

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

February/March 2017

ISSUE 98

FREE

GLENKENS BUSINESSES OFFER THE BEST IN HOSPITALITY

QUEEN'S
WAY CRANE
RECOVERY:
P9

When it comes to hospitality, Glenkens businesses are hard to beat.

No fewer than five of them have been recognised for their outstanding role in customer service and promoting tourism in the area over the past couple of months.

In the 2016 Scottish Thistle Awards – West of Scotland region – three of the fifteen categories were

landed by Glenkens businesses!

Brookford B&B in Dalry was voted the *Most Hospitable B&B/Guest House*, the town's Clachan Inn won the *Friendliest Pub/Bar* category while, just down the A713, the Galloway Activity Centre at Loch Ken took the *Award for Innovation in Tourism*.

Continued on p6...



Surprised and delighted... Ronnie Bradford at his Brookford B&B.

CUB SCOUTS PARTY TO CELEBRATE CENTENARY

The Glenkens Cub Scout Pack have celebrated 100 years of adventure with a Cub Scout Promise Party.

The party took place exactly 100 years from the day when the section, then called Wolf Cubs, was launched. The Cub Scouts joined with thousands of others around the UK in renewing their Promise, pledging to do their best and to help other people. The 100th birthday cake was then cut by Hannah Fitch and Ruby Harfield.

The youngsters had a fantastic, fun-filled time at the party. They were joined by the Glenkens Beavers, members of the Galloway District team, friends of Scouting, parents, district chairman Drew Low, district commissioner Nigel Scott and the Lord Lieutenant of Galloway, Sir Malcolm Ross and Lady Ross. The

guests were piped in to the party by Ian Wemyss.

One of the Cubs, Sophie, said: "The Cubs 100 party was brilliant and we have also taken part in activities and challenges throughout the year. Being a Cub Scout is all about doing your best and I try to do this every day."

The Cub Scouts presented certificates to thank volunteers and supporters of the group who have made their adventure happen.

Hannah Fitch, assistant Cub Scout Leader and Diana Curran, Gold Beaver, were presented with a District



Cub Scouts with Heather McIntosh and piper.

Commissioner's Commendation Certificate and Hannah also received her 20-year service badge.

Continued on p6...

George Thompson: Scholar, Politician, Teacher, Priest

George Thompson, who died in December at the age of 88 after a long period of failing health, was an exceptional son of the Glenkens.

The times I spent in his company travelling across Galloway while we were campaigning for the Scottish National Party, driving to Party meetings in other parts of Scotland, or sharing a dram, were always entertaining and educational. These notes about his life are largely based on my fallible memories of those conversations. Corrections and additions are, of course, welcome.

Andrew Mellor

Rather like Murray of the eponymous Monument, George rose from humble Galloway beginnings to be an exceptional linguist. As well as his native English and Scots he spoke French, German, Latin, Italian, Spanish and Breton. He also had a good working knowledge of many other languages including Gaelic. He was particularly proud of the fact that, on a holiday in France, he had been taken for a native Breton speaker.

His family were in service at the Garroch, where he was born, and he attended Dalry School before going on to Kirkcudbright Academy where he achieved outstanding passes in his Higher exams. A school friend, Barbara McLeish, recalls that boys and girls from the Glenkens stayed in separate hostels in Kirkcudbright, returning home (by train to Parton in Barbara's case) only at the weekends. She says that George was a kind, gentle boy,

good company and absolutely brilliant at his studies.

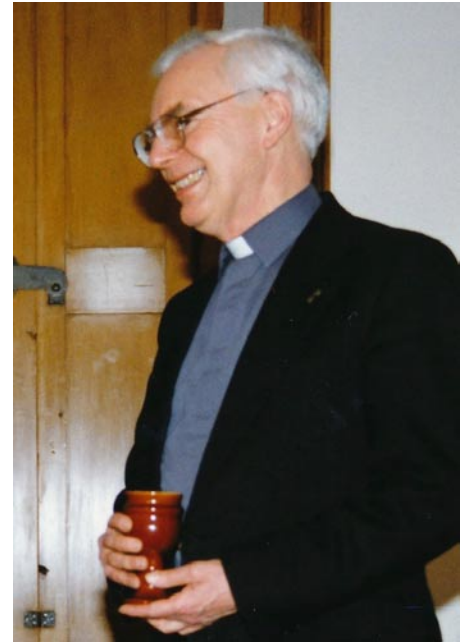
Family finances meant that, after the Academy, higher education was out of the question so George had a varied early career. He worked at Dalry Post Office delivering telegrams in all weathers to all corners of the parish on a heavy, Post Office issue pushbike. Few homes had telephones in those days so George often knocked on front doors with news, which could bring joy - or sorrow.

One farmer's wife tested his, and the postmaster's, patience to the limit with her habit of stopping at Dalry Post Office on her way to Castle Douglas to send a telegram home with messages like, "PUT STEW IN OVEN STOP MUM." After the third time George had peddled the 24 mile round trip to her distant farm she was told that no more such trivia would be accepted because George had to be available to deliver life and death telegrams. On another occasion a complaint was lodged against George by a local landowner because he had committed the sin of delivering mail to an estate worker's cottage before delivering the post to "the big house".

Such incidents may well have influenced the development of George's strong political and humanitarian beliefs.

When he was called up, the army recognised George's abilities by posting him to the Education Corps. Here he found his vocation as a teacher and his faith as a Roman Catholic. Many years later we were discussing his varied careers and he said that that was how he would like to be remembered - as a teacher - because that was the essence of the roles he had had, including those of a politician and a priest.

His conversion to Catholicism was a surprise to many in the Glenkens and Dalry, where his father was Church of Scotland session clerk. Yet more eyebrows were raised when he began a 7-year course for



George at an informal gathering in New Galloway in about 1990 - not long after he had been ordained.

the priesthood at the Scots College in Rome. Studies were conducted in Latin, which was no problem for George, although he did not enjoy the heat of the Roman summer in the heavy robes which the students had to wear.

A family tragedy brought an end to his early priestly ambitions. His father had died and he returned to Dalry to look after his mother. He earned a living working for the Forestry Commission.

In the late 1950s he went to Edinburgh University as a mature student and graduated with a double First in German and French. Then began his career as a modern languages teacher in schools including Kirkcudbright Academy. At the same time he became more and more active in the Scottish National Party. In October 1974, after a recount, he became the SNP Member Of Parliament for Galloway with the narrowest of majorities - 30 votes. I will never forget the sight, on the day after the election, of an open Triumph Herald driving up Kirkland Street with George standing on the passenger seat waving to his many friends.

For the next five years George served his constituents well. He spoke about the problems of the countryside and rural communities with eloquence. Hansard records how his intellect and command of issues enabled him to stand up to, and match, his more experienced and often patronising political opponents. His well-argued, and ultimately successful, battle against plans for test drilling in the Galloway Hills to assess their suitability for dumping nuclear waste is well recorded. However, only a few people know that he gave large sums out of his own pocket to help fund the campaigners who stood up to the might of the UK Atomic Energy Authority at the Mullwharchar Public Enquiry.

George had to learn to drive after he entered Parliament – covering a constituency like Galloway on a bicycle just didn't work – but he was never the most confident of drivers. He arrived at my door one morning with a very second-hand looking Mini after an encounter with "a big black beast" which had loomed up out of the fog on the Gate Hill Road late the previous evening. Enquiries with the

farmer failed to identify the cow that had done such grievous harm to George's car.

When George lost his seat in the 1979 election (accused of being one of Jim Callaghan's turkeys who voted for an early Christmas!) he returned to teaching as Principal Teacher

Those who knew him will remember an intelligent, caring, gentle man...

of Modern Languages at Annan Academy, while continuing to campaign for the SNP. He bought a cottage at Kirtlebridge next to the A74 and returned to his house in Kirkland Street in Dalry at weekends. But disaster struck. Turning onto the A74 his car was hit by another vehicle and he was severely injured. He made a remarkable recovery from head and leg injuries and returned to teaching but I am not sure that he was ever entirely at ease in the sometimes-robust atmosphere of a large comprehensive school. He liked to tell the tale of one young miscreant whom he had put on a departmental report. "Ye cannae

dae that," protested the boy. "Do what?" asked George, mystified. "Call me mental..."

I suspect that it was incidents like this that helped George, in the mid 1980s, to decide to return to his earlier calling. Although he was by then in his late 50s his bishop made the wise decision that he still had much to offer. After two years at a seminary in England George finally became a priest in his 61st year. He went on to serve parishioners in Dumfries and Dalbeattie for many years. Those who knew him will remember an intelligent, caring, gentle man who was a humble servant of God and a doughty fechter for the causes in which he believed. He can have no better epitaph than this verse from Lorimer's Scots Bible which he himself chose to be given out at his ordination in 1989.

*Lat us cast by ilka cummer
an the taiglin garment o sin
an, takkin a stout hairt,
rin the race
at God has gien us tae rin,
our een stelled on
Jesus*

Hebrews 12: 1-2

Graeme Gordon 1930-2017

Graeme Gordon, who died suddenly in January, was an early pioneer of fish farming in Scotland and a respected figure in the rural life of the Glenkens for 50 years.

Following National Service in the Army, serving in the UK, Germany and Malaya, the latter with the SAS, Graeme and his wife Kirsten moved to Africa where he worked in the milling business in Rhodesia and Zambia.

He and his family returned to the Glenkens in 1966 when he started Kenmure Fisheries, a trout farm at the north end of Loch Ken, which he ran until retirement in 2000.

Throughout that time he was also the driving force behind the creation of Scot Trout, a co-

operative which processed and marketed trout and salmon from the major Scottish fish farms. He was on the Central Policy Committee of the Scottish NFU at a crucial time when fish farming in Scotland was in its infancy. He helped establish and chair the British Trout Association, was President of the Federation of European Aquaculture, Vice-Chairman of Scot Trout and Chairman of Scottish Quality Trout. In addition, he chaired SEPA (West) and worked with Stirling University to improve health and disease control in farmed fish and from which he received an Honorary Doctorate in 1996.

His extensive interest and knowledge of rural matters led him to become Vice Convenor and then Convener of the Scottish Land Owner's Federation. He was awarded an OBE in 1994.

MARY MCNAUGHT



Mary McNaught from Dalry passed away on 28 December. She is sadly missed by all her family who thank everyone who came to pay their respects, with special thanks to David Bartholomew.

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 glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

VARIOUS

Door, 190cm x 90cm. Suitable for outbuilding, shed, etc. Contact: Annikki on 460 640

Various furniture - Ikea bedroom furniture; chest of drawers and two bedside cabinets; corner TV unit. May be more... Contact: Jean on 07832 294 899 or 420 419

Stoves single built-in electric fan oven and Stoves electric hob, both in working order. Collect from Dalry. Contact: 430 062 evenings.

Two single mattresses - good as new, hardly used. Width - 77cm. Contact: 460 516

Bang and Olufsen Beocenter 3500, needs attention. **Sony mini hi fi** system MHC3600, needs attention. **TV stand** (corner) glass - excellent condition. **Wooden bureau** with three drawers -

excellent quality. Contact: 450 265

Aspidistra plant. Nice big healthy plant. Contact Sue: 07563 718 011

Glass display unit, approximately six-feet high. It has double glass doors, two glass side panels, with a mirrored back and interior light. Excellent condition but no interior shelves. Contact: Gail on 07742 395 728 or casagail29@aol.co.uk

WANTED

Large pots, tubs or hanging baskets for New Galloway in Bloom. Please leave at the Smithy or phone Linda on 420 829 to collect.

Stair gate - variable width.

Contact: 07770 688 514

Half a dozen house bricks.

Contact Sue: 07563 718 011

Bike suitable for five-year-old. Contact: 420 267

Garden shed for GCC Playgroup as outdoor toy storage. Contact: Sarah on 07727 127 997

WW2 Stage Props/Costumes

- CatStrand Youth Players are staging a play set in Prague in 1945 and would be grateful for the use of any stage props and costumes suitable to the period. Contact: CatStrand on 420 374

Mountain bike. Contact: Sarah on 07727 127 997

STAFF REQUIRED: Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre requires kitchen, waiting and counter staff for Galloway Lodge's busy visitor centre. For more info contact Alan on 0772 0772 854 or alan@gallowaylodge.co.uk

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10.30-11am - Glenlea Area
11am - New Galloway
12noon - New Galloway Shop
2pm - Mossdale area
3-4pm - Laurieston to Gatehouse

Please note that all times are approximate.

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NEW GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES FOR RENEWABLE HEATING

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS - A NEW FOCUS FOR 2017

Air source heat pumps have hit the UK – and are being pushed big-time as low carbon energy efficient heating systems.

A popular option in other parts of Europe for over a decade, these little numbers look like a firm favourite to fit the bill for green heating in both the domestic and commercial arena.

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy have announced an increase in funding for this area from £430 million in 2015/16 to £1.15 billion in 2020/21. And this is where it gets really interesting for you and your home...

New in 2017 the Scottish Government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is giving more priority to air source heat pump systems and raising the RHI payback from 7.51p to 10.02p per kilowatt-hour – an increase of almost a third.

So what exactly is an air source heat pump? And why would you want one?

Well, in simple terms, they take the outside air, warm it up a little, then use it to heat the water in your central heating system. A bit like the reverse operation of a fridge or a reverse

air-conditioner.

Air source heat pumps produce three kilowatts of heat for every one kilowatt of electricity put in. With traditional heating systems for every kilowatt put in you get less than one back.

Local company RJ McCulloch, based by Loch Doon, specialises in installing renewable heating systems. With 20 years in

... a potential RHI income of £14,280 and a saving on heating bills of up to £10,500.

the trade installing traditional heating systems such as oil, LPG and gas, they are in a good position to advise on energy efficiency and consumption. Company owner Ross says: "In order to be eligible for RHI payments you must choose a fitter registered with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). This strict code of conduct holds companies to very high standards for both the installation itself and the pre-installation detailed heat loss calculations. These calculations are carried out prior to any work to ensure the heating system will work efficiently in the location.

"The changes in 2017 mean that things are really going to pick up the pace with air source heat pumps. With reduced heating bills, as well as the RHI payments, home-owners, landlords and tenants alike can all benefit. You can also get a £10k interest-free loan from

the government to help with installation costs."

To give you an idea of the potential for savings through installing an air source heat pump, for an average well-insulated two-bedroom semi-detached house the RHI payments could be up to £2,040 per year [for the annual maximum of 20,000 kilowatt-hours] for the seven-year period the agreement runs. The cost of installing an air source heat pump is around £10,000, which can be covered by an interest-free government loan.

If your home runs on oil or LPG, savings per year could be around £600, and for electric heating systems even more - up to £1,500.

So over the seven year period the RHI agreement runs, this gives a potential RHI income of £14,280 and a saving on heating bills of up to £10,500. Plus ongoing savings indefinitely thereafter.



Award-Winning Hospitality

Continued from front page...

For the second year running, The Knowe in Carsphairn has been named best Luxury B&B in the Luxury Travel Guide's European Awards for 2017.

For the Clachan Inn's Phil Papworth and Laura Burnie, winning the Thistle award is the icing on the cake, having won a couple of CAMRA regional pub of the year awards and a D&G Life finalist accolade last year.

"This award is more about being recognised by our customers for the atmosphere and service we and our very important and valued staff provide," said Phil. "We all work very hard at making every single person who comes through our door very welcome."

With a background in the tourism industry for 12 years, Ronnie Bradford, who has run the Brookford B&B for four years, was "surprised and delighted" to have been chosen for the award in his category. "It was totally unexpected and I was just pleased to have been among the three finalists who all happened to be from Dumfries and Galloway," he said.

Carsphairn's Shop and Tearooms were finalists in the Best Café category of the Dumfries & Galloway Life Awards – a fantastic achievement just 12 months after having to close following the devastating floods of 30 December 2015.

It's due acknowledgement for all the effort that went into refurbishing and remodelling the premises to enable the business to fully reopen to the public last summer.

"We've been overwhelmed by all the congratulations we've received on our award," said Lindsay. "We've come through a difficult year but are now looking forward to 2017 with renewed optimism."

The Knowe B&B too suffered quite a bit of flood damage and had to undergo repair and redecoration work on the ground floor before being ready to receive guests again.

"It is a great feeling to be endorsed by these major tourist organisations, nationally and internationally, especially for a small bed and breakfast business in a small village," commented Karen Hall who is proprietor of The Knowe with husband Harry.

Richard Herman, director of the Galloway Activity Centre revealed that, in addition to the Thistle award, his business has been nominated by Finlay Carson MSP in the Rural Enterprise category of the 2017 Scottish Rural Awards.

"It's great to have been recognised for innovation and enterprise by two different organisations," he said. "You need to innovate to move with the times and we aim to introduce a new themed activity every year."

The activity centre employs five permanent staff, a figure which increases to 30 people in the high season, and it sources whatever goods and produce it can locally to support other Glenkens businesses.



At the Carsphairn Shop & Tearooms, Paul Smith and Lindsay Duncan toast their award with a cup of tea.



Phil Papworth and Laura Burnie celebrate their award at the Clachan Inn.



Richard Herman with Ben Sharp, Galloway Activity Centre.



Karen and Harry Hall outside The Knowe B&B.

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SCOUTS CELEBRATE

Continued from front page...

The Lord Lieutenant presented Heather McIntosh, Glenkens Cub Scout Leader, with her British Empire Medal that was awarded to her by the Queen in the birthday honours for services to Scouting for over 50 years and services to the local community. Heather commented: "It has been a very special evening to have received the award and I want to thank everyone for their support and friendship. Over many years I have been committed to Scouting but Scouting has given me so much

more in return."

Doug Fitch, assistant Cub Scout leader, presented each Cub with a 'Well Done' certificate for taking part in the activities throughout the year.

On behalf of New Galloway Community Council, Craig Millar, Provost of the Royal Burgh, handed over a framed 100th birthday certificate.

The Glenkens Cub Scout Pack and leaders would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for joining us and making their 100th birthday celebrations special.

CatStrand Highlights

The new CatStrand spring brochure has some fantastic events for the coming months.

February sees the renowned **CatStrand Burns Supper** (Fri 10) - **book early as this event always sells out!** Later in the month there is a brilliant new play by **Serge Perilous** called *A Life with The Beatles* which is based on the recollections of the Fab Four's tour manager Neil Aspinall. February also sees the return of an old favourite - the **Afternoon Tea Club** (Fri 24) which will feature the classic movie *I Know Where I'm Going* from 1942 and also sees the launch of our NEW **Into**

Film Club (Sat 18), aimed at younger people, which starts with the film *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

March sees the second ever **Ken Words Festival** (Fri 3-Sat 4) which this year features guest speakers **Cameron McNeish** (BBC's *Roads Less Travelled*) and award-winning poet **Tom Pow** amongst others. The weekend also features a concert by **Scots Trad Musician of the Year Siobhan Miller**, a poetry walk around the hills of Dalry with Tom Pow, a workshop with author **Margaret Elphinstone**, and a meal at the Ken Bridge with a performance by renowned music historian **Jo Miller**.

Also in March, the **Hebrides**



Siobhan Miller, Scots Trad Musician of the Year

Ensemble returns to the CatStrand (Fri 10) as well as folk legend **Rab Noakes** (Thu 16) and the much lauded Irish folksters **Rackhouse Pilfer** (Tues 21).

Finally, we're delighted to have the **Glenkens Story** back to CatStrand for a talk (Sun 26).

We look forward to seeing you at CatStrand over the coming weeks! *The CatStrand Team*

**See our latest brochure or visit our website for programme details.
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THE CASE FOR A GALLOWAY NATIONAL PARK

by Alex Fergusson, President of the Scottish Campaign for National Parks

Those of us campaigning for a National Park in south west Scotland see it above all as the best way of putting our Region on the map.

National Park status is internationally recognised, and it would raise Dumfries and Galloway's profile and highlight its attractions in the eyes not just of potential tourists, but of the world at large.

Of course National Parks are not a magic bullet. They do not instantly conjure up development or put a stop to every undesirable change. Like every other designation they have their shortcomings and, crucially, involve compromises. But as one of those most closely involved in scrutinising the legislation that underlies National Parks as it went through the Scottish Parliament, I can assure readers that Scottish National Parks are not the sort of stifling, top-down imposition that critics portray.

Unlike elsewhere in the UK, the aims laid down in the legislation make it clear from the outset that they are as much about benefiting local communities as about protecting the environment. The fact that conservation takes precedence in the event of a clash is simply a recognition of the fact that where an area's natural assets

are its primary resource, the long-term well-being of its people depends on looking after them properly.

At the heart of the operation of any National Park is a locally agreed plan, fully consulted upon and regularly updated, designed to translate these aspirations into reality. That plan guides and constrains the activities of the Park Authority and other public bodies. However, the legislation stipulates unambiguously that the majority of those responsible for the day-to-day decisions in the park should be locally elected, either directly or through their role as local councillors. Their actions are open to exactly the same level of public scrutiny as those of other public bodies. And experience elsewhere shows that, in matters of planning for example, they are at least as sensitive and receptive to local sentiment as their counterparts in other authorities.

Finally, and crucially, Scottish National Parks legislation is highly flexible. It was deliberately designed to make it possible to tailor the role and powers of any National Park to the needs and circumstances of the area that it covers. In the case of Galloway, these are clearly very different from those of the two existing national parks, in the Cairngorms and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. These,



like the Lake District across the Solway, were parts of the country that had long been magnets for tourists and which had experienced all the pressures for development that go with widespread fame and high numbers of visitors. Managing these pressures was inevitably a key function, requiring significant staff resources. In direct contrast, in the Glenkens and across Galloway, the challenge is one of stimulating more activity and attracting more visitors.

The Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere has already made a commendable start at this job. Its inclusive, participative philosophy and style of operation are very much what is required. But it has neither the status nor the resources that are needed to tackle the task effectively. Experience in many parts of the world has already demonstrated that Biosphere and National Park designations are perfectly compatible.

For decades we have been seeking something to get tourists to 'turn left at Gretna' – I have no doubt at all that the creation of a Galloway National Park would do just that, as well as fostering the sustainable economic development that we so desperately need.

SEE LETTERS: P16

DOG DAY AT DALRY TOWN HALL

Real Dog Training Scotland had their fancy dress Christmas party at Dalry Town Hall.

It was very well attended by people in good spirits, and extremely well behaved dogs. Everyone joined in the games, and donations were received for Dumfries & Galloway Canine Rescue to the tune of £170. Eric and Helen of Real Dog

Training Scotland would like to thank people for making it a successful evening packed with fun and laughter. Special thanks go to Jessica Nash for helping with the games, and Margaret Schofield and Mike Coutts for donating the sausages.

If your New Year resolution is to train your dog, take a look at www.realdogtrainingscotland.co.uk

and come along to Dalry Town Hall training sessions on a Tuesday or Thursday at 7pm.



Crane Recovery on the Queen's Way

In an operation keenly awaited by many in the Glenkens, the 60-tonne crane which had been mired in the peaty roadside verge near Clatteringshaws for over a month was extracted.

The recovery crane, which needed to be larger than the sunken one and capable of lifting 500 tonnes, came all the way from Grangemouth - at a top speed of 25mph - accompanied by two large articulated lorries carrying ancilliary parts.

At a reputed cost of some £25,000 per day rental, the immediate job of lifting the smaller crane took most of the day, with it finally being laid onto a low loader at 5.30pm. The crane was then heading off to Holland for disposal.

photographs and story by Ian Biggar



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MINI DRAGONS' DEN

Last term the P3,4,5 pupils of Dalry Primary took part in a Dragons' Den topic, where they were each given the opportunity to come up with and run a small business.

They pitched their ideas to the 'dragons' and were given an investment of £3 each to get up and running. The topic was a huge success, with all pupils ending up with a better

understanding of the business world. It culminated at the end of term in a very interesting trip to Natural Power Consultants Ltd at Forrest Estate, outside Dalry, where pupils had a Q&A session with MD Mr Sainsbury.

The pupils then used their new business knowledge to sell their products at the Primary Christmas Fayre. They made an astonishing overall profit of £518.65.

Thank you to all parents and carers for taking time to support the pupils with their business ventures and to RJ



Pupils selling their wares at the Christmas Fayre.

McLeod for the very generous donation after hearing about the pupils' fantastic ideas from Kate Bone at Dalry Garage.

The pupils are currently deciding on what to spend their hard earned profit on...exciting times ahead!

Mrs Jenna Devlin

FoDSFest

Friends of Dalry School (FoDS) would like to officially thank the sponsors who supported FoDSFest.

Thanks go to Glenkens Community Shop, Eden Festival, Jake Jordan, Tony Moore, The Jack Duster Band, RJ McLeod, Martha Schofield Design, United Bricks, Galloway Activity Centre, Mary Smith, Castle Douglas Rotary, Alan Smith, Mark Turner - Activ-Schools Dumfries & Galloway, and all the wonderful performers, artists and DJs that offered their time and talents to make FoDSFest such a success.

FoDSFest made Dalry School a profit of just short of £2000, a great achievement for a new music festival and a figure that will make a huge difference to Dalry's pupils and school.

The raised funds will be spent in the near future on improving the outdoor space for pupils, providing waterproof outdoor clothing for primary pupils, subsidising school trips and visitors, and many more ideas suggested by the pupils. Watch this space!

If you have any suggestions on how we could spend the raised funds please get in touch with Mrs Devlin, FoDS Chairperson. They would love to hear your ideas.

YOUTH REVIEW: Little Red Riding Hood

Little Red Riding Hood was performed at the Catstrand and for us it was really good.

It was obvious that the kids worked really hard on it. It was the casual-old-fashioned tale but with a unique twist to the story. It surprised us both when the lovely, prince charming, turned into a terrifying werewolf!

There was a lot of audience-interaction, including three knights giving the audience sweets and a fitness class to burn off all that sugar. There were a lot of Christmassy songs to set you in the winter mood

and the costumes were great.

The actors were very funny and did well in their parts and occasionally forgetting the lines made it that much more funny. We will definitely come next year!

by Grace Temple and Hana Ade, S1



CatStrand Youth Players' cast of Little Red Riding Hood.



Dalry Primary School's Christmas play - Lights, Camel, Action!

KIMBERLY BAGS CHIEF GUIDE AWARD

At the beginning of December the Stewartry Senior Section of the Glenkens Girlguiding unit saw their first member achieve the Chief Guide Award.

Kimberly McAdam has attained the second highest award in guiding having successfully completed the first two phases of each section of the senior section Look Wider programme. This has taken her over two years to complete. On the same

night she was also presented with her Commonwealth Award which involved a lot of research and learning about a chosen country within the Commonwealth. This award was the final thing Kimberly needed to complete for her Look Wider scheme.

The achievement was marked with a presentation ceremony at the community centre in Dalry. Mrs Barbara Murray, County Commissioner, came along to present the awards and a display of work was put on for family, friends and other guiding members.

The Senior Section is open to



Kimberly McAdam receiving her awards from Barbara Murray.

all girls aged 14+ and meets at various venues around the Stewartry, including Dalry, on a monthly rotational basis. For more information please contact Sarah McAdam on 430 393.

Schools Christmas Fundraisers

The Dalry Primary Christmas Fayre raised a fantastic £572.53 for school funds and the Kells Musical Café raised a superb total of £438.08. Carsphairn Primary raised an impressive £845

through their Christmas Fair. Thank you very much to everyone who supported these events and made them such a success.



Above: Dalry Secondary School pupils perform at the Christmas concert. Below: Kells Primary School Christmas play - Silent Night.

FINLAY CARSON MSP Member of the Scottish Parliament for Galloway and West Dumfries



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch**

Write to:
107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

Phone: 01556 504991

Facebook: [FinlayCarsonMSP](https://www.facebook.com/FinlayCarsonMSP)
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LOCH KEN FISHERIES STUDY

If you are an angler or a business that benefits from the fishery of Loch Ken, you may be interested to hear about a study that is currently taking place on the loch, known as the *Loch Ken Fisheries Study*.

This study, which is one of a number of development stage projects being managed by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP), is being carried out by Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) with support from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), Dumfries & Galloway Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Environment Protection Agency. The main outcome of the study is to compile a set of recommendations that will be presented to inform a possible five-year project proposal that is hoped will secure HLF support.

If you have ideas on how the fishery of Loch Ken might be improved upon and developed that you would like to feed into these recommendations, it is important GFT hear from you over the next few months.

How you can get involved...

Citizen Science – Loch Ken Angling Record

As an angler fishing on Loch Ken, you can help gather fisheries data by completing and returning

a short survey known as the Loch Ken Angling Record. You can pick up a record from one of the participating Loch Ken ticket outlets, which include the Loch Ken Holiday Park at Parton, JR Hopkins Newsagents and the Post Office - both in New Galloway. Alternatively, you can download the record via the project page, which you will find through the 'Projects' section of the GFT



Loch Ken is a popular venue for coarse fishing matches.

website - www.gallowayfisheries-trust.org - under Loch Ken Fisheries Study. Please return completed forms by email to rowan@gallowayfisheriestrust.org, by

post to Fisheries House, Station Industrial Estate, Newton Stewart, DG8 6ND or to a participating outlet up until June 2017. All completed forms will be entered into a monthly prize draw for a £50 angling shop voucher.

Creel Record

GFT will also be carrying out an interview-led questionnaire of anglers known as the *Loch Ken Creel Record* up to two days per month. Please take ten minutes to talk to our surveyors if you are fishing on a survey day.

Angling Matches

Angling matches are regularly held on Loch Ken. These events present the ideal opportunity to gather fish data as well as angler feedback on the fishery. GFT hope to attend three match days on the loch as part of this project.

Stakeholder engagement - get in touch and stay in touch

Through the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Project, there is an opportunity to improve the fishery of Loch Ken. What would you like to see being done? Please email GFT at rowan@gallowayfisheriestrust.org or call the GFT office on 01671 40 3011 to speak to Jamie or Rowan.

A report on the findings of this study will be available in August 2017. Until then, look out for progress updates via the GFT website news section and GFT Facebook and Twitter feeds. For updates on all projects that fall into the development stage of the GGLP, please see www.gallowayglens.org

Rowan McCleary

Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

"What a fantastic assortment of photos to start the new year!

"We are impressed by the range of subject matter and, as well as giving a carvery meal for two, we have decided to offer two other entries a single Sunday carvery each.

"First Prize of a carvery for two goes to Kirsteen Currie for her photo of the seriously unimpressed deer, because we love the doe perfectly captured in between the stag's horns.

"The runners-up with a single carvery are Arran MacDonald-Kiernan for his beautiful rich sunset and to Lorraine Ishak for the Kenmure Castle window scene."

Competition Judges Dave & Sue, Ken Bridge Hotel



Has Anybody Seen Our Shed?

There is a Mens' Shed loose in the Glenkens area...

When many of the local residents were asked "Have you seen it?" they replied "We don't know where it is!" Even the lady who lives nextdoor didn't know it was there...

We would like many more people to find our shed which is a part of the *Connecting in Retirement* project run by Brian Jones at the CatStrand.

Since the beginning of the year the premises at the back of the old smiddy in Balmaclellan have, thanks to the 20-plus members, been transformed. We now have an enclosed office/meeting space and (the luxury!) an indoor toilet, as well as many power tools which have been bought or donated.

This has allowed members - ladies as well as gentlemen - to make items that they couldn't have produced at

home. You, too, can make use of these facilities by becoming a member. The shed is open to all adults and the annual membership fee is £10 with a £1 donation for tea/coffee each time you come along.

Activities at the shed include wood carving, wood turning, simple carpentry, bicycle repairs, motorcycle maintenance, clock making, life-size gorilla modelling and making of items for sale to help fund future activities.

We are very happy to accept new members of any gender who want to do their own thing, learn new skills, get involved in community projects or just come along for a cup of tea, chat and put the world to rights in a friendly and supportive environment.

When agreed by the members, we have also been involved in community projects such as tendering for two new noticeboards for New

Galloway, renovating benches for Balmaclellan community council, repairing the shed door for the Playgroup in Dalry, and renovating the benches and tables at the CatStrand after the flood.

Future projects to be agreed by members include the possibility of making some horse jumps and assisting with upgrading the flood defences at the CatStrand. We do not have independent funding so look to potential customers to fund any ongoing projects.

Please come along and find our shed - we can be found mostly on Monday mornings from 10am, all day Wednesdays and Friday mornings. These times can be extended if there is sufficient demand.

Tom Leach

To get in touch call Brian Jones at the CatStrand (420 374) or Tom Leach (420 386).

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THE WOOD FUEL CO-OPERATIVE

Keeping people warm is what the Wood Fuel Co-operative do best.

The Co-operative was formed in 2011 to bring together like-minded individuals who wanted to buy wood fuel at the best possible price. You don't have to be a member to use us and in the last six years the company has gone from strength to strength. We now have nearly 600 members and the co-operative format allows us to supply both members and non-members with briquettes, biomass pellets and kiln-dried logs at affordable prices.

A lot of people live in draughty, single glazed houses and they find it prohibitively expensive to run their oil heating enough to stay warm. Customers who have been unable to keep even a single room in their house warm using logs have found that with briquettes they're able to generate so much more heat that it's made their homes useable again. That's because briquettes contain half the moisture content (10%) of even kiln dried wood (20%). A low

moisture content means that the energy of the fire is used to produce heat, rather than to burn off water.

Most of our Dumfries and Galloway customers have come to us by word of mouth recommendations but we also trade nationally through our website. We know how important it is to give back to the community that has supported us so much. Over

These boxes...cost just £5 and every penny of that goes directly to the Food Bank...

the winter, we donate around two tonnes of wood fuel a month to the DG Hub's *Winter Warmth for Older People* programme, to help them provide free firewood to vulnerable older people right across our region.

We're also working with the Dumfriesshire Foodbank, who help feed people in crisis across the region. One of the ways we're doing this is by donating 1000 *Cosy Night In* selection boxes of briquettes to the Foodbank. These boxes, which have everything you need for a couple of evenings' burning, cost just £5 and every penny of that goes directly to

the Food Bank, to allow them to buy the essential items people don't tend to donate, such as toiletries and tin-openers. Thanks to Tesco generously donating retail space, these boxes are now available from the Dumfries Tesco Extra fuel station.

As a co-operative, we have two prices: one for members and one for non-members. Membership requires a single £99 loan to the Wood Fuel Co-op, which is fully refundable. We use these funds to purchase wood fuel in bulk at the lowest prices. These savings are passed on to members, who save 50p per 10kg pack of wood fuel. You only need to buy 10 packs to save £5; the equivalent to 5% interest on your loan.

Alternatively, you can make a £50 donation to the Dumfriesshire Foodbank in return for lifetime honorary membership. This donation is non-refundable but hugely benefits local people in crisis and saves you money on your wood fuel – forever!

Call into our store at Heathhall Industrial Estate, Dumfries, give us a ring or visit our website to find out more about our products (see ad below).

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 Dumfriesshire Foodbank, Friar's Vennel, Dumfries



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 01387 731 210 / www.woodfuel.coop

NEW GALLOWAY GOLF CLUB

Having had a very successful 2016, New Galloway Golf Club is looking forward to the start of the new season in April.

With the weather behaving, the winter competitions are progressing and several new members joined the club.

The club is already making plans for the various activities for the new season such as the *Give Golf A Go Academy* and the *Junior Fledgling Coaching* - watch this space for further information.

Ian Brown



Emma's Wild Eats

Three Tree Teas

Enjoy the longer days as we finally move into very early spring, and plants are starting to show new growth again.

Having mentioned a lot of early spring plants previously, my intention was to dedicate this Wild Eats to an escapologist of garden plants, and star of the flower arrangement - honesty - whilst struggling to resist the obvious puns!

I do think honesty deserves a sentence or two to introduce you to a few surprising facts. Easily recognisable by its seedpods, this attractive flowering plant is actually brassica family and tastes as you might expect, this considered. The Latin name, *lunaria annua* is clearly inspired by the beautiful round, translucent, silvery seed pods. You can eat the leaves, flowers and seed pods before they dry out, all of which are pleasantly cabbage-like. Even the root can be prepared and eaten, if you can be bothered.

My focus has however been diverted by an inspiring article by Robin Harford of *Eatweeds* suggesting that the beautiful and currently crisp, dry, golden-brown beech leaves that still cling to their branches are useful for making a tasty tea.

Three tree teas to try:

Beech leaf tea - it's as simple as collecting a few dried leaves and steeping them in boiling water for about 15 minutes, creating a fascinatingly satisfying and pleasant tea.

Pine/Spruce needle tea - similarly, remove the needles from a few sprigs and steep in boiling water. I read that, per volume, pine needles have eight times as much vitamin C as orange juice. Maybe try it with a slice of orange? Please ensure you don't confuse any part of the very poisonous Yew for the needles you intend to collect.

Birch twig tea - again, collect a few small twigs, crush them a bit and steep them in boiling water; couldn't be easier.

These provide a useful mix of vitamins and minerals but historically these plants have been used as an



Pine needles, dry beech leaves and birch twigs.

abortifacient, so **this tea is not for you if you are pregnant**. Also tannins provide some flavour, so avoid if you have kidney problems.

As always, be absolutely sure what you're picking by checking reliable sources for identification, and be aware of the possibility of an allergic reaction, but don't let caution put you off - just be careful!

Emma

Check out Emma's blog:
www.emmaswild.co.uk



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LETTERS TO THE GAZETTE

Please pass on our thanks to Bruce Smith for his article on Stroanfreggan School in the last edition of the *Glenkens Gazette*.

Keith's father, Donald Brander, bought Stroanfreggan School after it closed in 1965, and since then has been visited regularly by family and friends for holidays. We all have very special memories of time spent there; for instance, I recall only too well how cold it used to be

in winter with us all in the evenings in the schoolroom snuggling inside sleeping bags, but it never occurred to me that it might have been cold enough for ink to freeze.

The pioneering spirit was fine for Donald and Dorothea, but our children were less enthusiastic. Also the fabric of the building was deteriorating rapidly so, in 2012, we began extensive renovations to enlarge the house to accommodate the growing family and to make it as environmentally friendly as possible. It is now heated by a ground source heat

pump, the walls are all lined and insulated with 5cm of sheep's wool insulation, and the windows are double glazed.

In 2001 Donald and Dorothea invited former pupils to a reunion.

We are friends with some of the former pupils and would like to meet others and learn more about the history of the school and the area. Any of your readers who would like to revisit their old school again are very welcome - please send an email to kandp@kandp.dk

Patricia & Keith Brander

Response to Article *Do You Really Want a Galloway National Park?*

Having lived in Dartmoor National Park for 12 years I have seen how it benefits local communities, the towns on the fringe and the regional economy. It is a vital ingredient in the West Country's promotional mix.

The Dartmoor National Park Authority is controlled by mainly local people (farmers, councillors, business owners, environment professionals, etc) appointed by the county council and relevant district councils. Of its 19 members only five are directly appointed by the Secretary of State.

Its statutory aims are to "conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park" and "promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public". In so doing it also has a duty to "foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park". Isn't that exactly what's needed here?

[The previous article] calls the National Park idea an "external

proposition", as if imposed from on high. I believe it is a locally-felt need to compensate for decades of economic decline, to safeguard what's left of our breathtaking landscapes and other priceless heritage, and to allocate the resources necessary for making it more accessible.

You only have to read the Crichton Institute's economic report to understand that a National Park in Galloway is one of several initiatives desperately needed to make Galloway competitive as a tourism destination and D&G attractive as a place to live, work and invest. The big question is this: are local people determined enough to come together and fight for the things that would bring prosperity to Scotland's neglected south west?

In its report D&G Council lists six 'next steps' to take the Galloway National Park idea forward. But it omits a very necessary seventh - a study group to visit some of the National Parks south of the border (say Northumberland, Lake District, Dartmoor) and report back on lessons learned and best practice. Only then can a sensible debate begin.

Stuart Littlewood, New Galloway

I regularly receive copies of the *Glenkens Gazette* from my friend Bill Blyth from Blowplain.

My friendship with Bill began on 8 July 1953 when we both reported to the barracks in Berwick upon Tweed to begin our National Service with the Kings Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB).

I was 20 and Bill was only 18. We occupied adjacent beds and soon became good friends. During our basic training we were told that we would be sent to Korea to join the Royal Scots who were fighting there. However the Korean war finished during our training.

We were then told we would be going to Malaya to join the Royal Scots Fusiliers. In the end only half of our intake was sent to Malaya the other half was sent to join the 1st Batt KOSB at Ballykinlar in Northern Ireland. Bill and myself drew the short straw and ended up in Ballykinlar and were posted to Headquarter Company. I was sent to the pipes and drums as a piper and Bill was given a job in the company office.

Our friendship continued during the two years we spent in Northern Ireland and has now lasted for 63 years.

It has been a real pleasure knowing Bill and his lovely wife Mary and I hope we will have a few more years of friendship to look forward to.

Donald M Campbell, Melrose



Willie Macauley from Kirkcowan, Bill Blyth and Donald Campbell.

The local Outlander actor featured on p12 of the last issue of the Glenkens Gazette was George Paterson, formerly of New Galloway.

George now resides at Kingussie and enjoys taking part in a variety of Scottish productions as a film and TV extra, having participated in *One of Us*, as well as the *Outlander* TV series.

Makeover for Dalry Library

We are improving our services to the public by bringing together the Customer Service Centre, Library and Registration office in Dalry.

In order to enable us to do this Dumfries & Galloway Council require to complete some substantial works

to refurbish the existing library facility and allow it to become fit for purpose.

The library will be closed until Tuesday 28 February at 12pm. During this period the mobile library will be present in Dalry on Fridays from 11am – 3pm at the Library.

Chair of Communities Committee, Councillor Tom McAughtrie, said, "We will be creating a facility at the existing library premises which will be fit for purpose and will have

access to a wide range of information and services under one roof.

"In the meantime it is great to see that a temporary provision has been put in place to ensure that the local community continue to receive a library service."

For further information contact: Mairi Copeland, PO Customer Services Strategy, 01776 888311 or mairi.copeland@dumgal.gov.uk

D&G Council

New Galloway Awaits Spring Decision on Shop

New Galloway Community Enterprises Ltd (NGCE), the community benefit company hoping to save New Galloway's last remaining shop from closure, is awaiting a spring announcement on whether its application for a Big Lottery grant is successful.

In the final pre-decision stage, a Big Lottery (BL) assessor visited before Christmas and conducted a three-and-a-half hour scrutiny of the application with members of the management committee.

It was felt the meeting went positively but applications for funding exceed the total available so there will be strong competition.

NGCE held its first AGM on 3 November which was well attended

by 22 members. The existing management committee was re-elected and the Chair's report and the annual accounts were received. We were pleased to welcome representatives of the Community Council, Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) and GCAT, all of whom delivered welcome messages of support and offers of mutual cooperation. Thanks to all who came along to the AGM and also those who packed the Lower Town Hall for the Open Meeting in October. The support of our members and the wider community is most heartening and essential for the success of our application.

Meanwhile NGCE is working with Community Shares Scotland to launch a Share Offer. Local residents and everyone with a connection with New Galloway will be invited to pledge to buy shares in the community-owned company if the Big Lottery bid succeeds. Raising this extra funding is a Big Lottery requirement to release any award and will meet costs such as stocking the new shop not covered by the BL.

Mike Brown, Chair, NGCE

Carsphairn Temporary Flood Defences

D&G Council's Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee have begun the construction of temporary measures for flood protection.

This will consist of a combination

of 800mm high concrete barriers adjacent to the A713 north of the village and along a short length within the Glebe, and an earth embankment in the field adjacent to the Heritage Centre.

It is planned that the work should be completed by the end of February.

Liz Holmes, Chair, Carsphairn Community Council

DALRY ON COURSE TO GET NEW COMMUNITY FACILITY

Dalry Community Council with Dalry Community Property Trust are in the process of acquiring the former council depot behind Dalry Town Hall for the benefit of the local community.

The shed will give the community council a facility to store and maintain its winter resilience equipment, as well as allow the development of a community eco-fuel collective to bulk buy the likes of biomass boiler pellets and wood briquettes.

Subject to approval by D&G Council there is also potential to use part of the land for community recycling and a picnic area.

Although this project is in its early stages, we would like to hear from those interested in being part of this exciting new village initiative. Please contact Andi Holmes on 430 255 or andiholmes@hotmail.com



Hardie's Back a Beyond Band

Local lad Hardie Walker has been playing the guitar since he was eight.

Now, at the ripe old age of 13, he is itching to get out there and play to an audience.

Having pulled a band together towards the end of 2016, with dad Ewan's help, 2017 is looking bright - and very loud.

Hardie cites Kirk Hammett of Metallica as his biggest influence,

and his newly formed Back a Beyond Band plays covers of artists such as ACDC, Iron Maiden, Jimmy Hendrix and Greenday to name just a few.

The band is composed of Hardie on lead guitar, Mark Stoves on rhythm guitar, Eggo on bass and Dan Goodwin on drums.

A shout-out goes out around the Glenkens for a vocalist – the final piece needed to complete the Back a Beyond Band.



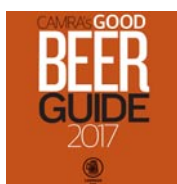
Left to right: Eggo, Hardie and Mark.



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February promotions:

- selected two courses for £10 at midweek lunches -
- 'early bird' set menu (5.30-7pm, Mon-Thurs) two courses for £12 -



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

St Margaret's Ladies Guild and Balmaclellan & Kells Guild would like to thank everyone who supported their Christmas Coffee Morning in December.

We are most grateful to the many people who took time out to during this busy season to support us. There was a happy community atmosphere enjoyed by all.

Clachan Clash

Dalry Heritage Group are proposing bringing out a new book called *Clachan Clash*.

If you have any old photographs, stories or memorabilia of what Dalry was like when you were young or when you moved here that we might include in the book, please get in touch.

There will be a gathering on Friday 31 March in Dalry Town Hall to tell us some of your stories over a cuppa. We will also have a small exhibition in the hall that weekend of *Old Dalry*. Please feel welcome to join us.

Hilda McAdam, 430 383



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DALRY HOGMANAY CEILIDH

Dalry's Hogmanay Ceilidh was a resounding success - for the second year running.

The evening saw all ages of folk getting together to share music, dance and food at Dalry Town Hall.

One of the organisers, Nicky Finch, said; "Loads of people joined in with the dancing and singing and it was excellent to see so many young children enjoying themselves. It was a full house from early on until after the Bells!"

Local musicians Andrew, Susan and Ellen Bielinski, Anne Charaund, Garry Rushworth and Josie Fairlie Keast from the *Humours o' Dalry Ceilidh Band* entertained us grandly and played rollicking pieces for many of the dances. It was great to hear young Laya McCallie joining the band too on the tambourine, and keeping excellent time!

Fiona Edgar played some lovely

violin pieces and Annabel McAdam played a beautiful set on the flute. Excellent local singers Andrew Bielinski, Angela Miller, Garry Rushworth and David Thomson performed a wide variety of emotive songs as well as singalong tunes.

A few comments from the event were:

"An excellent night, greatly enjoyed by all ages!"
Hilda McAdam

"Some amazing musical talent. Everybody enjoyed it!" James Edgar
"A great evening - it would be good to have village get-togethers more often!"

"We came down from Glasgow last year to stay with a friend and enjoyed the Hogmanay Ceilidh so much we came back this year!"
Ruben, Avril and Eve

£153.12 was raised in entry donations for the Town Hall Fund, and the quiz raised £55.57, which will be divided between The Wild Animal Hospital and The Glenkens Charity Shop in memory of Libby Ritchie.



Photos by Anne Chaurand - ceilidh dancers and musicians.

NEW YEAR FOLK SESSION

I was delighted to join in the first traditional music session of the year in the Galloway at the Ken Bridge Hotel.

I've been a regular visitor to the community over the past two years and I'm gradually becoming acquainted with many wonderful, capable people in the area.

I knew there was a vibrant community of creative people living here, and I assumed there were a few musicians around, but I had no idea how many fine players were living here. I was astonished to walk into a rollicking session with at least 50 excellent players. The musical family included a wide spectrum of energetic melody makers, including younger folk just becoming acquainted with the music community, along with several more experienced enthusiasts.

The party was vibrant and lively, and the atmosphere friendly and comforting. Every generation was represented, from wide-eyed toddlers to knowledgeable



grandparents with stories to share.

Everyone present benefited from an inclusive collection of talented novices and more experienced players. In spite of the large ensemble, the music was always in sync and cohesive. While the session was accessible to everyone, the tunes were always excellent quality.

I heard a lot of tunes there for the first time, and I've been playing sessions in Scotland regularly for about 10 years. I found it especially gratifying to be making music with several folks I've met and befriended as neighbors in the region, suddenly to discover they were highly competent musicians as well.

In every respect the Ken Bridge New Year's session was a wonderful event; I'm looking forward to doing it again!

Steve 'Pops' Forman

Christmas Twinkle

Around 100 people enjoyed singing Christmas songs, drinking hot chocolate and eating mince pies at the 2016 Christmas Twinkle event at Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry.

Organised by Angie and Ronnie Bradford, a collection on the night raised £57.20 for D&G Canine Rescue Centre.

Thanks go to Glenkens Community Shop for their support for this community event, to those who helped on the night and to Santa and his elves who dropped by with wee gifts for the children.



Kenmure Descendent's *Birds of Wigtownshire 1890-1935* Published at Last

A book about the birds of Wigtownshire that was begun by Jack Gordon more than 120 years ago has finally been printed.

John Gordon McHaffie-Gordon (1876-1938), known as Jack, of Corsemalzie House in the Machars, was a prominent and well connected ornithologist, entomologist, field-sportsman and world renowned egg-collector.

His great grandfather, George McHaffie, was provost of Wigtown and married Isabella Gordon, a descendent of the Gordons of Kenmure.

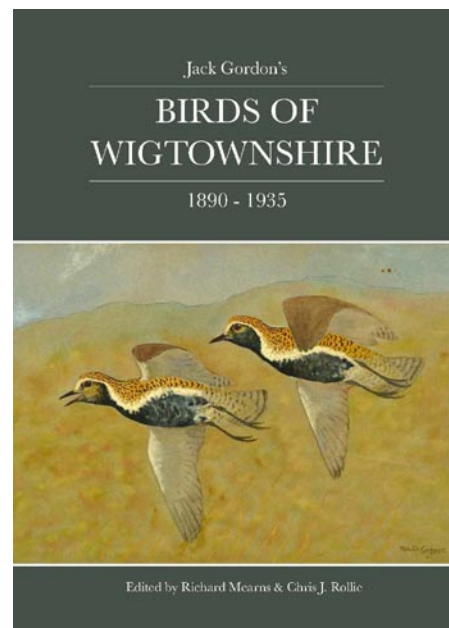
An amazing character, Jack spent countless hours around his home and throughout Wigtownshire recording an astonishing amount of information for his book.

However, the book was to remain

unfinished and unpublished for over a century. After his death in 1938, the manuscript came into the hands of Dalry's well-known artist/author Donald Watson, and then to myself when Donald died in 2005.

Friend Richard Mearns and I collated and edited Gordon's important material, which is now published as a 200 page A4 book, fully indexed, with biographical details of his contacts and illustrated with images from John Adair's extensive collection of old Wigtownshire postcards, together with several paintings by Gordon's friend, James Faed Jnr.

Publication is limited to 300 copies and was funded by The Galloway Association of Glasgow, Scottish Ornithologists' Club's Birds of Scotland Fund, Stranraer & District Local History Trust and The Dumfriesshire & Galloway Natural History & Antiquarian Society. The book costs £15 and is available directly from myself in Dalry or



RSPB Crossmichael, or from The Bookshop, Wigtown, at mail@the-bookshop.com. All profits are to be distributed proportionately between the funding organisations.

Chris Rollie

DAZZLING DRAMA

Yorgin Oxo
by Thomas Crowe
a winter's saga of courage and love

Farnham Maltings Theatre presents
YÖRGIN OXO
A WINTER'S SAGA OF COURAGE AND LOVE
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Glencairn Memorial Institute, Moniaive
BEESWING: 18 Feb
Cresset Hall Loch Arthur
WIGTOWN: 19 Feb
Wigtown Town Hall

All shows start at 7:30PM

'Owdayado Theatre presents
A VIEW FROM THE EDGE
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WIGTOWN: 9 March
Craft Hotel, Wigtown
MONIAIVE: 11 March
Glencairn Memorial Institute, Moniaive
DALBEATTIE: 12 March
Colvend Public Hall

All shows start at 7:30PM

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FROM THE VENUES

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE
STAND BACK, SEE THE BIG PICTURE

Sights & Sites

Which vistas do you visit?
Where are your top drama panoramas? Where are the cairns and castles you crave?

Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP) are exploring Sights & Sites - we want to find out which places and views are important to you! We'll be running workshops and events across the area throughout February and March. Come along and tell us about the local landscapes you love, and help us map the future of the GGLP. All events are free of charge and no booking is required.

Looking for your GGLP Sights

Join the team for a cuppa and a chat to explore the Sights & Sites of your area. We want to hear about the views and places that matter to you, and look at how they've changed over time. If you have old photos or postcards of the area, please bring them along. Our team of archaeologists, historians and landscape architects are on hand to talk to you about anything from glaciers to garden gnomes!

10th February	Castle Douglas Community Hall	17th February	St Johns Town of Dalry Town Hall
11th February	Kirkcudbright Tolbooth	18th February	Carphairn Village Hall

What's In Your View?

Join us for a ramble round some local Sights & Sites. We'll be taking a 'different view' on landscape from your ordinary walk, using frames, Claude mirrors and other multi-sensory techniques to explore new ways of looking at the familiar.

25th February	Castle Douglas Community Hall	4th March	St Johns Town of Dalry Town Hall
26th February	Kirkcudbright Tolbooth	5th March	Carphairn Village Hall

Sites of The Past, Sights of the Future

This event will bring together the results of the workshops, talks and formal research to date. Join us to discuss the results of studies on the heritage and landscapes of the whole GGLP area. How do your Sights & Sites relate to the bigger picture? What could these landscapes look like in the future?

11th March	Castle Douglas Community Hall	18th March	Carphairn Village Hall
11th March	Kirkcudbright Tolbooth	18th March	St Johns Town of Dalry Town Hall

The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership is connecting the people living and working in the area with its heritage and landscape in a drive to secure a prosperous future for the communities around the Water of Ken and River Dee, right from their source to the sea. Please see the GGLP website for more details.

Dumfries & Galloway

LOTTERY FUNDED

NORTHLIGHT HERITAGE

www.gallowayglens.org

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HISTORICAL MAPS OF THE GLENKENS

The Glenkens Story history project starts its 2017 programme with the *Historical Maps of the Glenkens* on Sunday 26 March.

This year the Dumfries Archival Mapping Project (DAMP) is turning its attention to the Stewartry in its "Seek and Find" mission to record the old maps of Galloway. Archie McConnel and colleagues from DAMP will display some of the historic maps of the Glenkens and neighbouring districts they already hold in their digital collection. They will encourage discussion with the

audience on what the maps reveal about the people who created and used them and the changes which have followed in our area.

Archie and his colleagues will also be asking for help in tracking down and preserving undiscovered gems. Estate archives, old legal papers, and boxes of family heirlooms in the attic can all be concealing long-forgotten maps which could throw new light on our local history.

The DAMP team will welcome any information about old maps you know of - but please don't bring fragile documents to this event! DAMP will follow up on any information and digitally record historically significant material for wider use.

Historical Maps of the Glenkens takes place at 2.30pm at CatStrand, New Galloway, with tickets priced at £5.

Our 2017 field trip programme is likely to include among other activities a return to the Covenanter trail and further explorations of the area's war memorials.

Email theglenkensstory@gmail.com or contact CatStrand on 420 374 to be put on our mailing list.



War Updates Nov/Dec 1916

November 1916 would prove to be another month of mourning for families in the Glenkens as it featured three more deaths.

Robert James Clark of Craigielea, Dalry, was killed at the age of 20 by a German shell whilst on sentry duty. He was a joiner prior to enlisting and worked with his father, but he is also listed on the Castle Douglas Post Office memorial so we can presume that he had worked as a postman at one time. He is commemorated on the Dalry War Memorial. I wrote more extensively about Robert in the article *Three Unfortunate Brothers* which was published in the Glenkens Gazette in 2012.

Charles Kennedy of Marbrack, Carsphairn, was aged 35 when he

another brother (Douglas) would be killed just five months later in April 1917. Charles is commemorated on the Carsphairn War Memorial and on a family plaque on the exterior of the rear of Carsphairn Church.

William Maitland of Kenmure

Castle, New Galloway, was reported missing in November, aged 20, whilst serving as a Lieutenant with 5th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment attached to the 63rd Trench Mortar Battery. Although born in Chile, he spent most of his childhood in New Galloway. He was the son of Norval Maitland, nephew of James Charles Maitland-Gordon, of Kenmure Castle and grandson of the Rev James Maitland of Kells Parish Church. He is remembered on Kells Parish War Memorial. William would be

the last Glenkens man to be killed in 1916.

This brings the total to 38 Glenkens men killed in the war so far but it would be a relatively peaceful start to 1917 with no more deaths to be reported until March of that year. Paul Goodwin



Robert James Clark 1900 and

was killed whilst serving as a Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery. A brother (Robert) had been killed in the Boer War in



ULTRASOUND PREGNANCY SCANNING

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Sheep: Trailer system includes triplets,
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Bookings and info to:

Duncan Kennedy

07860 474001

dk@passcan.co.uk

www.passcan.co.uk

Who Do We Think We Were?

Washday Blues

Margaret Keith recalls washdays in her childhood, when all the women in the family did the weekly wash together, and observes how the job has changed over the years.

It's not just washdays that have changed either: this is just one example of the way lives and communities have changed too.

As well as fascinating reminiscences from the Glenkens, we've had contributions from elsewhere, from the Forest of Dean to Wester Ross. Wherever you come from, whatever your age, you're part of the story too, so please send in your memories.

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

The next issue will have a memoir by Christine Rae, who also lives in Dalry.

I can remember the Monday washdays at my grandmother's house with my grandmother, mother and aunt doing a combined washing in the washhouse in the back garden. The big round boiler built into a corner with the fire glowing below, the long wooden potstick used to prod the clothes, and the 'blue' bag to whiten the whites. Then lifting out the boiled clothes into a big tin bath, then into a sink full of icy cold water to rinse. Then, joy of joy, I was held up and allowed to help turn the handle of the huge iron mangle with its wooden rollers squeezing all the

water out of the clothes. The clothes were then folded neatly, mangled once again, till they came out flat as pancakes, ready to be hung on drying ropes in the garden or, on wet days, on the long ropes in the washhouse.

The ironing! My grandmother, mother and aunt taking turns standing at the kitchen table with its white sheet cover over blanket padding, the flat iron hot from the range, ironing shirt after shirt (and all the starched detached collars), white sheets and pillowcases, and so many other clothes all to be ironed for a large family. However did they get through their other chores?

When I grew older, clothes were boiled in an aluminium, electrically heated boiler in the kitchen, the mangle became a 'Wringer', rubber rolled and clamped between the kitchen tub and sink. The iron plugged into an electrical socket, we no longer used the table to iron upon - we had a wooden ironing board.

By my teens, my mother was the owner of an electric washing machine! Plug it in and it furiously agitated the clothes unlike an aunt's machine on which the agitator was turned manually by a handle on the side. A hand-turned wringer unfolded out of the machine and it was a simple job to wring clothes, rinse, rewring and hang out to dry.

But like everything in this life it became a thing of the past, the in-thing was a twin tub and through time one arrived in our kitchen, a shining white model with large blue knobs on the front and a worktop cover. Filling from a hose on the tap, washing and spinning, emptying automatically, it was definitely our labour saving gadget of the future.

From its birth the twin tub served my mother then later, me, faithfully.



My aunt, grandmother and cousin, my mother holding me. My grandmother wearing her usual black ankle-length dress with her jet beads. She wore a lavender dress in high summer!

Alas all good things come to an end and there was a sadness in me when the time came to part, yet an eager anticipation of the benefits to come with full automation. "I'll send a man out with the new machine and he can collect your old one" promised the shopkeeper. On its sweetly oiled castors my old machine glided to the front door, looked at the steps and demanded to be carried. The delivery man bended down to lift - "blinking battleship this" he grunted as we edged my old friend down the steps and with much heaving into the van.

I felt I had lost a friend but at the same time I was eager to try out the new. It was a lovely sunny morning, I read the instructions, loaded up, switched on and watched - it didn't need me. I still think nostalgically of my grandmother's wash days, the warm fire-heated washhouse and the comforting chatter of my mother, grandmother and aunt as together they did the weekly wash.

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VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

Glendonwyn of Parton



Have you ever noticed the absence of people when driving through Parton?

Passers-by observe the church built by Walter Newall in 1833 and the row of attractive cottages erected for estate workers in 1901. What they do not see, behind the dwellings, is what was once a communal lavatory, now I am told revamped as a summer-house!

Village pride is advertised on a plaque in the community hall, proclaiming Floreat Partona, 'Let Parton Flourish'. If the parish is known at all today it is probably because of its associations with the brilliant James Clark Maxwell who grew up at Glenlair and is buried in the graveyard.

Robert Heron in his *Journey Through the Western Counties of Scotland* (1793), praised the charm and beauty of Parton House and the estate owned by Mr Glendonwyn, "the representative of a very ancient and honourable family", which at one time enjoyed large holdings in Dumfries and Galloway.

The author of a somewhat eccentric article published in the *Eskdale and Liddesdale Advertiser* in 1879 correctly reports that the family is first recorded, though poorly, in the reign of Alexander III (1249-1286), holding land in Eskdale and Ewes to the north of Langholm. He opined that no name can be more ancient than Glendonwyn which, from the look of it, was originally a Welsh place-name possibly deriving from the Brittonic tribes of southern Scotland.

The first three or four recorded Glendonwyns were named Adam. They fought for Robert Bruce during the Wars of Independence, becoming clients of the Douglasses through

their association with Bruce's loyal lieutenant, The Black Douglas.

When James II smashed the power of the Douglasses in 1455 the Glendonwyns somehow managed to sidestep the carnage, a remarkable achievement since they had been beholden to them for so long. Coincidentally the head of the family at the time, Simon, was the first of the family to be designated 'of Parton' in a charter of 1458 by which James II granted him "the whole lands of the barony of Parton in the sheriffdom of Kirkcudbright". We will return to the later history of the Glendonwyns in a future *Gazette* but we should pause at this point to consider the acquisition of Parton.

The Douglasses were rewarded by Bruce with lands in many places including Eskdale and the Stewartry, which raises the question of whether the Glendonwyns followed Archibald Douglas, illegitimate son of the Black Douglas, westwards, when he became lord of Galloway in the 1360s. It is difficult to find out because the Parton branch is even less well documented than the Eskdale coterie.

The wide empty spaces of the West and Middle Marches represented a frontier zone inhabited by folk who were already regarded as savage reivers existing by their own codes and laws. Kings throughout Europe often despatched their most rambunctious followers to expend their troublesome energies on the frontier.

Contemporaries seem to have viewed the Glenkens frontier in a similar light. To the west was the Galloway Forest, matching Ettrick Forest to the east, both offering potential refuge to vagabonds and dissidents. It is probably no accident that William Wallace is first

documented as an outlaw in Ettrick

Forest.

Robert Bruce after Bannockburn was obviously keen to open up the forests to new settlers such as woodsmen, coppicers, herders, charcoal burners and farmers.

The Galloway folk had proved noteworthy opponents during his bid for the kingship and in some parts remained hostile well into the Douglas domination. Frontier-folk had to be tough and terrifying. They had to have some knowledge of Forest Laws and the legislation governing hunting and poaching, together with such matters as vermin control and perhaps some modest understanding of hydrology and ecology. In Galloway they would have had to learn Gaelic or employ people who were bilingual. My suggestion is, admittedly, on rather thin evidence, that the Glendonwyns were entrusted with these tasks.

In Robert Heron's time the owner of the Parton estate was William Murray-Glendonwyn who owned Cogarth, Barwhillanty, Boreland, Glengunnoch, Craichie, the Laggans, Fominoch, Karkenaw, Nether Dallarg, Barrs and Rhoane.

At one time the holdings were much more numerous. In 1852 the estate was sold. One part was purchased by Matthew Kennedy of Chorlton Mills, Manchester, and the other by Benjamin Murray, also of Manchester, who twelve years later bought out Kennedy's share. These were two of the new self-made men I discussed in the October/November 2016 *Glenkens Gazette*. Kennedy belonged to the Knocknalling family, Murray to that of Troquain, Balmaclellan. They returned home to claim, and to become, part of the Glenkens heritage.

Ted Cowan

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61 VICTORIA STREET, NEWTON STEWART DG8 6NL.

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E-mail: advice@marrfinancial.co.uk Web: www.marrfinancial.co.uk

GALLOWAY LODGE AT THE LOCH

Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre sits right on the banks of Clatteringshaws loch.

With stunning views, forest walks, delicious food and frequent activities on offer is a bit of a hidden gem.

And it may not be quite what you think it is. I had always assumed that it was a Forestry Commission run centre, as all the marketing materials are Forestry Commission. However, the centre is owned and the building is managed by the Forestry Commission, who are very supportive of the centre managers. But the centre is managed not by the Forestry Commission in fact, but by Gatehouse-based family company Galloway Lodge. The wee Gatehouse company took on management of the centre in 2013 when it was revamped

from the older Forestry Commission run centre.

Clatteringshaws centre manager Alan Vinnie says; "We offer great food – locally sourced, and much of it made in-house. We have child-friendly stargazing nights which are incredibly popular. We often run RSPB sessions of bug hunting and 'Haggis Hunts' which the kids love – and are free. And we

"We have child-friendly stargazing nights which are incredibly popular."

can cater for private functions, school outings – anything really." So how come we, in the Glenkens, hardly know of its existence?! I think we're a bit slow to catch on sometimes and, if you're like me, your brain is probably still in 2013 and remembering the old Forestry Commission centre with its

slightly moth-eaten stuffed badgers and the re-creation of a traditional roundhouse out the back.

But there is so much more available now. There is a lovely walk to Bruce's Stone from the Centre, with two Rosnes Benches along the route. You can fish the banks of the loch (course fishing), or take a boat out. Mountain biking is great

fun along the forest tracks.

Dogs are welcome in the Centre. And Red Deer Tours, den building, bird watching, moth spotting, bat viewing, stargazing and a wealth of other great activities are on offer too – follow the Centre on Facebook to stay up to date with what's going on.

"I love it here," says Alan. "Every day is different. The loch. The light. The weather changes minute to minute. There isn't a boring moment." SA

CLATTERINGSHAWS VISITOR CENTRE



Alan and his Galloway Lodge team would like to thank you for your continued custom at Galloway Lodge at Clatteringshaws.

We will be open February 10-26, then we are open for the season from 31 March, 10am-4pm.

Come along and try our exciting new menu options, and browse our new range of gifts in the gift shop.

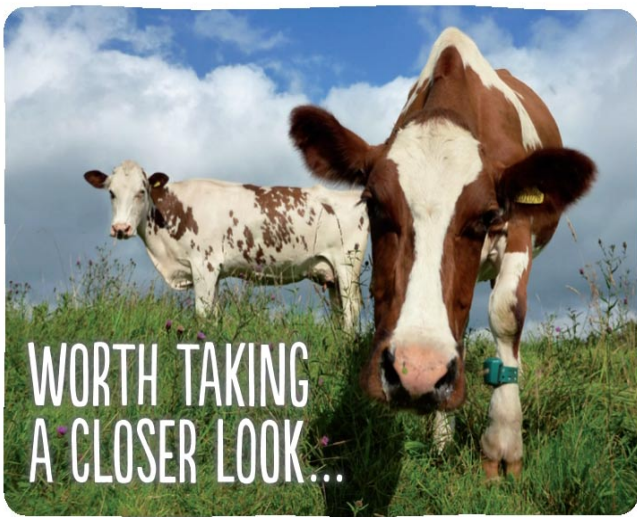
Mention that you saw this ad in the Gazette when you order and you will receive a 10% discount any food from the menu.

Our popular Dark Skies stargazing events will run throughout the year - follow us on Facebook, look out for local ads or call the centre for the dates and details.

 Galloway Lodge at Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre



Galloway lodge At Clatteringshaws,
Queens Way, New Galloway, DG7 3SQ
Tel 01644420221 Email alan@gallowaylodge.co.uk
Photograph of Milky Way over Clatteringshaws Loch is supplied by Viridian Skies Photography
<http://www.viridianskies.com/>



WORTH TAKING A CLOSER LOOK...



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gsabiosphere.org.uk

STYLE IT OUT IN DALRY

There's a new hair salon opening in Dalry - and you could win a cut and blow-dry if you come up with a name for the shop!

Jayne and David Grimwood have been Glenkens residents since 2001. However, in 2016 they decided to turn over a new leaf - or lock perhaps...

Excited about the launch of her new venture, Jayne Grimwood says; "We have had many instalments of living in the Glenkens since coming here. We have moved eight times, sometimes living in the village, and outside it.

"Two years ago we decided to buy somewhere. After much consideration, we decided on the property at 26 Main Street, Dalry. There was a lot of potential - scope for a hairdressing salon, a spacious flat for our family home, as well as space for my husband

David's antiques business. We have been working hard and the property has now been developed, with my salon opening on 1 February."

So we're going to have our very own hairdresser's in Dalry - pretty exciting. When asked what inspired the notion of a salon, Jayne said: "I have been a mobile hairdresser in the Glenkens since 2004, having previously owned my own Salon in the centre of Bradford, West Yorkshire. Hairdressing came naturally to me, and from leaving school this is all I have ever worked at. I gained an apprenticeship at Snippers, Bradford, but soon realised I wanted my own salon. I was 19 when I opened Hair-force with my friend Shelagh. I love my job and so very much looking forward to opening a business in Dalry - everyone is so lovely in the Glenkens, we feel



Jayne Grimwood in her newly kitted-out salon.

like we are really home here; which is a great feeling to have."

Jayne would like to offer a free cut and blow-dry someone who can come up with the best name for the salon - and a logo too if you feel inspired! Get your ideas to us here at the Gazette on glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk or 07727 127 997

Richard Arkless MP Dumfries & Galloway Constituency



Richard operates an open-door policy - please just pop in to either office at any time during opening hours.

Constituency Office Dumfries

Unit 7, High Street, Loreburne Shopping Centre, Dumfries, DG1 2BD

Tel: 01387 265698

Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

Constituency Office Stranraer

36-38 Charlotte Street, Stranraer, DG9 7EF

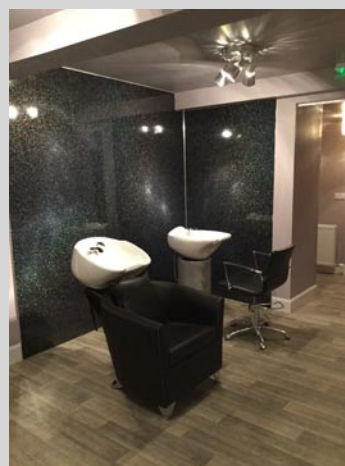
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FEBRUARY & MARCH

JANUARY

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

Fri 27, Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

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

FEBRUARY

Sat 4, GCC Fundraising Table-Top-Jumble, 11am-2pm, Glenkens Community Centre, see p28

Tue 7, Hard of Hearing Drop-in Clinic, 10-11am, New Galloway Town Hall

Wed 8, Open Stage, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Thu 9, Stewartry Birdwatchers Talk; Ian Thomson; Shotguns and Birding on Malta, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Fri 10, CatStrand Burns Supper, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 15, Dalry Film Club Screening: Sunset Song, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 16, FILM: Bridget Jones's Baby, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 17, GGLP Sights & Sites tea and information gathering session, Dalry

Town Hall, see p21

Sat 18, FILM Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, 2pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Tues 21, PLAY: A Life With The Beatles, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 24, FILM: I Know Where I'm Going, 1pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Tue 28, Dalry Library re-opens, see p17

MARCH

Fri 3, Siobhan Miller, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 4, Poetry Walk with Tom Pow or Writing Workshop with Margaret Elphinstone, from 9am, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 4, GGLP Sights & Sites tea and information gathering session, Dalry Town Hall, see p21

Sat 4, Cameron McNeish|Tom Pow|Wagtonques, from 1pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 4, Jo Miller Performance & Meal at Ken Bridge, 6pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 8, Open Stage, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 8, Balmaclellan & Kells Guild, New

Galloway Town Hall

Thu 9, Stewartry Birdwatchers Talk; Mark Newell; Seabirds and the Isle of May, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Fri 10, Hebrides Ensemble, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 15, Dalry Film Club Screening: Sing Street, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 16, Rab Noakes, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 18, GGLP Sights & Sites tea and information gathering session, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, see p21

Sat 18, GGLP Sights & Sites tea and information gathering session, Dalry Town Hall, see p21

Tues 21, Rackhouse Pilfer, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 26, Glenkens Story: Historical Maps of the Glenkens, 2.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 29, FILM: I, Daniel Blake, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Thu 30, Stewartry Birdwatchers; Short illustrated talks, Quiz & Easter 'Eggstravasanza', 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Fri 31, Clachan Clash Tea & Memories, Dalry Town Hall, see p20



Glenkens Transport Initiative

www.glenkenstransport.org

email gti@catstrand.com phone 01644 420374 mobile 07841 512449

Regular Services

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

Tuesdays

Dalry to Newton Stewart Swimming & Shopping Return

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 01644 460518

Thursdays

Glenkens to Castle Douglas Day Centre Return

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

Outward pickups:

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

Other home pickups can also be arranged.

Return service will leave Castle Douglas Community Centre at 1430.

Return Fare: £3.00

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)

DRIVERS WANTED

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

Monthly

Glenkens to Ayr Return Last Saturday of Each Month

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 Second Saturday of Each Month

Cuckoo Bridge and Peel Shopping Centre

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 runs regular excursions to places of interest. See GTI website or posters for details.

Minibus Hire

GTI has 8, 15 and 16 seat minibuses for hire. Phone or email for more information or to book

REGULAR EVENTS

CatStrand, New Galloway:

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am
Margaret Morris dance 1: 3-7yrs, Mon (term-time), 3.45-4.30pm
Margaret Morris dance 2: 8-16yrs, Mon (term-time), 4.30-5.15pm
Choreographic Skills Lab: Mon (term-time), 7 - 8.30pm ages 12-18
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+
Zumba Gold: Fri (term-time), 10-11am, CatStrand, 16+
Saturday Art Club: 2nd & 4th Sat of the 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, 9.15-11.45am, contact Miriam 07514 320 101
Guides: Tues during term-time, 6-

8pm, contact: Kath 430 281
Good Neighbours' Club: Tues, 2pm
Brownies: Thurs 6-7.30pm
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:

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
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



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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

CLOSED UNTIL 28 FEB

Library Van: Fridays 11am-3pm outside Dalry Library

For further library van stops and information contact Castle Douglas library on 01556 502 643

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

Special Services/Events: 12 Feb, 10.30am: United Family Service for Dalry and B & K Churches, Dalry Church. 24 Feb, 7pm: Beetle Drive, Dalry Town Hall. 4 Mar, 7pm: World

Day of Prayer Service, Kells Church. 13 Mar, 10.30am: United Family Service for Dalry and B & K Churches, Kells Church.

Communion Services: 26 Feb, 10.30am, Kells Church. 19 Mar, 10.15am, Carsphairn Church. 26 Mar, 12noon, 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

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

PLAYGROUP JUMBLE SALE

On Saturday 4 February, from 11am to 2pm, GCC Playgroup and Baby & Toddler group is holding a table-top-jumble sale at the Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry in order to raise funds.

Please come along and support the event!

There will be tea, coffee, cakes and a raffle. Anyone who would like a table – for anything from bric-a-brac to craft creations to gift cards – please get in touch with Chrissy on 07824 810 305.

Donations of jumble-sale goods gratefully accepted for the GCC fundraising table.



t: 01292 550954
m: 07766 978568
e: rj.mcculloch@aol.co.uk
www.rjmcculloch.co.uk

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