keith Cooper,
GTI Administrator*

Hungarian Visit

The local Presbytery of the Church of Scotland is exploring a twinning with the Presbytery of Debrecen in eastern Hungary.

Last May fifteen people from this Presbytery visited Hungary. This June a group of seventeen Hungarians will come here. We will be hosting Rev Sandor Karcza at the manse, and he will preach at Dalry and Kells Churches on Sunday 10 June. On Monday 11 June the group will gather at the Burning Bush in Dalry at 10am and proceed to Earlstoun Castle for an outdoor conventicle – you are welcome to join us. The group will have a brief look round Dalry churchyard to view the Covenanter memorials, and then head to the Ken Bridge Hotel for a lunch of haggis, neeps and tatties. If you'd like to join the Hungarians for this meal please book with myself on 430 380. *David Bartholomew*

Jubilee Celebrations

New Galloway will be holding Jubilee celebrations on the afternoon of Tuesday 5 June.

They will take the form of Tea in the Park, a kind of street party theme but in the park. Bring along a picnic and drinks, or there will also be a tea tent and barbecue.

The theme is 1950's dress so feel free to dress in 50's gear; this is of course optional, but there will be a prize for 'best dressed'!

Music and other entertainment will run throughout the afternoon from about 2pm along with games, sports and a five-a-side football competition later in the afternoon.

I would like to thank everyone who kindly supported the table-top sale at Dalry Town Hall on Saturday 24 March. The total raised was £149 which enabled the Get into Reading project for people living with dementia and carers to take place for 12 weeks at the Community Centre in Castle Douglas. A special thank you to Avril Brown for her help with refreshments – what a star! *Gill Stanyard*

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Dog Training in Dalry

Having been made welcome by the villagers of Dalry since retiring there in 2006, Eric Broadhurst and his wife Helen wanted to put something back into the community - and as a result Real Dog Training Scotland was born.

Eric runs dog training classes in Dalry Town Hall on Tuesday evenings. Having provided the TV and film industry with dogs and cats for over 35 years, he is well qualified in the field of canine training. "To arrive on set with a dog and a new actor, to be told by the director that the dog needs to do the following in the next three hours, you have to be a good assessor of both dog and man," says Eric.

People have arrived at Dalry on a Tuesday night not daring to bring their dog into the hall as other clubs



Dalry youngsters with their dogs

have sent their dogs home for being out of control. These same people are amazed that by the end of the night their dog is responding to the training.

The New Year brought youngsters and puppies to the club, which took Eric back to the days on Coronation Street with a twelve week old great Dane puppy called Schmicheal and a 12 year old actor called Sam Aston. Fans of Coronation Street will have witnessed for themselves the relationship between Sam (Chesney) and Schmicheal, and the working bond that was formed.

"The Dalry youngsters are illustrating that there is nothing better than to see the bond between a child and their well-behaved family pet," says Eric.

Planning to enter your dog into the pet show at any of the agricultural shows this summer? Come along to Eric's Ring Craft workshops; you'll only have a minute to impress the judge!

To find out more visit www.realdogtrainingscotland.co.uk
To hire Dalry Town Hall, contact Jean Lockerbie on 430 454.



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Crowing Success



Gordon McAdam of Dalry recently followed in his father's footsteps with a very chirpy win.

Two years ago, after a gap of 20 years, Gordon started showing poultry again. This April he entered Beith Show and won overall show champion in the

poultry section with a buff Plymouth rock cockerel. Twenty-seven years ago Gordon's father, George, won the same cup at the same show with the same breed of bird.

At Beith Gordon also won the reserve champion with a white call duck. He exhibited 15 birds in total, and came away with 14 prize tickets – quite an achievement!

Dalry Library would like to thank Mr Wright at St John's Nursery for donating flowers and compost for the library planters, and Simon Stout for planting them.

Librarian Angela Miller says: *"I very much appreciate the donations of flowers from Mr Wright and time from Mr Stout. I'm sure the Library patrons will be grateful too for the splash of life and colour it brings to the front of the Library."*

St John's Nursery, Main Street, Dalry is open 9am-4pm every day except Wed and Thurs (430 291). Simon Stout is a gardener and handyman based in Dalry (07752 589 610).

EQUINE BOGOF



Proud mum with Fleurette, only two hours old and still wobbly.

Buy one get one free has taken on a whole new meaning for one Glenkens resident...

Louise Whyte, of Carsphairn, says: "We recently rescued a comtois mare from the meat trade, and two weeks after she arrived we had an unexpected bonus... little Fleurette. We are just about over the shock!"

Theo Paphitis with winner Sharon Marshall



Tweet Winner

Sharon Marshall of local business TransK9 Dog Transit Products recently joined Theo Paphitis of BBC's Dragons' Den in Birmingham after being selected as one of his six favourite small businesses in a weekly Twitter event.

Every Sunday Theo rewards small businesses that tweet him and describe their businesses in 140 characters. Out of the hundreds of entries each week he reviews and chooses his favourite six who are then re-tweeted. At the current time he has over 235,000 followers so this offers a tremendous boost to any business that is chosen.

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AGNES COOKS... CAKE

In this issue local cook Agnes Holden will give us some tips on making delicious, and nutritious, cakes.

I like the idea of using vegetables in baking. Although you rarely taste the vegetable itself, they can add texture and colour to a cake and make it something special. The courgette cake with the lime icing looks very unusual when cut as it has specks of vivid green throughout. Rest assured those who hate courgettes will never know what they are eating and are sure to like it anyway! The carrot and orange cake is more traditional but the added spices make it a wee bit different. Both cakes have the same proportions of main ingredients but vary in spices, and follow the same method. For both you need a square 23cm tin, greased and lined.

Courgette and Lime Cake

175g/6oz grated courgette (washed but not peeled)
175g/6oz castor sugar
175g/6fl oz vegetable oil
3 large eggs
175g/6oz self raising flour
1tsp bicarbonate of soda
1tsp vanilla extract
½ tsp grated nutmeg
1 lime

175g/6oz icing sugar

Zest the lime and chop finely. Add this to 1tsp castor sugar and put aside (this is for the topping).

Mix together the sugar, eggs, oil and vanilla and stir in the courgettes. Add the flour, bicarbonate of soda and nutmeg and mix altogether. Pour into prepared tin and bake for about 40 mins at 180°C/gas mark 4 (it should feel firm to the touch). Remove and cool for 10 mins before turning out on to a wire rack.



Squeeze the juice from the lime and mix some with the icing sugar (you won't need all the juice). Drizzle the icing over the cake and scatter the prepared lime zest over the top.

Carrot and Orange Cake

175g/6oz grated carrots
175g/6oz muscovado sugar
175g/6oz vegetable oil
3 large eggs
175g/6oz self raising flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
100g/4oz dried cranberries
1tsp cinnamon
1tsp mixed spice
1 orange
175g/6oz icing sugar

Follow the instructions for making the courgette cake, substituting the orange for the lime.

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Wind Farm Community Benefit News

Love them or loath them, it seems highly likely that within the next ten years the landscape of the Glenkens will be dominated by wind farms.

A development of this magnitude needs to be thoroughly scrutinised, so we should be grateful to those on both sides of the argument who have devoted themselves to exploring the issues. This has often been a passionate and polarised debate with sincerely held views about the need to develop renewable energy sources being set against those who love the Galloway landscape as it exists now and want to keep it that way.

Whatever the outcome of this argument we cannot wait for it to be settled before doing our utmost to ensure that those communities which will be most affected, if and when the developments go ahead, receive the maximum benefit possible.

A rough calculation shows that community benefit payments from wind farms have the potential to boost the local economy in a major way. At present there are 12 large wind farms already built or planned in the Glenkens, with the potential to produce 600 megawatts of power in total.

If all of the developers of these wind farms were to pay the current going rate of £5000 per installed megawatt in community benefit, it would

mean quite a significant figure...

It would mean a boost to the local economy and infrastructure of £3 million per year.

Six community councils in the Glenkens and Moniaive have come together with the aim of negotiating with developers. However many schemes are finally approved and whatever financial benefit comes to local communities, we want to make sure that 100% of these funds are used locally and not swallowed up in administration costs. Dumfries & Galloway Council have recently employed an official to negotiate with developers on behalf of communities.

The Council has said that if community benefit moneys are paid to it, only 50% will go to communities like ours which will be directly affected. The rest will go into a central fund.

The Council makes the perfectly reasonable point that some communities may not want, or be able, to administer and spend the funds themselves. In such cases it may indeed be helpful if the Council steps in. However, community councils in the Glenkens and Glencairn have decided to say "thanks, but no thanks" to the Council's offer to look after our money - and

to take 50% commission for so doing.

There is one Glenkens community which is not yet a member of the Glenkens and Glencairn Community Benefit Committee: Corsock.

This is a community which is certain to be very significantly affected by the Blackcraig wind farm that has already been approved. Unfortunately Corsock does not have a community council at present. But if any residents of Corsock are concerned about this issue, and are willing to hold a public meeting so that a local community benefit committee could be formed, they should contact the convenor of our committee, Sean Paul O'Hare, on 01644 420 374.

Come on Corsock - don't miss out!

Andrew Mellor,

Members of the Glenkens Scout Group Committee, Leaders, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers would like to thank all who very kindly donated items for our Annual Jumble Sale.

A thank you also to everyone who came along and purchased goods, and, last but not least, our band of helpers - from parents to people from outside Scouting - who give of their time and work tirelessly for the cause. We raised just over £1000 which is amazing.

Thank you all again for your kindness, it is much appreciated.

Heather




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THE STORY BEHIND THE SHOW

A few years back I overheard a comment about Carsphairn Show: "Oh it's the show this weekend - isn't it amazing how it always just appears every year as if from nowhere". And in a way it is like that...

Over the years, hard working committees have got together and overnight a show field appears, a show happens, and then it all disappears again.

I have had the privilege of caring for the archives of the show, and this year have delved into some of these old documents to learn more about the Carsphairn Show and its precursors - the Carsphairn Fair, the Glenkens Society and the Carsphairn Shepherds' Society.

The Fair was reputedly first held in 1689 as a celebration of the end of an army occupation of Dalmellington and Carsphairn by a brigade of Highlanders, and with a local murder happening on the same day, that particular Fair is well documented. So, in memory of Roger Dunne (who was sadly killed in a matter of mistaken identity), a fair was held every year on the first Friday of June.

The Glenkens Society, on the other hand, was a more genteel affair and was founded in 1830 "for the improvement of the labouring classes". This Society

included flower and vegetable growing competitions and a poultry show, amongst its many other interests, and although originally intended to be held in various venues around the district, never quite made it to Carsphairn.

Finally in Carsphairn parish, an organisation existed from the early 1800's by the name of the Carsphairn Shepherds' Society. This Society was formed to promote social contact between sheep farmers in the parish and was also intended to be educational in the latest sheep husbandry matters.

When the first meeting was held in the School Room at Carsphairn in 1876 "for the purpose of making arrangements for a show of poultry, dogs and flowers", these three organisations all had played their part in the formation of Carsphairn Pastoral and Horticultural Society; the body behind the Carsphairn Show.

Afternoon entertainments at the show over the years have ranged from a Pillow Fight (strong flour bags would be required) to a 'Clipping Sheep to Wearing Jumper' Time Trial to a Cow Pat Lottery!

The poultry classes were the largest section of the show and

in their heyday 'conveyances' would bring hampers of poultry which had been collected off the train at Dalmellington. In the show archive is a postcard from a disappointed exhibitor in 1936 which reads:

"Dear Secretary, owing to the pure damned stupidity of the Clerk at Drongan Station my exhibits for the Show were not put on the train yesterday morning...".

Support for the showing of poultry, pigeons, rabbits and even cattle declined also and in 1969 the only livestock section left was sheep.

Sheep classes didn't begin until 1880, but with the background of Carsphairn Shepherds' Society the show soon established a name as one of the main exhibitions of Blackface Sheep in the country, and today it's still known as one of Scotland's premier Blackface Sheep 'shop windows'.

Since the 17th Century, the hill shepherds have regarded the Carsphairn Show as the first chance to socialise with their counterparts from other farms after the winter snows melted and the year's lambing was over.

Why not come along to Carsphairn Show on Saturday 2 June and see for yourself - it really does just appear by magic once a year!

Jean Gibbon

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LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

The Woodlands of Glenkens



Although Galloway Forest Park is an inventive euphemism for what is often impenetrable plantation where no birds sing, the solitude of forest trails can be extremely pleasurable; a unique mixture of the smell of pine, the gurgle of burns and the slightly menacing silence of the woods.

In 1925 there were 300 hectares of conifers near Mossdale and a further 100 each at Woodhall Loch and south Loch Ken. Today there are 140,000 hectares in Galloway and Carrick.

When I used to walk the Galloway Hills, over fifty years ago, the landscape outside the glens was virtually treeless. The coming of the green deserts was heralded by the appearance of drainage ditches set two metres apart; a distance which defied any attempt to establish a regular stride and was thoroughly exhausting after a day on the Rhinns.

The modern planting may have been considered appropriate since the Forest of Galloway is recorded in the 12th century; a huge area extending from Cree to Urr first noted around 1300, in the vicinity of Glenkens.

The word 'forest' is related to 'foris', which means 'out of doors', but it was not necessarily densely wooded. The medieval forest was often 'a wild uncultivated waste' set aside for hunting but it had other uses too. There were settlements such as Dalry whose priest in the 15th century sought to raise money for the repair of his church 'which is situated in the woods, far from habitation of other Christian faithful and among fierce men ill-versed in the faith'. Similar language was used by the gentlemen of Carsphairn, - 'a very desolate wilderness containing 500 communicants', - who petitioned the General Assembly in 1638 to

carve a new parish out of Kells and Dalry, with regard to 'the salvation of souls of barbarous and ignorant people who has heretofore lived without the knowledge of God, their children unbaptized, their dead unburied, and no way for getting maintenance to a minister'.

Some animals, and not just deer, were confined to 'parks', hence the Glenkens farms with Park in their name. Oak bark was used for the tanning of hides. Indeed there was so much human activity that the Forest had its own laws, which would have been unnecessary in an empty wilderness.



Kenmure woods, photo courtesy of Padeapix.

A document of the 1680s mentions 'the considerable woods upon the west side of the Loch of Kenmoir, Karn Edward Wood, the forest of Craig Gilbert.' The last-named is just north of the Raiders' Road. Andrew Symson in his 'Large Description of Galloway' (1684) mentions a wood of great overgrown oaks at Kenmure Castle. In 1691 the Earl of Hopetoun, owner of the lead mines at Leadhills, paid Sir Alexander Gordon of Earlstoun 23,000 merks (£113,164.31 in today's money) for some of his woods. 100 years later Kenmure exported timber to England by boat from Loch Ken via the Dee and Kirkcudbright.

As New Galloway native Robert Heron headed homewards up Glenkens in 1791 he enthused about the Drumrask oaks but

otherwise lamented that wood was too

scarce to be used as fuel. He also noted that the country people considered the cutting down of hawthorn trees to bring bad luck, and reminds us that memory of the medieval Glenkens is preserved in place-names such as Forrest and Bush.

There were an estimated 60 acres of natural woodland in Balmaclellan parish where it was recommended that more trees be planted to provide animal shelter. At Carsphairn it was reported that woods had abounded 150 years earlier but had been consumed by the iron smelters. Dalry reported six miles of natural woods of considerable extent along the banks of the Ken, which were still there 50 years later. There were also plantations at Earlstoun and at Todstone, Cleugh, Glenhoul and Arndarroch, all on the High Carsphairn Road. Kells could boast 500 acres of natural woodland scattered over several sites, mostly oak, ash, birch, alder and hazel, but deer had vanished from the forest.

By the 1840's Airds, Kenmure and Glenlee remained worthy of remark. The Rev. George Murray noted the destruction of fine large specimens of silver fir at Barscobe, destroyed in the hurricane of 1839. He also reported the 'Daffin Tree' at Killochy, a large ash of unusual shape, a meeting-place of the locals. To 'daff' was to playfully pass the time; Daffin Hill is still so named. He estimated the annual value of thinnings from plantations at £40. Carsphairn remained destitute of wood, while shepherds were resistant to plantation as detracting from pasture.

This short discussion about a large subject has not so much as taken a single leaf from a mighty oak. Glenkens is a great place to study and enjoy woodlands, favoured by the heritage of the medieval Forest, the custodianship of past local landowners and the advances of modern forestry.

Ted Cowan

GLENKENS DIARY...

April to Nov, Giants in the Forest,
CatStrand

MAY

Sun 27, Glenkens Acoustic Sessions,
2-4pm, CatStrand

Thurs 31, Chris Lerner: An Instinct
For Kindness, 7.30pm, £10/8,
CatStrand

Thurs 31 - Sun 3 June,
Knockengoroch World Ceilidh Festival,
(see article on back page)

SCOTTISH ALTERNATIVE GAMES

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JUNE

Fri 1, Rab Noakes & Alan Taylor,
7.30pm, £10/8, CatStrand

Fri 1, Food for Thought Lunch,
10.30am, £12.50, Cream o' Galloway,
(see p10)

Sat 2 - Sat 30, Exhibition: Kevan
McGinty, CatStrand

Sat 2, Carsphairn Show, opens 8am,
Show Dance 9pm

Mon 4, Queen's Diamond Jubilee
Celebrations, Dalry, (see p5)

Tues 5, New Galloway Jubilee
Celebrations, 2pm, New Galloway,
(see p11)

Fri 8, CatStrand Youth Players,
7.30pm, £5/3, CatStrand

Sun 10, Hillfolk Noir, 7.30pm, £10/8,
CatStrand

Sun 10, Bus trip to Appleby Horse Fair

Sun 10, Giants in the Forest picnic,
(see p3)

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

Fri 15, PIAF, 7.30pm, £10/8,
CatStrand

Sat 16, Mosaic with
Jane Rose, 10am
- 3pm, £40, CatStrand

Wed 20, CatStrand
Open Stage, 7.30pm,
£3/2, CatStrand

Thurs 28, Film: The
Artist, 7.30pm, £5/4,
CatStrand

Sat 23, The Sun, the
Moon & A boy called
River, 7pm, £5/4,
Balmacellan Village
Hall

Sun 24, Glenkens Acoustic Sessions,
2-4pm, free, CatStrand

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

Mon 25, Balmacellan CC Meeting,
7.30pm, Balmacellan Village Hall

Thurs 28, GTI Bus Trip to
Kelvingrove, £6/5, (see p11)

JULY

Mon 2, Dalry CC Meeting, 7pm, Dalry
Town Hall

Tues 3, Mikey & Addie, 1.30pm, £5/4,
CatStrand

Sat 7 July - Thurs 9 Aug,
Exhibition: Clair Melinsky, CatStrand

Mon 9, Kells CC Meeting, 7.30pm,
New Galloway Town Hall

Mon 16, Launch of Glenkens
Children's Club: Toy Sale, Teas &
Cakes, 9.15am, free, (see p7)

Fri 20, Trad Trails, 7.30pm, £8/6,
CatStrand

Thurs 26, Film: Best Exotic Marigold
Hotel, 7.30pm, £5/4, CatStrand

Sun 29, Glenkens Acoustic Sessions,
2-4pm, FREE, CatStrand

Mon 30, Carsphairn CC Meeting,
7pm, Lagwyne Hall

Mon 30, Balmacellan CC Meeting,
7.30pm, Balmacellan Village Hall

AUGUST

Sat 4, Spalding Bowling Club:
Invitation Tournament, (see p2)

Sun 5, Scottish Alternative Games,
2pm, £4/£1, New Galloway Park

Mon 6 to Wed 8, Room 13 Young
Persons Arts Workshop, Dalry Town
Hall (see p2)

What's Special About the Glenkens?

What should visitors go and see?

What do you love most?

What are its unique qualities?

**What makes people come back again
and again, or decide to move here
permanently?**

Various groups are coming together with the aim of promoting the Glenkens as a whole and we would value any thoughts and ideas you have. Get in touch with me here at the Gazette - see back page for contact details. We'd love to hear from you!

JUNE & JULY

REGULAR EVENTS:

The CatStrand (New Galloway):

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am

Guitar Workshop: Mon, 7-8pm

Children's Dance Class: Mon during term time, 3.45-4pm age 3-7, 4.30-5.30pm age 8-15

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

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

Sing it Out: Thurs, 11.30am-12.30pm

Pilates: Thurs, 4.15-5.15pm & 5.30-6.30pm

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

Family Film Club: 1st Sat each month, 11am

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

Catstrand Youth Players: Sun during term time, 2pm

Glenkens Acoustic Sessions, last Sunday of the month, 2-4pm

Glenkens Community Centre (Dalry):

Contact: Kath on 430 281

Glenkens Playgroup: Mon-Fri, 9.15-11.45am until Wed 4 July (contact - Julie 01644 460 687)

Glenkens Children's Club: Mon & Fri, 9.15-11.45am from Mon 16 July

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

Ballroom & Latin Dance Class: Mon, 7.15, for more info call Sam Rushton on 420 672

Good Neighbours Club: Tues, 2pm

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

Glenkens Mother & Toddlers: Fri, 1.30-3pm until Mon 16 July

Thursday Craft Group: Thurs, 2-4pm

Brownies: Wed, 5.30-6.45pm

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

Various Locations:

Scouts: Thurs, 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. Contact: Eric on 460 670

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

Zumba: Wed: 7.30-8.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall, £4

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, £3, contact: Raymond: 420 451

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

Dalry Library (Tel: 430 234)

Tue: 2-4.30pm then 5.30-7.30pm
Fri: 11.15am-1.15pm then 2-4.30pm

There are 23 mobile library stops - to find out where and when call 430 234

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays: Balmaclellan: 12noon 1st (Jul), Carsphairn: 10.30am 1st(Jul) 2nd 3rd 4th, Dalry: 9am 1st(Jul) 2nd 3rd 4th, Dalry: 10.30am 1st(Jun) 5th(Jul), Kells: 10.30am 2nd 3rd 4th

Special Services/Events:

Sun 3 June, 10.30am: United Service for Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Dalry Church

Mon 11 June, 10.30am: Conventicle at Earlstoun Castle with Hungarian visitors

Communion Service: 6 May, Sun 1 Jul, 10.15am, Carsphairn Church (using central table)

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL

CHURCH: 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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Call 07727 127 997

USEFUL NUMBERS:

- Pot-hole Hotline: 0845 276 0000
- Local Police: 0845 600 5701
- Doctor: 01644 420 234
- NHS 24: 08454 24 24 24
- D&G Council: 030 33 33 3000



Spring is here and there are more and more gorgeous photographs coming in for our Photo of the Issue competition.

This issue's winner is Jayne Grimwood with a stunning photo of sunrise at Loch Ken (left), and she wins a meal for two at the Clachan Inn.

For next issue's competition the prize will be a meal for two at the Lochinvar Hotel, so get snapping - there are lots of great summer events coming up!

Local Line-up for World Ceilidh

This year Knockengorloch's World Ceilidh Festival will have a new event showcasing local talent to add to its international line-up.

A new venue - the Dionysia tent - has been created which, from 3-5pm on Sunday June 3rd, will

host some of the areas hottest new and established singer-songwriters. And four of them are from the Glenkens...

The line-up includes Blue, from Laurieston, a well-known and well-loved established local musician; Sarah Ade, from Dalry, a regular at the CatStrand Open Stage; Zoe Bestel, from Wigtown who, at just 14 made her debut performance last year at the Alternative Games in New Galloway; Calum Gilligan, another Glenkens musician who, having played in bands for years, is now performing as a solo artist and wowing crowds all over Scotland; and last but definitely not least Sally Campbell, from Balmacellan, a firm favourite on the festival circuit both nationally and internationally. Featuring acts from across the world Knockengorloch festival



World Ceilidh 2011



Local musician Calum Gilligan

director Liz Holmes says it's "a bigger festival in a smaller pot!" She goes on to say: "There is so much talent in Galloway and we are delighted to be hosting these gifted local musicians."

So come along to Knockengorloch on Sunday afternoon, 3-5pm, to see this showcase of great local musical talent.

Visit www.knockengorloch.org.uk or call 01644 460 662 to find out more or buy tickets. To arrange car-pooling to the festival, get in touch with the CatStrand on 01644 420 374.

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 glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk

AUG/SEPT COPY DEADLINE: Fri 6 July



Design & co-ordination:
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Printing: Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press
www.stranraer-freepress.co.uk