

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

December/January 2016-17

ISSUE 97

FREE

CLACHAN INN SAVED

A famous Glenkens inn has been saved from closure at the hands of a London property developer.

When Dalry's Clachan Inn was put up for sale the existing managers, Phil Papworth and Laura Burnie, put in a bid to purchase the property. Unbeknown to them a higher offer had been received. They only discovered their offer had been unsuccessful when they got a phonecall from a gentleman stating that he was their new manager and they would need to get ready to shut up shop as he had plans to turn the building into houses.

As luck would have it, the potential for development wasn't quite as straightforward as the purchaser had initially thought, so the deal fell through and Phil and Laura landed the pub after all.

Local lass Laura, who grew up in

Parton, said: "We are just thrilled to own the building. It's such a relief to know that it's not been lost, and that the business isn't going to be sold out from under us. And it's also a huge relief to the community. From the comments people have made to us, they would have been distraught to lose the Clachan, and knocking the building down or turning it into houses would have completely altered the character of the village."

Phil went on to say: "We have a lot of local people working here who help us make the place what it is. Had we lost the pub then they would have lost their jobs here and we would have had to move away to find work elsewhere too. We love living in Dalry and we really appreciate all of the local support that we have had so far - we are really looking forward to giving something back in terms of providing a social outlet for events and music and food and general local banter and a place to hang out for a long time to come!"



Laura and Phil outside the Clachan Inn.

Continued on p3...



Grown-ups challenge the children to a game of Twister.

CARSPHAIRN GAME FOR PUB NIGHT

Carsphairn may not have had a pub in the village for nearly nine years but that didn't deter residents from holding their own highly-successful pub games evening.

Some 40 people gathered in the village hall to play darts, pool, cards and dominoes - and just to chat and socialise over a beer or a glass of wine.

There was even a pub quiz, a raffle

and - for the children and the more agile adults - Twister!

Karen Hall, proprietor of The Knowe B&B, who organised the event, was delighted by the enthusiasm of the community for the idea.

"Since the Greystones pub closed, there has been no hub in the village for people to gather in an evening for a get-together, a chat and a bit of fun," she said. "Judging by the number of residents who came along, it was a huge success."

Such was the success that more Pub Nights are already being planned...

**16 December deadline to have your say on plans for local buses.
See p2 for details...**

BUS SERVICE UNDER REVIEW AGAIN...

At its meeting in November the SWestrans board agreed the route specification/timetable options to be tendered for the region's bus services.

For the Glenkens area, the board agreed to seek prices for the timetables. The options are that they:

- **continue as they currently operate**
- **add additional Monday to Saturday and Sunday journeys**
- **operate reduced services**

Get in touch with your view on what should happen to our bus services *BEFORE 16 DECEMBER:* swestrans@dumgal.gov.uk

GAZETTE STAYS NEUTRAL

The Glenkens Gazette would like to make clear that contributed articles do not reflect the opinions of the paper.

The Gazette stays neutral on local, political, religious and any other issues, providing a platform for members of the Glenkens communities to share their thoughts, views and opinions.

DALRY POLICE STATION DO WE NEED IT?

Glenkens Community Sergeant Colin Scott gives the Gazette an update on what's happening with Dalry police station...

"No decision has been made in relation to Dalry police station with regards to whether it will close or not," says Colin. "We are very much at a consultation, information gathering stage and would welcome any feedback or

thoughts in relation to it from the local community.

"One thing we are asking, in relation to all of the stations that are subject to the consultation is that if a station was to close, would there be any suitable alternative venues where members of the community could meet their local police at prearranged times such as council offices, community centres, schools, fire stations, etc. It may be that there are no suitable or

better alternatives but we would ask that this is considered and feedback given to us either way.

"I have not been given a deadline for this but I understand we are hoping to get as much feedback as possible prior to the end of the year."

What are your thoughts?

Get in touch with Community Police Sergeant Colin Scott at colin.scott@scotland.pnn.police.uk

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A Window into the Clachan Inn

Ian Robinson meets Phil and Laura, the new owners of Dalry's Clachan Inn.

It was a crisp morning and a couple of guests were having breakfast whilst their two pointers lay at their feet. Phil and Laura have undergone an incredible journey to realise their dream of owning this iconic village inn.

We discussed their vision for the future and it was wonderful to see this young couple had a dream that would keep community cohesion through a fresh and varied daily menu with the bonus of a winter lunch promotion of two courses for £10 from a set menu, starting 1 December.

They plan to continue offering the Bothy function room for weddings and music. Redecoration is also on the cards but will keep the village inn ambience that they love.

Phil and Laura have built a solid platform of performance with excellent food that bagged them the title of finalists for *D&G Life Restaurant of the Year 2015*. This year saw them as winners of the *Camra Pub Of The Year* and they have made the final three for the *Scottish Thistle Award Friendliest Pub Of the Year 2016*, with the Visit Scotland Scheme.

I had visited a month ago and chosen a comfy corner of the bar to write. I overheard many conversations between tourists and locals all of whom shared a



love of the open fire and great beers.

Ian Robinson

GALLOWAY GLENS AND THE GLENKENS

There has been much publicity recently about the new Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP) and the potential benefits to local communities.

This got me thinking about why I settled here nine years ago. My response to the usual question "why do you choose to live here?" is: there is no

rush and no crush, no hurries and no worries, beautiful countryside and plenty of things happening. However, our comfortable way of life is threatened by some of those features. Ours is a small population, insufficient to support some services we take for granted. Some of our shops, hotels and restaurants are at risk due to lack of trade and some have been up for sale with no takers for many years. Inevitably some owners are getting older and faced with small returns for

long hours of work will close the business.

Lack of work opportunities is another issue. With little prospect of employment, young people move away leaving a growing elderly population who are less inclined to seek entertainment outside their own homes. Without thriving local businesses no new jobs will be created. This worrying prospect can, however, be changed if the

This is a golden opportunity to put the Glenkens on the map...

will be there to do it.

The Glenkens has a rich history which is little publicised and much of that could be demonstrated by better access to the beautiful landscape in which it is sited, for example the Covenanters sites. To attract more visitors and identify the Glenkens as a destination, we need an inspiring story to tell and take pride in the telling. Many of the ideas submitted for funding by the

GGLP follow that theme.

The project is aimed at the Ken/Dee valley from Carsphairn to Kirkcudbright, and is focussed on 'People, Place and Prosperity', and has a good chance of securing £2.9M for investment in the catchment area over the next five years. When match funding is added, this will mean an investment of over £5M in the catchment area. Many expressions of interest have

been submitted from the Glenkens, illustrating the enthusiasm from Glenkens organisations to participate in ways which will improve the attractiveness of the local environment and its facilities for the benefit of residents and visitors.

This is a golden opportunity to put the Glenkens on the map, to promote it to visitors as a place to stay a while and contribute to the local economy. Next time it may be possible to provide details of the ideas given the green light for further development; watch this space!

Gerry Cinderby

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

Hutch for rabbits or guinea pigs

- good condition with slide-out floor for ease of cleaning. Also water bottle that attaches to wire door. Contact: 430 218

Single bed and mattress with pull-out spare bed and mattress underneath. Contact: 430 218

Used engine oil, as much as you can take - in 20L containers. Contact:

bcaenterprises@hotmail.co.uk

Patio heater - old but not used much and in working order with gas canister. Also patio umbrella. Contact: 07769 730 553

Two single mattresses - good as new, hardly used. Contact: 460 516

Slimline water butt, stand and tap but no lid. Contact: 07554 644 993

Very large Swedish ivy plant in terracotta pot. Handsome plant, has outgrown my house and needs a bigger home. Indoor plant, about 4ft high when extended. Contact: Sue on 07554 644 993

Handsome jade plant (money plant), large. Contact: 460 673

Fur coat, size 12-14. Contact: Annikki on 460 640

Ski Boots, size 7, good condition, fully adjustable. Contact: Gerry on 420852.

2 x four-drawer bedroom units,

90 cm wide, 44 depth, 69 height; 69 cm wide, 44 depth, 69 height. Good condition - can deliver if necessary. Contact: 450 265

WANTED

30 tonnes good quality top soil for raised vegetable bed for elderly gardeners. Willing to pay commercial rate. Contact: 07776 148 002

THE BARNACLE GOOSE

Stewartry Birdwatchers' winter season of talks got off to a flying start when Brian Morrell, manager of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Caerlaverock Reserve, spoke about the charismatic barnacle goose.

There are three separate populations of this lovely black and white goose and those which nest on Spitzbergen, the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago, winter predominately on the north and south coasts of the Solway. The 2015/16 count showed an estimated 41,000 of these geese had arrived for that winter. Hard to believe that in the late 1940s they numbered only about 300 - a real conservation success.

Research shows that in autumn many birds stop off at Bear Island in Norway to rest and feed for up to three weeks before continuing southwards.

Amazingly some of the barnacle geese are known to fly the 1,800 miles south to the Solway in just 36 hours.

Return passage to their nesting grounds in western Spitzbergen begins in mid-April with the birds stopping off on islands off the west coast of Norway for two or three weeks to rest and refuel before reaching their destination by the end of May.

There is then only a four month window in which to breed, with incubation taking up one month. Some geese nest on small islands and others on high cliffs. Unbelievably tiny three-day-old goslings have been filmed making a plunge of 400 feet from their cliff nests. Those goslings that survive this fall, and predation by Arctic foxes and polar bears, then have only three months in which to grow and learn to fly ready for their journey south. One of the many wonders of nature.

Take a look at the Diary section at the back of this issue for the date of upcoming talks in December and January.

Joan Howie



Across the Glenkens many paid their respects and remembered those who gave their life for their country.



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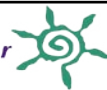
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Eco Feature

WILD YOUNG MOVIE MAKERS

sponsored by natural power



Aged 12 to 25? Come along and have a go at making a movie!

The project aims to make short movies about nature in Dumfries & Galloway for the *Wild Young Movie Makers* project, part of *Wild Film Festival Scotland*.

The film festival will take place in Dumfries from 24 to 26 March

2017, bringing together the very best wildlife film and photography from Scotland as well as further afield – and the *Wild*

Young Movie Makers' films will be shown alongside work from some of the world's top wildlife filmmakers

Simon Goodall, who runs the National Trust for Scotland nature conservation film unit, will run a series of free workshops and outdoor filming sessions across the region. These will reveal the secrets of how to capture nature's dramatic events and put them on the screen.

Simon will teach young people the importance of storytelling and how to create a documentary when working with animal 'actors'.

Simon said: "The brilliant thing about nature movies is that anyone of any age can make them. You can use smart phones, video cameras or even try your hand at animation and create something other people will love to watch.

"The possibilities are endless, especially in somewhere like Dumfries & Galloway which has such a huge variety of plants, birds, animals and environments.

"I'm really looking forward to sharing my experience as a professional filmmaker with a new generation. There are so many young people out there with loads of imagination and bags of talent, so it's going to be great to see the movies they make."

We think the Glenkens is the perfect place to make a fantastic wildlife film. To find out more about the workshops and for help and support in making a film, including cameras and sound equipment available to use, contact Mary at mary@catstrand.com or on 01644 420 374.



Friends and family visiting this Winter?

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Brookford B&B welcome any enquiries and will always do what we can to help, including offering **specialty reduced rates for accommodation booked by any resident of the Glenkens for visiting friends or family.**



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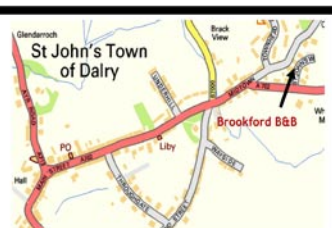
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For more information or to download an application form, please go to www.pamelayoungtrust.co.uk, or telephone Peter Matthews of A B & A Matthews on 01671 404100.

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ABBAS REST FUNDRAISER

The coffee morning held in Dalry Town Hall in aid of Abbas Rest orphans raised £620.55.

We would like to thank all the people who supported us in so many ways with the generous donations towards the raffle, baking, bottle stall and bric-a-brac, and also the generous money donations.

We would also like to thank all the people who staffed the stalls, helped in the kitchen and waited on the tables and provided transport, as without you this would not have been possible.

We were very pleased to welcome Muriel Wilson and Fiona Boyd, two representatives from Abbas Rest, who were able to give us up-to-date information about the orphanages.

*Our thanks once again,
Avril Brown &
Barbara Colbenson*

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

At the recent AGM of St Margaret's Ladies Guild, President Christine Rankin reported on another successful year.

Over £2,000 was raised for good causes, both locally and further afield including Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance, Sportsdrivingunlimited, the Red Cross and the Glenkens Children's Club.

Treasurer Jean Marsden suggested that as there were still funds available to help another charity, a donation to Shelter Box would be appropriate when so many families are being forced to flee Mosul.

It was therefore agreed to donate sufficient funds to purchase a Shelter Box which will purchase a family-sized tent complete with essentials such as blankets and water carriers, providing much needed physical shelter and help for people fleeing persecution or civil war in many places in the world.

The Man Who Followed His Legs (And Kept On Walking)

Theatre Review by Grace C J Temple, age 11

The Man Who Followed His Legs (And Kept On Walking) is an interesting play, an amazing mixture of war and comedy. It entrances the reader into the crazy world of two coal miners, whose love of football leads them to the battlefield of World War One, along with the exciting story of how a man re-discovers his reason for living. An awesome play fit for most ages.



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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

We've got a great run-up to Christmas this year.

Pantomime season kicks off this year with the ever-popular (and awesomely talented) **CatStrand Youth Players'** performance in their biggest production to date – Paul Reakes' hilarious comedy *Little Red Riding Hood*, with a twist! The panto will run on Thursday 1 and Saturday 3, with a matinee performance on Sunday 4 Dec.

The annual **CatStrand Christmas Shopping Day** on 26 November will showcase a variety of local arts, crafts and produce for your Christmas gifts. The **Cairn Chorus** return on Sunday 8 December for a

joyful, soulful and occasionally raucous collection of seasonal songs.

On Saturday 17 Dec experience a very special concert by **Mike Heron and Trembling Bells** influenced by 1960s icons the Incredible String Band - "vintage, impeccable song craft.. magical" (the Herald).

Start the New Year warmed and uplifted by brilliantly upbeat world music from Senagalese/Scottish band **Samba Sene and Diwan** on Saturday 21 January and inspired by **Ad Libitum**, an acclaimed violin and accordion duo, on Friday 27 January. Remember some free tickets are available for under-18s on all events.

Exhibitions in December and January include colourful, vibrant work by textile artist **Jo Gallant** and, in the Pyramid café, by local group **Rekindling Creativity**.

Finally, **Saturday Art Club** has been one of the first to be designated a *Brilliant Makers Club* by national charity Access Art, thanks to all the brilliant makers who come along! Join Jo Gallant for a fabric painting and making session with them on January 14. The club would like to bring in more of our plentiful local talent – if you have a craft, skill or creative idea you'd like to share as a paid session with the art club, or you know someone who has, please contact mary@catstrand.com

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

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www.gallowayglens.org

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DO YOU REALLY WANT A GALLOWAY NATIONAL PARK?

A personal perspective by Roger Crofts

The report commissioned by Dumfries & Galloway Council from the Southern Upland Partnership on the possibility of a national park for Galloway requires careful scrutiny.

The report contains many challengeable assumptions about how national park status can resolve the rural economic and social problems of the area.

I set out six challenges for local residents to consider in debating the external proposition for a national park:

ONE: The best national parks globally are those established by a compact between local residents and external interests led by government. The report on the other hand imposes arguments to persuade local residents without even consulting them. Do you want this external imposition?

TWO: The proposal cuts

across the developing, locally driven and bottom-up approach of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. It should be allowed to prove its worth before being summarily set aside. Do you agree that the Biosphere is worth allowing to come to fruition under local ownership?

THREE: A national park under the Scottish legislation of 2000 will take control out of local community hands and place it entirely with the Scottish Parliament and Government: to approve primary legislation, establish the park authority, appoint its members, determine its budget, approve its plan and operating budget. Control will rest in Edinburgh and Holyrood, not locally. Is this what you really want to happen?

FOUR: Northern Galloway does need a special injection of resources and effort to improve its economic and social prospects. Why not designate

it as a Rural Development Zone with the Scottish Government instructing all of its agencies to help in its delivery. This approach will focus on the issues which small communities are most concerned about. Would you agree?

FIVE: The National Parks Act makes it clear that when there is conflict between the aims, the aim to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage must be favoured. This will not be the case if the demand is to improve the economic prospects of the area. Do you prefer this approach or a more balanced approach?

SIX: Finally, will a national park be able to ignore the major threats to the land and landscape of the area when Scottish Government policies demand more forestry and more renewable energy installations without any plan? There is no evidence that the two existing national parks in Scotland have been able to do so. So, what's the point?

Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

Competition judges Dave and Sue from the Ken Bridge Hotel chose this mysterious shot by Ian Patrick as this issue's winner. The suggestion was for eerie Halloween shots and this one works both for spookiness and chilly winter days as we head into the New Year...

"The lovely atmospheric misty scene steals it this time."

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



Join the Journey Challenge

Local Girl Guide Ellen Bielinski reports on an amazing European adventure.

I was fortunate to take part in the Girlguiding *Join the Journey* challenge which involved teams of Guides travelling to Cologne in six days, visiting as many countries and using as many different types of transport as they could en-route.

The team I was in was called *Happy Haggis* and comprised eleven Guides and three Leaders from different parts of Scotland. Our starting point was Edinburgh and our first destination was Copenhagen, where we visited Tivoli Gardens and we also managed to incorporate a day trip to Malmo, Sweden.

Next we flew to Krakow and after a trip to the salt mines embarked on the night train to Budapest. This was my favourite city because of its amazing architecture and

beautiful setting on the Danube. The next day we got a train to Vienna before getting another night train to our destination of Cologne.

Once in Cologne we met other Guide groups taking part in the challenge and were able to compare notes on the different routes we had taken; our *Happy Haggis* team had ended up travelling through eight countries.

We were flying back from the Netherlands and so were able to include a couple of extra days in Amsterdam visiting the Van Gogh museum, the famous 'I Amsterdam' sign and the flower market. We also went on a canal cruise before flying back to Edinburgh.

It was an amazing trip taking me to places I have never been before. I really enjoyed working with the



Happy Haggis team in Amsterdam

other girls to plan our journey; it was good being able to choose where we wanted to go.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Glenkens Community Shop and Stewartry Girl Guides for their generous donations towards the trip. The experience has boosted my self-confidence and introduced me to lots of amazing people and places.

Girlguiding, as well as being great fun, offers opportunities to meet new people and experience lots of new things, both in this country and abroad.

Ellen Bielinski

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Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

Constituency Office Stranraer

36-38 Charlotte Street, Stranraer, DG9 7EF

Tel: 01776 705800

Mon/Tue/Thurs/Fri 10am-2pm

Email: richard.arkless.mp@parliament.uk

www.richardarkless.scot

GLENKENS HALLOWE'EN

This year Hallowe'en felt like a big deal...

I don't know if it was because it was on a Monday so the weekend and Hallowe'en itself were full of parties and devillishness. Or perhaps the whole clown saga on the news, with criminals dressing up pre-Halloween got the mood set for extra scariness.... Whatever it was, there seemed to be a lot of hype in the run-up to the weekend, lots of costumes and lots of guisers roaming the streets of the Glenkens.

New Galloway really went to town with the CatStrand's annual halloween kids' bash being a huge success with folk travelling from Dalry, Carsphairn, Laurieston and beyond to join the spooky revelries. Gummy worms were gobbled, donuts dangled and Mr Werewolves escaped from. Then the troops took to the streets where a massive local effort

had been made at the corner by Kitty's Tea Room – it had become Zombie Corner, with cauldrons of sweets protected by very realistic zombies. Further down the street there was a decontamination tent at which you were thoroughly disinfected of Zombie germs by some very official people in white suits, then had to carefully negotiate the body bags of not-so-lucky wanderers before even considering trick-or-treating!

The schools also got into the spirit of things with a ghoulish Hallowe'en party at Dalry Primary.

Sarah Ade

Photos: above - a scary crash outside Dalry, and right - 'Make the Mummy' game at Dalry Primary.



FRIDAY FUN-TIME

Dalry Primary's P1-7 pupils participated in learning experiences that developed their hazard awareness, fire safety and outdoor cookery skills during their Friday Fun-time.

The pupils prepared and cooked apples on a campfire, lit mini fires using steel and flints, planted crocus bulbs and listened mindfully to their surroundings, creating sound postcards.

Everyone went home happy but slightly soggy after an afternoon of outdoor learning! Huge thanks to our parent/grandparent helpers who offered their time and an extra pair of hands

during the afternoon.

If you have a spare hour on a Friday between 2.30 and 3.25pm and would like to help/assist a small teacher-supervised group during our Friday Fun-time activities, the Primary staff would be most thankful. Please get in touch with Mrs Devlin via the school office to discuss: 01644 430 259

Remember to check out our School Blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/dalryprimary> to see what's been going on in our fantastic



HARVEST THANKS

The pupils and staff of Carsphairn Primary school would like to thank the parents and community of Carsphairn for their generous donations to our schools' Harvest Foodbank Food Drive.

This was our first year collecting donations. The children designed and created leaflets which were dropped through all the doors in the village. We are grateful and amazed by the generosity of the parents and community. All donations were kindly received by the Helping Hands Foodbank in Castle Douglas.

Walker McKenna

Table Tennis, Outdoor Learning and Electricity

National Table Tennis in Dalry

Stimulating interest in the sport of table tennis was the aim of the Scottish national coach Li Chao when he visited Dalry School.

His mesmerising demonstration for the primary and secondary pupils was impressive and informative. What he made very clear was that the only way to improve is to practice - lots of practice.

Practising thousands of shots of the same stroke allows a player to react faster than they can think in a game situation.

The primary pupils were able to watch Li play with a Dumfries pupil, Danny Bajwa, who is himself now playing at national level.

Secondary pupils were able to take advantage of the coaching

sessions set up for them in the course of the afternoon and came away with new ideas and a deeper understanding of the commitment required to improve.

When the school was given new tables, the serviceable old ones were donated to the village halls and so the possibility of playing in the community is there. Inter-village winter league...?

Autumn Outdoors

Glenkens schools are fortunate in their settings for outdoor learning and the pupils have been making the most of opportunities.

In Kells Primary the sudden and plentiful leaf fall gave hours of entertainment in creating a leaf 'wall' with pupils experiencing the relationship between height, base width and wind effects! They are hoping that the mounds of leaves will provide good winter shelter for a range of wildlife; the hedgehog already visited.

In Carsphairn there has been shelter-building and their Daily Mile has been out and about in the community, taking in the war memorial which was the focus of a community Remembrance Day.

In Dalry an afternoon of outdoor activities included the use of the open wood fire for toasting apples. The weather in



Dalry Primary pupils with Scottish national table tennis coach Li Chao and Dumfries pupil Danny Bajwa.

the morning was very wet but the afternoon provided welcome breaks and dramatic skies. Pupils are demonstrating increasingly good awareness of how to keep themselves safe and warm. The weather ensures that their resilience grows too.

Energy in the Glenkens

S1 pupils visited the SP Energy Network public information event at New Galloway Town Hall and were given a customised talk to help them understand the issues arising from the proposed changes to the transfer of electricity through the Glenkens.

The questions the young people asked were relevant and insightful. Their understanding of the variety of jobs available associated with these developments was broadened significantly and they have demonstrated that they have the capacity to be responsible citizens in the future.

Jenny Smith



Carsphairn Primary pupils by Carsphairn war memorial.



KELLS FUNDRAISER

Pupils in P7 at Kells Primary raised the fantastic total of £1073.67 by hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning recently.

They held the event at the Cross Keys Hotel in New Galloway. Pupils planned and advertised the coffee morning and served parents and friends of the school on the day.

The pupils would like to thank everyone from the local community who supported the event.

Zane Gray

SPALDING BOWLING CLUB



Spalding Bowling Club held its annual prize-giving dinner at the Clachan Inn, Dalry. President Peter Hamilton welcomed everyone and Valerie Russell



presented prizes to the Green Champions for 2016, Ann Hamilton and John McNally (pictured above).



KELLS PRIMARY REMEMBRANCE

Kells Primary pupils made poppy wreaths which were placed at the Kells war memorial and some of the older pupils read 'In Flanders Fields'.



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GUESS THE FACE



Let's keep the Outlander-Glenkens theme going!

Can you recognise this extra from the Outlander TV...? Another native of the Glenkens... Answers to glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

NEW GALLOWAY RURAL

*Helen Bullock,
Secretary of New
Galloway Scottish
Women's Institute
(SWI or Rural),
reports on the
group's busy and
varied year.*

In November 2015 we had a talk from Ros Hill on the progress of plans for the town hall. Our December gathering was a meal at the Kenmure Arms when we all enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner, and then we walked down to the Catstrand for the panto of *Babes in the Wood*.

We opened the year in January with our usual lovely Burns Lunch with everybody contributing to the meal; another fabulous triumph.

Our February speakers from the new hospital failed to turn up at the last minute, so we talked among

ourselves and enjoyed tea and biscuits without them!

Linda Adams came to entertain us with her talk on Hats & Fascinators from Flairs in Castle Douglas for the March meeting - a real ladies' talk, and we all enjoyed it.

Our April meeting was full of calories from the fabulous soups and homemade breads, trifles, tea and biscuits enjoyed by all of us and members of the public. The tables were bedecked with pretty cloths and vases of flowers. Again, thanks to all who contributed. There was a sales table of homemade jams and chutneys and we managed to raise £200 for local charities.

Heather McIntosh talked to us about her life in the Cubs & Brownies movement and her BEM (British Empire Medal) for our May meeting. With a competition of spring flowers and children's photos, it was again a colourful meeting.

For our June outing we enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea at the Cally Palace, along with some husbands to help us eat all the cakes and sandwiches we could not manage.

July and August are holiday months, except that traditionally New Galloway Rural runs the tea tent for the Alternative Games fun day, when we can raise funds for local charities.

In September there was a talk by Judith Sauberlich and her husband about the work of the recently established charity, Blood Bikes. We donated £200 to them to top up funds.

Our October meeting was a really good food demonstration by Linda McTurk and most of us went home with something for our tea - chicken drumsticks in sauces. Delicious!

It was a lovely year with lots going on. One sad moment was the loss of one of our long time members, Betty McQueen, who died in June. We did manage to see her one last time at the May meeting when her daughter brought her across the road from her cottage. She was a lovely lady.

Thank you all for your patience - lets hope 2017 will be as good.



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GCAT INVITES EVERYONE TO GET INVOLVED!

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust Ltd (GCAT) will be holding its AGM on 30 January 2017 in the CatStrand.

As well as going through the formal process of presenting the accounts and electing the new Board, the current Board would like to use this as an occasion to get to know its company members, old and new. To this end, the evening will commence at 7pm with a glass of mulled wine or orange juice and some nibbles, to allow people a chance to chat and catch-up.

The required business of the AGM will then take place from 7.30pm and will be followed by a brief presentation on the achievements of the GCAT projects this year. There will be another chance for people to socialise after.

Our Members, Friends and Patrons are of critical importance to us at GCAT. Anyone can become a member for free by contacting us at the CatStrand on 01644 420 374. Everyone is welcome to come

along to our AGM, but in order to vote on any matters or to become a Director you must be a member of GCAT Ltd. For the purposes of this year's AGM, please register as a member before 20 January and we'd be delighted to see you there.

If you are already a member, please note that all memberships were renewed in 2014 for another five-year term. ALL current registered members were sent AGM notices last year, so if you did not receive an AGM notice last year and

Our Members, Friends and Patrons are of critical importance to us at GCAT.

you were expecting one, please contact the CatStrand to check your membership status and renew if necessary.

Our Friends and Patron scheme is for people who would like to support our projects financially. The two different levels of the scheme offer rewards such as a 10% discount in the shop and free entry to a ticketed event, in return for an annual subscription. Up-to-date details

of the scheme are available in the CatStrand, and any new Friends and Patrons are always very much appreciated. As you may know, sourcing funding for projects is difficult but do-able in the current environment. Sourcing funding for overheads such as core staff costs and the heating bill is practically impossible, so all income that we generate through our Friends and Patrons scheme is put towards core costs such as these, necessary for keeping the doors open.

Finally, positions on the Board of GCAT are open to nominations from all interested members of the community. To be nominated, you will need to be a

member, and will require to be proposed and seconded by two other members. If you'd like to find out more about this extremely rewarding form of volunteering, contact GCAT Chair, Alan Smith, on alan.smith12345@btinternet.com

All nominations for the posts of Director need to be submitted to CatStrand by 10 January 2017.

The GCAT Board

The Glenkens Story

Almost 100 people gathered in Dalry Kirk on November 13 to mark the 350th anniversary of the Glenkens Rising.

On the same date in 1666 a clash in Dalry between Covenanters and Government soldiers escalated, the Dumfries garrison was over-run, the commander captured and a rebel army was soon marching on Edinburgh only to be crushed by the troops of General Dayell in the Pentland hills. The event, organised by The Glenkens Story history project, featured talks by the Rev Dr David Bartholomew and Professor Ted Cowan (*pictured*).

Dr Bartholomew described the commitment of the Glenkens people to the presbyterian religion despite oppressive Government efforts to impose rule by bishops. Professor Cowan stressed the significance



of the event in the long Scottish tradition of resisting oppressive authority. And he called for local people to reclaim 'The Glenkens Rising' despite its misleading description in history as the 'Pentlands Rising'.

For more information email theglenkensstory@google.com

NEW GALLOWAY TOWN HALL

It is now nine months since the regional council agreed to our lease of the Town Hall.

Since then the council have completed a range of works on the building. The long ongoing problems with damp have been rectified including those affecting our next door neighbours. Interior repairs and decoration have been completed where they had been affected by the damp, particularly the main entrance stair and the men's toilets. A new boiler has been installed so we now have reliable warmth for all the activities taking place.

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) Town Hall Sports have attracted those who enjoy indoor bowls and/or table tennis. After a break in the summer these are up and running again on Tuesday evenings for the autumn, winter and spring.

The weekly LING Lunches which began in May have continued with around twenty people from New Galloway, Dalry and Balmacellan. Other visitors drop in, including one gentleman who was evacuated to New Galloway during the war.

Some come for just tea or coffee and biscuits and some for a soup and pudding lunch which is supplied by local company *Love to Eat*, but all enjoy a time to meet friends and make new ones. Garden produce has also been donated for sale at various times.

Some financial support was made available from the Health & Social Care Fund but the LING Lunch is operated as a drop-in open to all ages. The recent donation of a highchair makes this easier for the very young.

The New Galloway Story ran at weekends during the summer as a pop-up museum and both local residents and visitors enjoyed finding out about the past from displays as well as watching DVDs of the 'Paddy Line' and the 1951 Gala.

Following the Sensing Glenkens Day, held recently at the CatStrand, and the offer of a cine-projector, plans are afoot for further activities in the spring including an event linking with The Glenkens Story history project. Donated items have been gladly received and



Avril and Allan at LING Lunch.

any additions to the collection will be welcomed on loan or gifted.

The museum will be re-opened for the summer but may pop-up at odd times through the winter! In the meantime new information will be put together. If you would like opportunities to drop in for a cuppa and a chat about the 'olden days' please get in touch.

The Hard of Hearing Drop-in times have been changed to Tuesday mornings - please see the Diary section at the back of this issue for further details.

THE GALLOWAY GLENS

LING submitted several expressions of interest to the Galloway Glens project, some of which will be developed to the next stage in liaison with other groups both within New Galloway and across the Glenkens.

THE FUTURE

- Negotiations with Dumfries & Galloway Council for the extension of the lease for the Town Hall.
- Continuation of existing events and activities and development of new ones.
- Development of the Galloway Glens Projects.
- Development of other initiatives where these arise and are appropriate to LING.
- LING AGM is currently planned for



The New Galloway Story exhibition set up in the town hall.

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War Updates: August-October 1916

Paul Goodwin gives us an overview of World War I casualties from the Glenkens this time a century ago.

Archibald McIntyre of Grennan Dairy, Dalry, was killed on 13 August 1916. He was aged only 19 and is remembered on the Dalry war memorial.

Lance Corporal John McCubbing of Wylie's Brae, New Galloway, had been missing since 17 August but would not be reported as having been killed until mid-October. He was just twenty years old and was apprenticed to his father's building firm of Murray & McCubbing who would go on to build the Kells war memorial on which he is listed.

John Brown was born in Balmaclellan, the son of Robert and Janet (Dickson) Brown of Nether Monybuie, Corsock. He is listed on the war memorials

in Balmaclellan, Corsock and Moniaive.

William Campbell, gamekeeper at Loch Howie, Balmaclellan, was notified that his eldest son, Gunner Anthony Campbell of the Royal Field Artillery, had been killed on 1 September. Anthony was 24 years of age, born in Dalry, and had been serving at the front since January. His brother William was wounded in action and would eventually die in 1925 and be the final name to be added to any WW1 war memorial in the Glenkens.

Alexander Miller Walker was killed on 12 October, aged just 20 at the time of his death. Originally employed at Craigmuire, Balmaclellan, Alexander was a footman at Monkton House, Ayrshire, when he enlisted in October 1914. He is listed on the Glencairn memorial in Moniaive and the Balmaclellan memorial.

William Galloway of Blackmark, Dalry, was killed on 17 October. He was the son of Robert Galloway and was 27 years old at the time of death. He is listed on the Dalry war memorial.

William Hewitson of Drumness, Polmaddy, was killed on 18 October 1916. He was only 19 years old when he died and is listed on the Carsphairn war memorial.

If you have any other information about the men of the Glenkens killed in war or any photographs, please get in touch at memorials@paulgoodwin.me.uk



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Top Award For Local Writer

A Balmaclellan historian has won a major prize for her work on witchcraft.

Dr Lizanne Henderson has been presented in London with the 2016 Katharine Briggs Award by the prestigious Folklore Society, one of the first organisations in the world dedicated to the study of traditional culture and folklore. Her book, *Witchcraft and Folk Belief in the Age of Enlightenment: Scotland, 1670-1740* came top of 19 entries and was praised by the judging panel: "Folkloric and other evidence meld seamlessly within this rich, original and compelling 'history from below.' An effective challenge to the orthodoxy that popular Scottish belief in - and fear of - witches and witchcraft declined from around 1670. A great example of how sources and concepts from folklore can inform and enrich historical

research."

Dr Henderson's book represents the first in-depth investigation of Scottish witchcraft and witch belief post 1662. Such beliefs were supposedly declining at the time of the Scottish Enlightenment when the 'supernatural' was being redefined at the interface between folk belief and the philosophies of the learned.

However, while the eradication of witch beliefs equated with progress for the learned, for many others, such as the devout, witch belief was a matter of faith. As a result the fear and dread of witches and their craft lasted well beyond the era of the major



Dr Lizanne Henderson with the Folklore Society's 2016 Katharine Briggs Award.

witch-hunts.

Dr Henderson is a lecturer in cultural history at the Dumfries campus of the University of Glasgow. She recently gave well-received talks on the subject of her book at the Wigtown Book Festival and at a Glenkens Story event at the CatStrand.

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Who Do We Think We Were?

On Coming to Galloway by Way of Wester Ross

Gene Pick has lived for many years near Balmaclellan where she and her late husband John settled after coming north from London, via Lochcarron, after the Second World War.

She recalls the very different life she enjoyed in that Highland community.

Whether you too grew up here or have arrived in the Glenkens from elsewhere, please send in your 500 words of reminiscence. It doesn't matter how young or old you are - if you live here, you are part of Glenkens history.

Please send your contributions by email to margaret.elphinstone@dircon.co.uk or hand in a copy at CatStrand marked 'Glenkens Gazette - WDWTTWW'.

The next Gazette will have a memoir by Margaret Keith who lives in Dalry.

We came north because of fond memories of Highland holidays taken with my husband's Ayrshire mother in the 1930s, and our great need to get out of wartime London. We took a train to Inverness and found a mail bus that would take us to the fishing village of Ullapool where John had rented a wooden bungalow on the side of Loch Broom. Here we entered another world of time at the service of the climate and the people (a football match would start when the players turned up, for instance).

Ullapool had been designed by Pulteney to house the people cleared

off their land by the Sutherlands, and in the 1940s, there were jobs for the herring fishing and lorry drivers.

Shops included a chandler owned by Kenny Buie who provided locals with rope and lamps (often without payment). Add to this two hotels, a junior school and, of course, a Church of Scotland with services in Gaelic and in English and a Free Kirk in Gaelic.

Our bungalow, Indian style, with a veranda and four bedrooms, was roomy enough to invite 'writing' friends. Among the first was Lawrence Durrell returning from war in Alexandria and his 'Eve', but although the Summer Isles might have reminded him of Greek islands, the water didn't and we had to revive him from the shock of a cold swim.

John produced a magazine where he had asked several authors to explain 'Why I Write'. Among these was Neil Gunn who lived near Inverness, who visited us on a trip to the west coast. We soon became friends and visited over the next ten years, staying in each other's houses.

Neil, by the way, had stayed in Dalry for his teenage education, where he lived in the Doctor's house. The Doctor had married Neil's elder sister and with the help of the Dalry Headmaster and a tutor who wrote for 'The Gallovidian' Neil passed his civil service entrance exam.

Living in Ullapool, without electricity, took all hours of the day: trimming lamps, keeping a free-standing

stove fit for cooking and ironing with flat irons. But we found time to join in the ceilidhs and make friends with Alec Ross released from RAF and owner of the garage, and a car which he used to take us further north into Sutherland, where we escaped the solemn Sabbath.

The local factor was another friend who told us that a croft-house, not wanted by the estate, was available in Rhu, four miles to the north. It became one of the first de-crofted, for the neighbouring crofter Kenny Stewart wanted another field. So we bought it, altered the byre into a study and put a Rayburn into the kitchen. Best of all, electricity came, thanks to a brilliant Scottish Secretary who insisted that all houses supplied by the great Hydro schemes should have power lines to their doors.

So the old life went, the herring were over-fished, the lorry drivers and the poachers weren't needed and Ullapool became a holiday destination.

Gene Pick



John and Gene Pick at Loch Broom c 1946.




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LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

THE BOOKMEN OF BALMAGHIE



2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation and the creation of a new nation.

Galloway has many links with Canada through emigration, the pioneering efforts of Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar in the 1620s and the colonizing activities of the Fifth Earl of Selkirk. Much less well known in the annals of both countries is the family of the Neilsons of Dornell, the estate neighbouring Laurieston. Samuel Neilson (1771-1793), was sent off to Quebec in 1785 to learn the book and printing trades under the supervision of his uncle, William Brown, a native of Borgue.

William served his time in Philadelphia before moving to Quebec to establish the bilingual Quebec Gazette, the province's first periodical that was designed to encourage "a thorough knowledge of the English and French languages" in the two nations. The publication included poetry and general interest articles as well as politics and foreign news.

On Brown's death his business was taken over by Samuel Neilson, the first of a Neilson clique, which had an important influence on its host city and province, following Brown's impressive lead in presiding over nothing less than the Enlightenment of Quebec and thus Canada. When Sam died he was succeeded by his brother John (1776-1848) who had emigrated in 1791. It is striking that of the three so far mentioned two emigrated at age 15 while Sam was

just 14. Folk grew up quicker than now in the 18th century!

John married Marie-Ursule, a niece of the catholic bishop of Quebec. They had ten children, the boys being raised as presbyterians and the girls as catholics. He believed his marriage might serve as an example to reduce some of "baleful prejudices" between French and British. In his hands the business flourished and expanded. He owned the premier bookshop in Canada, the Gazette increased subscriptions, and printing prospered. A rival described him as "the largest consumer of paper in this country". He is reputed to have published 50 to 60 per cent of the 800 books that appeared in Quebec between 1800 and 1820.

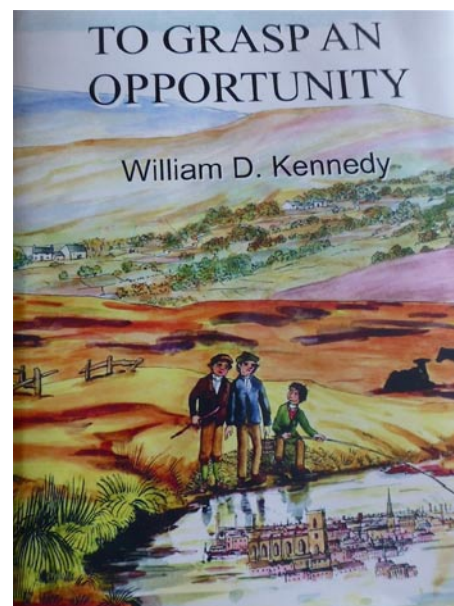
He left the company to follow his political interests in 1822, handing two thirds to his eldest son, Samuel (1800-1837), who when he became very ill in 1836 conferred the business upon his brother William. John Neilson continued to be involved in societies, associations and good works; he was deeply interested in education at all levels, but particularly in rural parishes.

Neilson was also deeply engaged in attempts to neutralise the many clashes between French and British, travelling to London for negotiations. As his biographers have written, "Neilson seems to have been one of the earliest exemplars of the 'Canadian' in the modern sense: bilingual, connected with people of various origins, optimistic about the country's future", a remarkable legacy of the lad frae Balmaghie.

Samuel, plagued by ill health, was not so fortunate while the two brothers who succeeded him were not quite so interested in the company or indeed Quebec. By 1850 the Neilson domination of Quebec publishing was over. Personally I think that Canada remains the last great, civilised country in the world. The Glenkens connection should be treasured and celebrated.

Note: Due to an oversight my review of William Kennedy's excellent book in the last issue of the Gazette failed to mention the title of his book, *To Grasp An Opportunity*. My long-windedness left no space for the inclusion of a photograph which was intended to accompany the article. Apologies to all concerned.

Ted Cowan



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STROANFREGGAN SCHOOL

With Dalry School having recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its secondary and 85th of its primary, Bruce Smith takes us on a journey into the past to look at the history of some of the old schools on the outer reaches of Dalry parish.

Stroanfreggan School, situated towards the head of the Water o' Ken by Smittons bridge, was set up to provide education to the children who could not get to the Dalry Free School from the northern parts of the Parish.

The school slightly pre-dates Corseglass and, although the date of its foundation is not certain, it was well after 1723. This is the date of the first parish school in Glenkens at Carsphairn for the children of the miners. The building still exists and is currently a private dwelling.

Most of the students were the children of the hill farmers and shepherds, mostly in the Ken and Fingland glens. The school is described in the Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland of 1881 as having accommodation for 32 children and an average attendance of 10.

During the 1890s, there is a clear level of dissatisfaction and tension around the teaching and progress at the school. This is best summed

up by the following entry from June 1892.

"The great coming event is the Glenkens Examination, and less apparent interest is excited than is commonly the case... The finishing of the peat loading and the preparation for sheep shearing with turnip thinning and weeding may account for the seeming apathy".

By 1927 the school board could no longer ignore the problems at the School. An experienced graduate was appointed and transport was provided for the children who lived furthest from the school. Attendance soon rose to 87.1%. By the 1930s the attendance rate was usually around 90% and many entries report perfect attendance. The HMI Reports indicate the progress and improvements in the pupils and the school through the decade.

We have a valuable description from one evacuee all the way from Croydon who was sent to live at the school in 1940. John Bowman Jory responded to a national Project on

*...drinking water out of the burn,
serious lessons in the morning and
... emptying the school toilet pails
into the burn every Saturday.*

Memories of World War two in 2006 by the BBC. His four main school memories were, drinking water out of the burn, serious lessons in the morning and everyone knitting for the war effort in the afternoon and also emptying the school toilet pails into the burn every Saturday.

Wartime entries are varied. The early ones refer to the difficulties created by the hasty evacuation of seven children from Glasgow. The



culture shock to these poor souls must have been intense. In January 1940 the snow was so bad that there was no mail for over a week and food was running very short. 1941 must have been grimmer since, despite the schoolroom fire, the ink froze in the wells.

The school log from 1945 to 1965 is a record of visitors to the school, road safety days, school dentists, library visits to change books, visits from music and PE specialists and the various illness suffered by the pupils (from measles to ringworm). We can see, with better communications, that the

school was getting more support from the local authority. By the 1950s school trips were being organised by bus.

Some of the last pupils at the school seem to have been Yvonne Grant [nee MacTaggart] who was a pupil from 1955 to 1962, and Susan Bell who left to go to Dalry Secondary in 1965.

Bruce Smith

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Outward Journey

1900 Depart Dalry (Underhill)
1905 New Galloway (CatStrand)
1915 Mossdale
1925 Laurieston
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 Laurieston
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 Balmaclellan, 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

December 17, January 28

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 date

December 3, January 14

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 2016

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.



Caerlaverock Nature Reserve Geese Watching Wednesday 18 January

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930, New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940,
Crossmichael (Shop) 1000, Castle Douglas (Market Hill) 1010
Fare £5.00, Concessions £4.00.



Minibus Hire

GTI has 8, 15 and 16 seat minibuses
for hire

Hirers must be registered GTI user groups.

For more information or to book

email gti@catstrand.com

or call 01644 420374.

Drivers Wanted

GTI is looking for drivers for voluntary and paid
driving opportunities. Training provided.

Email gti@catstrand.com Phone 01644 420374

DECEMBER & JANUARY

DECEMBER

Thu 1, CatStrand Youth Players: Little Red Riding Hood, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 3, CatStrand Youth Players: Little Red Riding Hood, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 4, CatStrand Youth Players: Little Red Riding Hood, 2pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Tue 6, Hard of Hearing Drop-in Clinic, 10-11am, New Galloway Town Hall

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

Fri 9, Christmas Concert: The Antonine Trio, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 14, Balmaclellan Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch, 12.30pm, Kenbridge Hotel (by invitation only)

Wed 14, GTI Bus Trip; Hetland Garden Centre & Moffat (see p21)

Thu 15, Stewartry Bird Watchers Talk; Angus Hogg 'Birding on the Edge: The Uists', 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Fri 16, Glenkens Children's Christmas Party, 6pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall (see back page)

Sat 17, Mike Heron & Trembling Bells, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 18, Cairn Chorus: Winter Wassail, 4pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

(Inc Mulled Wine & Mince Pie)

We 21, FILM: The Pearl Button (12), 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

JANUARY

Wed 11, Balmaclellan & Kells Guild, New Galloway Town Hall

Thu 12, Stewartry Bird Watchers Talk; Iain Bainbridge 'What Did Birds Ever Do for You?', 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Thu 12, FILM: 36 (12), 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 18, GTI Bus Trip; Caerlaverock Nature Reserve (see p21)

Sat 21, Samba Sene & Diwan, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Tue 26, SWANC Winter Discussion;

'Driving Through Britain', 7.30pm, Ken Bridge Hotel

Thu 26, FILM: Court (PG), 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 27, Ad Libitum, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 30, GCAT AGM, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

**THE GAZETTE
WOULD LIKE TO
WISH ALL ITS
READERS A MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

The **Glenkens Community Shop** would like to thank all the volunteers and customers for their support through 2016 and wish them all a very merry Christmas.



Christmas at Kirroughtree

Come visit Santa in his grotto and, new for 2016, experience our Woodland Winter Wonderland



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

www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark

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

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

Footcare by Stewartry Care: Thurs by appointment (Tel: 01556 504699), New Galloway Town Hall

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 Group: Fri, 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.

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(Dec). Carsphairn 10.30am: 1st(Dec), 2nd, 3rd, 4th(Jan). Dalry 12noon 2nd(Jan), 3rd, 4th(Jan). Dalry 10.30am 1st(Jan). Kells 10.30am: 2nd, 3rd, 4th.

Special Services/Events:

11 Dec, 10.30am: United Family Service, Dalry Church.
11 Dec, 6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight in Dalry Church

with Glenkens Church Choir.

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

24 Dec, 11.30pm: Watchnight Service, Carsphairn Church. 25 Dec, 10.30am: Christmas Day Family Service, Kells Church. 1 Jan, 10.30am: United Service with Choir, Dalry 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

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

(price per issue incl VAT)

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USEFUL NUMBERS:

- Pot-hole Hotline: 0845 276 0000
- Police, non-emergency: 101
- Doctor: 01644 420 234
- NHS 24: 08454 24 24 24
- D&G Council: 030 33 33 3000

Lasting Legacy

The Pamela Young Trust is a registered Scottish charity that has been in operation for 24 years.

The brainchild of Pam Young, whose family have lived in the Glenkens for generations, the idea for the trust began when she was asked to help find accommodation for retiring farm workers who had previously been living in tied accommodation in the area.

Having always wanted to give something to the community she loved, particularly to those

who required help, she set up the Pamela Young Trust in 1992 for the relief of poverty by the provision of affordable housing for people living or working in the Glenkens.

It is now some eight years since Miss Young died but her legacy lives on and the current trustees, all of whom have strong connections to the Glenkens, share her values and desire to help those who, for whatever reason, find themselves in reduced circumstances.

Although the trust's work is well established locally and many people have benefitted from it over the years, it may not be

...applications are now welcome from anyone, young or old...who qualifies under the terms of the trust.

widely known that although it started by providing retirement accommodation, applications are now welcome from anyone, young or old, single or with a family,



The late Pamela Young outside her house in Dalry.

who qualifies under the terms of the trust.

The trustees are particularly keen for families with young children to apply in order to help maintain the schools and other facilities within the area.

To this end a website has recently been launched - **www.pamelayoungtrust.co.uk** - where information on the trust purposes and how to apply for a tenancy can be found.

COMMENTS ON THE GAZETTE

"Really good issue Sarah - packed full of stuff." Ahrlene

"Quick line to say that I've just finished reading the latest Gazette. Quite a bumper issue and packed with interesting stuff, I really enjoyed reading it." Nicolette

"Just a quick thank you for another great issue. You always manage to keep it fresh and a good informative read." Matthew

Glenkens Children's Christmas Party

Friday 16th December, 6pm
Balmaclellan Village Hall

Magic Monty
Santa, Raffle

All Primary and pre-school children from the Glenkens welcome, accompanied by an adult.
Pot-luck food table - bring along a dish and help yourself!
Donations for the raffle very welcome.

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Submit events, activities, news stories, cartoons, reviews, tips & techniques, fiction, photos, ads or ideas... Contact Sarah Ade on 07727 127 997 or glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

FEB/MAR COPY DEADLINE: 5 JANUARY



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