

# GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

June/July 2016

ISSUE 94

FREE

## COMMUNITY COUNCILS AXED BY 'DRACONIAN' REGION

Thirty-seven community councils, elected only last October, have been dissolved by Dumfries & Galloway Council. The suppressed councils include three of the four councils in the Glenkens - New Galloway & Kells, Dalry, and Carsphairn. Only Balmaclellan has escaped the purge. Andi Holmes, Chair of Dalry Community Council until its dissolution in April, described the region's decision as 'draconian'. He gave this reaction to the Gazette:

Our community councils have been silenced without warning, trial or appeal, writes Andi Holmes. Where else in the democratic world can one authority play judge, jury and executioner of another elected body without accountability, and in such a draconian way?

How this came to be is not straightforward. To be fair to Dumfries and Galloway Council, they did not light the match that started this, but they did provide plenty of kindling. This travesty of justice began back in 2012 with Dumfries and Galloway's Fourth Periodic Review, which included the amended scheme for the establishment of all our community councils. There followed through 2013 three public consultations where community councils could comment on the proposed amendments, which they did. However, the critical 'three month clause', by which time amended constitutions had to be adopted, was apparently slipped in after the public consultation phase ended - hardly democratic!

The reasons why so many community councils came to be dissolved are many and varied. In Dalry for instance, our constitution was adopted on November 2 last year, within the required short time frame, however we did it at the 'wrong type' of meeting. This was

a mere procedural error for which we have now been summarily dissolved.

It should also be noted that there was a pronounced lack of promised

support from Dumfries and Galloway Council during this whole exercise.

**Continued on page 10...**



*Kells School putting their support behind the New Galloway community shop bid - see story on p4.*

# CAN YOU HELP SAVE OUR PLAYGROUP?

In August 2013, Glenkens parents obtained funds from the Big Lottery Families & Communities Fund to re-start Playgroup after council cuts meant it was forced to close.

To date, GCC Playgroup has operated through the support of this fund, but this is now closed and without further funding GCC Playgroup will close after the current school year.

GCC Playgroup is the only childcare provision for two-year-olds for 13 miles, and has a track record of providing fun, safe and creative play for children aged two and three in the Glenkens.

Typical activities include messy play, baking, outdoors exploring, dens and climbing frames as well as trips out-and-about locally.

In the Autumn of 2015, GCC Playgroup was awarded very good marks by the Care Inspectorate (4 and 5 from a 6-point scale, which translates as 'good' and 'very good').

GCC Playgroup's successes are most clearly evidenced by the growing track record of well-rounded, independent children entering school. Less obvious, but equally important, are the benefits to parents. Playgroup has allowed at least three parents

*...the fund is now closed and without further funding GCC Playgroup will close after the current school year.*

to start micro-businesses, while others undertake home-based employment, which simply would not have been possible otherwise.



*GCC Playgroup children enjoying a walk in the woods.*

Likewise, in some cases Playgroup provided the first real respite from full-time care for two years. GCC Childrens Club comprises two elements: a stay-and-play sessions for all babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers in the area, and a fully-staffed Playgroup for children from aged two. Both groups fulfill an otherwise unmet need in the Glenkens.

*If anyone reading this can help with funding our Playgroup, please get in touch with GCC Playgroup chair Sarah Parry on 07810 256 299 or sarah.parry@ed.ac.uk*

## £2.3 Million Film Deal Rejected to Stay True to Scottish Roots

The film planned for production later this year to tell the story of 'butterfly girl' Alex Hood won't go ahead as planned.

Based on the book written by father Robin, *Smile Daddy I'm Dying*, the film was set to recount Alex's life with the tragic condition of epidermolysis bullosa (eb) from which she sadly died in 2008, aged 19.

Robin says: "I turned down an offer of £2.3 million to turn my book into a film as they wanted to change the story to an English version. Although I was born in England, I have lived in

Scotland for most of my life and this was not acceptable.

"Alex was born in Dumfries and her ashes are scattered here on Loch Ken. The local communities of the Glenkens were so supportive of our family, even when we had just moved here. And the Scottish people have been so generous. To take the story to England would be hypocritical."

Robin Hood spend over 20 years fundraising to find a cure for eb, and in the process set a precedent in Scotland for the Debra charity – which at that time, in 1994, had only one outlet in the world. During the time Robin worked with the charity he travelled the globe, showing other countries how to replicate the charity model he had set up in Scotland.

There are now 53 Debras worldwide and over £30 million has been raised to date.

When asked if that is the film off the cards now, Robin says definitely not. There are plans afoot for a Scottish-made film in the near future, but perhaps not the November 2016 start date originally anticipated. Robin says: "If the English version were the only way the film could be made then I'd say no, the film won't go ahead. But that isn't the case – I'm sure the film can be made, but it's got to be made in a way I'm comfortable with, Alex's mother is comfortable with, her brother is comfortable with. Scotland is going to get the credit for the support they have given."



# BADEN-POWELL AWARD FOR 1ST GLENKENS GUIDE UNIT

1st Glenkens Guide Unit were pleased to host a special gathering of invited friends and family to celebrate the fact that two guides, Annabelle Mc Adam and Cara Ramsay, were to be presented with their Baden-Powell Awards.

For the past year the two girls have been working towards this prestigious award, which is the highest available to a guide. Each girl took their own pathway to the award, and had to complete a selection of challenges which called upon extra dedication and enthusiasm over and above their weekly guiding commitment. Only a relatively small number of guides manage to achieve this distinction in any one year, and we congratulate them both on their success.

Cara and Annabelle put on a show of the work they did to meet the challenges, and each made a

very effective speech about their guiding experiences. The unit also kept their guests entertained with some campfire songs, before being presented with their badges and certificates by Girguiding Stewarty's County Commissioner, Mrs Barbara Murray.

Cara was also presented with her International Neckerchief, as a gift from the guides, to say 'well done!'. We are proud to say that she has been selected to represent Girguiding Scotland at an International Jamboree in Finland later this year.

Guests then enjoyed a lovely buffet organised by the unit, and Cara and Annabelle cut into a beautiful cake, specially made and decorated by their Young Leader, Kimberly McAdam.

Our guide unit meets every Tuesday evening in Glenkens Community Centre, and new members would be made especially welcome.

Guide age group is 10 to 14 years, and enquiries can be made to Mrs Peace (01644430281) or to Mrs McAdam (01644430393), or by going on-line to Join Us on the Girguiding UK website.



*Cara Ramsay and Annabelle McAdam with County Commissioner Mrs Barbara Murray.*

## AFRICA COMES TO THE GLENKENS

The Clachan Fair on Saturday 11 June will feature a free performance by the Akrowa Dance Ensemble - a cultural drumming and dance group from Ghana.

They will present a rich repertoire of traditional West African pieces told through song, music & movement.

Andrew Mellor from Dalry is particularly pleased that the group will be performing in Dalry because his daughter, Amy, was married to one of the group's performers, Adie Baako, in Ghana last December. "Whatever the Scottish weather throws at us on the day," he said, "I know that Adie and his colleagues will raise the temperature by bringing us the warmth, colour and joy of Africa. An Akrowa performance is spellbinding, exhausting and exhilarating all at once."

After the performance in Dalry at 1pm Akrowa will be holding dance and drumming workshops at the Catstrand. Book now!



# 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! 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](mailto:glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk)**

## VARIOUS

Slimline water butt with stand and tap but no lid. Contact: 07563 718 011

2 x 3 foot fish tanks with sand, 1 x 2foot fish tanks with sand. Contact: 420 679

Upright piano in good working order. Steel frame. All notes & pedals work but would benefit from re-tuning after moving. It will take several people to lift it into a van or similar. From smoke and pet free home. Collection from Mochrum near Knockvennie. Contact: Trevor on 440 683

Folding bed with mattress suitable for

occasional use for a child. Not suitable for adults. From smoke and pet free home. Collection from Mochrum near Knockvennie. Contact: Trevor on 440 683

Small garden chairs, one hardwood, two metal. Contact: Annikki on 460 640

## WANTED

Old bicycle, ladies or gents, any condition. Contact: Roger on 01557 330 887

Practical artistic polymath with no garden/shed space offering quality labour and plenty of laughter in

exchange for use of garden/shed space. Contact: Roger on 01557 330 887

## HOUSE TO LET

Very desirable secluded 3-bedroom country cottage between Parton & Corsock, 10 miles North of Castle Douglas, on wooded hillside in very quiet location, half-mile up track and with fantastic views. Would suit professional couple or retired, not suitable for children. Non smokers only. Possibly one well behaved pet. Rent £595 pcm. Contact: 07932 159 520 or [trevprocter@aol.co.uk](mailto:trevprocter@aol.co.uk)

# SHOP PLANS TAKE SHAPE

The children of Kells primary school were among the first to be consulted on the forthcoming bid for Big Lottery funding to create a community shop and hub in New Galloway.

They were full of ideas and questions. Visiting the shop is clearly an important feature of village life for most of them. Several of them were among the CatStrand young Saturday artists who produced the campaign banner which you can expect to see at future events.

Our project manager Helen Keron and members of the shop team will be visiting other groups over the coming weeks and there will be general open sessions in the Town Hall - watch out for posters. Previous surveys have clearly demonstrated an overwhelming wish to keep a shop in the village but we are now gathering details of needs - and ideas to meet them - which would create not just a shop but a social well-being hub offering services ranging from laundry to collective fuel purchasing. To succeed in our Big Lottery bid we need to demonstrate the multiple ways a thriving shop and hub could serve the village and improve the

quality of life in the long term. We are gathering evidence too of the negative impact on a village when it loses the final shop - ranging from increased loneliness to reduced house prices. If you have experienced this situation elsewhere, we would like to hear from you.

New Galloway Community Enterprises Ltd (NGCE), the community benefit co-operative planning to buy Hopkins' Shop and house, has now lodged a planning application for the development of the shop and the creation of two self-catering flats above it. These will be targeted particularly at the tourists who come here for outdoor pursuits - walking,

*A share offer is a way for everyone in the community to be involved in the community shop project...*

cycling, fishing, bird watching, golfing, star-gazing - or just to enjoy the scenery. For that reason the proposed plans include drying areas for boots and clothes, just in case it ever rains, and safer storage for bikes and other equipment. It is hoped promoting tourism will bring trade to the shop and other local businesses and generate employment opportunities. Preparing the plans has involved a succession of site visits by numerous professionals and agencies and as ever we owe

a great debt to Jim and Margaret Hopkins and Marie McClurg for their patience and helpfulness.

We are also finalising a comprehensive business plan describing how our proposals will work in practice. The 70-page grant application will be submitted to the Big Lottery in July and they will make their decision in November or December. If successful, the grant will allow us to purchase and renovate the shop and house, allowing a community shop and all the other community benefits to start in earnest in Spring 2017.

NGCE has some 80 shareholders whom we had to recruit in a rush over one weekend to meet an earlier deadline in the process. We

know that many others want to be involved so look for news of a relaunched share offer shortly. A share offer is a way for everyone in the community to be

involved in the community shop project - you can purchase one or several £10 shares, and this social investment will ensure you are part of this community endeavour. NGCE will soon be one year old and will be holding its first AGM in the summer.

If you want further information, or if your organisation or group would like to contribute ideas or discuss the plans, email [ngcommunityshop@gmail.com](mailto:ngcommunityshop@gmail.com) or call 07789 693 698.

*Mike Brown, Chair NGCE*



# Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power



Dalry Primary has been working hard on their school garden, with the gardening club planning a full overhaul of the school beds.



Children and grown-up helpers filling beds with fresh topsoil.

Seeds have been planted, the greenhouse is up, decorations are being created to brighten up the out-side of the school and plans are underway for some floral magic...

The vegetable beds in the school garden have been replenished with lots of nutrient-rich horse manure and good topsoil. Everything has been weeded and watered. Seeds have been planted, seedlings nurtured and planters filled.

The children have been working so hard, enthused by the wiggling worms, hard digging and the growth, they are already seeing in the garden.

A big shout-out goes out to the wider community for anyone with a green thumb who has a few free hours a week to help out with the Gardening Club. It runs on a Tuesday lunchtime and a Thursday afternoon – if you would like to get involved please contact Mrs Devlin at gw08officedalry



Beds nicely filled and tatties ready to be planted.



"Fleur Darkin has conjured a show that captures all ages" ★★★★★ The Sunday Express

## Innocence

Sat 28 May, 2pm at CatStrand, New Galloway

£8/U26 £4/U5 £1 (two under 5s per adult max)

01387 253383 / 01644 420 374

dgartsfestival.org.uk / catstrand.com



## Successful Fundraiser

St Margaret's Church Ladies Guild held a Plant and Bake Sale in aid of Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance.

A wealth of plants, shrubs and flower and vegetable seedlings were displayed in the garden area outside the church in New Galloway and the fine weather allowed visitors to enjoy a cup of tea outside in the sun as well as

inside the delightful Arts and Craft interior where a tremendous array of cakes baked by guild members proved very popular.

Christine Rankin, the Guild President, comments: "we are very grateful for all who helped us raise a total of £570 for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. The floods at the end of last year which cut off so many of us in the Glenkens served as a reminder of what an important charity this is, particularly in rural areas, and we are delighted to have been able to help them."

## Scout Jumble Thanks

The leaders of the Glenkens Cub Scout Pack and Beaver Colony would like to thank the group committee, parents and Friends of Scouting for all the hard work and helping us to raise an amazing £1,226 at our jumble sale.

This would certainly not happen but for the kind folk of the Glenkens and beyond who donate to the annual sale and will keep us afloat for another year. We would also like to thank the people from near and far who came along and supported us by purchasing goods on both Saturday and Sunday.

This is a very special year for the Cub Scouts as they celebrate their Centenary year and Beavers are also celebrating their 30th birthday. Lots of exciting activities are planned including a district camp at High Barbuchany Centre, Newton Stewart, at the end of May and a visit to the cinema to watch The Jungle Book on which Cubs are based.

The group are currently looking for a new Scout Leader and Assistant Scout Leaders (Scouts are age 10 and a half to age 14), or leaders for an Explorer Scout unit (Explorers are age 13 and a half to age 18). It will provide access to interesting and exciting activities for both adults and youngsters alike. Please get in touch (01644 420 375) if you would like more information or to have a chat with any of our leaders.

Again a heartfelt thanks to you all for your continued support, it is much appreciated.

*Heather McIntosh*

## A LOVE OF CYCLING IN THE GLENKENS

A questionnaire was circulated to identify how many bicycles are in our community and who wants to ride a bike.

The findings were that 95 families in the Glenkens with children at school own bikes - and more often than not, several bikes!

There was an overwhelming interest in cycling among the children who responded. Winners of the questionnaire prize draw were: Carsphairn - Hanna Ade-Macrae, Kells - Lewis Barclay and Dalry - Rhys Ferguson, who each won a £10 token for the Catstrand. Lucky them!

So what next? Refresh your cycling skills? Any age, any ability...contact June if you want to rehearse basic cycling skills at [junehay@glenkensbb.co.uk](mailto:junehay@glenkensbb.co.uk)

## Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal 2016

Thanks to the generosity of the communities and participating outlets in New Galloway and Dalry, just over £150 was raised for Marie Curie Cancer Care during this year's Daffodil Appeal.

This is a 50 per cent increase on last year's total and it will go towards much needed practical nursing care for terminally ill people in our area. Marie Curie nursing services are totally free to patients and their families and the Daffodil Campaign is a vital part of fundraising for the charity. Our communities have generously supported the charity since 1996. Countertop cans will be available for any donations throughout the year, for which, once again, many thanks.

## Glenkens Community Shop Thanks

The Glenkens Community Shop would like to send thanks to the family, friends and colleagues of Annie Winstanley who, instead of flowers, donated a total of £1,000 to our charity.

We are very thankful for such generosity. Although it will never, of course, replace a good friend, it will enable us to do more for our community.

*Shirley McNaught, Manager, Glenkens Community Shop*



# CatStrand Highlights

The exciting Summer Season gets underway at CatStrand on 4 June with a visit from the fantastic **Unthanks**.

Fresh from playing at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards at the Royal Albert Hall in May they make their CatStrand debut with their full five-piece band. The band have a diverse army of notable fans including the likes of Dawn French, Elvis Costello and Ewan McGregor and their appearance at CatStrand certainly promises to launch the new season of events in fine style.

Other musical highlights include Dumfries & Galloway's own **Claire Hastings** and her band on Friday 17 June. Claire of course was BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year in 2015 and we are delighted to be welcoming her back to CatStrand for the first time since she won the prestigious award.

July sees the long awaited visit of Orkney band **Saltfishforty** on Saturday 9, then an American

double bill on Wednesday 20 July featuring **Hillfolk Noir** from Idaho and **10 String Symphony** from Nashville before the much anticipated appearance of **Dean Owens and the Whisky Hearts** on Thursday 28 brings the month to a close. Dean has been described as

"Scotland's most engaging and haunting singer-songwriter" and the Whisky Hearts feature Dalry's own Amy Geddes on fiddle.

Away from music, on Saturday 11 June we welcome Ghanaian dance group **Akrowa** who will be performing in Dalry at the Clachan Fair and then holding workshops at CatStrand.

**Fred MacAulay** returns for his third visit on Sunday 17 July, one of Scotland's best loved and funniest comedians he is on tour with his new solo show *Life* and we cannot wait to welcome him

**See our latest brochure or visit our website for programme details. Book online at [www.catstrand.com](http://www.catstrand.com) or call 01644 420374.**



*Unthanks*

back to CatStrand again for what is sure to be another full house.

The cinema screenings include the blockbusters **Spectre** (12) and **Star Wars: The Force Awakens** (12) showing on 16 June and 14 July respectively, and also the beginning of the Scottish Perspectives Season with **Where You're Meant To Be** (15) on 29 June and **The Wicker Man: Final Cut** (15) on 27 July.

There are many more fabulous events throughout August and September too - for full details take a look at our Summer programme, or why not call into the CatStrand, view our latest art exhibition by Leo Blamire and enjoy a relaxing coffee in the café while we book your tickets for you.

*The CatStrand Team*

## CatStrand Youth Players

After the excitement and tension of the SCDA Youth Festival, the Youth Players have settled back into rehearsals for their next show at CatStrand to be staged just before the end of term on Sunday 26 June.

Appropriately, 'We'll Be Home Tomorrow' by Wayne Denfhy is a humorous story about the typical family summer holiday. Starting as the kids break up for the holiday and then fast-forwarding through the hectic summer before they are all back to school again wondering where the time went!! This cleverly written, fast moving short play

was CatStrand Youth Players' first ever entry into the SCDA Festival in 2009, the current generation of young actors are looking forward to putting their own stamp on the production and entertaining their 2016 audience!

The second play is a modern play by popular Canadian playwright Bradley Hayward, 'Outside the Box' is described as a 'dramedy' and as the description suggests mixes some comedy moments with some poignant scenes too. Thinking outside the box is not always easy, especially when the world requires you to live on the inside. Exhausted from cramming into corners where they do not fit, six teenagers turn things inside out by inviting others to see things from a whole new perspective. On the outside, balloons change colour, brooms become dance partners and kites

fly without a string. Step outside and see for yourself!

After the summer holidays, the season starts again with rehearsals for the annual pantomime to be staged as usual in early December. The summer won't see everyone idle though, far from it in fact, as work continues on the brand new script being created by the Dalry School Writing Group. A modern take on Macbeth, it is hoped to hold the World Premier performance later in the year - watch this space!

The Youth Players are also looking forward to a trip to watch the SCDA Scottish Youth Final at Eastwood Park Theatre in Giffnock on 18th June and as usual there is a full programme of youth arts events and workshops to keep everyone busy throughout the school holidays.

# What's SUP This Summer?

Learning a new skill is often near the top of any good bucket list.

So why not tick this item off your list this summer and head down to Loch Ken Waterski & Wakeboard School?

Based at Loch Ken Marina, just above Parton, the watersports centre offers water-skiing, wakeboarding and new for 2016 Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP) a craze that is currently sweeping the waterways of the world.

"We cater for young, old, complete beginners and seasoned pros," says manager Roddy Clarke. "There's something for everyone here, whether you're a complete thrill-seeker or would just like a nice day out with the family."

The water sports centre has been open since the summer of 1999 when Roddy, a past pupil from Laurieston Primary School and former Scottish Water Ski Champion, set the ski school up. "Since this time the school has been taking people out from May to September, helping people enjoy themselves and learn new skills," says

Roddy. "I learnt as a young child. I was basically thrown into a Loch with two oversized skis attached to my feet and told to hold on at the end of a rope - it was a bit 'sink or swim'. Thankfully things have moved on a lot since then. All beginners receive a land lesson and start off on a training bar. You don't even need to have a wetsuit, we have all the equipment here for our clients to use, free of charge."

Boat driving advice and tuition is also available and a full range of water



Roddy Clarke taking a spin round Loch Ken.

sports equipment can be provided by the centre, both for rental and sale. So drop in and see us! You may even be lucky enough to see one of the current champions based at Loch Ken out training.

Emma Cook

Two lucky Glenkens Gazette readers can win a 'come and try' session at the Loch Ken Waterski & Wakeboard School worth £22 each! Just answer the question: on which page of this issue's magazine will you find two award-winning local lassies?

## SPALDING BOWLING CLUB OPENS FOR 2016



Spalding Bowling Club opened for the new season with Valerie Russell throwing the first Jack (pictured above).

President Peter Hamilton welcomed everyone, then after tea and biscuits (and a snow shower!) 26 played in the first sweep of 2016.

**THE STEWARTRY VETERINARY CENTRE**

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**CASTLE DOUGLAS SURGERY HOURS**  
Mon-Fri 2.00-2.30 pm & 5-6 pm  
Sat 2-2.30 pm

**DALBEATTIE SURGERY HOURS**  
Mon, Wed, Fri 3-3.30 pm  
Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

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FOR APPOINTMENTS AT BOTH SURGERIES  
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VETERINARY SURGERY  
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## Wright's Shop & Post Office Dalry

*Licensed convenience store and newsagent stocking a range of local suppliers including Corsons and Irvings Bakers, Ballards and Dalmellington Country Butchers and Mitchells Fruit and Veg.*

### Opening Times (both shop & PO):

Monday to Friday: 7am – 6pm  
Saturday: 8am – 6pm  
Sunday: 8.30am – 4pm  
**Tel: 01644 430 225**

## LOCAL AUTHOR

Sheila MacKenzie presented her recently published book *Greece 2013 and Other Poems* at an opening at the Ken Bridge Hotel.

Although Sheila has lived in the Glenkens for over twenty years, her initial inspiration did not come from this beautiful area but from the sight of a broken statue of a kouros on a hillside on the Greek island of Naxos. Sheila had wanted to visit Greece since she was a teenager but only achieved this ambition in 2015 when, making up for lost time, she travelled there three times. The book, however, is not limited to poems about Greece, and features poems covering a variety of subjects including the Glenkens.

Sheila would like to acknowledge the contribution of Leo Blamire to the presentation and design of the book. Anyone interested in following up this article will find copies of *Greece 2015 and Other Poems* for sale at the Catstrand.



# EDINBURGH RESIDENTIAL

Primary six and seven pupils from the Glenkens visited Edinburgh for a residential trip.

On the first day the pupils from Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells visited Edinburgh Castle and the Camera Obscura.

After dinner, they went on an organised ghost walk and were told a number of stories about life in the city hundreds of years ago.

Day two began with walk around Arthur's Seat. The group then walked to the Scottish Parliament to meet Alex Fergusson MSP for a guided tour. After lunch in one of the committee rooms, we visited the National Museum of Scotland in Chambers Street.

On the last day we visited Dynamic Earth before returning home. The visit ended by watching a film on stars in the 360 degree show dome at Dynamic Earth.'

*Zane Gray, Depute Head Teacher, Kells Primary School*



## Outdoor Wellbeing

The amazing weather over the last few weeks has given Glenkens pupils of all ages the opportunity to enjoy being out and about whilst undertaking a wide range of activities.

Some of our primary students have been working intensively on their swimming during May and it has been great to see their progress.

Dalry primary has been undertaking the Daily Mile which has been

vigorously encouraged across Scotland. Pupils and staff have been able to exercise and chat at a suitable point in their day, which has been shown to boost energy and concentration levels overall.

The Gardening Clubs in the Glenkens' schools benefit from the enthusiasm and generosity of volunteers and rely on the community to respect the open nature of our school sites to ensure that the efforts of volunteers and pupils come to fruition later in the year (see the Eco Feature on p5).

Over the Easter vacation seven outdoor gym stations were installed on the school field as a result of generous bequests by two former residents of

Dalry. The outdoor gym is for pupil use during the school day and community use at other times.

As the S4 are working their way through the exam season, we believe that the views of the beautiful Glenkens through their exam-room windows and the opportunity to be out-and-about in between, can be of benefit and we wish them well in their efforts.

S3 are off on work experience and as ever we are grateful to employers for giving young people such wonderful opportunities to taste the 'World of Work'.

Health and wellbeing remain central to the success of our young people and we continue to seek opportunities to enhance it.

*Jenny Smith, Headteacher, Dalry School*

## Carsphairn Primary

Once again the summer term has been a very busy one for the boys and girls at Carsphairn Primary.

As usual, we have been taking our learning beyond the four walls of the school to support what we have been learning in class. In RME, we have kicked off our Buddhism topic with a trip to Samye Ling Temple in Dumfries. In technology, Mr Murray from the secondary at Dalry has invited us to use the woodworking room where we have designed and built outdoor signs. Finally, we are back doing our outdoor learning this term. We have been looking at how we use the world around us, and the children have been looking at the school grounds and preparing it so that we can take more of our daily classwork outside – because outdoor

learning doesn't always have to include a trip to the forest!

We wanted to do something special for our P7 pupils to end the year before they went down the road to Dalry Secondary. We have had a particularly strong year group this year, with Grace Temple, Sarah McCreath and Hana Ade MacRae all earning the highest level of 'Honours Reader' on the *Accelerated Reader Programme* used across the cluster. As such, for our end of term trip this year we are doing a very ambitious trip paddling down the Ken. We will be using canoes to paddle from our lay-in point, likely at the Kenbridge, and paddling right the way down to the Galloway Activity Centre, where we will have a barbeque for dinner and spend the night in Mongolian yurts!

After what is likely to be a restful night sleep and a hardy breakfast, we will return to our canoes and continue



*Carsphairn school pupils having lunch outside.*

down the river for the next day. We are hoping for wonderful weather, and on behalf of all staff at the school I would like to thank all the pupils for another wonderful year!

*Walker McKenna, Teacher, Carsphairn Primary*

# Hats Off for New Galloway SWRI

Members of New Galloway SWI enjoyed a lovely talk given by Miss Linda Adams on Flair in Your Hair with Hats & Fascinators from Flairs in Castle Douglas.

It was a lovely afternoon with Miss Adams giving members a glimpse into the feminine world of ladies headwear for those special occasions.

Feathers have been used for self-adornment since early times, and are dyed to suit the colour needed.

Abbaca Straw is a good base and again can come in many colours, combining the two and attached to a hat or headband, suddenly a beautiful creation appears like magic. Goose, chicken, ostrich and peacock feathers are used. These can be changed by use of curling tongues, split and trimmed to give a different appearance. Ribbons and beads can be added. Woven straw can be shaped and twisted to make flower shapes. Headwear is then assembled with stitching or hot glue. Silk flowers and floristry accessories can be used. Some hats need to be made on a special mould, which makes

the hat expensive. There are many occasions ladies need a special hat, after family weddings, christenings, and birthdays, Ascot is well known for its "Ladies Days" when a lady cannot be seen without some amazing creation on her head. Royalty are famous for their hats, particularly Princess Eugenie who wore a very high creation, and then sold it on ebay to raise a vast amount of money for charity! Secretary Helen Bullock gave the vote of thanks for such a lovely talk on a subject close to ladies hearts – or heads!

*Helen Bullock*

## LOCAL INITIATIVES IN NEW GALLOWAY

It has been a busy time since we took over management of New Galloway town hall.

Tuesday evenings has seen the start of a sports evening of indoor bowls in the Lesser Hall and Table Tennis in the Main Hall. Unfortunately our Table Tennis table we had acquired through Freecycle a few years ago had become warped and saucer shaped! However, Kells School has come to the rescue with passing on a very sturdy surplus table.

Unfortunately the badminton which was to be set up with help

from D&G Sports & Leisure hasn't happened due to their restrictions. We'll look at this again in the autumn.

Zumba with Sam continues on Wednesday evenings.

The Look-in, Linger and Lunches have started with the soup and pudding lunch provided by Love to Eat duo Dawn and Helen. With the lunches paid by those attending the hall costs are paid by LING and a grant from the Integrated Health Fund to enable a 6 month pilot. The first lunch which took place before writing this was well received and the quality of the food much praised. These lunches are

open to all so come along!

Table Top Sales will continue and the summer Pop-up Museum is in progress.

D&G Council has been busy working on various aspects of the fabric of the building dealing with damp on the south end and the installation of a new boiler.

The Hall has been hired for birthday and other parties and the Richters from Dalbeattie are due to perform on Saturday 21st May.

The Women's Institute held their monthly meetings on Wednesday afternoons.

Keep a look out in the usual places for what's happening.

### ***Continued from front page...***

If the Council had done its job properly, this unfortunate situation might never have occurred. Most of the affected community councils are now in the process of getting re-established with elections scheduled for July 7.

A full inquiry now needs to be made into how this disaster was allowed to happen in the first place, and those responsible held to account for their actions. But most importantly, legislation needs to be enacted to ensure that this can never happen again. Community councils should have to account for their actions like anyone else, but any sanctions should be fair,

proportionate and appropriately regulated, not at the whim of D&G Council.

*Andi Holmes*

*(Former Chair, Dalry Community Council)*

### **The Gazette asked D&G council to comment. This is their response:**

Community Councils play a vital role in our local communities across a range of issues. We recognise the time that individuals devote voluntarily to service their communities.

During April we confirmed, following legal advice, that 37 Community Councils had dissolved themselves for failing to properly adopt constitutions.

This followed a complaint by a member of the public and was not a position we wanted Community

Councils to be in, so Council staff have been working to ensure these groups can be re-established at the earliest opportunity.

By-elections will be held on 7 July 2016 and 34 of these communities have applied to be re-established.

The remaining communities are considering next steps or planning to apply for re-establishment in the near future. Prior to this, one Community Council was already considering establishing themselves as a Community Group rather than a formal Community Council, and they have now confirmed they wish to do so.

We will now be in contact with the Community Councils to advise them of the process which will now be followed. A notice of election to seek nominations in the affected communities will be placed in the local press in the coming weeks.



# Emma's Wild Eats

Coming into the summer season there are too many wild foods to list, so I can't resist focusing on one of the many amazing fungi that we are lucky enough to have growing around us.

I thought it might be useful to give some tips for identification, but please don't trust just me - use a few sources of information to help you, and make sure only to pick mushrooms if you are in no doubt about what they are.

Let's talk about chanterelles, whose main season is summer to late autumn. Chanterelles tend to grow in dappled sunlight under birch, although they will grow in most woodland, usually under deciduous trees, and tend to grow in small groups, over larger areas. If you find an orange mushroom under conifers be instantly suspicious as it is likely to be a false chanterelle. Some state

that false chanterelles are poisonous (as they have been known to have a hallucinogenic effect) whilst others say they will do you no harm.

Thankfully the chanterelle is one of the most distinctive mushrooms and once you have your 'eye in' can be spotted from quite some distance! The false chanterelle is smaller, paler, has true gills (tightly packed and even) and usually has a much more even, round mushroomy shape. Google for plenty of images and consult books and you'll soon get the idea.

## CHANTERELLE:

*Colour:* Bright egg-yolk-yellow

*Smell:* Fragrant, apricot-like, distinctive and very useful in identification

*Cap:* 3-10cm across. The cap margin is lobed and wavy, particularly in older specimens and similarly becomes more depressed at the centre and paler in colour as they age

*Stem:* Narrower at the base

*Gills:* Decurrent, vein-like gills that extend down the stem somewhat and do not stop abruptly at the stem. These are the same colour as the rest of the fungus and are often described as looking like combed plasticine



*Chanterelles*

*Texture:* Firm and rubbery, until cooked at which point they take on the most satisfying meatiness

*Flavour:* I can't do it justice! Gently fried for about 10 minutes, first at a high temperature to cook off the water, they will shrink and produce an incredible flavour. At this point add a bit of butter to brown slightly and use your imagination; make risotto, creamy sauce or stick them in the freezer for later - but don't miss out on trying them.

*Happy summer foraging!*  
Emma

**Check out Emma's blog:**  
[www.emmaswild.co.uk](http://www.emmaswild.co.uk)



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# ARNDARROCH OPEN GARDEN

Arndarroch Garden will once again be opened by D&G Canine Rescue Centre on 17 June, with a few changes since last year's open day.

Some changes have taken place since last Open Day, with many trees being felled to give more light into the woodland planted in 2000. Shade tolerating perennials and shrubs have been added to make a woodland garden.

The whole garden is wildlife friendly and

this includes the numerous rabbits. Many birds find nesting places in the trees and shrubs while some are helped by unusual nest 'boxes'. Garden waste material is used in the woodland to provide homes for many mammals and countless smaller creatures. Peregrine Falcons and Red Kites often circle over the garden. There is a good collection of herbaceous perennials, trees and shrubs, some rare, and many seats are available with views over Loch Kendoon and the hills beyond.

Entrance to the garden is £3.50 with school-age children free. Teas are £2.50, and there will be a plant stall and small craft exhibition. The garden is open from 2pm-5pm, and dogs on leads are welcome. The two charities benefitting from the day are D&G Canine Rescue Centre (60%) and Carsphairn Church Benevolent Fund (40%). Arndarroch is on the B7000, five miles from Dalry or Carsphairn.



## YOUTH REPORTERS WANTED

**Want to be a youth reporter? Into art and design? Fancy a go at photography? Want the chance to interview a band or review a favourite film?**

We are looking for budding young contributors to create a youth section within the Glenkens Gazette.

**All abilities and interests - open to all under 25. Please get in touch with Dave at the CatStrand on [davem@catstrand.com](mailto:davem@catstrand.com)**



## Photo of the Issue

*Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel*

Competition judges Dave and Sue from the Ken Bridge Hotel chose *Garroch Bluebells* by John McBeth as this issue's winner, saying:

*"Super photos once more but the photo of the Garroch bluebells is, I think, the best simply because it is a beautiful sign of the season..."*

**John wins a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel's renowned Sunday Carvery.**



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# Updates on the War: 100 Years On

The months of April and May 1916 would see a further four names to be added to the war dead of the Glenkens.

Alex McCheyne of High Street, New Galloway, was killed at the age of just 19. He had been serving at Hulloch in France with 7th Battalion, Cameron Highlanders, when he was killed by a shell splinter. Alex was the youngest of five brothers in the Army with a sixth serving in the Navy. By the end of the war, the family would receive the news of the deaths of three more sons making the Kells parish War Memorial one of only a few to list four brothers.

William Martin of Pomona Terrace, New Galloway, died of wounds in hospital at Rouen. He was 24 years old and was serving with 1st Battalion the Kings Own Scottish Borderers. The eldest son of Hugh and Janet (Coltart) Martin, he is commemorated on the Kells parish War Memorial.

Richard Baird of Shirmers, Balmaclellan, was reported Missing in Action at the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Richard had enlisted into the 7th Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers, and

was 29 years old when he was reported missing. His parents were Thomas and Robina (Craig) Baird. Richard is remembered on the Loos memorial and Balmaclellan parish War Memorial.

Adam Byers of Kells parish was killed by a trench mortar whilst on a wiring patrol near Hulloch at the age of 27. He was serving with 7th Battalion, Cameron Highlanders.

When researching soldiers killed in WW1, sometimes you get lucky and find more information from newspaper items, service records and Battalion War Diaries. Such is the case with Adam Byers. He was the son of a shepherd, born at Burnhead in Kells Parish and was the oldest son of William and Sarah Byers. At the outbreak of war his family was living in Craigenbay near Clatteringshaws having previously lived at Glenshimmeroch near Lochinvar. Adam himself was a gamekeeper at Dunveoch farm in the Garroch Glen. His father had died previously so he



left behind a widowed mother, younger brother and two sisters when he enlisted just six weeks from the start of the war. His surviving service record tells us much of the detail of the man including the fact that he was once reprimanded for appearing for guard duty without having shaved – a minor offence even by the strict standards of the day. One day in September 1915 at the battle of Loos, over 500 men of the Battalion were killed, wounded or missing in a single day (over half the men). Adam Byers survived.

It was ironic therefore that on 28 May 1916, he was the only man from his Bn who was killed. Like many others, his body was never found so he has no grave, but he is remembered on the Loos memorial and Kells parish War Memorial.

*Paul Goodwin*

## Glenkens Transport Initiative

### Regular Bus Services

**Tuesdays**

#### Dalry to Newton Stewart Return Swimming and Shopping

Outward Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1115,  
New Galloway 1120 (Fire Station)  
Return Pickups: Newton Stewart (ALDI Car Park) 1320,  
(Merrick Centre) 1330  
Return Fare: £3.00  
More information/booking phone Ann on 01644 460518

**Wednesday Evenings**

#### Dalry to Castle Douglas (Tesco) Return (registered route)

| Outward Journey |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1900            | Depart Dalry (Underhill)       |
| 1905            | New Galloway (CatStrand)       |
| 1915            | Mossdale                       |
| 1925            | Lauriston                      |
| 1930            | Townhead of Greenlaw           |
| 1937            | Castle Douglas (Market Street) |
| 1940            | Castle Douglas (Tesco)         |
| Return Journey  |                                |
| 2035            | Depart Castle Douglas (Tesco)  |
| 2037            | Castle Douglas (Market Street) |
| 2047            | Townhead of Greenlaw           |
| 2050            | Lauriston                      |
| 2100            | Mossdale                       |
| 2110            | New Galloway (CatStrand)       |
| 2115            | Dalry (Underhill)              |

### Services & Excursions June-July 2016

Phone CatStrand (01644 420374) or see the GTI website ([www.glenkenstransport.org](http://www.glenkenstransport.org)) for more details of these and other trips and to book.

#### Glenkens to Ayr & Back

**Saturday June 25 and Saturday July 30**

Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930, Dalry (Underhill) 0940,  
Carsphairn (Shop) 1000. Leaving Ayr 1500.  
Fare £3.50, Concessions £3.00 each way.

#### Logan Botanic Garden

**Thursday 23 June**

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930, New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940  
Fare £6. Concessions £5.

#### Arndarroch Gardens

**Wednesday 20 April**

Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930, Dalry (Underhill) 0940,  
Fare £1.

#### Dumfries House

**Provisional – date to be announced – subject to takeover**

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# A CATTLE SHED FOR A HOME:

## *An Important Judgement on the Poor Laws in 1845*

An interesting journey back into our local history comes from a report published in *The Scotsman* in 1845 which gives us a glimpse of the truly desperate poverty that burdened people in previous times.

It follows the case of the sad situation of Janet and Mary Halliday, two elderly sisters both in their 80s who were the daughters of a respectable farmer but, for reasons of extreme age (for that time) and their infirmities, were at last forced to ask for support from the Parish of Balmacellan. The generous Heritors and Kirk Session of that parish granted them a cattle shed to live in and peats to burn, and the pittance of £3 a year each, or two pence a day, for food and any other necessities. Thankfully, after their case was brought in front of the Supreme Court in June 1844, the judges said this was too little and ordered that the parish increase the allowance. The parish refused to do this and proposed instead to board the two women as paupers. The women,

however, declined to submit to this and offered to take 3s and 6d allowance instead. Interestingly, the Court, after much discussion, refused to allow this, seeing it as unsafe given the Heritors had been convicted of starving them previously on 2d a day and so did not trust them the duty of care. Their Lordships instead fixed the allowance at sixpence a day each as a more convenient arrangement and more conducive to the comfort of the elderly ladies. The parish stated in their defence that their objection and refusal to increase the allowance had not been so much as not to make fair allowance, but was because the giving of more money would come to be known by others receiving similar help but of a lesser sum, and that they would then immediately claim the same increase. They had hoped to avoid this by offering lodgings and provisions in kind to the women.

In addition to these concerns, the parish raised that the order of the Court to pay the money to the women was problematic as it was at risk of being partly consumed by "an imbecile idiotic nephew" (sic) who lived with the two women (presumably in the cattle shed). They had hoped that removing the two women into lodgings would take them away from the nephew. The Court agreed and made the following arrangements; that the Parish, having secured the services of Margaret Brown,

a respectable widow of fifty five years of age, should request that she take charge of the ladies and minister to their necessities as they were now both in a state as to render such a charge absolutely necessary. Meal, potatoes and milk would be supplied from time to time in such quantities as the "paupers" should require. Fuel and clothing would also be provided for them as well as tea and sugar, and animal food and cordials, if the condition of the paupers should render animal feed and cordials necessary. Mr Murdoch of Drumwhirn and Mr Joseph Black, and Mr Bell, tenant of Hardland, were appointed by the Kirk Session of Balmacellan to see that the ladies were attended to as per the Court's instructions.

The medical certificate shared with the Court stated that the examination of Janet and Mary Halliday had found them to be in a very infirm and weak state with one of them being confined to the bed and the other moving about with great difficulty and assisted by two staves (sticks).

Such were the hardships of the weak and the vulnerable at that time. Two extremely elderly and infirm ladies forced by their parish to live in a cattle shed and starved on a pittance a day, before the Supreme Court was asked to consider their plight and ordered an improvement to their lot.

*contributed by Bill Blyth, Blowplain*




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## LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

# The Glenkens Gordons



*O young Lochinvar is come  
out of the west,*

*Through all the wide Border  
his steed was the best;*

*And save his good  
broadsword he weapons  
had none,*

*He rode all unarm'd, and he  
rode all alone.*

*So faithful in love, and so  
dauntless in war,*

*There never was knight like  
the young Lochinvar.*

Many more folk are familiar with the Gordons of Lochinvar through Walter Scott's poem rather than from history books. It is generally agreed that it deals in fiction rather than fact. The first recorded Scottish Gordon, Richard by name, appears in the late twelfth-century at Gordon in Roxburghshire. The origins of the family are obscure but they may be English. A descendant, Sir Adam Gordon, was part of the embassy which took the famous 'Declaration of Arbroath', which many regard as Scotland's declaration of independence, to the pope at Avignon in 1320. As a reward for his services he was granted Strathbogie by Robert Bruce, so introducing the 'Northern Gordons' to Aberdeenshire where they were to play a notable role in Scottish history.

Sir Adam conferred half of the lands of Glenkens, previously acquired from the Maxwells, upon his second son, William who also received the keeping of the New Forest of Glenkens from the future Robert II. It was not until 1403 that we have definite indications that the Gordons moved west as allies of the Douglasses to take possession of Kenmure. The Fourth Earl of Douglas also granted them Shirmers and 'other lands in the barony of Balmacellan' as well as the keepership of the New Forest and the bailiedom of Earlstoun. William de Gordon acquired the style, 'of Lochinvar' in 1450 but there is no hard evidence that they actually resided there and indeed if Kenmure Castle was at their disposal, why would they have done so?

There are indications of some kind of structure on the loch's island, probably originally a crannog, described by Alexander Trotter as 'a bit booroch o'

drystane dykes'. The Statistical Account of the 1790s mentions 'the remains of an old building with bridges'. Did this refer to causeways? Bridges, we suspect, were a later addition. The Survey of 1911 found an island measuring 60 feet by 50 feet with 'a few indications of walling' and the possible remains of a circular tower ten feet in diameter, at one time owned by the ancient Lords of Galloway. Strategically the location does not make sense as a fortification. On the other hand the place was prestigious enough for the Gordons to use it as a title. It seems to have had some function which now completely eludes us, though several castles of native Welsh princes similarly strike me as having been built in the wrong place; a possible parallel?

Over the years the chiefs of the name were involved in many feuds. Sir Alexander Gordon married Janet Kennedy who later became one of several mistresses of James IV, by whom she

to Loch Ken, 'formentis Kenmure'. Sixty men tried to resist but the castle was taken. An English spy reported that Moray tried to persuade Gordon to cooperate with him 'to save his house and forget the past' but he refused. He had allegedly believed that his estates were so remote that no one could penetrate his bounds. He was wrong and his castle was burnt and partially demolished. Nonetheless he remained loyal to Mary to the end. He became Warden of the West March, surviving until 1604, the year after the Union of the Crowns under James VI.

If any of our Gordons inspired the Young Lochinvar of Scott's poem it was probably the last mentioned Sir John (1548-1604), a man ruinously devoted to his young queen, who suffered greatly for his loyalty and who wrongly believed that in his fine castle deep in the Galloway Forest, he was untouchable, faithful in love but sadly dauntless in war.

Does anyone have any suggestions as to the location of 'Dawhernyn'? This was probably transcribed by someone with very little knowledge of the district. Worse he may only have heard the name

mentioned and seriously misunderstood. The gratuitous information that it was 'barbarously callit' suggests that the language was Gaelic. Were there other 'holms' in 1568 that have since been lost or forgotten? For example was there once a Holm of Blawquhairn? Can we make Dalarran out of Dawhernyn? Could Moray have first gone to Dalarran and then to Dalry before attacking Kenmure? What do you think? Suggestions welcome!

Ted Cowan

## *Over the years the chiefs of the name were involved in many feuds.*

had a son, James Stewart. He was thus a half brother of James V, with whom the Lochinvars worked closely, improving their fortunes. James Gordon of Lochinvar was killed at the battle of Pinkie in 1547. Sir John Gordon became justiciar of the Stewartry in 1548. He hosted Mary Queen of Scots at Kenmure in 1563 and sat on the assize which examined the evidence for Bothwell's part in the murder of Darnley. Scandalously Bothwell was acquitted. After Mary was deposed, imprisoned and forced to seek refuge in England, her half-brother, the Regent James, Earl of Moray was intent upon attacking her supporters. He led a force into 'ane valley callit barbarously the Holm of Dawhernyn', in hopes of engaging Lochinvar. He marched to Dalry and then



Kenmure Castle from Francis Grose's book 'Antiquities of Scotland' dated 1791.

# Who Do We Think We Were?

This month's contribution comes from Hilda McAdam who grew up in Dalry.

No doubt Hilda's reminiscences will trigger more memories from others. Whether you grew up here or have arrived in the Glenkens from elsewhere, please send in your 500 words of reminiscence so that we get a spread of places, times and individual experiences. If you live here now, you are part of our C21 history.

Please send your contribution - of no more than 500 words - by email to [margaret.elphinstone@dircon.co.uk](mailto:margaret.elphinstone@dircon.co.uk) or hand in a copy at CatStrand marked 'Glenkens Gazette - WDWTTW'

The next Gazette will feature Avril Bridgeman's memories of Show Day in New Galloway.

## DALRY MEMORIES

by Hilda McAdam

In my younger days in Dalry one thing that sticks out in my mind is that before Easter Mum would sit for hours knitting my sister and me new twin sets, and we were taken to get Clarks' sandals to have some new to wear for Easter Sunday. On 'Dog Hunt Day' (Sheep Dog Trials Day) every year new boots were purchased for us to wear in the winter.

On Sundays we were always at Sunday School in the morning and had family walks in the afternoon. Our

Summer outings from Sunday School were greatly looked forward to. I remember one year going to Barlaes, then we progressed and went to Sandyhills or Sandgreen. Races were held with Mr. Mullo Weir, our minister, taking part in them all. When he met the children AND their Mummies he would insist on giving them a kiss. He had Pan Drops loose in his pockets to which he would treat you. When he turned away you had to wipe fluff off the sweets.

One favourite walk was to Allangibbon Bridge. We went through the gate just past the bridge and down to the river's edge where there was a big stone called 'Nick Me Nubs'. This stone to our young imaginations could be a cooker, a sink, etc. We went on into the wood across from Barskeoch, where we found 'The Wishing Tree'. Many a happy hour was spent there.

Another family walk was up the Mulloch Hill. We used to have a competition to see who could find the first 'peesie' (peewit/lapwing) nest (there were plenty of them in those days). We also tried to be the first person to find the only clump of white heather which grew near the top. In October we gathered rose-hips to take to school where they were sent away to make rose-hip syrup. We only got a few pennies for them - but money was very much appreciated.

When we were very young most of the families stayed at Underhill. In the evenings everyone was out playing, not only the children but the parents as well. We played Hide-and-Seek, Kick-the-Can, Rounders, etc.



*In Dumfries with new sandals, with wee sister Margaret on the right.*

We all made our own fun.

Another vivid memory is getting our milk delivered by horse and cart by Mr. James Edgar and then Tommy Edgar. One day Roger the horse was startled at the very top of the village, outside Greyrigg. The poor horse bolted, milk and milk bottles came hurling off the back of the cart all the way down Main Street and ended up stuck in the seat at the Town Hall gates. Fortunately the only damage done that day was a small bump on the Fountain.

Everybody in the village helped each other. I remember regularly going for messages for Mrs Stewart who lived in Rose Cottage and for Miss Kerr who lived a few doors down. I still have a small silver spoon given to me by Miss Kerr for being her 'message girl'.

# SULPHUR & TREACLE

Friday night was the night for a proper wash, not a top and tail kind.

The warm water that was kept from the weekly wash in a big iron copper would be pailed into the round tub (bine) which had been made from a whiskey barrel that had been halved. This was now used to wash the clothes when filled with the warm water along with the metal wash board.

The wash-house became our bathroom on a Friday night, and one by one (there were seven of

us) would make our way back and forth, either wrapped in a big plaid or towels.

Once ready for bed, with our hair still damp, and smelling of carbollic, Mam would sit herself on a low stool and spread an old pair of navy blue knickers on her lap. Why it had to be an old pair of knickers I don't know.

With the 'nit-comb' in hand we would all in turn kneel down before these knickers, and the combing began. Then it would be over to Dad where he would be standing with a big soup spoon at the ready.

What was being offered us was something that had been mixed during the nit-hunt, as if it was an award we had just earned, and once again it was one by one, only this time we all stood in a row. The spoon went into this jar, and when it emerged it was filled to the brim.

"Right, open up," came the command, and this spoon with the sulphur-and-treacle went in. "YUK!" The taste was still in our mouths in the mornings, but the good thing was none of us ever caught the dreaded impetigo, or 'itch'...

by W Thom



# HISTORY IN THE HILLS



"You're standing on the remains of an Bronze Age ring cairn," explains archaeologist Andrew Nicholson (far right) to members of a history field trip on Bardennoch Hill near Carsphairn. There's not much to see of the original circular burial structure but, he explains, "most of the stones have been re-used in the dry stane dyke behind me!".

The trip, organised by The Glenkens Story project, followed their "Hoards to Discover" lecture when Andrew, who is D&G regional archaeologist, thrilled a capacity CatStrand audience with tales of discoveries in the Glenkens, culminating in last year's find of Viking treasure at Balmaghie.

Bardennoch Hill is a rich source of historical remains and Andrew led the party on a strenuous tour of sites ranging from prehistoric long cairns to mediaeval field systems and carved stones marking the ancient track which took pilgrims, including Robert the Bruce, via Carsphairn and Polmaddie to St Ninian's shrine at Whithorn. The group even found, and recorded, a stone with cup and ring marks near Cairn Avel which doesn't appear in existing surveys.

The Glenkens Story is organising further field trips to local war memorials (21 May) and to Covenanting sites (3 September). If you want to be added to The Glenkens Story mailing list for information on events email [theglenkensstory@gmail.com](mailto:theglenkensstory@gmail.com)

*Pictured below: One of several stones with carved crosses which once marked the pilgrim way. The carvings have weathered within living memory and the stones, now fallen, are not easy to find, especially since the Ordnance Survey map is inaccurate!*



## Old Mine on the Garple

Old Covenanters stories speak of seeking refuge in a cave along the Garple Burn in the vicinity of the present Holme House.

This is a dramatic and little-known corner of the Glenkens, with the Garple Burn occupying a deep wooded ravine before it emerges onto the valley floor and enters the River Ken. A few years ago I searched for this cave and failed to find it. However, at the beginning of last year I managed to locate it.

I quickly realised it was actually an old mine adit, a horizontal passageway at right angles to the river. I had a head torch with me and, after wading through water for the first stretch, I found the passage became dry owing to a slight upward incline. It is not quite straight, but has a few minor bends in it before coming to an abrupt end. Later measurement with the help of the family showed it to be nearly 30 metres long. I was puzzled as to what was mined - there was no sign of mineralisation, other than perhaps iron mineralisation. I later found a beautifully crafted iron chisel on the floor of the adit with my metal detector, as well as iron artefacts. I wondered if it could have been an Iron Age or medieval iron mine, and thought it could indeed have been the hideout of the Covenanters.

However in January this year John Pickin, formerly of Stranraer museum and an expert on old mines, came to view it and offer his opinion on its age. He noticed blast holes in the roof of the passage that we'd somehow missed which showed that it couldn't have been there at the time of the Covenanters. We now think it was an exploratory adit put in during the 1840s after the discovery of the Woodhead lead mine at Carsphairn - there are records of exploratory activity further up the Garple Burn.

So perhaps we are still looking for the Covenanters' hideout - unless there was a small cave here before that the miners extended further back into the hillside. *David Bartholomew*





# JUNE & JULY

## MAY

**Sat 28 May**, Scottish Dance Theatre: Innocence, 2pm, CatStrand

**Sat 28**, Robert Burns: Rough Cut, 7.30pm, CatStrand, see p7

**Sun 29**, Litvinenko Project, 3pm, CatStrand, see p7

**Sun 29**, Ventoux, 5pm, CatStrand, see p7

## JUNE

**Sat 4**, The Unthanks, 7.30pm, CatStrand, see p7

**Sat 11**, Akrowa, 1pm, see p3

**Sun 12**, Jazz in the Village: Millar

& Spencer, 6.30pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, see ad below

**Thu 16**, Film: Spectre, 7.30pm, CatStrand

**Fri 17**, Ardarroch Open Garden, 2pm, see p12

**Fri 17**, The Claire Hastings Band, 7.30pm, CatStrand

**Tues 28**, The Light Field, 7pm, CatStrand

**Wed 29**, Film: Where You're Meant to Be, 7.30pm, CatStrand

## JULY

**Sat 9**, Saltfishforty, 8pm, CatStrand

**Thu 14**, Film: Star Wars- The Force Awakens, 7.30pm, CatStrand

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# REGULAR EVENTS

## CatStrand, New Galloway:

**Exercise to Music:** Mon, 10-11am

**Margaret Morris dance 1:** 3-7yrs, term-time Mondays, 3.45-4.30pm

**Margaret Morris dance 2:** 8-16yrs, term-time Mondays, 4.30-5.15pm

**Access All Areas Youth Arts**

**- Making Music:** Please phone CatStrand to book session.

**Gentle Tai Chi:** Wed, 10am, 60+

**Glenkens Writing Group:** First Wed each month 3-5pm

**Sing it Out:** Thurs, 11am -12pm

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

**CatStrand Ukes:** Thurs, 1pm - 3.30pm 60+

**Choreographic Skills Lab:** Thurs (term-time), 7 - 8.30pm ages 12-18

**Zumba Gold:** Fridays (term-time), 10-11am, CatStrand, 16+

**Saturday Art Club:** twice a month, 10am-12noon, to book call 420 374

**Zumba Kids:** last Sat of the month (term-time), 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, 10am-12noon

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

**Ballroom & Latin Dance Class:**

Mon, 7.15pm, for more info call Sam Rushton on 420 672

**GCC Playgroup:** Tues, Wed & Thurs, 9.10-11.40am, contact Sue on 07709 929 482

**Good Neighbours' Club:** Tues, 2pm

**Kickback Martial Arts:** Thurs, 7-9pm

**Thursday Craft Group:** Thurs, 2-4pm

**Brownies:** Wed, 5.30-6.45pm

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

## Various Locations:

**Ballroom & Latin Dance:** Mon, 7.30pm, Castle Douglas Primary School

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

**Carsphairn Post Office:** Tues, 1-3pm, Lagwyne Hall

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

**Dog Training:** Tues & Thurs, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall. Contact: Eric 460 670

**Wednesday Quiz Night:** Wed, 8.30pm, Cross Keys Hotel, New Galloway

**Stewartry Camera Club:** Wed, 7.30pm, Ringford Village Hall, runs Wed 11 Sept till end Mar

**Zumba:** Wed, 7.30-8.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall, 11+

**Mossdale Painters:** Wed, 9.30am, Mossdale Village Hall

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

**Coffee & Craft Morning:** Thurs, 9am-12noon, Lagwyne Hall

**Youth Writing Group:** Thurs (during term time), 3.30-5pm, ages 10-15, Dalry School

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

**D&G Hard of Hearing Group Drop-in:** 1st Friday each month, 10am-12noon, New Galloway Town Hall

**Gentle Tai Chi:** Fri 10-11am, Dalry Town Hall

**To hire the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) behind Dalry School call Sonja Tranter on 430 244 or Nicolette Wise on 430 218.**

## Dalry Library

### Temporary Hours

**Tue:** 12noon - 3.30pm

**Fri:** 10am - 12noon & 1pm - 4.30pm

*There are 23 mobile library stops - to find out where and when please phone 430 234.*

## Glenkens Community Councils

**Balmaclellan Community Council Meetings:** 3rd Monday each month, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.

**Carsphairn Community Council Meetings:** Last Monday each month, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn.

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

**Dalry Community Council Meetings:** 1st Monday each month, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.

**New Galloway & Kells Community Council Meetings:** 2nd Monday each month, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall.

## CHURCH TIMES

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND** Sunday Services - Balmaclellan 12noon: 1st. Carsphairn 10.30am: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Dalry 9am: 1st, 2nd(Jul), 3rd, 4th. Dalry 10.30am: 5th(Jul). Kells 10.30am: 2nd, 3rd, 4th.

*Special Services/Events:* 5 June, Clachan Fair Songs of Praise with Sanquhar & District Silver Band, 6pm, Newfield Green. 12 June, United Family Service (Kells/ Dalry), 10.30am, Kells Church. 19

June, Conventicle, 3pm, Dalry churchyard. 31 July, United Service with Choir, 10.30am, Dalry Church.

*Communion Service:* 3 July, Carsphairn Church (using central table), 10.15am.

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:** St Margaret's, New Galloway: Holy Communion, 10.30am every Sun & Wed.

**CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES:** Kirkcudbright: Sun Mass, 9.30am. Dalbeattie: Sat Mass, 5pm

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- D&G Council: 030 33 33 3000

# CORSOCK BOY'S BUSINESS VENTURE GOES GLOBAL

United Bricks was established in Corsock, but has quickly become a global enterprise.

Realising that LEGO didn't have a military-themed range, 16-year-old Callum Winspear decided to make his own. He quickly realised that like-minded LEGO enthusiasts were also looking for similar figures and what started as a hobby in 2013 grew into a full-time job when Callum left Dalry school in 2015.

Since then United Bricks has invested in a special state-of-the-art UV printer which gives them the ability to print onto almost any 3D object in a durable, high quality finish.

United Bricks design and print on LEGO components, specialising in military history. Some of their current ranges include World

War One and Two, American Revolutionary War, and Anglo-Zulu War.

The company produces thousands of printed minifigures every month for contracts worldwide, and has a global re-seller network that includes North America, Asia and Europe. The company now has a team of graphic designers and will soon be taking on further staff to help keep up with increasing demand.

United Bricks recently won the award for 'Most Promising New Business in Dumfries & Galloway' at the Chamber of Commerce Awards 2016 - quite an achievement for a newbie.

The company is growing so fast it has now moved into its own office premises, situated in Corsock, and has invested in a brand new website which has just been launched, showcasing all their new products



United Bricks founder Callum Winspear.

and features. Along with this, they attend LEGO conventions throughout the UK every year, meeting new fans and engaging in the LEGO community.

United Bricks has achieved so much in their first year of business - watch this space!

To find out more about United Bricks visit [www.united-bricks.com](http://www.united-bricks.com) or follow them on facebook or twitter.

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### Design & co-ordination:

Sarah Ade  
[sarah.ade@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.ade@gmail.com)

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