

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

August/September 2012

ISSUE 71

FREE

Malawi Cycle Fundraiser



Ian Knox from Dalry is planning a 250 mile fundraising cycle across Malawi.

Ian hopes to raise £4,000 in donations which will go towards the £50,000 goal of this year's cycle ride in aid of Primary Healthcare Projects in Mulanje.

Ian says: "The story that sums up my reason for undertaking this fundraising venture is from Simon Gilliebaud. He says: 'There was a huge storm that washed thousands upon thousands of starfish onto the beach. A small boy saw their suffering and started throwing some back into the sea. An

old man walked past saying why bother, you'll never save them all, many will die. The boy replied; 'Tell that to the ones back in the sea. They have new hope, dreams and life'. A little can mean a lot to someone with nothing."

Ian will be one of around 30 people taking part in the David Livingstone Bicentenary Bike Ride run by fundraising charity EMMS International. Ian will be starting this challenging cycle on 10 May next year, hoping to arrive at Mount Mulanje by 18 May 2013.

Donations can be made online by visiting: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/ianknox1>.

A DECADE ON THE ROAD

In June this year the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) celebrated its 10th anniversary - a decade on the road and still going strong.

On Tuesday 4 June 2002, the first meeting of the GTI committee was held in the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT) offices, then situated in what was previously the butcher's shop on the High Street in New Galloway.

The meeting was chaired by Brian Edgar and also present were Gordon Glendenning, Tom Carmichael, Bob Peace, Mary McIlvenna, Margaret Richmond and Godfrey Smith. Later that year the first bus - the white Renault mini bus still in use today having done 128,000

miles - was purchased.

In March 2011, thanks to a generous donation, GTI were able to purchase a second mini bus.

The demands on their services are steadily increasing, especially now that GTI is one of only two transport initiatives in SW Scotland on the approved tendering list for Council work.

Story continued on p3...



Brian Edgar, Cathy Agnew, Pete McCarthy and George Prentice at the launch of the first GTI bus, ten years ago.

GTI questionnaire enclosed - see p3



Bookbugs & Book Buffets

Being a librarian is a life full of books, but it's certainly not a life of dull and dusty ones.

In May I attended a day of Bookbug

Session Training along with about 30 other local librarians. We spent the day singing songs, playing games and listening to stories, all to help us come back to our libraries and be able to share books with kids in the same exciting way.

I held my first Bookbug Session at the Library in

June with children from Glenkens Playgroup.

Over the summer I'm going to be running a Bookbug session on Wednesday 15 August at 10.30am. And on Tuesday 7 August I'll be running a Storylab Book Buffet for 8-12 year olds; if you want to come along to this, please sign at the Library any Tuesday or Friday. And don't forget to bring a picnic with you if the weather gets better – because we'll have our buffet on the lawn outside.

Just in case all you bigger folk were feeling left out, there's the Summer Reading Relay for you.

Come in and pick a book from our shelves that you would like to pass on and have a look at what other people are recommending!

Hope to see you all at the library soon,

Angela Miller, Librarian at Dalry Library

AN END AND A BEGINNING

Glenkens Playgroup closed its doors for the last time this July.

Thanks were given and tears were shed as Julie Moore, who has been playgroup manager for over ten years, was commended for giving local children such a great start.

The Playgroup will be sorely missed by parents and children in the Glenkens, especially as this means there is no childcare facility of any kind now for children under three.

However, to try to keep something going using the fantastic base the Playgroup has established,

Glenkens Children's Club (GCC) launched on Monday 16 July in the same premises with the same facilities. This is a parent-run club, and the launch day was a great success.

GCC runs on Mondays and Fridays from 9.15am to 11.45am including holidays; visit www.glenkenschildrensclub.co.uk for details.



Daisy with face-painting by Trish Bate at the GCC launch.

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Continued from front page...

A journey of this length has obviously had it's ups and downs, a few little bumps and the odd breakdown, but mostly it is a success story to the benefit of the people of the Glenkens.

One thing that hasn't changed is that Brian and Bob are still to the fore and along with the present committee, and all the volunteer drivers, work hard to keep those wheels turning – thank you; and not a speeding fine between you in 10 years!

The way GTI has been financed has changed considerably over the years, and the latest moves are towards being self-sufficient. Income from providing transport for schools and events such as the Spring Fling are therefore essential in order that we can carry on

looking after the transport needs of local people.

We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to tell us how we have done, how we can continue to meet your transport needs, and any other transport issues you have in the area (we work very closely with the Council and your views will be passed on). Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and hand it in to the CatStrand, give it to one of our committee members, or give it to the driver on one of your trips – it is, after all, your transport initiative, and we value your views.

Thank You,

Keith Cooper, GTI Administrator



Bus users on a GTI trip to Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life, near Coatbridge

Lillie Carrick: Our regular Wednesday evening users were sad to hear the death of Lillie from Mossdale. She lived alone and appreciated both the friendship and help she received when being taken to the shops most weeks. Lillie was the type of person who really benefits from the service GTI provides, and her laughter and personality will be missed.

Joyful Jubilee

Dalry marked the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a long weekend of celebrations.

The village was bedecked with bunting and many houses had entered colourful and inventive displays for the Best Decorated House competition.

A bonfire was lit on Mulloch Hill on the Monday evening – one of over 2012 official beacons lit all around the country

- over 200 people came to watch, with hot dogs provided to sustain them on the walk.

The following day a parish-wide party was held on the school playing fields with a Fancy Dress competition, live music, prize-giving and a hog roast followed by ice-creams.

In Balmaclellan, the Jubilee was celebrated by a very

well attended gathering at Balmaclellan Village Hall on the evening of Saturday 2 June.

When all were assembled, a toast to Her Majesty was proposed and met with great acclaim. A barbecue provided by Pringles followed, and, with background music, the associated conviviality continued until after dusk in and around the decoratively lit event tent erected outside the Hall.

The event was organised by the Community Council and the Village Hall Committee, and thanks are due to the helpers who contributed to a very enjoyable occasion.

GIVE GOLF A GO

Have you ever thought of playing golf but just never got round to it? New Galloway Golf Club is inviting people within the Club catchment to a FREE taster session on Saturday 4 August.

Meet in the Clubhouse at 2.30pm for tea/coffee, and bring the kids along to the Junior section get-together at 3pm.

The club will provide you with the necessary equipment, and the taster session will last approximately 1 1/2 hours.

And if you like it, then you will be invited to take up our offer of five further sessions for £20.

Our aim is to attract new members and the sessions are available only to those within the catchment of New Galloway Golf Club. See our website www.nggc.co.uk or phone Wave Tyrrell on 01644 430 583.



Dalry's Mulloch Hill bonfire

Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by natural power



EVERYTHING listed in the Glenkens Freecycle section 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

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

Various

Samsung colour TV with integral video and DVD player, old but good picture. 50cm wide, 50cm high, 42cm deep, screen 33 x 25cm. Contact: 430 218

15 glass storage jars which hold about 1 – 1 ½ lb of dry food stuffs. Contact: Margaret on 430 463

Quantity of chicken wire suitable for rabbit proofing etc. Couple of rolls unused. Contact Alan on 07769 680 938

DIY/Home Fittings

White Twyford bathroom

pedestal sink with mixer tap. New and unused. Contact: Andi on 430 255.

Kitchen extractor fan (surface mounting) with flexihose. (Used). Contact: Andi on 430 255.

Small amount of parquet flooring; might do a small entrance hall, or for craft work. Contact Andi on 430 255.

WANTED

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

Air Compressor, chainsaws or chainsaw parts, any condition, working or not. Contact: 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. Contact: Mei on 460 528

Terracotta pots, any size/shape. Contact 07807 106 799

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

Bunk beds. Contact: Dawn 07774 543 465

Any old woollen clothes - jumpers, especially Fair Isle/patterned, tweeds, tartan, etc. Contact 430 138

Daffodil Appeal 2012

Thanks to the generosity of the communities and participating outlets in the Glenkens, £194 was raised for Marie Curie Cancer Care during this year's Daffodil Campaign.

This is an increase in last year's total, and local volunteer for the charity Natalie Vardey says:

"Daffodils are the cheeriest of flowers, appearing as we come out of the dark days of winter. The Daffodil Campaign is a vital part of fundraising and the Glenkens has generously supported it since 1996."

Anyone with good quality clothes they no longer want is encouraged to donate them to the Marie Curie Shop in Dumfries or Newton Stewart, or call 420 634 to arrange a possible collection.

Support for Children's Club

This year, the proceeds from the St Margaret's Ladies Guild tombola stand at the Alternative Games will be in aid of the new Glenkens Children's Club.

Christine Rankin, President of St Margaret's Ladies Guild,

says: "We have helped the Glenkens Playgroup in the past and are delighted to be able to support the new Glenkens Children's Club by donating the proceeds from our Tombola at the Alternative Games. We wish them much success in their new venture".

New Orphan Centre Needed

Our annual coffee morning in aid of Abbas Rest Orphans in Malawi will take place on Saturday 6 October in Dalry Town Hall from 10am to 12noon.

We do hope you will support this event, as funds are very badly needed this year more than

ever. A new orphan centre will have to be built in Muona as the existing centre has to be vacated by August. It is scheduled to be demolished by the Malawian government as it is in the way of the new road they are building.

A piece of land has been purchased but funds are too low for the building to commence, as money is still needed for food and clothing. In the meantime, any children from Muona who are unable to be looked after in the community will have to be relocated for a time to the orphan centre at Chiringa.

We do hope to see you at the coffee morning.

Thank you



Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power



In this issue we have a local reader's personal experience of solar panels.

The whole concept of solar power in Scotland, in one of the wettest summers, may seem like a bit of an idiocy, but it could be one of the brightest things you ever do.

This certainly has been our experience of solar panels. Last year family talks began on whether, considering the cost of electricity and fuel, we should begin looking into different types of renewable energy. The government had been for some time trying to encourage people to invest in renewable energy, and had come up with a system whereby individuals invested in the equipment needed, and the power companies would pay you a fixed amount per kw of electricity generated from a renewable source, known as a feed in tariff. In addition to this you would have free electricity and what you didn't use would be exported back into the national grid and you would also be paid for this at the going wholesale electricity rate.

It seemed a great deal and certainly more attractive than investing the same amount of money in the average high street bank's savings account.

We looked at wind power, but wind maps showed that we lived in a marginal area and planning constraints could make it difficult. We also looked at

building our own hydro scheme, but it seemed to be quite an engineering task as well as a substantial outlay, and so we started to investigate solar power.

We phoned a number of companies to see what they offered and finally we were visited by a local company based just outside Dumfries who were able to demonstrate to us how much electricity we would realistically generate.

Based on their predictions, it meant that although we would not be generating all our own electricity, we would be cutting our electricity bills substantially, and the Feed in Tariff and savings made would pay us roughly 10% per annum on our expenditure. The average high street bank was paying out a paltry amount for the same investment and they weren't offering to pay any of your utility bills!

So the numbers seemed to work, but was it something we could do? Our property is surrounded by huge, old trees casting shadow on to the roof of the house and, as we constantly have to replace broken slates, it didn't seem the most sensible place to install solar panels.

I have to admit to being quite pleased that they couldn't go on the roof as I thought that they would detract from what is a beautiful Georgian house. And this is the great thing about solar panels - they can go just about anywhere. You can put them on your outbuildings, your garden shed, or mounted on a frame in your garden. We looked

at all the options and decided that our solar panels would be best placed in the paddock next to the house.

The convenience of this option meant that we would have to take two extra steps. Firstly, we would have to talk to planning, who insisted on a screen to hide it from the road, and secondly we would have to make it stock proof. After much thought we decided the best way to achieve both needs would be to box in the unit, and we would be left with what looks to most like a wooden shed in our paddock.

We have now had our panels for nearly eight months and, as with most things in life, the proof is in the pudding. So far the solar panels have generated in excess of what was predicted.

I can't really remember seeing the sun much this year, but the solar panels obviously have.

For anyone still thinking about solar panels let me assure you that you can generate electricity with solar panels up here; admittedly the Feed in Tariff has gone down substantially, but so has the price of the panels. If you are thinking about solar, have another look at the numbers and see if it works for you. It has worked for us and we would definitely recommend it. And one tip: don't forget to insure them!

Sara, Carsphairn

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Young Anglers in Dalry

With an eye to the future, Dalry Angling Association held a taster day with Dalry School with a view to contributing to the schools Outdoor Learning Experience during the next academic year.

Students, along with their teacher, Linda Biggar, met with Nick Banner of Dalry Angling Association for an introduction to fly fishing. The students were first made aware of the safety aspects of river fishing, along with an awareness of wildlife habitats and conservation. Nick then showed them how to assemble a fly rod and the knots used to attach a line and a fly.

After some instruction on how to cast a fly, the students spent some time practicing in the field before moving to the river. Although on this

occasion no fish were caught, the students enjoyed the experience, with the time going all too quickly before they had to return to school. The Angling Association look forward to supporting the school on future programmes linked to their Outdoor Learning Experiences.



Fishing Made Easy

John McCubbing, chairman of the New Galloway Angling Association, would like to highlight the possibilities of fishing for the less able bodied.

Being a disabled fisherman himself, John believes that being less physically active

than others doesn't mean you have to stop fishing. John suggests using small lochs, which, unlike rivers, are not effected by flooding. Lochs on the side of agricultural land, where the grass is grazed short by livestock, are best as there is less to get bogged down in. In such a wet summer as this, where the rivers are so often in flood, it can be frustrating for anglers who can't wade

into the water or negotiate flooded banks. But John says: "I want to make people aware that if I can still fish after back surgery, with bad eyesight and also being a bit shaky, you can too, and you don't have to be put off by the wettest June on record!"

Outwith his role in the Angling Association, John owns Mossdale Loch, which you can buy tickets for from Mossdale Post Office (450 281).

Aileen McLeod MSP



working for you across the South of Scotland

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The House on the Hill

Simon Winstanley Architects is a family-run company with local roots which has spread, like anything with good roots, to encompass a broader area.

Starting life as Crallan & Winstanley Architects in 1983, the company completed the transition to Simon Winstanley Architects in 2009.

Adam Winstanley, Simon's eldest son, who works with the firm, says: "The practice specialises in contemporary architecture and energy-conscious design. Having completed a wide range of projects including several award-winning buildings, we have the ability to handle projects of all sizes and to make an imaginative and innovative design responses to every brief." He goes on to say: "I love designing and working on buildings in the Glenkens as we can see a project from start to finish and deliver a unique

building in a beautiful part of the world; and of course it's the area where I grew up!"

A key element of projects is that the firm has worked extensively in South West Scotland for over 25 years. This experience means that they know what a building needs to stand up to the specific climate of the area. Through a holistic approach, Simon and Adam create a building suited to the individual and their requirements.

When we look at Simon's own house, The Houl (situated on the High Road between Dalry and Carsphairn) which recently won an award for best passive house design from the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), we can see the love that goes into both the house design and making that house fit into the landscape.

Simon says: "As architects, we are passionate about the places we live and work in. Through our

work and projects we strive to enhance people's emotional and physical responses to the places where they live, work and socialise. We aim to lift people's spirits through the enjoyment of a place while making that place protective, responsive and environmentally sound."



Simon Winstanley's award-winning Glenkens home, The Houl

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A Galloway Gallery

Zoë Blamire, joint owner of McGill Duncan Gallery, tells us about the much anticipated annual exhibition of Galloway Paintings at her gallery.

McGill Duncan Gallery in Castle Douglas is the oldest established independent gallery in Dumfries and Galloway. It was founded by Niall McGill Duncan in 1978.

In association with his friend Patrick Bourne, Niall started showing Galloway artists such as the Faed family, Oppenheimer, Hornel and Paterson. Thirty-four years later, the tradition and association with Bourne Fine Art continues with my mother Jill Blamire and me. Once a year, in August, we show an outstanding collection of Galloway and Scottish paintings.

Visitors travel from all over the world to buy work and we always look forward to the

excitement and buzz that comes with showing such sought-after works. For the opening we always hope for a sunny day but, rain or shine, art buyers flock to the gallery for a glass of Pimms - it's a wonderful social event!

For the rest of the year we have a programme of contemporary exhibitions. There is never a dull moment in the gallery; everything from designing leaflets to our web site is done 'in house' by either me or Jill so we have had to learn lots of new skills since we opened.

Zoë has recently moved to Parton, and is very much enjoying being part of the Glenkens community.

I have one of the best and most scenic drives to work every morning; past Loch Ken with views over to Balmaghie," says Zoe. "I am also enjoying exploring the area on walks

with my dog Antony, the whippet.

The McGill Duncan Gallery are currently preparing for the opening of their show on Saturday 4 August. There will be at least forty Galloway paintings, including work by Charles Oppenheimer, David Gauld, James Faed Junior and William Hanna Clarke.

The McGill Duncan Gallery is open Monday to Saturday, from 10am until 5pm; see ad below for contact details.



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Stewartry Camera Club

The Stewartry Camera Club will resume its weekly meetings at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12 September in The Tolbooth, Kirkcudbright. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Last season several Glenkens residents had successes in the competitions with Mary McIlvenna winning the Pearce Trophy for the best overall score. Mary also won

the Marsden Cup for the best monochrome print with 'Giving Up' and John Houfe won the Stansfield Shield for the best landscape print with 'Blackrock Cottage, Glencoe'.

For further information contact David Young 01556 504465 or John Houfe 01644 450 255

'Fading Beauty' by Mary McIlvenna



Photo of the Issue



This issue's winner of the Gazette's Photo of the Issue competition is Fraser Simpson with his stunning 'Early Morning at Clatteringshaws'.

He says; "There can't be many more spectacular drives to work than this!"

Mr Simpson wins a meal for two at the Lochinvar Hotel.

The winner of next issue's competition will receive a meal for two at New Galloway's Cross Keys Hotel.

So get snapping...!

APOLLO 5 Lands in Dalry

Apollo5, a British capella ensemble whose repertoire extends from classical a capella to retro, jazz and pop, will give a concert in Dalry Parish Church on Friday 17 August at 7.30pm.

Apollo5 is part of a charitable foundation, Voces Cantabiles Music, which runs an innovative education programme aiming to inspire creativity through music.

Apollo5 is proud to be working in collaboration with the Red Balloon Learning Centres in the UK. The aim of Red Balloon is the recovery of severely bullied children. The group is working with students to encourage them to grow in confidence and find their voice through singing together.

There will be a retiring collection in aid of Dalry Parish Church. During the interval, summer refreshments will be served. Come along and be sure of a warm welcome on the night.





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CatStrand Highlights

August/September

Come along to the CatStrand and enjoy some of the summer sensations we have on offer.

This August, Ayr-based artist Chris Dooks will be in residence over 18/19 August and presenting two events: Vinyl Shangri-La (Saturday 18 August) and Three Hundred Square Miles of Upwards (Sunday 19 August). While he is here he is looking for your help – he wants to record your voice speaking about the night sky. Chris will turn these statements into music for a new sound art piece entitled '300 Square Miles of Upwards' – a work dedicated to the Galloway Dark Sky Park. If you are interested in taking part, please contact CatStrand to book a 15-minute slot.

We will be hosting a visit from Heidi Talbot and her very special Friends on Tuesday 4 September. County Kildare singer Heidi will

be joined by world renowned producer John McCusker, Orcadian singer/ guitarist Kris Drever and the inimitable guitar playing of Ian Carr.

Following his Sony Award winning Radio 4 Comedy show, 'Mark Steel's in Town' and the publication of the book with the same title, writer and comedian Mark Steel is back on the road. And he is coming to New Galloway on Thursday 20 September. Mark will write materials shedding light on the quirky and interesting aspects of every town he visits, allowing each show to be unique. Come along and find out what he uncovers about the Glenkens...

A stunning synthesis of virtuosity and energy, The Outside Track's marriage of Canadian, Scottish and Irish music and song has been rapturously received around the globe, and we look forward to seeing them live at CatStrand on Thursday 27 September.

On Sunday 30 September come



'Allotment' from Nutshell

and experience Theatre al Fresco with this Fringe First award-winning play from Nutshell. 'Allotment' follows the complex and quirky relationship between sisters Dora and Maddy as they live out the seasons on their allotment. Join them for a cup of tea and a scone. The performance will take place in New Galloway Park, whatever the weather, so come prepared.

Pick up a programme for full listings, or to book tickets call 01644 420 374 or visit www.catstrand.com

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In the next three issues of the Glenkens Gazette we will be interviewing the newly elected councillors for the Glenkens. In this issue we feature George Prentice (Independent).

What are your links to the Glenkens?

I am originally from the Gatehouse area, but my wife and I came to the Glenkens in 1967, and started farming just outside of the Parton. We stayed there for many years raising three children until 1993, when we moved in to Parton village.

What skills do you believe that you bring to your job as councillor?

I feel that I am part of the furniture, built in with the bricks. I not only understand the issues that face our community, but I live them. I believe that I have listened to and understand the community's hopes and aspirations, and equally importantly I feel that they know me. I have had the privilege of representing the people in both Castle Douglas and the Glenkens for quite some time. If experience can be considered a skill, this is the skill that I bring to the job.

What do you believe to be the important issues facing the Glenkens at present, and how would you feel they would be best tackled?

Community transport, youth employment, and further to this it also seems to me that a lot of our youth successfully get into colleges and universities, but don't seem to connect with these new and different environments, and return without finishing their courses. Employment in the Glenkens, in general, is another important issue. I have personal experience of this as I have grown-up children who would like to move back to the area, but there are just not the jobs for them. I feel that the best way of tackling this particular issue is to encourage local businesses and attract new business to the area. We as councillors must develop policies, at a local level, which nurture businesses that employ directly from our community.

What do you believe are the important issues facing councillors today?

It seems to me that national party politics has influenced local government in recent years. Ten years ago there were far more Independent councillors representing the needs and aspirations of the local communities. Today's council comprises of an SNP/Conservative administration, and I feel that people are voting for a party rather than a person. I am not sure that this is the way forward, but it needs to be proven and the next five years will show this.

What changes would you like to see to farming

over the next ten years and what local and national policies would you like to see introduced to enable this?

Farming and land use in this area are constantly changing, and so are the issues that land owners face. I remember at one time, within a 10 mile radius of Castle Douglas there was the highest number of livestock in the whole country. Today, landowners are trying to make the most productive use of their land, and that has meant that some have invested in timber and wind turbines. This has not always proved to be popular amongst the wider community, but I feel that the most important element is ensuring that these landowners and farmers, and their families, stay in the area and are able to provide a living from their land to sustain both themselves and their families.

The Council has declared that it intends to enhance the community transport division. How would you like to see this realised in the Glenkens?

I think that here in the Glenkens this means that we are talking about a proper bus service, and by proper a service, I mean one that allows for the youth, pensioners, and those without cars to move about the Glenkens and further afield easily, and link in with the wider transport network.

Do you feel that the relaxation of planning in the form of the 'Smallholding Policy' in the upper Glenkens has achieved its aim?

I am glad that you asked this question as I was driving around the Upper Glenkens yesterday and was considering the question myself. I was a great advocate of this when it was first brought to the table. It has certainly brought more people and new blood into the community, but I must say that it has not perhaps turned out as I envisaged it. I was hoping that it would tackle the problem of the land with derelict buildings whilst continuing to keep the agricultural flavour of the Glenkens. I am not sure that it has achieved that, but that does not mean that it has not been of benefit to the communities. It is an issue I am still considering.

George Prentice is happy to meet all constituents by appointment. Tel: 01644 470276; Mobile: 07825 633 158; Email: George.prentice@dumgal.gov.uk

by Sara McNeill



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OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

P7 pupils from the Glenkens stayed at Stronord Outdoor Centre in Kirroughtree forest as part of their preparation for S1 at Dalry School.

The hightspot, quite literally, was the Tyrolean Traverse (pupils pictured waiting for their turn). Outdoor Education instructors provided a challenging and entertaining time for all which will not be forgotten.



On Thursday 7 June we went to the Small Schools Football tournament in Dalbeattie.

Dalry's Winning Team

The team was Jordon, Joshua, Cameron, Craig, Jake and Kyle. Once we got onto the pitch Jordon (our captain) had us train and get our muscles loosened up for the matches. We settled down and waited for John to call us in. The first game that we played was Kirguzeon and it was 8-0 to Dalry. It was really good to start us off with a win.

Then we had a break; people from St Peter's school had offered us food and drinks. We were on next and the school we played were St Peters. This was 1-0 to Dalry and we were not very happy with the score. We had a long break and we

finally had our last game in our section. If we won it we knew we would be in the final. We played Colvend and we won 3-1. So that meant we played in the final against Gelston. It started off as 1-1 and then Jordon scored another. Craig made a fantastic save to stop Gelston equalising. The final score was 2-1 to Dalry!

Everybody roared wildly. Jordon was so happy that the team had won. We went over to John and we got our medals. Then we got our picture taken and Jordon's dad and Jake's mum bought us lots of sweets and we cheered all the way home.

by Cameron Wilkie and Jordon Lawrie

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Netball Report

Every Monday for four weeks Dalry School's netball team played in the Stewartry netball championship at Crossmichael School.

Altogether we played ten games, we played five teams twice. They were Kells, Crossmichael, Springholm, Dalbeattie and Carsphairn. We won them all by quite a lot.

Our team is Sabrina Smith - captain and goal attack, Emily Wallace - goal keep, Amy McMurray - goal shoot, Cara Ramsay - wing defence, Emily Bigger - goal defence, Jordan Lawrie - centre, and Joshua Lawrie - wing attack, Annabelle McAdam - sub wing defence, and Cameron Willkie - sub wing attack. All of these people make a great team. But the most important person was Mrs McCall, our coach - we couldn't have done it without her.

We won all of our ten games but our second last game was very



exciting because the goal defence was taken off injured and we were down to six players. So Emily had to cover two people. Mrs McCall called her a little octopus. After we had played all our games we listened to the prize giving. Carsphairn were the best improved team. They played amazingly for such a small school. We won the trophy and we were very happy as we tried really hard. Thank you Mrs. McCall for being a great coach!

By Sabrina Smith and Emily Wallace

Renewable Energy Excursion

S1 pupils at Dalry School have been studying Climate Change as part of the weather topic in Geography.

In order to further their understanding of this topic they visited Steven's Croft and Tongland power stations where in each case power is made from renewable energy sources.

Pupils had an interesting talk at Steven's Croft, a Biomass power station, on the construction and operation of the plant. This biomass plant uses locally sourced wood products to generate electricity.

Tongland power station uses water to make electricity; once again, a renewable energy source with low carbon emissions. It is one of a number of stations along the Ken-Dee valley which sources water from a series of dams which catch and store the water which is used to drive the turbines at the power stations. By the end of the trip pupils felt they had a clearer understanding of the way renewable sources are used to produce electricity and that if we are to halt the process of climate change we need to look for sustainable alternatives to the burning of fossil fuels to provide our energy sources such as those encountered on their trip.



JUBILEE

The pupils at Kells enjoyed a 'Street Party Lunch' to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Unfortunately the Queen was rather busy that day so Mrs McIntosh, the Queen of Glenkens, took her place as guest of honour. In the afternoon the pupils were organised in mixed ability groups to undertake a variety of Jubilee inspired activities.

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Kilquhanity Primary School to Re-Open

Kilquhanity House School ran from 1940 until 1996 and was Scotland's first 'free school', and its only one to date.

The school ran successfully for many years and was highly acclaimed by parents and students alike. Families from both the neighbourhood and far afield sent their children to the school.

The Kilquhanity Estate was purchased in 2002 by a Shinichiro Hori who was a great friend of Kilquhanity founder John Aitkenhead. Shinichiro runs four schools in Japan based on the 'free school' principles. His schools bring Japanese students to Kilquhanity every year to study English, Science, Sport, Art and Crafts as well as becoming involved with Scottish and British culture.

It has always been Shinichiro's intention that Kilquhanity should be re-opened as a school in its own right again, and that wish is nearer to fruition than at any time in the past 10 years. Several local families are hoping that a new primary school can



open in the next year, with other families around Scotland intending to move to the area if this is realised.

The school will run along the same principles that were so successful previously, and provide education through action and freedom of learning. If you are interested in finding out more about what Kilquhanity has to offer, come along to the family day we have planned this summer – see the ad on the back page of this Gazette.

And for three days afterwards we are running a Summer Camp for primary-aged children. The programme will be delivered in the style and manner of Kilquhanity with aspects of real democracy, freedom and choice in learning and in teaching.

If you wish to join in this fun/learning event please use the same contacts as for the Family Day (on back page).

Dear Gazette,

Our mother died in 1999 and since then we have been trying to piece together our family genealogy, without much success.

Our mother, Mary Elizabeth Carruthers, was born on 20th December 1925 at Little Duchrae, Balmaghie, to parents William John Carruthers and Janet Clark. John and Janet were married in Dalbeattie in 1919, and both died around 1940 at Little Duchrae.

William John Carruthers' parents were William Carruthers and Isabella Kerr, Janet Clark's parents were Michael Clark and Nicholas Brown - both Michael and Nicholas died in Dalbeattie.

Other than what we have given above, we have come to a dead end. We would love to have any information about the family, or hear from any relatives that are still around. We are trying to locate our mother's parents' graves so that we can finally reunite her with them.

Many thanks, Johanna Costner and Yvonne Jorgensen

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Northampton, NN5 5FN
Email: jomjorg@yahoo.com or
Tel: 07837 347 135**

GIRL GUIDE ACTIVITY ADVENTURE

The Glenkens Guides visited Galloway Activity Centre (GAC) as part of a nationwide Guide event.

On Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 June, four local girls from the Glenkens Guides took part in a national Girl Guides weekend hosted by GAC.

In total over 350 guides from around Scotland took part in the

event. Dreadful June weather brought heavy rain on the Saturday, but in true Girl Guide spirit, the mood wasn't to be dampened. The girls were soon stuck in and trying their hand at various outdoor sports that included sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, laser quest, archery, orienteering, mountain biking and climbing.

The event was one of the biggest the Galloway Activity Centre has hosted in its 25 year history, and for the first time in its existence the centre was closed down especially to cater for the Guide group. The team of 15+ GAC instructors ensured that activities ran smoothly and the Guides were kept in good spirits throughout the weekend. Val Clark of Girlguiding Scotland said: "A huge thank you to GAC for all your efforts at the weekend. I was only able to

visit for a short time but it was evident that the girls were having a great time. It's such a pity the weather was so bad on Saturday!"

Summer is now upon us and GAC hosted one of its bi-annual open days on Sunday 1 July. This was by far the best attended open day the centre has hosted over the past decade. Always a popular day with the locals, activity tickets are purchased for £2 on a have a go basis. GAC's Kieran Patterson said: "It was so great in both the open day and Girl Guide weekend to see local young people and families experience what the center has to offer. We have such a great facility here that locals can use and enjoy. We offer so much more than just sailing and the open days are a great way of spreading this message."



Girl Guides rafting at GAC

CatStrand Youth Players

The Youth Players rounded off another very successful season with a performance to a packed house at the CatStrand on Friday 8 June.

The evening involved all members of the group and the first half consisted of a series of short comedy sketches which had been chosen by the members themselves. The second half was a performance of 'The Benares Incident' by Harry Glass, telling the story of the children who were being evacuated to Canada during WW2 on the SS City of Benares. The show also provided a valuable opportunity for some of the older members to try their hand at producing and directing. Some of the members also enjoyed a day at the Ryan Centre in Stranraer on Saturday 16 June to take in

the Scottish Youth Final of the One Act Play Festival. The Youth Players narrowly missed out on a place at the finals themselves when they were pipped into second place by Greenock Youth Players at Kilmarnock in March. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience nevertheless and although the final could really have been won by any of the finalists, the eventual Scottish Champions were Fintry Youth Theatre from Stirlingshire with 'Beware the Jabberwock' by Ron Nicol.

The Youth Players will now break for the summer and meetings will start again on Sunday 2 September at 2pm. Membership has grown steadily since they were formed four years ago, and at the moment membership is at a maximum. However, anyone who is keen to join should still add their name and contact details to the waiting list at the CatStrand and as soon as there are any vacancies you will be informed.

2012 CONVENTICLE

Monday 11 June dawned dull and chilly with occasional spots of rain in the wind.

This, however, did not deter a good gathering from assembling by the Burning Bush Covenant Memorial in Dalry. Among their number were fourteen guests from Debrecen in Hungary, including Rev Sandor Karcza who was the guest of Rev Dr David Bartholomew, and who had preached at both Kells and Dalry the previous day.

Dr Bartholomew welcomed everyone and gave a short talk on the activities of Covenanters in the Dalry area, and the events which led up to the Pentland Rising in 1666. A long convoy of vehicles then left Dalry by the Carsphairn High Road and made for Earlstoun Castle where some sixty chairs had been placed by the young oak tree. A very special tree, this is a seedling from the once splendid Earlstoun

Oak which had served as a hiding place for Sir Alexander Gordon when the Dragoons had come searching the Castle policies for him some 350 years ago.

Dr Bartholomew told of the persecution of the people of Dalry and the Glenkens in general where heavy fines were imposed for non-attendance at church. The Gordon family of Earlstoun were great supporters of the Covenanters and as a result they were to suffer much persecution during the Killing Times. Alexander Gordon, known as the Bull of Earlstoun on account of his great strength, managed to evade capture on many occasions. He was warned of the approach of some dragoons in one instance and he promptly donned the clothes of a labourer. When the dragoons arrived they found the 'labourer', assisted by a servant girl, cutting logs. When



Rev Dr David Bartholomew leading the singing at the 2012 conventicle.

they asked if he knew the whereabouts of Alexander Gordon, he enthusiastically helped them with a search of the castle!

The convoy of vehicles then made its way back to Dalry where a short stop was made at the Kirkyard to look at the Covenanter's grave, and also at the recently unveiled memorial to Sir Alexander Gordon. A number of the gathering then repaired to the Ken Bridge Hotel where a good lunch of haggis, neeps and tatties was very much enjoyed by all. Interestingly, the Hungarian visitors told us they also have a dish very similar to haggis in their country.

Helen Bolton

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Charity Quiz Nights

Every Wednesday evening The Cross Keys Hotel in New Galloway holds a quiz with all proceeds going to the charity or project of the winner's choice.

Shown here is Susan O'Hare with some of the regular quiz players, with a few of the many 'thank you' letters received from local and national charities benefiting from their share of the £4000 raised over the last three years. So, if you support a charity, playgroup, church or project that you would like to win the weekly prize – get a team together and join in every Wednesday night at 8.30pm.



OSCAR'S STORY

Since the publication on The Cross Keys Hotel website of 'Oscar's Story',

Cross Keys' canine residents Oscar and Lily (pictured) have

received so many treats from customers and hotel guests that they are now seriously having to watch their weight!

To take the temptation away many of the treats, in addition to hundreds of pounds raised from some of the Wednesday Quiz Nights, will go to helping dogs less fortunate than them.

Below are a couple of short excerpts from 'Oscar's Story' - to read the full story, visit www.thecrosskeys-newgalloway.co.uk.

... The honorary Pack Leader Alpha One - allowed to use the title only because she supplies food, treats, walks, kisses and has her life generally ruled by me - is taking dictation and typing up my memoirs.

... I would be described as suave, grey - in a distinguished kind of way - single minded (or bloody minded if you listen to Alpha One) and a fine figure of a dog.



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Friday 3rd August
The Alternative Quiz Night
 New Galloway Town Hall, 7.30pm
 Teams of 4, 5 or 6, admission £3 per head, families welcome.
 Includes supper - tea/coffee & soft drinks available, bring your own alcohol.

Saturday 4th August
Glenkens on Film - Archive film of Glenkens life in the 1950s
 The CatStrand, New Galloway, 7.30pm
 Admission £3 (includes finger buffet)

Battlefield Visit

Fifteen pupils and four staff from Dalry School visited the battlefields of Flanders and the Somme at the end of June.

The tour brought home the horrors of war, as we travelled through a landscape peppered with cemeteries large and small; the small having *only* hundreds of graves. Then came the memorials to the missing, with fifty thousand here and seventy thousand there – the sheer scale of the losses was difficult to comprehend.

Three of Dalry's pupils were able to pay their respects at graves or memorials to their relatives and a number of men from the Glenkens were 'found' and recorded for the school records.

Pupils at Theipval Memorial



SKIES SHINING BRIGHTLY

Set in the rugged and hilly depths of the south west of Scotland, the Forest Park is the largest of its kind in Britain, covering a massive 300 square miles.

In 2009 the area was awarded Dark Sky Park status by the International Dark Sky Association, an organisation based in the United States. This coveted award was the first outside the USA.

To achieve this status, the Forestry Commission (FC) took the bull by the horns and worked hard to overcome a number of tests and regulations. With the support of local groups, lighting experts, businesses and the community, FC Scotland produced a plan to ensure Galloway's skies remained pitch black – the best condition for viewing distant galaxies.

Part of the selection process for Dark Sky Park status involved getting a rating via a sky quality meter; the higher the reading (up to 25) the better for stargazers. In a city the reading would be around 15,

but in Galloway they achieved a reading of 23, giving the area a 'Gold Tier' status – the highest you can get.

It's ironic that one of the perceived weaknesses of the area is actually a strength when it comes to stargazing. The skies above Galloway are so clear thanks to its heavy rainfall because rain dampens down dust in the atmosphere and helps astronomers get a clearer view.

The area's reputation for outdoor enthusiasts is growing. Galloway is rich in walking trails and wild scenery and more recently for its fantastic mountain biking. It is famous for being an uncrowded and peaceful place, rich in wildlife and stunning scenery, with 120 km of walking trails, 200 km of cycling routes.

But don't just take our word for it – there are a number of events being led by Forestry Commission Scotland in Galloway to help you experience the amazing night sky we have here. Details of forthcoming events can be found at www.forestry.gov.uk/darkskygalloway.

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For information on Forestry Commission stargazing events happening across the park this winter check out our website

www.forestry.gov.uk/darkskygalloway



For more information visit our website or call us on 01671 402420



AGNES COOKS... CHICKEN

Chicken, in one form or another, is a staple of many household meals, providing lots of possibilities and endless combinations.

Buying chicken also offers many possibilities, and when looking at the cost of buying chicken it is clearly cheaper to buy a whole bird than joints. However, many people are not happy to tackle jointing a whole bird. What I would like to suggest is a compromise to jointing a whole uncooked chicken and that is jointing a fully cooked, poached chicken. This offers all the economy of buying a whole bird without the need for sharp knives and plasters, and there are many recipe options for using the cooked meat and the lovely rich stock.

To cook the chicken, place it in a large pot. Add a roughly chopped onion, two carrots, two celery stalks, a bay leaf and some salt and pepper. Cover with water, place on the heat and as soon as it comes to the boil reduce to a low simmer. You need to cook it VERY gently as you are poaching it not boiling it. (Boiling will make it tough). The timing is difficult to specify as it depends on the size and weight, but allow about 45 to 60 minutes for a medium-sized chicken. Test

it as you would when roasting a chicken; remove the bird from the water and insert a skewer into the leg joint to test if the juices run clear. This indicates that the bird is cooked, but if there is any sign of blood put it back in the pot and cook a little longer.

When cooked, remove the bird and cool. Put the stock to one side as you will be adding the carcass and bones to it later. It is a good idea to remove the meat from the chicken as soon as it is cool enough to handle; if it is too cold it is more difficult. Gently remove the wings in one piece and set aside after cutting off the small tips and putting them back into the stock pot. Remove the legs and either cut through the joint, which is very easy to do when cooked, and keep as thigh and drumstick pieces or strip the meat from the bones. Place a knife down the breastbone and remove each breast in one piece. Place the bones and carcass back in the pot; the stock can then be brought back to the boil and gently simmered for a couple of hours. The stock can provide the base for many delicious soups, risottos and gravies.

There are many possibilities for using the meat - poaching the chicken means that the meat remains very moist and it will



withstand further light cooking.

In Chinese restaurants the chicken is cooked this way before stir frying, so using the chopped breast meat in a stir fry is one option; making Fajita's is another. As the breast meat is very moist it is particularly good eaten cold in salads and sandwiches.

Kept on the bone, the leg and thigh meat work well in curries and can be added to make a quickly cooked casserole. If you have taken the meat off the bones it is very tasty in a chicken pie.

This meat also works well cold in coronation chicken and hot in many pasta dishes; one of my favourites is chicken and mushroom in a creamy sauce.

The chicken wings can be made into a lovely sticky wings treat. Put them into a dish and marinate for a few hours in a mixture of two tablespoons of orange juice, three tablespoons soy sauce, two tablespoons honey, and some salt and pepper. Put onto a baking tray and cook at about 200°C for 15 to 20 minutes, basting with the remaining marinade several times during cooking.

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MONIAIVE CHOCOLATIER

With great anticipation the ladies of Carsphairn Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) set off for their evening drive and entertainment.

We were off to visit Liz Cole and the Moniaive Chocolatiers! The Chocolatiers are situated in what used to be the Post Office.

Plastic pinnys and elegant disposable blue hairnets were donned before entering the workshop and we were fortified with a glass of hot chocolate with toppings of our choice – delicious!

Liz spoke with huge enthusiasm about chocolate and her craft. There were three tempering machines (they keep the chocolate at the right temperature for working with) containing dark, milk and white chocolate. She showed us how the moulds were filled – first

lined with chocolate, then filled with her fruit filling and finally covered to complete the chocolate.

In the background Colin, one of the chocolatiers, was putting the 'tartan' on chocolate bars.



The finished product looked fantastic, with green and purple stripes, and they were heading to the Scottish Parliament.

On the noticeboard were three orders for wedding favours – a great idea and you can choose the colours to match your own

tartan. What fun we had, and how interesting it was.

We were fifteen in number and so we weren't all able to get our hands covered in chocolate, but we all got a taste.

Liz is a wonderful example of someone who not only has brilliant ideas and enthusiasm but has also manifested them into a very successful business providing local employment. The ladies from Carsphairn thank her very much and wish her great success.

We do lots of interesting things at Carsphairn Rural. SWRI is a great place for learning all sorts of new things, having fun and finding support and friendship in your community. Like all organisations we look to the next generation to bring new ideas and energy so that we can continue to make a positive contribution to rural life in Scotland. So come on your own, or with a friend, and try us out!

GLENKENS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP (GPG)

The group has been out on several photo shoots since forming in early May.

New ideas and new members are very welcome.



If you are interested in joining the group or wish further information, please contact Mary McIlvenna on 01644 420 613 or marymcilvenna@rocketmail.com.

Some dates for your diary are:
Thurs 2 Aug, 8pm: Threave Castle.
Tues 14 Aug, 7pm: Dalry Church and River. **Tues 28 Aug, 7pm:** Clatteringshaws.
Tues 11 Sept, 7.30pm: Ken Bridge Hotel Meeting.

GPG members John McBeth and John Smith in action



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Telephone free on **0800 028 7260**

for an appointment or to make any alternative arrangement.

You can visit Alex's website at:

www.alexfergusson.org.uk

or contact him by e-mail at:

alex.fergusson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

THE DALRY WAR MEMORIALS

At first it may seem odd that Dalry has two war memorials, but it is actually more common than you might think.

Dalry's War Memorials are a Celtic granite cross at the entrance to the church and a large wooden board inside the Town Hall.

At the end of the First World War, communities all around Europe began to feel the need to make some permanent memorial to remember their war dead. Many of the parishes had maintained a Roll of Honour, often in the parish church, to list those (usually men) who were away on war duties; when news came in that a man had been killed, a mark was put against his name to show that he had died. By the end of the war, the church then had a Roll of Honour listing the men who had served and an annotation of those who had died and this often then formed the basis of information used by the War Memorials Committee.

In Dalry's case, we do not know what happened to the original Roll of Honour but we do know that all of the names were carefully painted onto a large wooden panel which was placed in the Town Hall. Unfortunately I have not been able to find any details of when this memorial was created, but my personal view is that it was possibly in late 1919 or in 1920. The Town Hall memorial was later changed following the Second World War by the addition of extra panels with the WW2 names.

Of the granite cross outside the church, we know a little more. Like most civic war memorials, this one is more permanent in nature and lists only those who died and does not include those who served and returned. The memorial was unveiled in September 1921, it was designed and executed by Mr R W Mackenzie of Newton Stewart and is made from Creetown granite.

It always makes a memorial more meaningful for me to focus on an individual, so let's look at the first man on the granite cross at the church.

Robert James Clark was the son of Hugh and Esther Clark and lived at Craigielea, Main Street, Dalry. He was a joiner and worked with his father, but he is also listed on the Castle Douglas Post Office memorial as a Temporary Postman. He had two brothers and four sisters, his brother Hugh also served but returned safely - after the war Hugh was a postman in Dalry until 1957



when he retired to become a lighthouse keeper. In 1960 Hugh was found murdered in the lighthouse. Robert joined the 6th Battalion, the Gordon Highlanders, in January 1916, went to France in July and earned the British War and Victory medals. He was killed in November the same year at the age of just 20.



When we look into other memorials like this, we sometimes find puzzles and from the memorial in the Town Hall I have two. John McDougall of the Ayrshire Yeomanry is recorded on the memorial as having been killed. However, the Stewartry Roll of Honour merely records that he served on the Eastern Front and was wounded in 1917. Having searched military as well as civilian death records of the period and local obituaries, I cannot find him and the most likely explanation for this is that he did not die in the war and the Town Hall memorial entry as is in fact a mistake. Alex Fordyce (no Regiment given) is proving impossible to find. He is not listed in the Stewartry Roll of Honour or in local obituary notices. It is odd that neither of the above are named on the granite memorial outside of the church.

If you can add anything to our knowledge of the memorials or the men commemorated, please contact Paul Goodwin on 07973 174342 or memorials@paulgoodwin.me.uk.

You can find more information about these and other local war memorials on the Scottish War Memorial Project at <http://tinyurl.com/39u8g8>.

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LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

The Battle That Never Was?



Historic Scotland has produced an Inventory of Scottish Battlefields. It is surprising that Galloway, a region with a notably violent past, is credited with only one site - Glentool (1307) - where Robert Bruce won the first victory in his campaign to wrest control of Scotland from the English.

There is very little documentation of the event, which probably took place in June when Bruce with some 300 men, organized an ambush as the enemy passed along the loch shore. Some historians have described the affair as a skirmish and at least one has doubted if it was a Bruce victory at all. On the opposite side of the loch a massive granite boulder marks the event.

Some ten miles to the east, as the proverbial crow flies, there is another older boulder which claims to signify another Bruce victory, at Moss Raploch beside Clatteringshaws Loch, in the parish of Kells. Knowledge of this event seems to rely purely upon tradition, relating that it took place shortly before Glen Trool, with which it may have been confused. At one time the conflict was known as the Battle of Craigencallie.

All who are interested in the life of Robert Bruce will eventually peruse the lengthy heroic poem, The Brus, composed in Scots in the 1370s by John Barbour, archdeacon of Aberdeen. Barbour is an old Ayrshire/Galloway name and it is

of note that the poem contains a number of traditional tales about Bruce's activities in the southwest, which the poet could have heard from family members or relatives. For example a traitorous, one-eyed Ayrshireman and his two treacherous sons attempt to surprise Bruce at his morning ablutions. The king rewards the father with an arrow through his single eye while he brains the sons. In a further tale Bruce is pursued by bloodhounds; in another he single-handedly kills 14 assailants at a ford.

Historically Bruce was based in the Glen Trool area between April and June 1307 but he could have been anywhere in the wild Galloway Forest. In the stories his chief enemies were the men of Galloway, followers of the deposed John Balliol and of John Comyn who was murdered by Bruce at Dumfries. The tales blossomed over the centuries. Barbour has Bruce meet an unnamed 'goodwife' who presents him with the services of her two sons.

This may be the germ which grew into the legend of the widow of Craigencallie who gave Bruce food and shelter and offered her three sons, by three different husbands, to his cause.

The sons were later rewarded with the Cumloden estate for their subsequent loyalty and for recommending to the king, on learning that the English were at Moss Raploch, that his men round up wild and tame horses, as well as goats, to provide the appearance and sound of a large army. The

English, unnerved by the all-night din, broke when attacked at daybreak. According to 17th century testimony, "there is a very big stone in the centre of the flow, which is called the King's Stone to this day, to which he leaned his back, till his men gathered up the spoil"; an account that reeks of invention. More convincing is the information, if true, that many weapons had recently been found in the moss by peat-cutters.

Tradition may be invincible but no historian would accept the veracity of the Raploch battle in the absence of hard evidence. When the Earl of Mar, who claimed lineal descent from Bruce, learned in 1927 that Clatteringshaws farm would shortly be drowned under the reservoir, he purchased it for £1,200. His asking price from the Hydro was £4,500 so demonstrating that the plundering instincts of the Scottish aristocracy were alive and well! He eventually settled for £1,900 and his retention of Bruce's Stone with five yards round about it to ensure that it was not engulfed by the waters. In 1932 he donated the stone to the National Trust. The bold beget victories but at Moss Raploch perhaps a boulder inspired a phantom battle.

Ted Cowan



Bruce's Stone, copyright of Padeapix




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AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

JULY

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

AUGUST

runs until Thurs 9, Exhibition: Clair Melinsky, CatStrand

Wed 1, Film: The Muppets, 2pm, CatStrand

Thurs 2, Glenkens Photography Group, 8pm, Threave Castle, see p19

Fri 3, The Alternative Quiz Night, New Galloway Town Hall, 7.30pm

Sat 4, Spalding Bowling Club: Invitation Tournament

Sat 4, Golf Taster Session, 2.30pm, New Galloway Golf Club, see p3

Sat 4, Glenkens on Film, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 5, Scottish Alternative Games, 2pm, New Galloway Park

Aug 5, Summer Sunday, 2-8pm, Kilquhanity Primary School, see back page

Mon 6 - Wed 8, Room 13 Young Persons Arts Workshop, Dalry Town Hall, see back page

Tues 7, Storylab Book Buffet, Dalry Library, see p2

11th Aug - 2nd Oct, Exhibition: Silvana McLean- Northlandings, CatStrand

Sun 12, Debussy to Jazz, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Mon 13 - Thurs 16, Silvana McLean Summer Art Masterclass, CatStrand

Tues 14, GPG, 7pm, Dalry Church & River, see p19

Wed 15, Bookbug Session, 10.30am, Dalry Library, see p2

Wed 15, Theory, Refreshing Self-help & Health Awareness Taster, 10-5pm, CatStrand

Sat 18, Vinyl Shangri-La, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 19, Three Hundred Square Miles of Upwards, 3pm, CatStrand

Wed 22, Open Stage, 7pm, CatStrand

Sat 25 & Sun 26, Animal Reiki L1, 10.30-4pm, CatStrand

Sun 26, Glenkens Acoustic Sessions, 2-4pm, CatStrand

Tues 28, GPG, 7pm, Clatteringshaws, see p18

SEPTEMBER

Fri 21 - Sun 23, Dalry Bird Festival, Dalry, see back page

Tues 11, GPG, 7.30pm, Ken Bridge Hotel Meeting, see p19

Tues 4, Heidi Talbot & Friends, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 6, Stay In Touch (Skype) Workshop, 10.30am-12.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 6, Learn to Use Facebook, 1.30-3.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 6, Film: Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 8, Maria Cairnie, 2.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 9, Alex Nye: The Art of Writing a Ghost Story, 2-4pm, CatStrand

Tue 11, Refreshing Self-help & Health Awareness Taster, 10am-5pm, CatStrand

Thurs 13, Protect your PC, 10.30am-12.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 13, Backing Up Your Files, 1.30-3.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 13, Film: Albert Nobbs, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 20, Shopping Online, 10.30am-12.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 20, Create Your Own Greetings Cards, 1.30 - 3.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 20, Mark Steel's in Town, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 22 & Sun 23, Animal Reiki L2, 10.30am-4pm, CatStrand

Wed 26, What's Wrong with ME, 7pm, CatStrand

Thurs 27, First Steps in Digital Photography, 10.30am-12.30pm, CatStrand (for 4 weeks)

Thurs 27, First Steps in Digital Photography, 1.30-3.30pm, CatStrand (for 4 weeks)

Thurs 27, The Outside Track, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 30, Allotment by Jules Horne, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm, New Galloway Park

Sat 29, Scarf Loom Weaving, 10.30am - 4pm, CatStrand

Sun 30, Glenkens Acoustic Sessions, 2-4pm, CatStrand

OCTOBER

Fri 5, Concert with Terri Farley and Friends, 7.30pm, Mossdale Village Hall

Glenkens Agricultural Society Annual Show

Saturday 11th August

Mains of Kenmure, New Galloway

Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Poultry, Horses, Show Jumping, Fancy Dress Pony, Pets & Dogs, Crookmaking, Stalls, Refreshments, Soccerena & Entertainment

Schedules from Fiona McIntyre:
01848 200 531 or
fiona_mccintyre@hotmail.co.uk

Glenkens Community Councils

Dalry Community Council: Next meetings: Mon 6 Aug & 3 Sept, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.

New Galloway & Kells Community Council: Next meetings: Mon 13 Aug & 10 Sept, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall.

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

Carsphairn Community Council: Next meetings: Mon 27 Aug & 24 Sept, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall.

Balmaclellan Community Council: Next meetings: Mon 27 Aug & 24 Sept, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.



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.

...GLENKENS DIARY

REGULAR EVENTS:

CatStrand (New Galloway):

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am

Guitar Workshop: Mon, 7-8pm (resumes 24 Sept)

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

Zumbatomic, last Sat each month, 10-10.45am

Catstrand Youth Players: Sun during term time, 2pm

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

Glenkens Community Centre (Dalry):

Contact: Kath on 430 281

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:

Texas Hold 'em Poker, Mon, 7.15pm, Cross Keys Hotel, New Galloway

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

Wednesday Quiz Night, Wed, 8.30pm, Cross Keys

Hotel, New Galloway

Stewartry Camera Club:

Wed, 7.30pm, The Tolbooth, Kirkcudbright (resumes 12 Sept)

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

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

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

Dalry Library (Tel: 430 234)

Opening Times:

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 please phone.

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CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Special Services/Events:

Fri 17 Aug, 7.30pm, concert with Apollo 5, Dalry Church

Sun 9 Sept, 10.30am, United Family Service, Kells Church, followed by bbq & children's games at Kells House

Sat 15 Sept, 7.30pm, Quiz Night, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Sun 23 Sept, 12noon, Harvest

Thanksgiving, Dalry Church, followed by Harvest Lunch, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 30 Sept, 10.30am, United Service with Glenkens Church Choir, Balmaclellan Church

Communion Service: 26 Aug, 10.30am, Kells Church

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

"I am delighted; just got a booking from the advert in the Gazette." Fiona



The Gazette will have a new Youth section starting in the October/November issue – and we need volunteers to write it.

Are you a secret blogger? A whizz with a camera? Do you have an eye for design?

We are looking for a team of people to help us create a brand new section of the Glenkens Gazette especially for teenagers.

There are loads of different ways to get involved. You could write features, create artwork, take pictures or be a roving reporter. Shout about it on Facebook as a Marketing Assistant or use

your powers of persuasion to raise funds for the project.

You can be a regular member of the team or send in something for a single issue. We don't mind where you're based and you don't need to have any experience. You just need to be aged under 25 and willing to give things a go.

First things first – we need a name. Should it be called the Youth Pages, The Chronicle, YOLO (You Only Live Once) or

maybe Buzz? If you have your own suggestion please email it to rebecca@catstrand.com.

Sponsorship

We will need to raise £150 per issue to fund the youth section, so if you would like to advertise or sponsor us please get in touch.

Other Opportunities

This is just one way to get involved with the growing team of volunteers currently known as the Youth Crew. There are also opportunities for stewards, backstage crew, event planners and plenty more. Whatever you're into, we can find something to suit you.

How to Get Involved

Contact Rebecca Goldsmith, Youth Arts Development Officer based at the CatStrand, on rebecca@catstrand.com or 01644 420 374.

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WATSON BIRDS

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL BIRD FESTIVAL

21-23 SEPTEMBER 2012 St John's Town of Dalry

Join us for a weekend celebrating birds in the arts, music and science in Dalry Town Hall.

- **Friday Evening Opening Event**
Come and hear about progress and plans for the Watson Bird Project with the Project Steering Group.
- **Annual Bird Art Exhibition.**
This year we have an exciting mix of artists capturing a diverse approach to representing bird life in art. Artists include Malcolm Davies, John Hills, Bill Neill, John Threlfall, Lisa Hooper, Paul Collin, Suzanne Stuart Davies.
- **Watson Raptor Science Prize**
Fabrizio Sergio and colleagues from the Doñana Biological Station, Spain for their paper on raptor nest decoration. One of the authors will attend to present their findings, leading into talks and discussion on raptor nest decoration.
- **Saturday Night Concert**
A night of musical entertainment with Jo Miller and friends.
- **Children's Art and Nature Activities**
Lots of fun events and activities running throughout the weekend.
- **Dalry Illuminated**
Inspired images of birds, nature and their local environment taken by pupils from Dalry Secondary School Photography club will be displayed on a building in the village at night during the festival.
- **Sunday afternoon concert** with Rhona MacKay (Harp) and friends.

Our full programme will be available from mid July on www.watsonbirds.org

This project is being co-funded by the Scottish Government and the European Community (Lifestyle & Wellbeing Fund 2007-2013). Programme: Scottish Natural Heritage and Awards for All. Glenkens Community and Arts Trust is a registered Scottish Charity (SC032050).

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

OCT/NOV COPY DEADLINE: Wed 5 Sept



Design & co-ordination:

Sarah Ade
sarah_ade@tiscali.co.uk

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