

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

October/November 2016

ISSUE 96

FREE

GLENKENS CHILDREN'S CLUB LIVES TO PLAY ANOTHER TERM

Childcare provision for under-threes in the Glenkens has been resuscitated - for now - through a variety of very welcome support ranging from grants to fundraising activities.

The figure which is allowing the

groups to continue, hopefully until Easter, includes £5,000 from WestSound's Cash for Kids and £1,700 from local business Natural Power Consultants Ltd, as well as grants from the Glenkens Community Shop and funds raised by St Margaret's Ladies' Guild and the FoDSFEST Tea Tent. The group is very grateful for all the help and support it has received, and

would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all involved.

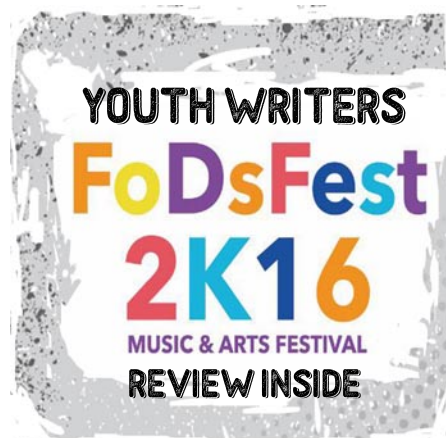
If the Playgroup is forced to close, families in the north of the Glenkens would face round-trip journeys of over 50 miles to the nearest provision in the Stewartry, as well as the future of the Glenkens Community Centre being at risk with

the GCC and playgroup as its biggest users.

From 2012 to 2014, GCC primarily relied on the Big Lottery's Community & Families Fund which has now closed. In October the group will find out whether the Council's Area Committee fund will provide support of any kind. The group has re-applied after being denied funding in August, despite there still being £40k left in the Area Committee pot at that time. **Continued on**



GCC Playgroup having a visit from a PC Lindsey Tait during their 'People Who Help Us' theme.



GAZETTE EXCLUSIVE!

Interview with **Outlander** star **Sam Heughan**, Glenkens-born actor turned Hollywood heart-throb due to his role as dashing warrior Jamie Fraser in the hit TV series.

See p3...



Carsphairn Flood Mitigation Update

A further public meeting has been held to advance possible mitigation measures and solutions to the serious flooding experienced by Carsphairn over recent years.

The meeting, chaired by local councillor and MSP Finlay Carson, was a follow-up to an initial meeting in January this year. Representatives from Kaya Consulting, SEPA, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Power and Dumfries & Galloway Council attended the meeting as well as Richard Arkless MP, with approximately 40 members of the Carsphairn community to hear of the latest developments on this issue. It was concluded that mitigation measures involving direct defenses seem to be the most effective means to prevent the village being flooded. Met Office data shows that rainfall has increased steadily over the years, completely saturating catchments prior to floods last year (evidenced by flow gauges in nearby rivers).

In order to reach this conclusion, other areas were also researched. Land use and particularly afforestation and deforestation were studied to see if they were factors. Modern

forestry practices and recent guidance now considers the potential flood risk. However, around Carsphairn the forestry is long established, consequently the effect is difficult to quantify.

River morphology was studied – changes are minimal except for a degree of sediment movement but no real change.

Sediment Deposition – the effectiveness of dredging was researched and would result in limited improvements with most areas still being affected.

Suggested solutions centred on:

- The installation of a walled flood defence - an 850m long wall/embankment along the West side of the A713; a 350 to 400m long wall/embankment round the southern perimeter of the village and a widened/relocated Green Head Strand downstream of the A713

- Flood warning - although there is a gauge at Bridgend upstream of Carsphairn, the close proximity of this to the village means that it is not suitable to provide a flood warning with sufficient lead-in time. The Council will continue

barriers/air-vent covers/non-return valves to prevent sewage backflow.

Some more work needs to be undertaken by Kaya using new survey data to ensure that there are no negative impacts or, if there are, that these too can be managed. Dumfries & Galloway Council will progress with landowner engagement and design works to endeavour to install temporary measures before winter.

Work of this nature will be funded by Dumfries and Galloway Council. Scottish Government funding for a future scheme has not been identified yet as Carsphairn was not eligible as it was not in a Potentially Vulnerable Area.

Dumfries and Galloway Council will continue to develop a permanent scheme and use every opportunity to lobby for funding assuming a cost-effective scheme (where benefits exceed the costs – known as a 'positive benefit-cost ratio') can be achieved.

Carsphairn Community Council hope to show that Carsphairn should be in a Potentially

Vulnerable Area, and is hopeful that finally positive action may be taken to respond to the flooding which was devastating for those whose homes were badly flooded and who lost land.

The time factor is important – the community is anxious that proposed measures should be actioned before the onset of winter.

*Liz Holmes, Chair,
Carsphairn Community Council*

It was concluded that mitigation measures involving direct defenses seem to be the most effective means to prevent the village being flooded.

to engage with SEPA as to how predicted rainfall patterns can be used to improve warnings to partner agencies.

- Property level protection - pumps for underfloor areas/

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CELEBRITY INTERVIEW: SAM HEUGHAN

The A-list Hollywood actor, best-known for his iconic Scots role in *Outlander*, tells the Gazette about his Glenkens childhood and how he made it to where he is today.

Do you think being born in the Glenkens has formed you as a person in any particular way?

I feel very fortunate being born and raised in the Glenkens. The freedom of the countryside plus the close community were instrumental in my upbringing. I was surprised to find it was not the case in other places when I moved away from the area. The outdoor activities, fresh produce and safe environment were an ideal start in life.

When did you decide you'd like to be an actor?

I guess I knew from a young age I wanted to be involved but didn't know how. Touring theatre companies which came to Galloway and school trips to Glasgow Citizens Theatre and Edinburgh Lyceum helped capture my imagination. But it wasn't until I moved to Edinburgh and joined a youth theatre that I really began to get into acting. I guess an overactive imagination helped. The forest and hills of Galloway were where I played out great battles in my mind.

What subjects did you take at school and what school/s did you go to?

I went to Kells primary until we moved to Edinburgh for secondary school. I felt it gave me a strong academic understanding, plus introduced me to music and the poetry of Robert Burns, which I'd later realise I really enjoyed. The school had great teachers and really felt like an extended family. Village life means you know everyone in your class, if not whole school. The school also had an sporting emphasis which led to joining the Cub Scouts,

another great community and introduction to outdoor adventures.

What are your favourite things so far about the work you do?

The show is a great advert for Scotland. I'm very proud to show our country to the rest of the world. I fight for it to remain authentic and I know all the cast and crew's hard work and dedication gives it the heart. We have been lucky to travel all over the world, regularly attending conventions and other events. Our nominations to the Golden Globes and other award ceremonies mean we get to rub shoulders with a lot of my idols. It's brought great opportunity too; I feel very lucky.

What are the worst things so far about the work you do?

The show has gathered great success but with that comes the loss of some privacy. I really enjoy anonymity and at times it is difficult, but our fans are so lovely that it outweighs the negative. The show has taken over our lives. We shoot 11 months a year and around 14 hours a day with travel, and sometimes more. It's

"I feel very fortunate being born and raised in the Glenkens."

a marathon for sure!

What's it like meeting and working with all the people most of us only see on the big screen?

I'm lucky to have met some really great people. You realise everyone is the same, and actually most are really down



to earth. I get most star-struck by sports people. Hollywood has become very familiar: I've spent a lot of time there now over the years. There are cool parts, with a relaxed lifestyle, but also a lot of madness. It's great to dip in and out - I have fun there.

What advice would you give to young people in the Glenkens about following their dreams and aspirations?

I went to youth theatre for a couple of years. I failed on my first attempt to get into drama school, but committed to it as a career and worked on student productions, etc, to get experience. Then I did three years' studying before becoming a 'professional'. I worked on stage/tv and film of varying degrees (plus various bar work/office jobs to support myself) for 15 years before I landed *Outlander*.

I guess what I'm getting at is that it takes dedication, hard work and a little luck. It has to be all you want to do; no back-up plan. Find a local youth theatre (I'm a patron of Youth Theatre Arts), see as much film/theatre as you can. Dream big - and believe in yourself!

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

VARIOUS

'Large Black' sow, free to good home. Contact: 07727 127 997

Tag-a-long bike extension, adds extra seat and wheel for children to ride behind, bit rusty but works. Contact: 07967 959 511

Disability scooter, fairly old, electric, small, with charger. Still works bit needs some TLC. Great for getting round the shops. Has bar attached to use with hoist to lift into the car. Contact: Maggi on 07752 292 138

Strimmer, with line, battery, charger, etc. Contact: 460 516

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

Robust red tricycle - suitable for outdoor use by 3/5-year-old. Contact: 07766 686 402

Paddling Pool. Approx 4ft diameter and 15inch. Solid sides. Contact: 07766 686 402

Various unwanted furniture; tables, chairs, chest of drawers and other small household items. Contact: 450 679 or catham Monk@gmail.com

WANTED

Table to use as desk, any condition. Contact: 07967 959 511

Kenwood Mixer wanted. Any age - 'Chef' model if possible (not hand mixer). Contact: 430 373

Exercise bike wanted. Contact: 07920 066 167

Clear plastic corrugated sheet, min 3ft x3ft. Contact: 420 634

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Shop Campaign Bids for Big Lottery Support

An application has been submitted to the Big Lottery's Growing Community Assets fund for a grant to save New Galloway's last shop from closure.

If successful, the award will enable New Galloway Community Enterprises Ltd (NGCE) to buy Hopkins shop and house, convert the property to a community hub containing a community shop and two tourist self-catering flats, and provide tapered financial support over the initial years of operation. The proposal includes funding

for a Community Engagement Officer to foster the wellbeing and economy of New Galloway, based on the community hub.

NGCE secured a Big Lottery development grant in February and, in a hectic six months since then, architect's plans have been produced, planning permission obtained, and a comprehensive business plan produced including measures to strengthen community resilience. A 103-page application form was submitted by the end-of-August deadline. The outcome of the bid is expected around the turn of the year.

NGCE is a Community Benefit company registered with the

Financial Conduct Authority. The NGCE board of eight volunteers and Project Officer Helen Keron would like to acknowledge the invaluable support of Jim and Margaret Hopkins and all the people in New Galloway who have contributed to surveys, provided many positive ideas and offered much encouragement.

If you want to hear more about our plans for the shop and community hub, come to New Galloway Town Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 29 September when we will describe what happens next if we are successful in our bid.

Mike Brown, Chair, NGCE Ltd

Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power



If you are interested in birds and other branches of natural history, why not come along to some of the Stewartry Birdwatchers' meetings?

This small friendly group of enthusiasts started their 41st programme of talks in their long-established venue of Kells School, New Galloway. The first talk was given by Brian Morrell, manager of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust's Caerlaverock Reserve. Brian is Dumfries born-and-bred with a life-long interest in birds. He highlighted some key species - Barnacle Geese, Whooper Swans and Ospreys - and gave an update of the current situation regarding

migratory arrivals. He certainly got our 41st session off to a 'flying' start...

Throughout the year the more active members of the Stewartry group visit interesting locations on the coast as well as inland. In the summer, places such as the Menck Pass for the elusive ring ouzel, or woodlands for small birds such as migratory warblers. In winter, the trip across to Loch Ryan is well worth the journey to see the rare brent geese and various species of divers and grebes, whilst visits to various locations on the Solway coast offer sightings of numerous species of waders.

On Thursday 13 October Andy Howard, a professional wildlife photographer and guide from Inverness, will be giving a talk.

Thursday 10 November sees

the unexpected return of popular film-maker Gordon Yates. A few years ago Gordon decided that, after some thirty years of travelling to Dumfries & Galloway every February to show his films, he was retiring. His latest film is based on three visits to Iceland and features the great northern diver and other birds, as well as flowers and spectacular scenery.

Another popular speaker returns on 15 December; Angus Hogg, a retired Ayrshire schoolteacher, will give a presentation entitled *Birding on the Edge: the Uists*.

All are welcome at these meetings which are held monthly on Thursdays at 7.30pm in Kells School. These entertaining evenings are very suitable for children too.

Joan Howie



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GLENKENS CHILDREN'S CLUB UPDATE

Continued from front page...

Glenkens Children's Club (GCC) is a voluntary organisation under the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) umbrella, created after D&G Council funding cuts in 2012 resulted in the closure of the existing playgroup. The group runs both parent-and-toddler sessions (Children's Club) and staffed sessions (Playgroup). GCC are extremely grateful to the huge fundraising effort which has been put in by parents and local supporters,

and is optimistic that this time the application to the Stewartry Area Fund will be successful, and hopefully other funding opportunities will arise to carry the group through another year at least.

Children's Club runs on Friday mornings from 10am to 12noon, and is a parent run baby-and-toddler session with fun activities, healthy snacks, health visitor visits for the little ones and peer breast feeding support. The group runs both

during term time and over the school holidays. Playgroup is a term-time only Care Inspectorate registered facility and runs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9.45-11.45am, and is a staffed session where parents can leave children to play. All GCC sessions run in the Glenkens Community Centre, Kirkland Street, Dalry.

For further info, please visit the GCC Facebook page or website - glenkensgcc.wordpress.com

RECENT GCC FUNDRAISERS: At the Alternative Games in August, St Margaret's Ladies' Guild raised £308 at their tombola stall for the Glenkens Children's Club.

Treasurer Jean Marsden said: "We always like to support local groups at the Alternative Games and this year was our most successful ever and we hope this will help the Glenkens wee ones by allowing their Children's Club to stay open."

FoDSFEST kindly offered a space in Annie's Acoustic tent where GCC ran a fundraising 'Tea in the Park' cream teas stall, which raised over £300.

Thanks to FoDSFEST, and to all the amazing volunteers who manned the stall, donated scones, helped create signage and organise things, as well as a massive thank you to Roan's Dairy who donated the milk and Galloway Flowers for the beautiful bouquets which adorned the tables.



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RJ McCulloch recently installed a Mitsubishi Ecodan heat pump for Gary and Liz at St John's Town Of Dalry to replace their electric storage heaters and hot water immersion system.

They are now experiencing reduced fuel costs, more efficient central heating and hot water and also benefiting from the renewable heat incentive available to home owners and businesses alike installing renewable technology.

Please feel free to contact Ross for advice relating to any Plumbing or Heating queries you may have.



Happy owners of a new Eco Dan boiler, Gary and Liz, with Ross McCulloch.

CatStrand Highlights

October and November are jam-packed with hot stuff at the CatStrand, keeping us toasty as we move into the colder months of autumn and into winter.

The top-class choices of film, music and theatre performances start off with traditional tunes from the highly acclaimed RANT on Sunday 2 October. Described as: "An irresistible journey through reels, strathspeys and jigs," the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards nominees are set to have feet tapping.

Come and join us for the talk *The Glenkens Story: Witch Belief in Galloway and the*

Glenkens for an eerily poignant and superstitiously timely presentation on witch belief in Galloway on Sunday 23 October. And finishing off the month, on Monday 31 October is the return of the CatStrand Halloween Party from 6-8pm.

Into November, we have the Alasdair Roberts Trio on Friday 18 for some Glasgow-based guitar and vocal sounds. The Observer states: "His twisting melodies and cryptic imagery remain



Last year's Halloween lantern parade at the CatStrand Halloween Party.

a delight... by turns droll, pungent and lovely." And finishing off the month, the CatStrand Christmas Shopping Day will run from 10.30am to 4pm on Saturday 26 November, with an array of local crafts, art, foods and goodies perfect for those Christmas stockings.

The CatStrand Team

See our latest brochure or visit our website for programme details. Book online at www.catstrand.com or call 01644 420374.



GALLOWAY GLENS
Landscape Partnership

Visit our website for all information about the scheme and up to date developments:

www.gallowayglens.org

Please also follow us on twitter and facebook!

CatStrand

Christmas Shopping Day

SAT 26TH NOV
10.30AM – 4PM

Find that perfect gift in our shop or check out the many stalls selling crafts and festive fayre. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

If you wish to have a stall at our Shopping Day please contact Wendy Leach on 01644420374 or info@catstrand.com

Finnjamboree 2016

Cara Ramsay tells us about her Girlguiding trip to Finland.

My trip to Roihu Finnjamboree 2016 was a real adventure! I spent the first two days of my trip in Helsinki before heading to camp. While we were in Helsinki we visited Suomenlinna, an old sea fortress on a island, which had beautiful views and old buildings.

We also visited the theme park which was great fun, the market which sold lots of yummy-looking fresh fruit, the 'Church in the Rock', and we took a sightseeing tour bus around the city. Our leaders also treated us to a yummy meal at The Hard Rock Cafe before we headed to camp.

Camp was located two-and-a-half hours away from Helsinki, out in the countryside with masses of forests and lakes surrounding it. When we arrived at camp we were

confronted with lots of boy and girls scouts of all different nationalities all setting up their campsites, building massive gateways into their camp units, tying up hammocks in the trees and some even building tree-houses and bridges!

At camp we slept in two big round tents with 10 of us in each. We shared our camp unit with a group of Finnish scouts who were really friendly and were happy to help us with anything.

During camp we had five different ceremonies: Opening, Evening Prayer, Sub-Camp Night, Mid Camp and Closing Ceremony. I really enjoyed these ceremonies. Each ceremony would have amazing singers and dancers which got all 18,000 young people up singing and dancing together.

The atmosphere at them was what I loved most, from the minute we began to march to the main stage - scouts from lots of different nationalities, all dressed up smart in their uniforms, sang and chanted and waved their countries' flag.

During the day at camp, my age group took part in lots of different themed programmes. My favourite was the craft one where I made a pretty copper



Cara in her Senior Section Uniform, ready for her flight out to Finland.

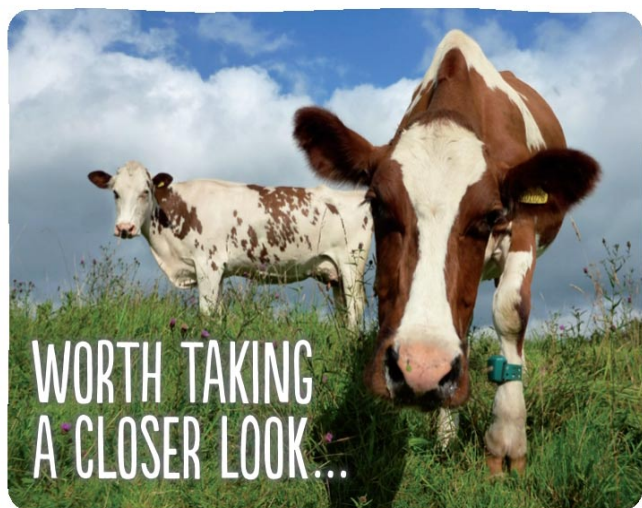
necklace and printed a t-shirt with the Roihu logo. I also enjoyed the water activities, and the business one where we had to make up our own business and make products which our business could sell.

While I was away it was International Day so to celebrate this every country got a chance to do something. We teamed up with a group of Scottish scouts and put on our kilts and held a ceilidh where we taught scouts Scottish ceilidh dances.

I enjoyed that and made friends with scouts from different countries. While I was there I got some really nice badges to add to my camp blanket and some scout neckties too. I tried lots of interesting new foods, some I don't think I could even tell you what it was!

I would like to thank everyone involved in helping fund this trip - it was an adventure of a lifetime!

Cara Ramsay



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NEW GALLERY FOR COUNTRY STORE

The Country Store at Camling, Penpont, was started in the 1980s in a small building in the Camling farm steading by Jim and Anne Campbell.

The original idea was to sell a few bags of calf milk to the customers who were buying calves from them which they brought up from Cheshire. The few bags of calf milk grew into other animal feeds, and another small building was made into a shop selling overalls, wellies and other goods required in the countryside.

From there a new shed was built incorporating a shop area. With the help of our hard-working staff and loyal customers, the business grew and grew, and another shed had to be built.

In 2013 Jim and Anne were approached by Harbro who were interested in the business. As

Jim wasn't getting any younger the decision was made to sell the business to Harbro. He was asked to stay on as manager which he was pleased to do.

Harbro has 18 stores throughout Scotland from Shetland in the North to Camling in the South. They have manufacturing mills throughout Scotland, and their animal feed is of the highest quality and well respected by farmers throughout the UK. All the Harbro stores sell a full range of products for the general public as well as farmers, including leisure clothing for ladies and gents, gardening goods, garden furniture, animal health products, household goods, pet foods and bird foods.

Camling store employs six local staff who serve customers from Carlisle to the Mull of Galloway.

The latest idea for the store was an art gallery for local artists. Lauren Wyllie, who has been employed in the store for the past eight years, is a very talented artist and her work is the first to be displayed in the gallery for the

month of August. There are at least six local artists interested in using our gallery to display their work, and exhibitions will change on a monthly basis.

For further information about the shop and gallery, visit www.harbro.co.uk or take a look at the ad on the back page of this issue of the Glenkens Gazette.



Some of the artwork from the current exhibition by Lauren Wyllie.

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www.richardarkless.scot

SCOTTISH ALTERNATIVE GAMES 2016

Rain has been the main threat to the Games in recent years but this time wind presented the challenge as organisers battled to assemble tents throughout the morning.

The challenge was met however and the promise of a dry afternoon attracted the largest crowd for several years to New Galloway for the 2016 Games.

Some of the Gird 'n' Cleek classes required extra heats to accommodate the large number of entrants and resulted in some keen competition.

After an excellent final and great competition throughout the afternoon, the World Championship was claimed by New Galloway lass Kelsie Marshall.

The Tractor Pull attracted plenty of entrants and this

year there was a new event for juniors - the Quad Bike Pull.

It attracted the biggest queue of the day in the arena as the youngsters showed off their strength.

Strong gusty wind presented another challenge in the Tossin' the Sheaf competition but it didn't prevent some impressive heights being reached.

The Snail Racing proved a great success again, and there was an impressive turnout of vehicles lined up for the Classic Car Show.

Another new event this year was the Alternative Run, and archery returned to the Games for the first time for several years with Threave Bowmen Archery Club giving everyone the chance to try their hand at the ancient skill.

Musical entertainment was in the capable hands of Lockerbie & District Pipe Band who opened the Games and then played again later in the

afternoon and the CatStrand Ukelele Band who played various sessions under the shelter of the old oak tree beside the beer tent.

The weekend itself was given a resounding musical start on Friday evening when the popular band 'Not Guilty' made a long awaited return to New Galloway and played at CatStrand and then Saturday evening was the turn of Alternative Curling at the Town Hall when everyone was able to try out New Age Curling, essentially curling without ice.

The unique formula of the Alternative Games, first organised in 1977 by the late Mungo Bryson, never ceases to produce smiles all round. With families returning year after year from all over Britain to join locals in taking part, this popular event can look forward to its 40th anniversary in 2017 with confidence and a sense of pride.

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



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If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

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New Routes to Help You Make Sense of the Biosphere

Look out for the recently published *Explore the Biosphere* leaflets in venues across the region.

Three routes have been developed which we feel demonstrate how the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere* designation helps make connections between conservation, learning and development.

Giving a flavour of all aspects of the Biosphere, the three routes are based around the natural assets provided by rivers and lochs at **Loch Doon and Carrick Forest Drive; Loch Trool and the Cree Valley; and Loch Ken and the River Dee.**

The itineraries feature businesses and organisations that value the natural assets found in south west Scotland, and have shown their

aspiration to be proud supporters of the Biosphere by agreeing to the six principles of the Biosphere Charter. Each route identifies places that demonstrate the role of the Biosphere to improve our lives by strengthening connections between individuals and communities, business and environment, people and nature or science and art. The leaflets include a range of

...strengthening connections between individuals and communities, business and environment, people and nature or science and art.

attractions that focus on special qualities of the Biosphere; wildlife and natural beauty, heritage and culture, inspiration, tranquillity, local produce and most importantly recreation and enjoyment.

The leaflets also focus on the water that is essential to life for all

of us. Rain captured in our Galloway Hills gives us much more than drinking water; it creates habitats that support a wide range of wildlife and provides resources for energy production, agriculture, education, tourism and recreation.

The rivers radiating out from the Galloway Hills define the area of the *UNESCO Biosphere* and as well as connecting the uplands

with the sea, they help to link people with nature. But the Biosphere is as much about a way of living as a place to visit so the itineraries provide a guide to help explore the area, not just to discover nature and landscapes but also to discover communities and initiatives that support the Biosphere concepts of conservation, learning and development.

Find out more about the Biosphere Charter and the new Biosphere itineraries by visiting the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere website at www.gsabiosphere.org.uk

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DALRY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

Dalry School would like to thank those members of the community who were able to celebrate the birthdays of the buildings either by attending the assembly on 30 August, or by braving the rain to attend the FoDs fest on 3 September.

Community support and involvement is crucial to schools and in Dalry we are fortunate to have both. The Cowan Murdoch Memorial Gym (pictured) is there for all to use and we hope that healthy, happy and achieving is now accessible for all.

Sustainable Living Trip

Pupils from S1 to S3 travelled from Dalry to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley to look at the technologies of the Industrial Revolution and how they can relate to us today. Exploring the site gave a fascinating insight into what life was like 100 years ago. The evening of the first day was spent at the Swan Theatre in Stratford Upon Avon where we watched Cymbeline and were blown away by the interpretation of Shakespeare's

play in the 400th anniversary year. Spending a night in a big country house which is now a Youth hostel gave a flavour of international community living.

On the next morning the group travelled to Bath to look at the use Romans made of the geothermal springs over 2000 years ago - amazing.

Travelling further south to Cornwall took us to the Eden Project where the accommodation was prefabricated 'snooze' boxes set into containers. Being on site for the Eden Project in the morning meant that we had the site to ourselves for several hours and allowed us to meander through the zones, experiencing what the Mediterranean and rain forest environments really feel like. Flowers, insects, crops and building styles were all experienced in the space of a few hours.

Moving on from the south west over into south Wales brought changes in accents and road signs. All the way up to Machynlleth

there was the challenge of trying to pronounce the Welsh names.

Arriving in the dark and rain into the Ecolodge that gave us shelter for the night was different and the cloudy day meant no showers, as the sun had not been out enough to heat the water. Lighting the stove early the next morning remedied that and the day was spent looking at how the accumulation of lots of small changes in the way we live could result in a carbon neutral Britain.

The challenge now we have returned is to put all we learned into practice and to live as lightly as possible on the planet Earth.

*Jenny Smith,
Headteacher,
Dalry School*



The Cowan Murdoch Memorial Gym, situated in the playing field behind the school and open to the public out of school hours.

FISHY FUN FOR DALRY NURSERY

The Nursery have been back in session for a few weeks now, and the children have been busy learning about *The Rainbow Fish*.

We have made a beautiful rainbow fish collage and now we are planning to take a trip on the Glenkens Transport Initiative minibus to Castle Douglas to go and buy our own goldfish.

We also ordered the 'Big Book'

of the *Rainbow Fish* from Dalry Library and the children visited the library to go and collect it, stopping to have a story with librarian Angela while we were there.

David, Dalry school janitor, has been helping the Nursery children to set up a 'BiOrb' fish tank where our new fish will live and we are all very excited!

Keep a look out

in the December/January issue of the Gazette for our next adventure...

*Sabine Haynes,
Nursery Teacher*



Nursery children on their visit to Dalry Library.

FoDsFest

2K16

MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

FoDSFest, Dalry's first music and arts festival, took place on Saturday 3rd September - members of the Youth Writing Group review some of the highlights...

FODSFEST: THE BIG PICTURE

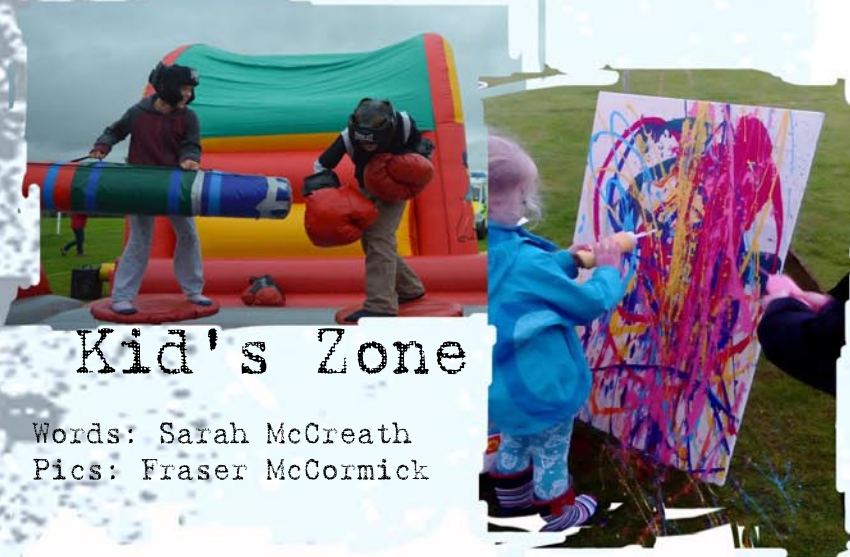
FoDSFest was organised as a fundraiser for Dalry School, and also to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the secondary and 85th anniversary of primary. For all ages, the festival was a community event showcasing local talent and included singing, dancing, 'Tea in the Park', ice cream, craft tent, kids zone, gymnastics show and tuck shop.



Scope

ALL ABOUT ART

The art tent at FoDSFest 2k16 attracted lots of young aspiring artists with its colourful exterior. Inside the tent there were mugs to paint and a storytelling session with local storyteller Anne Errington. But the fun wasn't just on the inside, outside there was rain painting, which took advantage of the fact that it was raining, hard. At the end, one little boy was so covered in paint that he looked like a living work of art.



Kid's Zone

Words: Sarah McCreath
Pics: Fraser McCormick

TERRIFIC TUCK SHOP

In the little wooden shelter behind the school, there was a tuck shop selling glow sticks and 50p mixes, there were also big balloons and UV glow face and body paint. At the end of the day, while Scope was performing, everyone was waving their glow sticks in the air, and the balloons were flying everywhere.



FoDSFest 2K16

MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

Dalry School wasn't the only cause to benefit from FoDSFest - Glenkens Children's Club and Playgroup raised over 300 pounds at their Tea in the Park tent, and Afghan Schools raised 50 pounds in the craft tent.

FODSFEST WAS THE BRAINCHILD OF PRIMARY 3/4 TEACHER JENNA DEVLIN. RACHEL CAUGHT UP WITH HER THE WEEK AFTER THE FESTIVAL....

R: How long did it take to plan FoDSFest 2k16?

Mrs D: It took nine weeks to plan FoDSFest, we started just before the school holidays.

R: Would you like for FoDSFest to happen again?

Mrs D: I would love to have another FoDSFest and lots of people have been asking for it to be an annual event.

R: How easy or hard was it to plan?

Mrs D: It was very hard to plan but I had a lot of help, at home and from the fantastic FoDS committee.

R: How were you able to get everyone to play?

Mrs D: We were able to get Scope to play at FoDSFest because the make-up artist for my sister's wedding is Scope's partner and the rest were not busy at the time of the event.

R: How much did FoDSFest raise?

Mrs D: At the moment it looks like FoDSFest raised in excess of 1,000 pounds for the school, this will benefit all children from Nursery right through to Secondary pupils.

R: What was your favourite part?

Mrs D: I love music so my favourite part of it was the live bands.

R: If you could change anything what would it be?

Mrs D: The only thing I would change is the weather and have sunshine instead of pouring rain! The amount of people that came to support FoDSFest on such a miserable day was incredible though.

R: If you could have one person perform who would it be?

Mrs D: It would be hard to choose but having Adele to perform would be fantastic.

Mrs. Devlin would like to say a huge thank you to FoDS committee for helping. She would also like to say thank you to Eden festival and everyone else for helping to make FoDSFest happen.

Rachel McCreath

Logo by
Kelsie
Marshall



FoDSFest
sheep



Headline act Scope aka
Lewis Schofield was
playing T in the Park when
Jenna booked him for FoDS-
Fest



LIVE MUSIC

At FoDSFest there were lots of music tents. One of the few performers I saw was called Mirren Thomson and she was in a band called Newton's First Law, a punk pop band. My personal favourite was called Scope, a rapper. He played a lot of songs including 'House in the Jungle'. At the very end Scope did some songs for people to join in too. He was so loud that everyone could hear him all the way from the other side of FoDSFest



Mirren Thomson /
Newton's First
Law



Kim
Wheeler

There was also a silent disco at FoDSFest. If you don't know, a silent disco is basically a disco with headphones. Mrs Nash was one of the people running that tent. I didn't spend much time in there myself but I know a lot of people enjoyed it.



Grace Temple

Blue and Friends



Limerance



Live music pictures courtesy of
Matthew Turnbull Entertainment and
Fraser McCormick

There was lots going on at FoDSFest that we haven't been able to include here... If you're under 25 and interested in writing reviews, interviews or photography or if there's anything else you'd like to contribute to the gazette let us know!

FoDsFest

2K16

MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

ediths.co.uk



ARTS AND CRAFTS TENT

The arts and crafts tent showcased local craft, photography, charities and new enterprises such as Full Flex Audio, a local independent record label. Arran MacDonald-Kiernan interviewed stall holder Jade McCubbing, who has recently set up a business selling crafts and vintage table wear:

When Jade McCubbing was young she made cards for everyone for no reason at all, just for kindness. She got a sewing machine when she was twelve. She taught herself through youtube how to crochet, designed a pattern for a pokéball and she also makes a range of special shelves for Minecraft and Lego figures.

"I use loads of techniques like crochet, sewing and hand print and I work on up-cycled furniture and customised items.

"When I get enough money I will have a shop - I have wanted a shop of my own since I was a child. I turned my bedroom into a shop when I was young.

"I enjoy making girls things but I want to make more things for boys and more varied products following trends.

"At FoDSFest the sales covered the cost and I made some on top, so I'm very pleased."

Jade says this for kids and adults alike: "Go for it. The internet is a fantastic way to learn new things - youtube is accessible to everyone these days."

DANCE WEEK



Art, Colours and Dance

A week of creative dance taking inspiration from the visual arts

Monday 17th October 1-4pm Creative Dance Workshop:
Create your own colourful art works and use them as inspiration for movement.

Tuesday 18th October 1-4pm. Creative Dance Choreography:
Explore famous works of art to create your own dances.

Wednesday 19th October 4-6pm. Hip-hop Workshop:
Join Street Dancer Aaron Shepherd for a hip-hop workshop.

Thursday 20th October @ 7.30pm "Art, Colours and Dance"
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SHE HAD NO
IDEA THAT YOUNG
PEOPLE COULD
SEE AMAZING
FILM, MUSIC AND
DANCE....
FOR FREE!?!
TO BE CONTINUED...



BALMACLELLAN REGENERATION

Residents of Balmaclellan are excited about the prospect of improving the centre of their village which at present looks quite forlorn with an area of derelict land and dilapidated buildings.

Balmaclellan Community Council has been awarded a grant by *Big Lottery: Investing in Ideas* in order to investigate ways of regenerating the village.

The award is to encourage community engagement, investigate the feasibility of ideas put forward and create sustainability.

The services of the Stewartry

Council of Voluntary Service (SCVS) have been engaged and, by the end of September, a questionnaire will be sent to every household within the parish to find out the views of Balmaclellan residents.

There will be public meetings for people to air their views and find out what others are thinking, and the children will also be consulted through the schools.

The community would then be in a position to apply for further funding to develop these ideas which could include the development of the derelict land and dilapidated buildings in the village.

A charity to be known as Balmaclellan Regeneration will be set up to organise and administer the project, and a website will

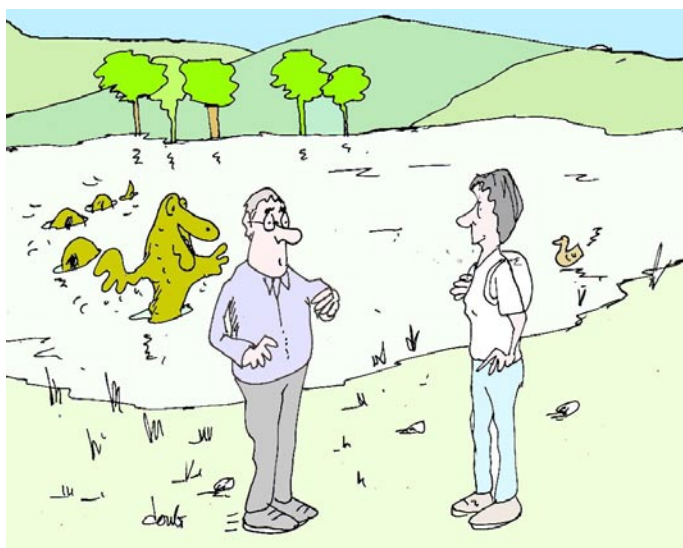


disseminate news and give feedback during the project.

So it's all go in Balmaclellan and it is hoped that within a few years the village will once more have a thriving centre, making the village more attractive to current and future residents as well as tourists and visitors.



LOTTERY FUNDED



I've lived here all my life and I can assure you Loch Ken doesn't have a monster

doug@car2nist.plus.com

HAGGIS HUNT



Children took part in a haggis hunt after Church of Scotland congregations had a united family service in Dalry.

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Charismatic Australian 'Miracle-Worker' Visits Dalry to Heal the Sick

A Personal View by Edmund Wise

What puts the 'St John' into St John's Town of Dalry?

If your answer was the archaic saint then think again - this August an Australian evangelist and international 'healer', John Mellor, visited Dalry.

His enormous social media presence says it all; YouTube videos show him 'curing' people with every ailment under the dreich sky, from cerebral palsy to infertility, through the power of prayer.

Mellor, who will soon be the subject of a BBC documentary, has an increasingly large and dedicated following and is currently touring the UK, Switzerland, New Zealand and Australia with his wife Julie. They were invited by David Bartholomew and his wife Heidi to Dalry, the couple having been fans of his for more than five years.

To his detractors he is a showman and fraudster, lulling vulnerable people into a false sense of hope. In the USA, 'televangelists' have earned

sour reputations for similar practices.

But to his supporters, John is different; he doesn't require money and doesn't demand a religious conversion, noted by the presence of a Muslim in the audience. All he demands is that we rid ourselves of our critical faculties and believe in God's power to heal us.

His niche popularity was keenly felt in Dalry. On both Saturday and Sunday, followers from Leeds, Glasgow and Newcastle came to be healed. "A significant number of people came from places outside of this area," said David, acknowledging the disparity in the audience between locals and outsiders. "Some local people made it clear that they didn't want to go."

Julie Mellor said that what attracts these people is his humility. Having originally begun as a missionary to the aboriginal peoples of Australia, he now flies all over the world to wherever there is demand for his healing. His humility can be keenly felt in his statements: "I have allowed the blind to see".

John's abilities, he claims, have even prompted doctors to refer patients to him. However, he doesn't perform miracles in hospitals, apparently

due to medical protocol. This might be wise for the international health community: "Sometimes, peoples' illnesses are a result of generational curses or witchcraft," said John.

But you needn't be cynical because, according to Julie, her husband's miracles have been noted by newspapers such as *News of the World* and *The Sun*.

The event took place in two halves, the first of which could be surmised as a sales-pitch; John called up various 'witnesses' of his healing-powers from the audience.

One such example was a young woman from Leeds who, after failing to fall pregnant for many years, went to John two years ago. He prayed for her and, low and behold, within 18 months she had a baby on the way. Another woman had a series of back and neck injuries from a car crash some years ago; after John prayed for her, she felt better.

John then proceeded to call up members of the audience to give it a go, culminating in an out-of-town Asian woman falling down and weeping for the best part of 15 minutes, overcome by John's enigmatic and rather overwhelming presence - or the love of God.

Many, however, were reluctant to show such enthusiasm. A young man from Glasgow, suffering from irritable bowel syndrome and depression, was pressed by John as to whether he "felt better" upon being prayed for. Admitting that he felt slightly better, John couldn't take lukewarm for an answer. "Has the pain completely gone?" "Um... well, no. Not really." "Do you feel better, though?" "Well, yeah. I guess I do feel a bit better, yeah."

Some locals argued that he was putting words in peoples' mouths. David Bartholomew acknowledged that: "It did sometimes feel that way." Though Julie kindly informed the audience that healing can take up to 30 minutes, even a day or more, to kick in, so not to worry if nothing manifested immediately.

Many locals were impressed by John's work. Eddie Millar has suffered from great pains over many years, stating afterwards; "I'm able to move in a way I haven't been able to before." Rob, a local man, said that after suffering from a knee injury for 15 years, said he was able to move it for the first time. A local woman, who wished to remain anonymous, praised John's work as "incredible".

Hail the new Saint John of Dalry...?



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Photograph of Milky Way over Clatteringshaws Loch is supplied by Viridian Skies Photography
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ANCIENT RITES AND CUSTOMS OF THE GLENKENS: *THE HOLE CEREMONY*

The origins of this ancient festival are lost in the mists of time.

Each year around Beltane (the spring festival which coincides with the start of the tourist season along with its influx of cars, caravans, camper waggons, bikes, motorcycles and tour coaches), the Hole Ceremony takes place and continues throughout the summer in various locations across the region.

The exact location of each ceremony is a closely guarded secret right up until the last minute when a group of participants (mostly strong youngish males) arrive and don the traditional, colourful costume consisting of heavy boots, bright yellow or orange jacket and shiny yellow head gear (this representing the sun).

Selecting a suitable spot on the tarmac they begin erecting gaily coloured barriers, tapes and cones and, at each end of the site, they place triangular artwork depicting a man having difficulty opening an umbrella

(representing rain, of which we occasionally have a little in this area).

After a few more decorative touches, including pretty blue circles with white arrows on them (to represent the sky and the four winds) have been artistically placed, the final embellishment arrives.

Two poles, not unlike maypoles, are borned in and erected one each end of the site along with the umbrella man. Each one is topped by an enchanting array of ever-changing coloured lights; green, amber, red and amber and back to green again.

Finally, when all is in place and a long line of vehicles is assembled on either side, the age-old tradition of DIGGING THE HOLE begins. This can take several days as there are frequent stops to perform the Tea Ceremony. Mugs are brought out and a toast is drunk to the Hole Deity.

Passers-by stop to admire the hole, offer advice and chat and everyone adopts the traditional stance of hands-in-pockets or leaning-on-shovel, depending on which role they are playing in the festivities.

Car and lorry drivers who have been waiting around watching the lovely coloured lights wind down their windows and engage in light-hearted, pantomime-style banter with the participants each indicating that the other is a) educationally challenged or b) should go forth and multiply (I have not used the exact words for fear of infringing copyright).

After a few days of fun and

enjoyment the hole is filled in and the whole (excuse the pun) entourage moves on to a new hitherto secret location to delight yet

...indicating that the other is a) educationally challenged or b) should go forth and multiply...

another community.

If you are lucky you may encounter a hole with a picturesque little red-and-white striped tent perched above it into which only the initiated are allowed. While its true significance is unclear, some believe it to be a shrine to the Great God Telecom.

How the exact sites are chosen is shrouded in mystery; perhaps it is related to ley lines, forces of energy,



alignment with the sun or stars, or sticking a pin into a map with eyes closed.

Of all the recent Hole Ceremonies, most entrancing was the one held in New Galloway outside the CatStrand. How lovely that it was held so close to our own Community Arts Centre, and what a delight to visitors to the tea shop sitting outside in the sunshine enjoying their tea and cakes to have such a grandstand view. They were able to tap their feet to the energetic rhythm of the pneumatic drill and inhale the enticing aroma of the diesel generator.

Another at the junction of the Ken Bridge and the A713 encouraged timber lorry drivers turning right off the bridge to join in a game of 'bet-you-can't-get-that-vehicle-round-this-tight-corner-without-backing-up-at-least-twice'. What fun they had.

Long may we preserve these delightful old folk traditions which enrich our otherwise wearisome lives here in the countryside.

*Sue Wiseman,
observer of wildlife, folk customs
and life in general*

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Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

Competition judges Dave and Sue from the Ken Bridge Hotel chose *Loch Doon Beltie* by Sara McNeill as this issue's winner.

"Once again difficult to choose!! We feel the Belted Galloway is the winner this time."

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



POLITICS AND POSTBOXES

For many hundreds, if not thousands, of years the messengers of Kings and Emperors have carried some personal correspondence in addition to their official duties but it was not until 1516 (500 years ago this year) that a formal mail system was established in Britain.

But there were no post boxes (or pillar boxes) until hundreds of years later. Without postage stamps there was no simple way to prepay postage, and letters had to be handed in at Post Office counters.

That all changed in 1840 when postage stamps (initially with the Penny Black) were introduced. James Chalmers of Dundee is often held to be the inventor of the postage stamp. The first pillar box

in mainland Britain was erected in Carlisle in 1855 and others were erected across the country in the following years. Since the early days of post boxes, they have mostly featured the royal cypher of the reigning monarch as shown on the accompanying photo of a rare surviving Victorian box in Midtown, Dalry or the George VI box from New Galloway.

When the present queen ascended the throne in 1952 this presented a problem because a number of people with (shall we say) strong views on the subject asserted that she was not Queen Elizabeth II but was in fact the first Queen Elizabeth of Scotland. Several post boxes were

attacked in 1952 over the use of the Queen's regnal number (II) with one in Edinburgh being damaged by an explosive device. The compromise solution is that Scottish post boxes now bear the Scottish Crown instead of the Royal Cypher and this may well continue when the Duke of Rothesay (Prince Charles) ascends the throne with whatever name he eventually chooses. It is believed that he is unlikely to become King Charles III because of the associations with Charles I and II; his grandfather 'Bertie' took the name George, becoming King George VI.

Politics and the post have always been intertwined, whether it is about privatisation or the attempted renaming of Royal Mail to 'Consignia' – who can remember that fiasco? But one puzzle remains; why is the recently erected post box opposite Dalry Police Station missing its crown? Was it forgotten? Removed by some ne'er do well? Or removed by someone with strong republican views?

Paul Goodwin



Queen Victoria box
Midtown, Dalry



King George VI box
New Galloway



'English' Queen
Elizabeth box
(Actually in
Wanlockhead)



'Scottish' Queen
Elizabeth box
Balmacellian

Youth Players Christmas Panto

The CatStrand Youth Players' sixth annual pantomime will be presented on Thursday 1, Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 December.

The 2016 show is *Little Red Riding Hood* by Paul Reakes and includes some twists to the traditional story; all the expected characters make an appearance but be prepared for a few surprises along the way!

Tickets were in great demand last year, with three sell-out shows, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Call the CatStrand Box Office on 01644 420 374 or book online at www.catstrand.com



On the Covenanter trail: members of The Glenkens Story history group gather beneath what remains of the Earlston Oak where Covenanter Alexander Gordon hid from the pursuing Government dragoons.

The group's latest field trip, led by David Bartholomew, visited several Covenanter sites including the Holy Linn and Dalry Kirk. The next Glenkens Story event is a talk at CatStrand on Sunday 23 October by Lizanne Henderson on *Witch Belief in Galloway & the Glenkens*. For more information on the group's activities email theglenkensstory@gmail.com

ABBAS REST COFFEE MORNING

Our annual coffee morning in aid of Abbas Rest orphans will take place on Saturday 15 October in Dalry Town Hall, from 10am to 12noon.

We do hope that you will once again support this event. Funds are still badly needed as repairs to old buildings at Chiringa are needed and, owing to the problems with the water supply there, a borehole will probably be needed in the future. The one at Muona has made life easier both at the Centre and for all the surrounding local families. None of these things would have been possible without funds raised by coffee mornings and other fundraising events.

We would be very grateful for any donations towards the raffle, bottle, cake and bric-a-brac stalls, or cash donations, as well as any help you can give on the stalls or in the kitchen.

We look forward to seeing you - for further info please contact Avril Brown on 430 526 or Barbara Colbenson on 430 090.



Children at the Abbas Rest orphanage.

350th Anniversary of Glenkens Uprising

On November 13, 1666, in the midst of the Covenanting persecution, there was a clash in St John's Town of Dalry.

Four Covenanters attempted to rescue an old man being tortured by Government soldiers. One soldier was shot. The incident escalated rapidly and ended with a rebel Covenanter army marching on Edinburgh, only to be crushed in the hills outside the Capital at Rullion Green. For this reason the revolt

has gone down in history as the "Pentland Uprising" but the story actually starts in Dalry.

350 years later, on 13 November 2016, that story will be told again in Dalry by The Glenkens Story history group. The Rev David Bartholomew will describe the circumstances prevailing in the Glenkens when the event occurred and its escalation into full-blown revolt.

Professor Ted Cowan will outline the impact of the uprising on the history and politics of Scotland, an impact still felt to this day. *The event will be held at 2.30pm in Dalry Kirk. Admission free.*

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

St Margaret's Ladies' Guild and Balmaclellan & Kells Guild are holding a Christmas Coffee Morning.

This year it will be held on Wednesday 7 December in New Galloway Town Hall from 10.30am to 12noon.

In addition to coffee, shortbread and mince pies there will be stalls, a tombola and a lucky dip.

Please come along and support this joint venture.

Who Do We Think We Were?

This month features Margaret Pringle, now living in Dalry, who grew up in Edinburgh.

You can see her at the Sunday School picnic she describes in the photo to the left, kneeling among the other children, in the centre of the group, wearing a rather smart jacket.

The Sunday School picnic will no doubt evoke memories among many readers. If you are inspired to write 500 words of your own reminiscences on any topic, please send them to WDWTTWW at CatStrand, or email to margaret.elphinstone@dircon.co.uk. Next month's piece will be by Gene Pick from Balmacellan, writing about life in Ullapool just after the war.



Sunday School picnic, near Edinburgh, 1938. Margaret Pringle is the young girl in the smart dark jacket in the centre of the picture.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

I was ten years of age when the war started. I remember what life was like before that. Entertainment was provided by the radio, or wireless as it was known, cinema, and theatre.

As children we used to go to the cinema matinee on Saturday and watched mainly Westerns, which were very exciting and noisy, but I remember watching King Kong which was a bit scary. Once a year we were taken to the Kings Theatre to see the Christmas pantomime, a special treat.

Most deliveries were made by horse and cart. The LNER railway stables were multistorey, the horses walking from one level to the next up wide ramps. At the top end of Leith Walk, near London Road, there was a big water trough. It was there that, if a

horse had pulled a heavy load from the docks, the waiting Clydesdale would be hitched in tandem to help pull the load further up the hill.

St Cuthbert's Co-op delivered milk by horse cart and I would go down with an empty bottle and a token which I exchanged for a full bottle. I always took the horse a piece of bread or a carrot. Public transport was provided by trams and there were not many private cars in the streets. Telephones were used in businesses but there were few privately owned.

At school we played communal games in the playground, such as skipping with a long rope held by two who would turn it whilst chanting a rhyme. The participants running in singly to skip and then out followed by the next in line. Other games were tig (tag), hide-and-seek, kick-the-can and peevers (hopscotch).

At home we played board games - ludo or monopoly - cards, and listened to the wireless. Without the distractions of modern IT we had time to think, to talk face to face, and to play outside.

At the weekend in the summer,

our parents would take us to play in the park whilst they would sit at the bandstand listening to the brass band.

The Sunday School picnic was a highlight of the summer. We would all troop up to the local railway station where, amidst great excitement, we would travel a few miles out of town, get off at some small country station and walk to a field set aside for the occasion. We would dash off to explore and let off steam, with dire warnings not to fall in cow pats. Mothers would settle down to unpack the food and relax, just in time for our return with ravenous appetites. We didn't drink cool drinks except on high days and holidays, when Irn Bru and lemonade were rare treats.

After lunch we would have the races, a hundred yards, sack race, egg-and-spoon, three-legged and then played rounders. I remember one occasion in particular when, having stood too close behind my brother who was batting, I received a glancing blow on my eyebrow which resulted in much blood and consternation, but fortunately not much damage.

Margaret Pringle




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LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

THE GLENKENS COTTON KINGS



Most of us are familiar with such famous engineers from the 18th and 19th centuries as James Watt, George Stevenson, William Murdoch, Thomas Telford and John Rennie who designed the Ken Bridge.

Much less well-known, and hitherto virtually ignored or forgotten in their native glen, is a remarkable collection of individuals who are the subject of a most welcome new publication by William D Kennedy. Readers will probably be relieved to be assured that he has self-confessedly not produced a scholarly work, laden with footnotes, but an accessible story of four families from the Glenkens who made a crucial and massive contribution to the Manchester cotton trade.

The family of William Cannan (1743-1825) rented Shiel farm on the Glenlee estate. William's sister, Mary (d. 1768) married James McConnel (1729-1809) of Hannastoun; their son was also James McConnel. The Murrays, Adam (1767-1818) and George (1761-1855) lived in New Galloway. John Kennedy (1769-1855) was the third son and fifth child of Robert Kennedy of Knocknalling (1730-1771) and his wife Margaret Alexander (1728-1801). As John records in his 'Early Recollections', Knocknalling was a small estate north of Dalry purchased by his grandfather, described as a shopkeeper in New Galloway and a baillie of the burgh. Grandpa had the reputation of settling disputes by advising the parties to sort out matter over a pint of his ale. 'Tak a pint an agree' apparently became a local proverb.

John's father had attended Edinburgh University and could presumably be considered genteel but he suffered from depression and a lack of finance. Margaret

Alexander told her sons that 'to work and learn a trade was the way to become independent . . . that with some mechanical skill we should find employment in every part of the world', advice with which thousands of Scots could, and would, agree in the Age of Enlightenment, the great era of enquiry, discovery and learning in which Scots played such a prominent part. All of these young Glenkensians were similarly affected. William Cannan apprenticed as a joiner in Kells and in 1772 sailed to Whitehaven and Liverpool fetching up in Chowbent outside Manchester, where he practiced as a joiner and machine maker. He soon took a business partner who was also from Glenkens, James Smith from Skeoch establishing the company of Cannan & Smith. The Murray brothers followed serving apprenticeships of

...four families from the Glenkens who made a crucial and massive contribution to the Manchester cotton trade.

seven years to become A&G Murray. James McConnel, Cannan's nephew walked from New Galloway to Chowbent. Another recruit was John Kennedy and probably his younger brother James.

All trained as artisans in the cotton industry, specialising in the improvement of machinery to improve output, designing new equipment and manufacturing their own fabrics. In 1809 A&G Murray was the largest operation in Manchester with McConnel & Kennedy coming second. Their entrepreneurial skills were outstanding. They kept pace with an industry experiencing phenomenal expansion while endlessly improving technology. There is good evidence in this excellent study that many other folk from the Glenkens found employment in Lancashire, women as well as men. The companies survived the crash that came about on the outbreak of the American Civil War, which is estimated to have cost the industry

£70 million. When cotton was king, the Manchester kings of cotton were from the Glenkens! However they did a lot of business in Glasgow and Paisley as well.

All of these families also inter-married. Most of them kept in touch with their Galloway roots. John Kennedy succeeded to Knocknalling when his brother, David, who married Margaret of Dalshangan, died. He also acquired the farms of Blawquhairn, Mains of Earlstoun and Midpark of Milton, which he renamed Milton Park, remodeling the house. He endowed Polharrow school. He planned a cotton mill at what the author, seemingly reflecting contemporary usage, consistently names Arngibbon Bridge, where he also built a joiner's shop and a smithy.

Amidst all this success it would have been easy for the author to appear unduly triumphalist but to his credit he notes the downside of cotton as well: the creation of dark satanic mills, temperatures between 80 and 90 degrees, tyrannical managers and last but certainly not least,

unemployment due to mechanisation so politicising the workforce. His title is not helpful since it does not convey what the book is about, a rich treasure trove of historical information about Galloway and Manchester, the men and their wives who linked the two places, including the speeches and pamphlets of John Kennedy, and the superb illustrations throughout, very many in colour. The sketches by John Kennedy Cannan of members of the family are particularly appealing. There is a great deal of information about the Glenkens in this book, some of it quite difficult to retrieve. An index would have helped. But there is no reason why the author should do all the work! William Kennedy is to be congratulated on his achievement, which will prove of great value and interest to many and which is most deserving of a wide audience.

The book, priced at £35, can be ordered online through Amazon.

Ted Cowan

CORSEGLASS SCHOOL



With Dalry School having just celebrated its 50th anniversary of the secondary and 85th of the primary, the Gazette will take a look at some of the Dalry parish schools past and present. The first is Corseglass school, the ruin of which is situated along the Lochinvar road.

The school was set up to provide education to the children of the hill farmers and shepherds of the area north and north east of the parish that could not easily get to the Dalry Free School. Even with such a school closer to the children it served, we have records of small children walking up to four miles over the hills along sheep paths, falling into flooded brooks and getting soaked to the skin by rain before repeating the ordeal at the end of school. Their education and a nice warm coal and peat fire was their reward.

Our first reference is from 1844 when the Rev George Paterson reported that there were 12 pupils at the school with the Master's salary of perhaps £20 per year. The Dumfries and Galloway Standard of 27 October 1858 informs us that Grants were being awarded to a number of schools in Dumfriesshire and the Stewartry to allow them to award School Prizes in July 1859. Corseglass was mentioned as one of them.

The School Log Book from 1873, the beginning of local authority control of the Public, rather than Parish, School still exists. A weekly summary of events was to be provided by the Headteacher and the amount of information recorded varied considerably from teacher to teacher. However, we have the complete set right up to the closure in 1929. Anna Campbell in her book, *Glenkens Schools Over The Centuries*, extracted a few.

In the 1881 Ordnance Gazetteer it

was described as having been built for 37 children. We do have evidence that there once were as many as 48 children squeezed into the tiny schoolhouse.

We do have a reasonably complete list of the Masters at the school, with an odd piece of detail on some from the Presbytery and Educational records from Russell. One particularly interesting entry is: "...Mr John Guthrie, who was appointed in 1874 and was in office for about sixteen years... He became latterly the victim of hallucinations and had to be dismissed."

The Annual HMI Report of 1900 praised the children for their educational progress but commented on the great problem for schools like Corseglass - irregular attendance due to bad weather and the distance that many children had to walk to and from school.

In January 1915 the Dalry School Board complained to the Parish Council about the problems of flooding on the road outside the School. The Council proposed no action. In April of the same year the flooding was worse and pupils were prevented from attending. The School Board were rather less than impressed with the attitude of the Council.

In common with most schools and organisations throughout the country, the children of Corseglass made their contribution to the war effort during the Great War. In September 1914 the log book records the children knitting socks for the soldiers in the trenches. In December 1916

they collected 7 shillings [35p] to buy tobacco and cigarettes for the soldiers Christmas gift boxes. Both of these commodities were highly prized and appreciated by the soldiers. Dry feet kept trench foot at bay and prevented a great deal of pain and the risk of amputation. Tobacco helped the men get through the tedious routines of the trenches and to bear the discomforts of hunger and cold with greater fortitude. The 7 shillings raised would have provided about 30 packets of fags. An impressive effort for such a tiny school.

The School closed in 1929 and it is worth recording the last entry from Friday 10 May: "My appointment as Head Teacher terminates today with the closing of Corseglass School... The pupils of this school are being conveyed by motor to Dalry School."

The school has long since gone but the ruined walls are still visible today - pictured above.

Bruce Smith



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Regular Services

Seats on GTI regular services (except the registered route) should be booked in advance.

WEEKLY

Tuesdays

Dalry to Newton Stewart Return Swimming and Shopping

Outward Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1330,
New Galloway (Fire Station) 1340

Return Pickups:

Newton Stewart (ALDI Car Park) 1530, (Merrick Centre) 1540
Return Fare: £3.00

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)

Thursdays

Glenkens to Castle Douglas Day Centre Return

Passengers not attending the day centre may also use this service.

Outbound pickups:

Dalry (Underhill) 1015; New Galloway (CatStrand) 1030

Pickups can also be arranged from Balmacellian, Parton and
Crossmichael bus stops or from passengers' homes.

Return service will leave Castle Douglas Community Centre at 1430.
Fare 3.00 return.

MONTHLY

Glenkens to Ayr Return - Saturdays

2016 dates

October 22, November 19, December 17

Pickups

New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930, Dalry (Underhill) 0940

Carsphairn (1000)

Leaves Ayr 1500

Fare £3.50/ Concessions £3.00 each way

Glenkens to Dumfries Return - Saturdays

Cuckoo Bridge and Peel Centre Shopping

2016 dates

November 5, December 3

Pickups

Dalry (Underhill) 0930, New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940,

Crossmichael (Shop) 1000, Castle Douglas (Market Hill) 1010

Leaves Dumfries 1500

Fare £3.50/ Concessions £3.00 each way

Excursions



GTI Excursion to the Kelpies and the Falkirk Wheel in August

Stitching, Sewing & Hobbyscrafts Exhibition and IKEA Braehead

Saturday 29 October

Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0900, Dalry (Underhill) 0910,
Carsphairn (Shop) 0910.

Fare £7.00, Concessions £6.00.



Hetland Garden Centre and Moffat Christmas Lights and Shopping

Wednesday 14 December

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930, New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940,
Crossmichael (Shop) 1000, Castle Douglas (Market Hill) 1010

Fare £7.00, Concessions £6.00.



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OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

SEPTEMBER

Wed 28, FILM: Under the Skin, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 29, New Galloway Community Shop & Hub, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Fri 30, Charioteer Theatre & Teatro Milano Present: A Bench on the Road, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

OCTOBER

Sun 2, RANT, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 7, The Course of True Love, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 14, Eduardo Niebla Experience, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 15, Abbas Rest Coffee Morning, from 10am to 12noon, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 21, Sirocco Winds Quintet, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 23, Glenkens Story: Witch Belief in Galloway & the Glenkens, 2.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 26, FILM: The Cabinet of Dr Caligari, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 28, The Man Who Followed His Legs (and Kept on Walking), 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, Ages 10+

Mon 31, CatStrand Halloween Party, 6pm-8pm, CatStrand

NOVEMBER

Thu 3, FILM: Hamish (PG), 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 4, Darcy DaSilva ALBUM LAUNCH 'Delicacy', 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sunday 13, 350th Anniversary of the Glenkens Uprising, 2.30pm, Dalry Kirk. Admission free.

Fri 18, Alasdair Roberts Trio, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 23, FILM: James and the Giant Peach, 10am, CatStrand

Wed 23, FILM: The Grump (12), 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 27, Rob Heron and the Tea Pad Orchestra, 7.30pm, CatStrand

DECEMBER

Wed 7, St Margaret's Ladies' Guild and Balmaclellan & Kells Guild Christmas Coffee Morning, New Galloway Town Hall, 10.30am-12noon

THANK YOU

The Glenkens Gazette would like to thank the Glenkens Community Shop for their grant of £500 and Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd for their grant of £300.

This kind of support is very gratefully received and without it the Gazette would not be able to continue.



HALLOWEEN AT KIRROUGHTREE

THREE EVENTS:

WALK OF TERROR

Booking essential. Please call 0300 067 6800

Suitable for 14 years and above (under 16 must be accompanied by an adult)

£10 per person. Ticket includes soup and a roll in the café afterwards - includes parking charge.

FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER
6.45 TO 9.45PM

THE WEE SPOOK

Suitable for 3 to 6 year olds.

No booking required just turn up.

£2 per child excludes parking charge.



SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER
2 TO 4PM

HORROR TRAIL

Suitable for 7 years and above. No booking required just turn up.

£4 adult, £3 child/concession, £12 family ticket (2 adults & 2 children), includes parking charge.

SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER
6.30 TO 8.30PM

Please wear footwear suitable for uneven and muddy surfaces. No dogs.

For more information visit our website or call us on 0300 067 6800
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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

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

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):

Paint & Art: Mon, 1.30-4.30pm &

Wed, 7-9pm

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

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

Good Neighbours' Club: Tues, 2pm

Brownies: Wed, 5.30-6.45pm

Kickback Martial Arts: Thurs, 7-9pm

Thursday Craft Group: Thurs, 2-4pm

Glenkens Children's Club: Fri, 10am-12noon

New Galloway Town Hall:

LING Lunches: Tues, 11am-2pm

Indoor Sports: Tues, 7-9pm (from September)

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

Hard of Hearing Drop-in: First Fri each month, 10am-12noon

Various Locations:

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

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

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

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.

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Glenkens Community Councils

Balmaclellan Community Council

Meetings: 4th 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. Balmaclellan 10.30am 5th(Oct), Carsphairn 10.30am: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Dalry 12noon 2nd (Nov), 3rd, 4th. Kells 10.30am: 2nd(Oct), 3rd, 4th.

Special Services/Events: 2 Oct, 10.30am: Harvest Thanksgiving, Carsphairn Church, 12noon: Harvest Thanksgiving, Balmaclellan Church, followed by Harvest Lunch in village hall. 9 Oct, 10.30am: United Family Service for Dalry and Balmaclellan & Kells Church in Kells Church. 30 Oct, 10.30am: United Service with the

Choir in Balmaclellan Church. 11 Nov, 7.30pm: Quiz Night in Balmaclellan Village Hall. 13 Nov, 11am:

Ceremonies at New Galloway and Balmaclellan War Memorials, followed by Remembrance Service in Kells Church. 27 Nov, 7.30pm: Scottish Night, Dalry Town Hall

Communion Service: 23 Oct, 12noon, Dalry Church. 6 Nov, 12noon, Balmaclellan Church. 20 Nov, 10.15am, Carsphairn Church

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

2016 TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE COMES TO THE GLENKENS

It has been 10 years since the popular Tour of Britain Cycle Race came through the Glenkens on its way from Glasgow to Castle Douglas, which also hosted a stage finish for the 2005 race.

The original concept of the 'Tour of Britain' dates back to 1945 as our own version of the famous 'Tour de France'.

The Glenkens rarely gets the opportunity to be part of a major national event like this.

The sun shone (intermittently), and the bunting was up. In Dalry the Clachan Inn and the Town Hall provided refreshments for all.

A good turn out welcomed the cyclists on their ride through Carsphairn and up along the high road. They came down Main Street in Dalry (see photo) to a huge cheer from the gathered crowd before all too quickly disappearing out along the A713 via Parton and Crossmichael towards the stage finish at Castle Douglas.

The atmosphere was really great and we are delighted to have been part of such an experience.

The only negative was that we had little or no advance contact



from Dumfries and Galloway Council, the Tour organisers Sweetspot Group Ltd, or Police Scotland so we could have been better prepared for the day.

Other regional authorities seem to have done much more

to involve all their communities along the route.

Hopefully it will be less than 10 years before we have the opportunity to welcome the Tour of Britain to the Glenkens again.

Andi Holmes, Dalry

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