

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

April/May 2017

ISSUE 99

FREE

FIGHT CONTINUES FOR GALLOWAY TREASURE

The fight to bring the Galloway Viking Hoard (GVH) back to the Stewartry where it was found is gathering momentum.

The GVH campaign has been launched to support Dumfries & Galloway Council's efforts to bring the treasures to the new art gallery in Kirkcudbright. GVH chairman Cathy Agnew says: "The campaign has stirred people up and indicated to the Council that there is a lot of support in the community for a solo bid by the Council to claim the treasure if a joint agreement can't be reached."

The hoard is the largest Viking treasure ever found in Scotland. It was unearthed near Balmaghie

Church by metal detectorist Derek McLennan three years ago. Glenkens parish minister, David Bartholomew, was one of the group present at the discovery of the hoard of a hundred gold and silver objects including fine jewellery and the largest pectoral cross ever found. Some of the objects are wrapped in rare silk cloth which has survived a 1000 years underground.

Currently the hoard is held in Edinburgh by the National Museum of Scotland but GVH is backing the Council's efforts to get the treasures returned. The Council's Communities Committee Chairman, councillor Tom McAughtie, says: "Despite correspondence going back and forth with the National Museums of Scotland (NMS) I cannot confidently say that we're anywhere close to reaching an agreement with them." The council is therefore following



Pectoral cross, part of the Balmaghie find.

a twin track policy of seeking cooperation with NMS but also lodging a solo application to reclaim the hoard. **Continued on p6...**

SHOP CAMPAIGN'S BIG LOTTERY AWARD

New Galloway has been awarded a grant from the Big Lottery Fund to save the last shop in the Royal Burgh which was facing closure.

The £800,000 award will fund a plan to purchase Hopkin's store and attached house and convert the building into a community shop and self-catering flats targeted at the outdoor tourist trade.

The award has been secured by New Galloway Community Enterprises (NGCE) Ltd, a Community Benefit Society owned by local people and supporters.

Mike Brown, Chair of NGCE, said:

"We are delighted to receive this grant which will mean so much for everyone in New Galloway. Not only will it secure the future of the shop which has a vital role in the community but it will generate income for the community through the self-catering flats and create much needed employment. It has taken two years of hard work to get to this point and we want to thank all those who have

supported us and Jim and Margaret Hopkins for their patience and understanding."

Continued on p7...



NGCE Community Share Offer launch party.

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: HAVE YOUR SAY

This year the local council elections will be held on 4 May.

What might not be so evident is that the Ward boundaries have changed since 2012, indicating that Castle Douglas has now been joined with Crocketford and the Glenkens is now part of Dee. There will be the same number of Ward Councillors.

Currently Castle Douglas and the Glenkens has three Councillors: one Conservative, one Independent and one SNP. Dee Ward has two Independents and one Conservative at present.

Also, most importantly, those aged 16 to 18 who have registered will be entitled to vote for the first time. Hopefully the next generation will take full advantage of this new opportunity to express their opinions.

Voting numbers at Local Authority elections are traditionally low. In 2012 the turnout for Castle Douglas and Glenkens Ward was

just under 42%. (By comparison, at the 2016 Scottish elections the turnout locally was nearly 60%).

In 2012 the winning candidates received 904, 899 and 826 votes from an electorate of 8,014.

Clearly, those who decided not to vote back in 2012 could have changed everything!

Voter apathy, for whatever reason, meant the three elected candidates, were only supported by around 10% of the eligible electorate. The Single Transferable Vote system (STV), whilst complicated, is arguably the best system we currently have. However if people don't turn out and vote in person or by post, then any system of democracy remains ultimately flawed.

Dumfries & Galloway Council is responsible for many aspects of our day-to-day lives, from emptying

our bins and lighting the streets, to planning issues and the region's potholed roads. Those who are elected on 4 May will affect all of these day-to-day issues, perhaps not immediately, but during their four-year term of office.

As the old saying goes "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got". Do you really want more of the same?

Make sure to vote in this May's elections. It could make more of a difference than you think!

Andi Holmes, Dalry



Above: old boundary. Right: new boundary © Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.



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POLICE STATION TO STAY OPEN

Dalry police station has had a stay of execution and will remain a vital community resource for the foreseeable future.

At a time of public service austerity this is great news for the Glenkens. With crime rates low you may wonder why there is a need for a local station. I spoke with PC Ellis on International Women's Day and she explained that having a community police officer is a reassurance for the public and a vital role.

PC Ellis remembers visits from the community officer when she was at school and the positive reinforcement of policing this brought. PC Ellis wishes to bring back a strong bond with the community and be the person the public can come to with any matters of concern that wouldn't necessitate a 999 call.

One way this will be achieved is through a monthly drop-in session at the station. These sessions will run for an hour and a half and the

public can come and speak with PC Ellis about any concerns they may have or simply to meet her and have a chat. The next session will be on **Monday 3 April at 3pm.**

PC Ellis would like members of the community to attend where she will discuss any issues that have arisen since the last meeting. Amongst these topics are two recent financial scams and a Dumfries & Galloway Mature Drivers Scheme for the over 65s. This scheme is a multi agency approach to combat a rise in the number of injury accidents concerning mature drivers. The aim is to reduce the number of incidents and help maintain road safety.

On speaking with PC Ellis I was reassured by her drive and enthusiasm to support the people of the Glenkens. She has a positive vision for the future of the area's policing and is keen to meet as many people as she can. It isn't viable to have the station open full time; resources are needed out on the street and not behind a desk. Demand-led policing means



Community Police Officer for the Glenkens, Chloe Ellis.

officers are on patrol in a position to respond to any emergency calls.

It is clear that Dalry police station has been acknowledged as a need where residents have an option of bringing local issues to the police in a comfortable and supportive environment.

Why not make the time on 4 April and visit. It could open your mind to what local policing means and how you can support the hopes PC Ellis has of creating a valuable police and community partnership.

Ian Patrick

MIA STANDS AS YOUTH CANDIDATE

Mia Walker, a student at Dalry Secondary School, is one of six young people across Dumfries & Galloway campaigning to become Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs).

The Scottish Youth Parliament is the democratically elected voice of Scotland's young people. It provides a national platform for young people to discuss issues important to them and make the change they want to see.

Council Leader Ronnie Nicholson said: "The Scottish Youth Parliament is a fantastic organisation that allows young people to take the lead within their own communities."

"The biggest challenge has been nerves!" says Mia. "I wasn't confident at all at the start. As time

has gone on it has got better as people were so nice."

When asked how she decided what to campaign on, Mia said: "I asked all the people I know what they thought are the main issues affecting young people. There were many common features of their responses and the key issues of mental health, equality and rural opportunity enhancement - including transport - were the ones which most people thought were important and I agreed. It makes it easy to argue the points because I really believe in them."

When considering what she has learned from running as candidate for MSYP, Mia goes on to say: "I have changed my view of this as just being a good idea for my own development and now can really see how being made a MSYP could make a difference."

"I thought I was politically aware but I have realised how much more is out there and how much I can



learn. Representing someone else's view is different again.

"My public speaking in the Procurator Fiscal Competition last year really helped both in speaking to an audience and in replying to questions in a hurry. I am more confident in the way I speak and in the way I can express my own and other people's views."

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

9 rolls of electric mesh flexi-netting with some spare wire for them. **20 aluminium poultry feed trays** to fit on side of cage or chicken run - as new. **Bow and arrows** (nothing fancy). Contact: Rhoda on 430 031

Two Tiffany style lamps, both with slight damage on one shade but in full working order. Contact: J Harvie on 430 373

Vinyl LPs. Contact: 07827 481 463 or 07707 932 755, both after 6.30pm

Five T0481 black

compatible inks, and one each of T0482 (cyan), T0483 (magenta), T0484 (yellow) and T0485 (light cyan). These are suitable for the Epson Stylus Photo range of printers. They are unopened and remain in their vacuum packs. Free to anyone who can use them. Contact: Clare on 01848 200275 or 07512586770

WANTED

Bike suitable for four-year-old. Contact: 07727 127 997

Table tennis table. Contact: Jayne on 07876 397 725

FOR SALE

Carsphairn Heritage Centre has a **rotary magazine/book/postcard display rack** for sale at £10. It's on wheels and stands around five feet tall and can display a good number of items. Ideal for a shop, craft fair, etc. To collect from Carsphairn Heritage Centre. Contact: Karen on 460 602

Various household items for sale. Contact: Garry on 430 571 or 07906 309639 or lis.lewis49@gmail.com



t: 01292 550954

m: 07766 978568

e: rj.mcculloch@aol.co.uk

www.rjmcculloch.co.uk

Biomass and why it's a perfect fit for the Glenkens...

With biomass you can save money on your heating bills, make money through the Scottish Government's Rural Heat Incentive (RHI) and potentially use local or self-sourced timber to run your boiler.

RJ McCulloch is MCS registered and Greendeal approved, with over 20 years experience in the trade. Ross and his team carry out detailed pre-installation heat loss calculations prior to any fitting, ensuring that your property is suited to the type of heat source being considered.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ROSS FOR ADVICE RELATING TO ANY PLUMBING OR HEATING QUERIES YOU MAY HAVE.



Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power



BIOMASS BOILERS, LOCAL WOOD AND THE RHI

What is a biomass boiler?

A biomass boiler is designed to burn solid fuels classed as biomass to create heat. There are many brands and models of biomass boilers, each designed to burn specific materials, from timber to waste agricultural materials such as straw and grain husks. The most common form of biomass fuel used in biomass boilers are timber, logs, wood chip and wood pellets.

Do they produce any smoke or other emissions?

A biomass boiler should not produce any smoke unless the fuel is too wet. All biomass boilers produce nitrogen dioxide (NO₂); in general biomass boilers produce less nitrogen oxides than oil boilers.

Using wood in place of fossil fuels helps to prevent long-term climate change since the carbon dioxide released during the burning of

wood is roughly equivalent to the amount actually absorbed while the tree was growing, so they are essentially carbon neutral.

Can I apply for Rural Heat Incentive (RHI) payments if I install a biomass boiler?

Yes, as long as you make sure to have the boiler installed by a Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) registered tradesman and use fuel that meets the Fuel Sustainability Requirements. In a domestic setting, you would receive 4.21p per k/w hour, up to a maximum of 25,000 k/w hours per year, for a period of seven years.

Can I use my own fuel?

You can use any fuel suitable for your particular biomass boiler, whether it's from a supplier or your own timber. To ensure your boiler remains efficient and tar doesn't build up, be sure to source timber



fuels with a low concentration of bark and a low moisture content.

However, to receive payments through the RHI scheme you need to meet their Fuel Sustainability Requirements and register on the Biomass Suppliers List as a self-supplier. For more information, visit <https://biomass-suppliers-list.service.gov.uk>

These Four Walls: Building Memories of a Community

CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE CENTRE 2017 EXHIBITON



The Carsphairn Lead Mines © Ben Ade

Remains and standing buildings are part of every community but, in

Carsphairn parish, old buildings have been largely undisturbed by the hand of man and natural decay and neglect has caused their ruination.

These many reminders of a previous population stand beside current buildings, some adapted from their previous purpose, but all providing part of the rich heritage in an isolated parish which once boasted a far greater population than now.

Old post offices, pubs,

churches, isolated shepherds' cottages, big houses, miners' rows and other buildings (even though they might be remains or even a memory) have all played a part in the fabric of our community life. Their adaptation to our current way of life takes us through the social changes that have occurred in this community over the centuries. The rate of change has accelerated over the last fifty years but we are privileged here to have glimpses of the past in the buildings, as well as written knowledge about them and their occupants.

Dates of opening: 15 April to 29 May: weekends & bank holidays only, 1 June to 25 September, Thurs to Mon. Times of opening: 10am - 4pm. Picnic area, 24 hour public toilets, car parking, admission by donation

For further info contact 460 653, info@carsphairnheritage.org or www.carsphairnheritage.org or 'like' Carsphairn Heritage Centre on Facebook to find out more.

BALMACLELLAN REGENERATION PROJECT

In October 2016 Balmaclellan Community Council (BCC), in conjunction with the Stewartry Council of Voluntary Service (SCVS), sent to all residents of Balmaclellan a Public Consultation Questionnaire to canvass ideas on ways to regenerate the centre of the village.

Both BCC and SCVS were much encouraged that the response rate to the questionnaire was well above the average for this type of public consultation. Particularly pleasing was the number of residents who went to the trouble to give such good and thoughtful replies. The winner of the £100 draw was Mr Derek Gibson. Further, BCC and SCVS held a Public Consultation Feedback Session at Balmaclellan Village Hall. Residents of Balmaclellan, and other people

from the communities of the Glenkens, were invited along to discuss the ideas submitted. A final Regeneration Plan is being produced by SCVS.

There was a high percentage of support for a community garden to be developed on the land which was formerly the old filling station, and in a bid to obtain funding to purchase this land BCC are delighted to report that they have passed Stage 1 of the application process with The Scottish Land Fund and now have three months to submit the Stage 2 application. Work is already underway in obtaining a valuation of the land in question and gathering the necessary information. There is also an application pending with The Office of the Scottish Charity Register (OSCR) to register a two-tiered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), which will be known as the Balmaclellan Regeneration Trust.

BCC would like to thank SCVS for their hard work and professionalism in conducting the



public consultation and assisting with the SCIO application.



Recognition also goes to the members of the Regeneration Project who since May 2016 have worked very hard and given up a lot of their time to get the project to this very positive stage.

BCC was very pleased with the response from residents who offered to be involved in the project and we will be contacting these people in the near future.

If there are any further volunteers willing to help with the project in any capacity, please contact Kay Bird, BCC secretary, on 01644 420 612 or kaybird15@btinternet.com

VIKING HOARD

Continued from front page...

Professor of Scottish History, Ted Cowan, who lives near Balmaclellan, says: "Those of us campaigning to bring the hoard to Kirkcudbright are strongly of the opinion that heritage artefacts should remain, where possible, in the region in which they were found."

"NMS has plenty of treasures which bring visitors to the city but the Viking Hoard could make a huge difference in attracting folk to Galloway if it, or part of it, was exhibited in Kirkcudbright where the new art gallery is already being modified to ensure that it will be secure."

As the Gazette went to press more than 3000 people had signed GVH petition forms or online at www.gallowayvikinghoard.com

Balmaclellan Defibrillator

Balmaclellan is one of the few villages in the Stewartry which does not have a defibrillator.

At its meeting in November Balmaclellan Community Council decided to rectify this. It launched an appeal to raise £1200 to purchase a defibrillator and heated cabinet which will be affixed to the outside of the Village Hall.

Balmaclellan Community Council has been working in conjunction with Iain Howie of SCVS who will provide free training to First Responders who can then operate the apparatus. The response to the

appeal has been terrific with £1,219 being raised within eight weeks by local residents, fundraisers at local events and generous donations from Dumfries & Galloway Housing Partnership and Natural Power Consultants Ltd.

A very big thank you and very well done to everyone who has supported the appeal. The community council is now liaising with SCVS regarding the purchase of the equipment.

Anyone who would like to be trained in the use of this equipment and become a First Responder should contact Kay Bird, Secretary of Balmaclellan Community Council, on 420 612 or kaybird15@btinternet.com

CatStrand Highlights

We have an array of events and activities on at CatStrand through April and May.

On Sun 2 April local author **Margaret Elphinstone** is hosting a special National Library of Scotland workshop about Writing History from Original Sources. Spaces are limited to 12 so get in quick! The following Sat 8 April, we're hosting a **Scots Gaelic Day** about the Glenkens with talks and song workshops (see p25).

The Easter holidays include a puppet theatre show **Oscar's Amazing Space Adventure** (ages 4+) on Tues 11 April at 2pm and our **Into Film Club** returns on 15 April and 20 May with two films specially selected by club members. We're also continuing our successful

Afternoon Tea Club on Fri 28 April and Fri 19 May.

If comedy is your thing, we're delighted to be hosting two of the hottest names on the circuit. Irish-Iranian comedian **Patrick Monahan** (Fri 14 April) has performed all over Europe and appeared on *The One Show* (BBC), *Loose Women* (ITV) and *That 80s Show* (ITV) between Fringe sell-outs. Meanwhile Glaswegian **Scott Gibson** (Sat 6 May) is getting rave reviews for his *Life After Death* stand-up show with plaudits from the likes of Frankie Boyle. The Herald called him "riotously funny and at times painfully raw...." Not for the faint-hearted...

Musical highlights include the return of the highly acclaimed **Heidi Talbot** (Fri 26 May) as part of our D&G Arts Festival Fringe programme followed closely by the world renowned **Juan Martin**



Heidi Talbot.

Flamenco Trio (Sun 28 May) who this year will be performing in Dalry Town Hall on a big stage. We also have Nashville hotshot **Woody Pines** (Fri 21 April) and Americana favourites **Laura Cortese and the Dance Cards** (Sun 21 May). All of these shows are selling fast already so please get your tickets early.

We look forward to seeing you at CatStrand over the coming months.

The CatStrand Team

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

Ken Words Festival 2017

The second Ken Words Festival had a theme of 'a sense of place'.

The Festival launched with an exquisite concert by two-time winner of Scottish Traditional Folk Singer of the Year, Siobhan Miller. Having seen many young folk singers on CatStrand's stage, I have to say Siobhan ranks up there with the best.

The Saturday morning sessions, which both sold out, included Tom Pow's 'silent' poetry walk around Waterside and Margaret Elphinstone's poetry workshop. This

brought us nicely to the Wagtongues performance in CatStrand's foyer with brilliant recitals from numerous readers.

The afternoon session opened with BBC's Cameron McNeish whose talk *Television Trails and Talk: Words in the Landscape* was as enthralling as it was inspiring as he took us on a voyage of mythical adventure, showing how the landscape has shaped the character of the Scottish people through the ages.

The evening session was held at the Ken Bridge Hotel where local ethnographer and musician Jo Miller delivered a hugely insightful

and entertaining investigation of Glenkens music over the past century. Featuring photos of many familiar Glenkens faces, artefacts from the past, and wonderful performances of the songs themselves, Jo really captured the spirit of what Ken Words is all about.

I'm delighted that the Festival is going from strength to strength and after the wonderful response from our audiences I can see it becoming an annual feature of our arts programme here. With grateful thanks to the Ken Bridge Hotel for hosting the evening session.

Simon Davidson, CatStrand

NEW GALLOWAY SHOP AWARD

Continued from front page...

The New Galloway proposal, which has been shaped by extensive local consultation, includes funding for a part-time Community Engagement Officer who will work with individuals, businesses and organisations to help people access practical assistance and information and to develop

projects benefiting the area.

NGCE has launched a Community Shares Offer to raise the £20,000 residents and friends of New Galloway need to contribute to the project.

More than 100 people attended a Coffee Cake and Music party in New Galloway Town Hall to mark the launch. Entertainment was

provided by children from Kells Primary School, violinist Fiona Edgar, classical guitarist Anne Chaurand, the CatStrand Singers and the Glenkens Ukelele Band.

There's more information on how to buy Community Shares at www.newgallowaycommunityshop.wordpress.com



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.

WEEKLY

Tuesdays

Dalry to Newton Stewart Return Swimming and Shopping

Outward Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1330,
New Galloway (Town Hall) 1340
Return Pickups:
Newton Stewart (ALDI Car Park) 1530, (Merrick Centre) 1540
Return Fare: £3.00
Information/booking phone Ann on 01644 460518

Wednesday Evenings

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

Outward Journey
1900 Depart Dalry (Underhill)
1905 New Galloway (CatStrand)
1915 Mossdale
1925 Lauriston
1930 Townhead of Greenlaw
1937 Castle Douglas (Market Street)
1940 Castle Douglas (Tesco)

Return Journey
2035 Depart Castle Douglas (Tesco)
2037 Castle Douglas (Market Street)
2047 Townhead of Greenlaw
2050 Lauriston
2100 Mossdale
2110 New Galloway (CatStrand)
2115 Dalry (Underhill)

Thursdays

Glenkens to Castle Douglas Day Centre Return

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

Outbound pickups:
Dalry (Underhill) 1015; New Galloway (CatStrand) 1030
Pickups can also be arranged from Balmacellan, Parton and
Crossmichael bus stops or from passengers' homes.
Return service will leave Castle Douglas Community Centre at 1430.
Fare 3.00 return.

MONTHLY

Glenkens to Ayr Return - Saturdays

April – June 2017 dates

April 29, May 27, June 24

Pickups
New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930, Dalry (Underhill) 0940
Carsphair (1000)
Leaves Ayr 1500
Fare £3.50/ Concessions £3.00 each way

Glenkens to Dumfries Return - Saturdays

Cuckoo Bridge and Peel Centre Shopping

April – June 2017 dates

April 8, May 13, June 10

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

18 March Marmalade Festival, Dalemmain House

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0910;
Crossmichael (Shop) 0920; Castle Douglas (Market Hill) 0930.
Fare: £7 Concessions £6. Admission: Dalemmain House £4

15 April Royal Yacht Britannia

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0910.
Fare: £7 Concessions £6. Admission £15.50; Senior Citizens £13.75

19 May National Museum of Rural Life

Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0900; Dalry (Underhill) 0910;
Carsphair (Shop) 0925
Fare: £7 Concessions £6. Admission £7; Concessions £6

23 June Woolfest, Cockermouth

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0910;
Crossmichael (Shop) 0920; Castle Douglas (Market Hill) 0930.
Fare: £7 Concessions £6. Admission: £10

GARDENS OF EXCELLENCE

11 April The Botanic Garden

Logan Botanic Garden, Port Logan

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0910.
Fare: £7 Concessions £6. Admission: £6.50 – to be paid on entry.

23 April The Young Gardens

Burnside Garden, Drongan & Dumfries House Garden, Cumnock

Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930; Dalry (Underhill) 0940.
Fare: £7 Concessions £6. Admissions: Burnside Garden £4,
Dumfries House Garden £3 – to be paid on entry.
Pickups from Dalbeattie, Castle Douglas and Kirkcudbright for this
trip will be charged at £3 per person.

14 May The Small Gardens

Woodfall Garden, Glasserton & Claymoddie Garden, Whithorn

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940.
Fare: £7 Concessions £6. Admissions: Woodfall Garden £4,
Claymoddie Garden £5 – to be paid on entry.

28 May The Estate Garden

Corsock House Garden, Corsock

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1400; New Galloway (CatStrand) 1410.
Fare: £5 Concessions £4. Admission: £3.

8 June The Artist's Garden

Broughton House Garden, Kirkcudbright

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1730; New Galloway (CatStrand) 1740.
Return to New Galloway/ Dalry around 2100.
Fare: £5 Concessions £4. Admission: £4 – to be paid on entry.

25 June The Fleet Gardens

Anwoth Old Schoolhouse Garden, Gatehouse of Fleet

Cally Gardens, Gatehouse of Fleet, Kirkcudbrightshire

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1030; New Galloway (CatStrand) 1040.
Fare: £5 Concessions £4. Admissions: Anwoth £4, Cally £3.50.



Minibus Hire

GTI has 8, 15 and 16 seat minibuses
for hire

Hirers must be registered GTI user groups.

For more information or to book

email gti@catstrand.com
or call 01644 420374.

GARDENS OF EXCELLENCE

We all know we live in a beautiful part of Scotland, but sometimes its nice to be reminded.

In 2016 Dumfries and Galloway was voted Best Holiday Destination in Britain by fans of the flagship BBC TV *Countryfile* programme.

Can this beautiful countryside be enhanced? The answer seems to be yes when you look at many of the fabulous gardens we have around the region.

This started us thinking at the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI). We organise a number of excursions for everyone in our community to enjoy during the year and so for 2017 we have decided to offer trips to a range of gardens, each with their own delights.

The amazing large gardens at Logan, Culzean, Dumfries House, and Corsock House will

be visited as will the small gardens of Wigtownshire, the Fleet Gardens at Anworth and Cally. There will also be a special evening in the artist's garden of Broughton House, enhanced by live music.

The full summer colours will be appreciated when visiting Ardwell House and Glenwhan Gardens in August and the series of garden visits will be rounded off when we visit Dawyck Botanic Garden in October to see the autumn colours in the arboretum.

These inspiring garden visits have been collectively given the name 'Gardens of Excellence' as we truly believe this is gardening at its best in our locality.

So if you want to see the



Logan Botanic Gardens.

best of gardens in South West Scotland, in some places meet the garden owners or head gardeners, and enjoy a visit with a small group of like-minded individuals, please contact us.

You can find us at the CatStrand in New Galloway, on 01644 420 374, or visit www.glenkenstransport.org for full details.

We look forward to seeing you!
The GTI Team



GALLOWAY GLENS
Landscape Partnership

***Follow us on facebook
and twitter and make
sure to sign up for our
newsletter - see website
for details...***

www.gallowayglens.org



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
help with housing in the Glenkens

Affordable housing for people living or working in the Glenkens whose circumstances would benefit from the provision of reduced rent.

Tenancy applications welcome from anyone, young or old, single or with a family, who qualifies under the terms of the Trust.



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

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New Look Library

Anyone who has driven up Main Street in Dalry will know there has been a lot of activity at the library over the last couple of months.

Having been closed for refurbishment since 6 January, we have now reopened as Dalry Customer Service Centre; your local library is back within a newly integrated facility offering a wide range of Council services.

With a new counter, equipment and layout, the facility is better able to meet your council service needs.

Dalry Librarian Angela Miller is pleased with the new heating and double glazing, especially the renovated Artist's Window, something which also caught the eye of facility patrons on the first

day back.

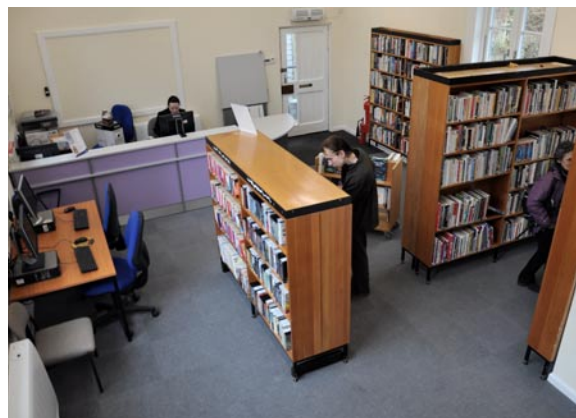
Customers found the new look to be 'light and airy' because of the new paintwork and greater access to the rest of the windows.

The first day back was very busy, and Angela is looking forward to catching up with the folk of the Glenkens over the coming weeks.

Opening times are Tuesdays from 12noon to 3.30pm and Fridays from 10am to 12noon and 1pm to 4.30pm.

Book Bug Sessions will be resuming shortly - please drop in for further information.

Angela says: "It would be great to see some new faces visiting the facility where a warm welcome awaits!"



Top: old layout. Below: new layout.

Fisheries Study Voucher Winners

As part of the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Loch Ken Fisheries Study, all anglers who complete and return a short survey known as the Loch Ken Angling Record are entered into a monthly prize draw for a £50 fishing tackle voucher.

Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT),

who are undertaking the fisheries surveys and data collection, are pleased to announce that local anglers Gordon Houston and Steve Wood were the November and December winners, and Glasgow angler Richard Vernon was the January winner.

If you are an angler who fishes Loch Ken and would like to contribute to the study, the survey is available from ticket outlets around the loch including the shop and Post Office in New Galloway, Loch Ken Holiday Park at Parton and McCowans fishing tackle shop in Castle Douglas. A downloadable version of the angling record can also be found

at www.gallowayfisheriestrust.org

By the end of July 2017, GFT hope to have received up to 250 completed Loch Ken Angling Records. The surveys are one means of gathering information from anglers to help GFT work up a set of recommendations that will help improve how the fishery is managed and promoted in the future. GFT are keen to hear from anyone with an interest in the fishery of Loch Ken. Rowan and Jamie can be contacted on 01671 40 3011 or mail@gallowayfisheriestrust.org

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BACKROOM VINTAGE

Backroom Vintage, based in New Galloway, sells upcycled and hand painted furniture as well as vintage homewares including retro kitchenalia, collectibles and vintage crockery.

"We present second-hand, old and often unloved pieces of furniture and homeware in a new and refashioned way," says business owner Sarah Lane. "I source pieces throughout the UK, presenting a carefully curated selection of items both online and at our pop-up shop events."

Backroom Vintage sell worldwide via an online Etsy store and have customers from as far afield as Australia, the USA and Japan, as well as throughout Europe and the UK.

Sarah continues: "We love it when a vintage find goes to a new home. Our customer base is very diverse, including the odd celebrity."

"The focus is on reusing and

improving upon old unloved homewares to reduce waste and encourage customers to mix old and new. We aim to provide good

...homewares including retro kitchenalia, collectibles and vintage crockery.

quality vintage homewares that were made to stand the test of time at reasonable prices."

Sarah and husband Paul have converted a room at the rear of their home into a pop-up shop space, the first of which was held in November last year. This year there are eight events planned starting on Saturday 15 April.

"We hope that residents of the Glenkens as well as visitors to the area enjoy browsing our vintage treasures," says Sarah.

The couple moved to New Galloway three years ago to achieve a better work-life balance, and have found the area very welcoming and the people friendly.

"There are lots of great places

for outdoor activities, beautiful walks and we always enjoy a trip to the beach. This is a lovely area and a great place to bring up children.

"I am now doing something I love with the flexibility needed to raise a young family. I love interior design and have renovated three homes to date so this, teamed with my background in digital sales and marketing, made a lot of sense," Sarah concludes.

Backroom Vintage are happy to open outside of the pop-up shop dates by appointment, which can be arranged by emailing backroomv@gmail.com



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Fridays:

8-10.30am – Dalry

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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GLENKENS MYSTERY TOURS

Following the success of *Ancient Rites and Customs of the Glenkens: The Hole Ceremony* in Issue 96 of the Gazette, local writer Sue Wiseman brings readers another witty, hilarious and highly observant piece.

Popular during the 1950s, Mystery Tours gradually fell out of favour as more exotic holiday options became available to many families.

Now it seems they are being revived right here in the Glenkens, albeit using your own vehicle and following a series of jolly yellow signs pointing in the direction of somewhere, but giving no indication of where that place might be.

Recently many folk setting off for work or important appointments have found themselves embarking on a long, leisurely voyage of discovery through the delightful Galloway countryside in what appears to be a trial run for a new and exciting tourist activity.

I have recently had the good fortune to take part in two of these tours, the first in January when travelling from Dalmellington to Dalry. On reaching Carsfad I was directed to take the more scenic route involving turning back to Polquhanity then right onto the little C road where I was able to admire the fish farm and clatter across the iron bridge. Leading a small convoy of vehicles, I turned right and headed for the B7000 across the High Bridge of Ken and on to Hillend from where we had magnificent views across the loch and finally descended into Dalry (or into despair).

Attempting to get from Dalry to Castle Douglas during February I found myself taking the mystery route starting at New Galloway, past the watery expanse of Loch Ken and on to sample the sights and sounds of Mossdale. A further stretch of open road (a little drab at this time of year but when all the wild flowers are in bloom the visitors will love it) took me to Laurieston where, from my vantage point in the Land Rover, I was afforded a fine view of the bus stop and the dog poo bin before

progressing to Barstobrick Visitor Centre and then continuing down to the verdant pastures of Ringford where I turned left onto the A75 to join a stately 10mph procession lead by a tractor load of sand and a rather whiffy slurry spreader.

A week or two earlier people wishing to commute between the more



northerly reaches of the Glenkens and Newton Stewart were rewarded with a similar meander through outstanding scenery, mud, rain and fog.

What could be more exciting than finding yourself up a rutted lane in an uncharted bit of the Galloway Forest, the fuel gauge registering empty, having spent the last 14 miles following the yellow signs in the wrong

... a series of jolly yellow signs pointing in the direction of somewhere, but giving no indication of where that place might be.

direction. (This is where a folding bike in the boot comes in handy). Embark on one of these inspirational

tours and you could almost forget you were trying to get to work, pick up the kids from school or get Grandma to the hospital for her dialysis.

Praise must go to the organisers for all the thought, planning and ingenuity that goes into these amazing new sight-seeing experiences.

KNIGHTHOOD FOR SIR ALEX

Alex and Merryn Fergusson recently attended an investiture at Buckingham Palace at which Alex was formally knighted by HRH Prince Charles.

After the ceremony Sir Alex said: "Receiving the honour of Knight Bachelor has capped a truly incredible time for me since 1999

when I first entered the world of politics, and I believe and hope that it reflects well on the great people of Galloway that it has been my privilege to serve in the Scottish Parliament. The messages of support and congratulations that we have received since my knighthood was announced have been completely overwhelming... What a way to go into retirement!!"

Picture shows Sir Alex and Lady Fergusson in the inner quadrangle at Buckingham Palace following the investiture.



Scotland to Sahara

A Glenkens couple have decided, after three years of preparation, to trade Scottish mud for African sand this spring.

"It's hard to resist the draw of warmer, drier climes during the depths of a long, dreich Galloway winter so the timing feels good to head south for us," says local engineer Ben Ade who, along with partner Melissa Shaw, has been building a fully expedition prepared Land Rover Defender.

The couple have christened the Land Rover Kaerus after the ancient Greek god of opportunity, luck and favourable moments, and kitted it out with everything necessary for travelling truly global distances, including the kitchen sink (literally!).

Ben and Melissa have no fixed route or return date, intending to spend a few months meandering south to France before heading onwards towards the warmer shores of Spain and Portugal and finishing up in North Africa. Their sights are roughly set on the southernmost point of Tarfaya on the Atlantic coast of the desert, before heading inland to explore the Sahara. Tarfaya, formerly known as Port Victoria, was originally founded in the nineteenth century by a Scottish trader named Donald Mackenzie; a little slice of Scotland in a far off land to remind them of home.

You can follow the couple's progress on their blog, www.kaerus-overland.weebly.com, as well as finding out background



Ben and Melissa with Kaerus, ready for their trip.

info and seeing pics of the three-year build which resulted in the journey-ready Land Rover.

The pair will also be raising funds for a charity they both have great respect for, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). The 'doctors without borders' go wherever they are needed, more often than not into war-torn areas where they run a high risk to their own safety in their mission to help others. The courage of the volunteers involved makes an incredible impact on the thousands of human lives caught hopelessly in the crossfire of the never ending political instability of our world.

You can make a donation to MSF via the blog and make a real immediate difference, and they'll also be carrying a good old-fashioned collection box in order to raise funds.

Keep your eyes peeled for an update on their trip in the next issue of the Gazette!

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


The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba




The Scottish Parliament
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If you would like an appointment,
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Write to:
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GALLOWAY GLENS PROJECTS TAKING SHAPE

The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme is a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) scheme taking place up and down the Ken and Dee river catchment, from Carsphairn in the North to Kirkcudbright in the South.

£2.7million has been provisionally secured from HLF to be spent on projects across the area that 'connect people to their cultural, built and natural heritage'.

The Scheme is now over half way through the development phase and the list of projects under consideration is starting to take shape.

Development Officer McNabb Laurie clarified: "We are planning our five years of project activity, expected to run from 2018-2023. Projects supported will either come as a result of studies commissioned by the Scheme, all currently underway and approaching completion, or from project ideas that have been submitted by people and groups up and down the valley."

These project ideas have been categorised under a range of headings, the following representing only a flavour of those being developed:

Accessing the Galloway Glens: A Glenkens example are proposals on Forrest Estate to improve access up Corserine.

Wildlife & Habitats of the Galloway Glens: This includes

support for the Glenkens Red Squirrel Group and RSPB and community woodland projects in Carsphairn.

Education in the Galloway Glens: Projects under development include demonstrations of Galloway drystone dyking techniques, highlighting local peatlands and how they can be supported, and workshops teaching people about the local environment. The Board of the Galloway Glens are making the training-up of local young people in employable skills a focus of the scheme, aiming to support anyone who wants to be able to stay in the area as they grow up.

Heritage Hubs: Projects under this heading include improvements to Parton Church to highlight James Clerk Maxwell's achievements and legacy, pop-up heritage centres in Crossmichael and Dalry and improvements to the Balmaclellan Smiddy. McNabb said: "Feedback was clear - don't build anything new, but make better use of what we have already got. We are absolutely taking this on board."

Visiting the Galloway Glens: A large focus of the Scheme will be to support visitor facilities, in turn supporting the local economy. Projects under development include a cycling/driving tour of the valley, including an app, to highlight historical and contemporary features such as the archaeology of the area and the hydro scheme.



Galloway Glens Development Officer McNabb Laurie with children and staff at GCC Playgroup and their new activity board.

Understanding the Galloway Glens: This includes a community archaeology project, letting people try their hand at 'dig' skills and also gaining a better understanding of pre-ordnance survey maps of the area and place names in use up and down the valley.

McNabb added: "Projects will be developed over the next six months, with other suggestions still in the pipeline. We will be combining this project work with the outputs of our Landscape Character Assessment which is currently underway. This is being led by Northlight Heritage and people may have seen the *Sights & Sites* branded events taking place. These will help us submit a really detailed proposal to HLF outlining what makes the local area special and how the projects we are proposing will support the local landscape. We hope to release the full project list shortly."

WINDFARM LORRY BLOCKS A713



Local photographer Ian Biggar took some snaps of the recovery of the lorry which recently went off the road on the A713 between Dalry and Castle Douglas.

TINY JEWELS COMMENDED AT PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Duncan McNaught of Glenlee was commended at the world's largest photography competition.

Judges of the 2017 Sony World Photography Awards honoured the work of local photographer Duncan, whose image *Tiny Jewels* is commended as one of the top 50 in the world in the awards' Open Nature category.

Over 227,000 images from 183 countries were submitted to the 2017

Sony World Photography Awards.

Duncan said: "Being recognised by the judges at the Sony World Photography Awards is incredible – I am excited to see what opportunities being commended will present and to see my work being exhibited in London."

Anyone wishing to purchase Duncan's work or simply follow his photographic progress can find him on Facebook @DMcNaughtPhotography



Tiny Jewels, Duncan's winning shot.



THE WINNER BY A HAIR'S BREADTH

The competition in the last issue of the Gazette to name Jayne Grimwood's new hairdressing salon had

an amazing response.

With so many brilliant entries, it was a difficult decision for proprietor Jayne but the winner is *Hair by Jayne* by Mrs Ann Radley.

The runner-up is *Hair Care by Jayne* by Miss Namirla Bankhead. Both will

win a cut and blow-dry at the new salon.

Jayne would like to say a big thank you to all who entered the competition. "Also a big thank you to the Glenkens for their support and making us feel so welcome," says Jayne.

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.

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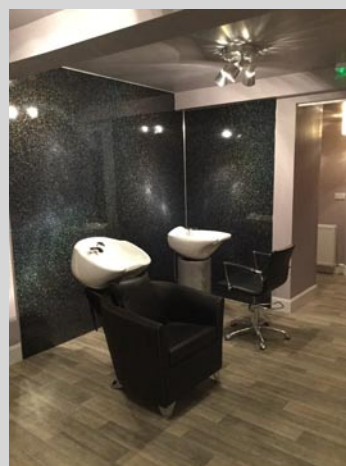
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Mystery at the Men's Shed

Several of the newer members of the shed have been mystified because their projects were occasionally not in the place where they had left them.

John Fagan's Kawasaki motor cycle was still warm last Monday, Tom Plummer's model of a French

fishing boat was a little damp and the newly made logshed being painted with wood preservative had been finished.

It's a mystery but I'm sure we'll get to the bottom of it sooner or later!

Tom is making a magnificent model of a French Fishing boat which used to operate out of Barfleur.

He decided to build two of them with the Kirkcudbright Sea Cadets so they could get experience of boatbuilding and eventually they would be radio controlled and we would then be able to race them either on the river or on a loch. The keels were laid about seven years ago at the Unit in Kirkcudbright but progress was slow and all the cadets who started them have now left. They stood in the corner for three years collecting dust.

Since starting at 'The Shed' he has been thoroughly enjoying himself getting back into model boat building.

John tells us that he has collected motor bikes for most of his adult life but through circumstances has had to sell a lot of them. Now he has moved into the Glenkens he's hoping that the Kawasaki he's working on at present will be a keeper. Chris Jowsey and he can often be heard discussing the best ways of getting bikes through their MOTs. Who knows we may soon have our own chapter of the Hell's Angels at the shed.

If you would like to come along to see any of the current projects being worked on, or start your own, please feel free to join us. You can also see us at our upcoming 'sale of work' days at the CatStrand towards the end of May - look out for posters.

If anyone has any suggestions as to why these strange happenings are taking place at the shed please come along and tell us or contact Brian Jones at the CatStrand (420 374) or Tom Leach on 420 386. *Tom Leach*



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NEW GALLOWAY TOWN HALL

Last month saw the first Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) AGM since we took over the management of the Town Hall.

LING Lunches were joined for a day by the Dumfries Over 50s Club. Their members enjoyed their day out and reported back on the warm welcome they had received. Our Tuesday LING Lunches and Elevenes are open to all – we have a highchair available. There is no need to book – just drop in. Judging by the level of chat, it is a very sociable meeting place for all, whether new to the area, longstanding resident or

somewhere in between.

With elevenes from 11am and lunches from 12.30pm the times fit in well with buses from Dalry and Balmaclellan, and we have people attending from both. If you need help with transport, please give us a ring.

Tuesday Evening Town Hall Sports, from 7-9pm, is attracting a regular group to Carpet Bowling and Table Tennis but there is room for more.

Under the auspices of Thomson Roddick of Dumfries, a LING Antiques Roadshow will be held on Wednesday 29 March.

Keep a look out for The Giant Jigsaw Challenge. Both the LING Lunch and Sports goers have been completing jigsaws on the side.

This led to the donation of one of 4,000 pieces! We have been working out how this can best be

set up for all to join in.

The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership:

Some of the projects submitted by LING are being considered for progression to the next stage in liaison with other organisations and include the New Galloway Story Pop-up Museum becoming one of a series of heritage hubs. Improving accessibility of footpaths both close to New Galloway and linking with other long distance paths is also being considered as is the possibility of managing a walled garden in a local estate.

If you are interested in any of these projects, whether or not you have any experience, just get in touch on 420 632 or

ros.hill@rathanhouse.me.uk

Ros Hill, Chairman

St Margaret's Plant and Cake Sale

St Margaret's Church in New Galloway is holding its annual Plant and Cake Sale on Saturday 29 April from 10am to 1pm.

Delicious home baking and preserves and a varied selection of flower and vegetable seedlings, herbaceous and indoor plants will all be for sale, with teas and coffees on offer inside the church. All funds raised will be donated to the Food Train Befriending Service (Stewartry branch).

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DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY ARTS FESTIVAL 2017

Scotland's largest rural performing arts festival has launched its most ambitious and diverse festival to date.

The 2017 Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival takes place between 26 May and 4 June, kicking off on the evening of 26 May with **Karine Polwart's** *Wind Resistance* at the Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries. The show will herald 10 days of international award-winning theatre; musicianship from around the world, ranging from classical to rock; comedians and street performers and the very best of Dumfries and Galloway's talented performing artists.

In their 10th anniversary year, Moniaive performance choir **Cairn Chorus** will bring their beautifully diverse music project, *Song Cycle*, to life.

The amazing **Blazin' Fiddles** will give two of their high-octane, energy-fuelled concerts in Newton

Stewart and Dumfries.

Mairi Campbell will bring her critically-acclaimed one-woman theatre show, *Pulse*, to New Galloway.

Adding to this year's many festival must-sees is an hilarious evening with acclaimed Scottish stand-up comedian **Mark Nelson** performing alongside Ireland's comedy superstar **Micky Bartlett** in Annan and Stranraer.

Innovative theatre comes in the form of circus artist and theatrical performer **Phil Hardie's** *Welcome My Son* in Dumfries; and a special ticket offer for **Emily Carding's** *Richard III: A One Woman Show* and **Alan Bisset's** hilarious *Moir Monologues*, both in New Galloway, Dumfries and Sanquhar.



Blazin' Fiddles

A first for the festival this year is an inspirational story of a Shetland crofter who, at the age of 61, found herself cast adrift in the North Sea. Her tale is told through an incredible experience of sight and sound on Sandyhills beach, Dalbeattie.

These are just a few of the many world-class performances destined for venues across the region.

Tickets and a full programme from www.dgartsfestival.org.uk

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

26 MAY - 4 JUNE

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

ARTS FESTIVAL 2017



KARINE POLWART: WIND RESISTANCE
FRIDAY 26 MAY, 8PM Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries



LES IMPROMPTUES: The Unexpected Garden Party
SATURDAY 27 MAY, 7PM Craigdarroch House, Moniaive



TINDERBOX ORCHESTRA
SATURDAY 27 MAY, 7PM Theatre Royal, Dumfries



BLAZIN' FIDDLES
with Robyn Stapleton and Claire Hastings
THURSDAY, 1 JUNE, 7.30PM Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries

CAIRN CHORUS Cairn Valley Song Cycle

IN CONCERT

SATURDAY, 27 MAY, 7.30PM St Ninian's Church, Moniaive

PERFORMING WITH THE SCOTTISH ENSEMBLE

SATURDAY, 3 JUNE, 7.30PM Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries

Moniaive's Cairn Chorus presents a brand new song set entitled Cairn Valley Song Cycle. Commissioned by Moniaive Festival Village as part of their Creative Places Award, seven local and international composers explored their response to the community and landscape of the Cairn Valley. The first concert takes place in St Ninian's Church, Moniaive.

In their second collaboration commissioned by the Festival, Cairn Chorus (celebrating their 10th anniversary) will join the orchestra of Scottish Ensemble to bring these songs alive for a one off concert in the Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries. The pieces are for voice, with string accompaniment.

PLUS music from Bellevue Rendezvous, The Daleian Singers with Robyn Stapleton; Absolute Classics; and great theatre with Emily Carding, Alan Bisset and the Crossmichael Drama Club



GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

BOX OFFICE: 01387 253383

www.dgartsfestival.org.uk



Spring Fling Open Studios

Spring Fling takes place each year over the last weekend of May, when artists and makers from all across the region open their studios to visitors.

It provides a unique opportunity to buy or commission work from the artists, to talk to them about their work and explore some beautiful hidden corners of the region.

Jo Gallant, who has her textile

studio in Mossdale, will be joined this year by jeweller **Beth Watson** from over the border in Ayrshire.

Beth creates thoughtfully designed stylish jewellery and objects which take inspiration from her local landscape and architecture whilst Jo's love of colour and texture is evident in her work; expect to see cushions with quirky birds, landscapes and abstracts, shibori silk scarves and wall-hangings inspired by the woodlands and lochs of the Glenkens. Their studios will be open from 6-8pm on Friday 26

May and from 10.30am-5.30pm on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Other open studios around the Glenkens include photographer **Phil McMenemy** at Laurieston; **Susan MacKay**, glass artist, at Parton; and **Amanda Simmons**, glass artist, and **Natalie Vardey**, jeweller and silversmith, at Corsock.

Spring Fling brochures are available at a wide range of outlets including CatStrand and The Smithy Tea Rooms in New Galloway, or visit www.spring-fling.co.uk to find out more.



DRAMA FESTIVAL

Pictured is a scene from CatStrand Youth Players' production of *The Terezin Promise* by Celeste Raspanti, winner of Best Moment of Theatre and Third Place overall at the

recent Stewartry Drama Festival.

The other Festival entry, *Round The World With Class 6* by Nick Warburton, finished fourth and was nominated in Best Moment and Stage Presentation categories. The plays were directed by Brian Edgar and Zoe Kirkpatrick respectively.

Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

Kathryn Martin wins a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel's Sunday carvery with the photograph of her pony Abbi enjoying the snow.

Competition judges Dave and Sue said: "We have had lots of technicians working up on the Carsphairn wind farm recently and they have been amazed to come back down to the hotel to discover that we have been sitting with balmy weather whilst they're getting sent off the job because of a foot of snow!"



LIFEBOAT FUNDRAISER

The Glenkens RNLI group are holding their annual fundraiser on Thursday 25 May in Dalry Town Hall.

The highlight this year is that the Dalry School Choir will be entertaining guests at the start of the evening. This will be followed by the usual stalls, teas and coffees with homebaking. Look out for posters advertising the event from the end of April when tickets will also be available from committee members.

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ACHIEVING AT BARCAPLE

Pupils from Carsphairn Primary had a great day at Barcaple Adventure Activity Centre.

The boys and girls were faced with an individual and team challenge, and had fun conquering them both. On the Team Challenge Course the children had to work together to make their way through a difficult obstacle course: climbing over 20-foot rope nets, crawling up tunnel slides and navigating through the dark of blacked-out sheds - all while transporting a bucket of water

and an egg! It was great to see the older and younger children working together to achieve something as a team, figuring out their role within that team and how that role changed at every challenge.

After lunch, we strapped into our climbing harnesses and tried our luck at tree climbing. Although this was an individual challenge, it was still great to hear everyone cheering on their classmates. Everyone had a great day and had plenty to brag about when they got home.



A special thank you must be given to the Carsphairn PTC who were able to fund this trip to Barcaple. Next, we look forward to the launch of our 2017 outdoor learning programme when we will be taking our learning out of the class for a half-day each week.

Walker McKenna

FRIENDS OF DALRY SCHOOL

Football Strips: Friends of Dalry School (FoDS) are delighted that after last year's fundraising success and with joint sponsorship from RJ McLeod, we can announce that we have purchased a brand new football strip for Dalry Primary's Football Team. The team of girls and boys from P4-7 have been training very hard with their fantastic coach David and this new strip will give them the extra confidence boost that they need for their up and coming tournaments.

Conall from P7 who plays midfield for the team comments: "Our new strips look amazing, we can't wait to wear them and to start winning!"

Dalry Primary Football Team will be playing in the annual Paul Jones Football Tournament organised by the Council's Active Schools and Community Sport Team after the Easter holidays. We would like to encourage as many parents, family members and friends to go along to the matches across the Stewartry to support our fantastic players.

A huge thank you from all the players of Dalry Primary Football Team goes to FoDS committee members Mrs Moore and Bryan Spark for helping them choose and order their new strips, to RJ McLeod for their sponsorship and continuous support with various fundraising opportunities and to David their coach for all his support and positive encouragement.

FoDS Donations: FoDS have very recently donated a huge sum

of £1,600 to the Nursery, Primary and Secondary's funds.

Dalry Primary are looking forward to using a part of this money to create and build handcrafted outdoor learning clothing stations with our school's technicians.

These will hold a waterproof coat, trousers/salopettes and wellies for every child in the primary, and will be used daily by all classes for our outdoor learning and Friday Fun Time opportunities. Mrs Devlin comments: "We like to get out and about in all weathers, so the clothing station will ensure every child has the same kit and will be comfortable and safe when we are learning outdoors in all seasons. The stations for each class will make changing and storing outdoor clothing a much quicker and easier process."

Dalry secondary will use the money to subsidise trips for all year groups. Dalry secondary have most recently taken the netball team to watch a match between the Sirens and the Wasps at the Emirates Stadium in Glasgow. A write-up of this can be found on the school blog.

The most recent FoDS donation will also go towards buying and building a polytunnel in the schools' garden. This will enable all pupils to build on their horticulture-based learning experiences from nursery right

through to S4. The Gardening Club hope to be able to use the poly tunnel to grow enough produce to sell this summer and autumn to parents, carers and community members and will also give to the school kitchens for lunches. The keen young gardeners hope to make enough profit to develop their self-sustainability over the following years.

FoDS committee members are hugely proud that the hard work that they put in continues to improve and build on the wonderful experiences and opportunities that our pupils have. We thank all our families and members of the community that continue to support our events, please check out the FoDS Facebook page for up-to-date information.

If you would like to know more or get involved with FoDS, please get in touch with Jenna Devlin via the School Office at 01644 430 259 or gw08devlinjenna01@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

FoDS Committee



Dalry Primary Football Team.

GALLOWAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Kells Primary: All the pupils from Kells competed in this year's Galloway Music Festival.

Mrs Muir's recorder pupils returned to Kells with four trophies this year. The P6 Group won the Burgess Cup for best Recorder Group by performing *Rigaudon*. Sophie Roberts in P3 won the Music Shop Trophy for the Descant Recorder Solos beginner class by playing a piece called *Mocking Bird*. Freya Spernagel in P6 won the Cairnsmore Trophy in the Treble Recorder Solos Grade 1 for her playing of *Pony Trot*. There was also success in the Primary Recorder Duets class for Sarah Rothwell and Sophie Hunter. They performed the *Star of County Down* and won the Penninghame Cup. *Zane Gray*

Dalry School: Dalry School, both primary and secondary schools, have again excelled at the Galloway Music Festival in Newton Stewart.

From S3, James Wallace retained the trophy he won last year for the Scots Song Solo - secondary. The adjudicator praised his exciting and lovely voice with his diction and confident projection. James also came first in Grade 2 Violin.

Against formidable competition, Hardie Walker from S2 came second with a very high score in the Electric Guitar Solo

- the adjudicator was amazed by his versatility and command of the solo sections.

From Dalry Primary School, every child took part in the Music Festival starting with the P1/2 class entering the Singing Games and Action Song classes. They told the story of the Three Little Pigs with style and confidence and relished the end when the Big Bad Wolf got his comeuppance!

P3-5 came first in the Ceilidh Band Class with a medley of vocal and instrumental pieces including *Brochan Lom* and *Ye Cannae Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus*. Daisy, aged seven, got a special mention for her violin solo. P5-7 had prepared a fantastic medley based on their class Space theme but had to settle for second place out of six entries after a number of instruments and costumes were left in the hold of the bus. Despite the difficulties, the pupils showed resilience at this last-minute change and got on with the job. The worst thing was that our conductor for our version of *Imperial March* from *Star Wars* didn't have his Darth Vader costume or his conducting Light Sabre.



Kells Primary pupils.

Dalry Primary also entered one small Vocal Group. This trio of young ladies - Jessica, Isobel and Lucy - practised and arranged their version of *So Good* mainly on their own, and made an excellent job of it. They also were awarded 1st place and were commended for their great vocals, blending and tuning.

Pupils from Dalry School also entered as soloists and were a credit to themselves, their parents and the school. In particular, an honourable mention must go to Fiona Edgar who entered as a pianist, violinist and singer. She was awarded three first places, a second and a third. Her Violin Solo Grade 2 not only earned her first place in that section but also an overall first.

Once again Dalry School pupils have demonstrated their high level of ability in music and performance.

Ros Henry

Dalry Primary World Book Day



Dalry Nursery and Primary children (and teachers!) all looked fabulous in their favourite book character outfits for World Book Day.

End of an Era: Dalry School Technology Club (2008 to 2017)

Paul Goodwin, founder of the successful Technology Club at Dalry Secondary School and recently commended by Science Connects for his work with young people in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), talks about the club and what it means to wrap it up.

When I began a Technology Club in Dalry School in 2008 I did not imagine that it would run for a total of nine winter seasons (this year was the last). The initial aim was for me to guide club members, safely to explore and enjoy the latest in technology which had not yet made it onto the school's syllabus and therefore to be better prepared for what the future would bring. Although the original focus was on the technology (and having a bit of fun on the way!), it soon became clear that the resulting

social changes would have an even bigger impact on all of our lives.

Over the nine years we have together investigated and researched both new and emerging technology including: tablets, smartphones (with their apps), the latest social media applications, drones, electric/hybrid and self-driving cars, internet enabled devices and homes, GPS and SatNav systems, dash-cams, contactless payments, iPlayer, YouTube, 2D barcodes, 3D printing and web applications to name but a few. Strange to think that when we began, most of these things had yet to be invented and none were in widespread use!

There have been well over a hundred members over the years with the majority coming from the upper primary in Dalry but others joining from the Secondary or travelling in from Kells and Carsphairn. Occasionally staff members or parents would come along to see what we got up to.

There has always been an annual poster competition (with technology based prizes) and these usually highlighted some aspect of emerging technology. But this year, in a break with tradition, our theme was 'In My Lifetime'

where members were challenged to produce a poster illustrating the changes in popular technology that have occurred since they were born.

I will miss the club and its members but all things come to an end. Here I must make special mention of Emily Biggar who is the longest serving club member by far and for the last few years has acted as a valued assistant leader. My thanks to Emily and to all members over the years who helped to make the club such a success.

If anyone thinks they might be interested in helping to continue the club, please contact Paul on 07973 174 342 for an informal chat without commitment.



Left to right : Sarah McCreath (poster competition winner), Emily Biggar, Paul Goodwin and Isobel Stevenson (runner-up).

YOUTH ARTS CO-ORDINATOR

The CatStrand are delighted to welcome Aidan Nicol to the team as Youth Arts Co-ordinator.

Aidan is originally from Shetland and trained as a filmmaker. Her work has taken her all over Scotland where she has organised several film festivals, and out to the Caribbean where she made a documentary about sustainable food sources. Aidan will develop

a programme of activities and events designed to nurture artistic interest and develop skills in young Glenkensians. Aidan told the Gazette: "I am very excited to be joining the team and moving to the Glenkens. I'm looking forward to getting to know the area and becoming part of the community here. I can't wait to support the area's young people to come up with fun, engaging and far-reaching ways to get involved in the arts in their community."

If you'd like to contact



Aidan directly about participating please email aidan@catstrand.com or call the CatStrand on 420 374.

DALRY NURSERY

Dalry Nursery are embracing the world of 'loose parts play'.

Loose parts are open-ended materials like cable reels, wheels, baskets, boxes and other items that encourage problem solving and child centred learning.

Through loose parts play the children in the Nursery will immerse themselves in concrete experiences and explorations that occur naturally,

as opposed to adult directed.

This year's annual sponsored Easter Bonnet Parade raised funds to improve our loose parts resources. We are also seeking to further improve our outdoor area and have plenty of seedlings ready to plant out.

Sabine Haynes



Funding For Youth Events

The Youth Beatz Fringe is inviting youth groups, community groups, voluntary organisations and young people to apply for funding to enable them to host their own Youth Beatz Fringe event.

The event must be targeted at young people aged 12 to 25 and be held between Friday 4 and Thursday 10 August 2017 in Dumfries and Galloway. Successful applicants will have their event promoted through all the Youth Beatz Fringe promotional materials. Projects must include Youth Beatz Fringe branding on their own promotional materials.

Can you think of something fun to do as a young person, or for young people, in the Glenkens or further afield around the region? If so, get cracking and apply - and you could **get up to £500 for your event!**

The closing date for funding applications is 21 April 2017. For more information phone 01387 260 243 or email jill.hima@dumgal.gov.uk



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CORSOCK SCHOOLS

We have evidence that a small winter-term-only school operated for children of the Corsock area in the early 18th century at Drumhumprey

This was later replaced by the one in Corsock. In 1838 Drumhumprey had 33 boys and 22 girls aged between five and 13 attending. In 1840 a new church was built in Corsock and the Rev William Corson no longer had to hold services in the schoolhouse. However, since the school building had been enlarged to allow up to 150 people to attend service from around 46 families in the immediate area, this practice continued until at least 1939.

Most of the parents paid fees to the master and there was a set of charges. English was two shillings a quarter for farmers and one shilling and sixpence a quarter for tradesmen and all others. Adding writing and arithmetic to the teaching added another shilling per quarter.

There was a larger school at Kirkpatrick Durham dating back to 1696, and held in the church as late as 1748.

The population of the area began a marked but steady increase in the early 19th century. This was often attributed at the time to the beneficial effects of large landowners sub-letting their estates to small farmers, to the economic benefit of both parties.

Educational provision in Corsock improved when the area became a Parish in its own right in 1863 and was required to have its own School Board from 1872. James Clerk Maxwell is reputed to have taken a leading role in the formation of the Board. The school at Drumhumprey was discontinued

and a new one provided in the village.

Corsock Parochial School is also said to have benefitted from the financial support of James Clerk Maxwell.

The Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland 1882-84 informs us that there was a Free School with accommodation for 119 children. The average attendance in 1880 was a very healthy 97.

In World War One the children and the school made their contributions. They helped to raise money, through a concert in 1914, for the Belgian Relief Fund.

As World War Two threatened, the school was used to fit and instruct people in the use of gas masks for the expected German air attacks. In addition, the children of the school organised a dance in 1942 to raise money for the Prisoners Of War Fund.

Regular concerts and drama productions were performed by the children during the war years.

We do have some names of prizewinners from 1939 and 1941 as reported in the Dumfries and Galloway Standard. Some of the prizes were awarded by the Edinburgh Galloway Association.

In 1947 the school lost its senior pupils to the new secondary department at Dalry and the reduced numbers meant that it could not long survive.

The building survives as a large private dwelling today. *Bruce Smith*



The old Corsock school, now a house.

The Covenanters of Old Galloway

Just pause awhile and spare a thought

For those whose bones lay mouldering

Beneath this moorland sod;
As children they were taught the Word;

The Guid-Buik was their shield:
In manhood too, their trust in God
Was armour: do not yield!

Look well and spare a silent prayer
For the souls of Godly soldiers;
They died for Christ at Bothwell Brig,
Their tombstones are these boulders!

In God they placed their trust,
And for him too they died;
Slaughtered by the Royalist sword-
They had no place to hide!

On every moorland, glen and hill
The Covenanters died;
In every kirkyard rests their bones,
Forever to reside!

Flesh, blood and bone long turned
to dust,
Lives on every tree -
Whose falling leave comprise their blood,
Their souls and Memories!

Peter Jeevar lived at Knocklae House, Balmaclellan, for 28 years until 2014 where he "fell deeply in love with Galloway".

This poem was written by him whilst he was living at Knocklae, and submitted from his new home in Cambridgeshire where friends from New Galloway send him down the Gazette, keeping him up to date with local Glenkens affairs.



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DALRY'S REJUVENATING FILM NIGHT

"I feel quite rejuvenated by that!" was the remark overheard from one of Dalry's more senior residents walking the short distance home after seeing the film *Sing Street* at Dalry Town Hall.

The film is a love story set against the start of a pop band in a rough Dublin school in the austerity 80s.

The Town Hall has been showing films on a monthly basis since January. The inaugural showing was *What We Did on Our Holiday*, followed by *Sunset Song* and then *Sing Street* with a final showing before the summer of *Castles in the Sky* at 7pm on Friday 26 April. The winter season will begin in September. The films are chosen by people attending the Dalry Farmers' Market.

The showings are provided professionally (on a surprisingly large screen) by Driftwood Cinema and receive support from the British Film Institute to allow us to test the types of film, the acoustics and what additional features are going to be popular. At the next showing we will be selling chocolates from In House Chocolates in Castle Douglas.

So come and see what is meant by Community Cinema.

*Jim Reid, Chair,
Dalry Town Hall*

New Galloway SWI Rural Meeting

Our NHS Hospital; the Future and the Past was the title of the February talk to the New Galloway Rural.

With the building of the new hospital in Dumfries, Rural members were keen to discover what the new hospital had to offer. Initially, however, they heard how the first hospital was built in 1776 for

£1,053, this hospital being replaced in 1873 at a cost of £16,000. The current hospital cost £5m in 1975 whilst the new hospital will cost £270m when it opens in 2018.

Dumfries hospitals have been famous for innovation over the centuries including being the first to use anaesthetics in theatre and the first in Scotland to have wheels on beds. When the new hospital opens in early 2018, most services will be transferred to the new site, although the Cresswell Unit on the existing

hospital site will be retained, refurbished and used for a number of outpatient clinics.

Members asked a range of questions relating to ward design, use of the cottage hospitals, and accessibility. Members were particularly intrigued by the changing demographics of the hospital catchment area, which appear to have influenced the service configuration for the new hospital.

Immediately prior to the talk the members enjoyed their annual Burns Lunch.

Helen Bullock



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Scots Gaelic Day Glenkens

**Saturday 8th April
CatStrand, New Galloway**

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Programme:

- 10am - arrive & coffee
- 10.30am - Ted Cowan 'Language of the Glenkens'
- 11.15am - Margaret Bennett 'Scottish Folklore Scots & Gaelic'
- 12noon - lunch (provided by CatStrand)
- 12.45pm - launch of 'Gaelic Placenames in the Glenkens' leaflet
- 1pm - Scots song workshop with Nicola Black or Gaelic taster classes*
- 2pm - Gaelic song workshop with Margaret Bennett
- 3pm - tea/coffee and ho-ro-gheallaidh (party time)
- 4.15pm - depart

* option to attend Gaelic language classes on proviso there are six or more interested parties.

All places need to be reserved and paid for in advance - the cost for the day is £15, which includes tea/coffee and lunch.

To register please contact: Anndra Wilson, 4 Bank St, Wigtown, DG8 9HP - 01988 402730, 07722 114518 or beltie@me.com

This event is to mark the launch of Gaidhlig Dumgal's leaflet about Gaelic language place names in the Glenkens.



Who Do We Think We Were?

This issue's contribution from Christine Rae describes her arrival in Dalry as a small girl, and gives a child's eye view of what Dalry was like at that time.

It doesn't matter how old you were when you arrived in the Glenkens - we'd like to hear your story too, whether it's a childhood memory or recollections of a later period in your life: it's all part of our history.

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

The next issue will feature Merryn Fergusson, writing about her first experience of life in Scotland.

Before my brother was born, Dad worked in a Glasgow bank. We rented an old farmhouse near Stewarton and Granny and my cousin came to stay for a year. It was wintertime but the kitchen fire kept us warm. Gran and I made it burn up every morning. We sang: "We push the damper in and we pull the damper out and the smoke goes up the chimney just the same. Glory glory alleluia and the smoke goes up the chimney just the same." Mum said it was sacrilegious but we didn't care. We all slept in the cosy kitchen, me in my cot, Gran and Di in the wall bed, and Mum and Dad on a sofa bed.

In 1949 my Dad was asked to be

temporary manager of the bank in Dalry. We rented Glenvohr in the Throughgate from Mr Gourlay. I was four, my brother six months. Outside the front door was a summer seat where I used to play 'house' with my doll, and talk to the children going to and from the one-teacher school (now the Community Centre). They asked my name, and I said "Rita Patricia Rosemary Anne." They were so impressed that they gave the school kitten four names as well. As there was no English church in the village, Douglas was home christened by Rev Mullo Weir, with tea and fairy cakes marking the occasion. Some Saturdays Daddy and I would go to Castle Douglas on a big red double-decker bus, sitting on the front seat of the top deck with him reading me *Thomas the Tank Engine* over and over again.

After a very happy year we went back to Glasgow, eventually returning to Dalry in 1960. As before, there were two hotels, the grocer's, the bakery, the Police Station, the Post Office, and the smithy. One man with a car ran a taxi service, and there was a shop selling children's clothes and ladies' "necessaries". There was now a shoe shop, whose owner repaired

...two hotels, the grocer's, the bakery, the Police Station, the Post Office, and the smithy...a taxi service, ... shoe shop... a cafe, a greengrocer and a rural supplies.

shoes as well as selling new, a cafe, a greengrocer and a rural supplies. He used the old cell as his office. The school now taught children up to 15, with some classes in wooden huts. A brand new school was built in the early 60s but the roof blew off in a storm so it was back to the huts. The local football team played matches



Christine Rae, when she first came to the Glenkens.

on Newfield Holm, removing the goalposts afterwards, to free up the field for grazing.

Rites of passage were major events. The show of wedding presents - all laid out and labelled - on white-clothed tables - refreshments offered in mother's and grandmother's wedding china. Each lady was thanked by the bride-to-be and a photograph of the couple sent as a memento.

Funerals were very formal - the service in the house, and the coffin, accompanied by men only, taken to the churchyard. All blinds were drawn, and the shops were shut for the duration. That all changed in 1969. A Church of England Rector had died and his widow went to the graveside with ladies from her family and local ladies too, including Mum and me. After that it became quite the thing for ladies to attend funerals and pay their respects.

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LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

How Things Change



Many of you who are local history buffs will be familiar with the invaluable volumes of the *Statistical Account* and the *New Statistical Account of Scotland*.

Their titles make them sound boring but they in fact provide short sketches of Scottish parishes - their fauna and flora, history, industry, agriculture, population, schools, kirks, landowners, etc. The first series was published in the 1790s, the second mostly in the 1830s and 1840s, thus providing a wonderful picture of the immense changes in every walk of life that were taking place in the first half of the 19th century. A *Third Statistical Account*, mostly written in the 1950s but not published in some cases for ten years, has been less well regarded than the first two. Recently while finishing off some work on the *Regional Ethnology of Dumfries and Galloway Project*, I have taken another look at the final series, which fascinate because many Glenkens folk will remember the times when Galloway was recovering from the Second World War.

It is noteworthy that some subjects seem perennial, for example, "there is an undue preponderance of elderly people owing to the migration of the younger people". The four Glenkens parishes, in common with almost all of the Stewartry's inland parishes, had lost at least 30%, and sometimes much more of their populations in the previous hundred years. Balmaclellan numbered 1,145 folk in 1851, dropping to 550 in 1951; Carsphairn had 855 in 1851 but only 250 in 1951; Dalry recorded 1,238 in 1851 and 775 in 1951; Kells had 1091 in

1851 and 756 in 1951. Kells hoped its salvation might lie in forestry since plans were underway to plant 15,000 acres, an estimated two to three men being required for each 100 acres (an employment promise never delivered). In contrast, one shepherd might work up to 2,000 acres. All the villages rejoiced in the building of the hydro system but were disappointed that, like the forestry workers, they were housed in small units close to their work rather than in the communities.

Mechanisation had made a huge difference to agriculture - milking machines and tractors made

The four Glenkens parishes, in common with almost all of the Stewartry's inland parishes, had lost at least 30%, and sometimes much more...

especially welcome. However, the filling in of forms was regarded as a great burden - "a permanent legacy of the recent war". Road haulage enabled delivery of loads "even to the field in which they are required" and transported animals to market, obviating the need for weary days formerly spent in walking sheep or cattle the considerable distances involved.

In 1951 silage was gradually being introduced, but slowly because many still believed "good hay is better than bad silage". European voluntary workers were imported for seasonal farm work. Due to shortages of butcher meat after the war seven rabbit trappers were employed in Balmaclellan, killing upwards of 60,000 in one season. In Carsphairn cattle now grazed the hills and ploughing was revived to meet the demand for cattle fodder. But tradesmen had left the village and the

last drystone dyker departed.

Education, health services, housing and living standards were improving. Pigs were no longer raised at the rear of houses in Dalry, as they had been well into the twentieth century. All houses were soon to have electricity, and Lochinvar water began to be piped to Dalry and Balmaclellan.

The number of clubs and societies in the Glenkens was remarkable. Balmaclellan alone supported a Boys' Club, Girl Guides, Badminton Club, Junior Agricultural Society, Youth

Fellowship, Woman's Guild, Women's Rural Institute, Musical Association, Drama Group, Curling Club, Football Club, Carpet Bowling Club, Handicrafts Class and a local branch of the British Legion. Kells could boast a Masonic Lodge, a library, a weekly film show, concerts, darts, fishing and golf. Dalry had many of

the same organisations, as well as a Unionist Association and a Labour Party Committee. Football pools were very popular. There was not a great deal for girls to do in the villages; they made good wives (according to the minister) but many have to leave for work.

Most farmers now had cars. There was disappointment that the railway never made it to Dalry. Kenmure Castle has recently become a hotel.

Cooperative efforts between the four parishes were on the increase with such bodies as the Glenkens Agricultural Society, Glenkens Society and National Bible Society. One great bonus of the war was that civil defence was on a four-parish basis. Unity was apparently bustin' out all over! Has that wonderful vision been realised some seventy years later?

Ted Cowan

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LOCHSIDE STARGAZING

Clatteringshaws' renowned stargazing nights definitely lived up to their reputation when my daughter Laya and I went along to one in February.

We started with a nice hot drink on this cold winter night, followed by delicious chicken curry with rice and naan bread - yum! Then the talk by Dark Sky Ranger Jesse Beaman of Stargazing Scotland began, explaining what could be seen in the night sky at the time of year. After a half hour or so, there was a break for us to pop outside and see if the mist had cleared enough for stargazing, which it hadn't, before coming back in for hot chocolate and, in some cases, a strawberry tart (Laya and the other child in attendance were very impressed).

The talk, interspersed with amazing astrophotography which Jesse does himself, left you yearning to go out and watch

the night skies. Orion's nebula is something visible with just a pair of binoculars which I wasn't even aware of - an amazing point where a dead star is returning to space, and where the gases from that star are birthing new stars.

We are all stardust was suddenly given new meaning through Jesse's intensity and enthusiasm. These talks are well worth a visit, especially with the warm welcome offered by Alan and the team at Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre and convenience of its location for Glenkens residents, and the very reasonable price for the all-in experience. They also do more child-oriented sessions with craft activities whilst the adults stargaze, although for a seven year old the normal event was very manageable and an exciting evening out.

Jesse says: "With more and more people taking an interest in the universe, it's an exciting time to be offering stargazing experiences. The visitor centres ensure we can keep everyone warm and well fed whilst enjoying the beautiful skies of South West Scotland." Sarah Ade



'Mirror' © Jesse Beaman



Galloway Lodge at Clatteringshaws

Opens for the new season on 31st March 2017

Alan and his team welcome all customers to try out the new menu and to attend the many events in 2017

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Andi Holmes
Independent Candidate



As an Independent Candidate I am free to listen to, and speak up for, the People and Communities of Glenkens and Dee. Not toe a 'party' line, which may not be in our best interests.

Time to change the way our Council works.

Andi Holmes

1

At New Galloway Golf Club

Preparations for the new season are well in hand and the club has had several new members join during the winter months which is good to see.

On the coaching front plans are well in hand with a juniors Easter Camp scheduled for Monday 3 April, Wednesday 5 April and Friday 7 April, between the hours of 10am to 12noon. This is open to all local children and anyone interested can obtain further information by calling David Aitken on 460 556.

The usual Saturday coaching is also planned to begin again in May and at this time the club will be offering coaching to any adults who would like to take up the game. Again further information can be had from David Aitken.

Ian Brown

GCC THANKS

Thanks to everyone who supported the GCC Baby & Toddler and Playgroup jumble sale. £100 was raised.

Work to Trees in Dalry Park

Dalry residents should be aware that essential maintenance to the trees in the Pamela Young Trust Memorial Park that runs between Kirkland Street and Main Street will be carried out from 2 to 5 May.

Those who regularly use the Park should take note and exercise caution.

Grants

Glenkens Community Shop grant applications will be available in store on 17 June, with completed applications due back by 10 July.

JAZZ PIANO

Jim McPhee from Brae Cottage, New Galloway, will be playing the piano at this year's Kirkcudbright Jazz Festival.

2017 is the continental anniversary of the death of Scott Joplin, the ragtime composer. Jim has been playing piano for 70 years, specialising in ragtime piano for the last five years. He has been to Sedalia for the Scott Joplin Foundation Festival.

He will be playing in Kirkcudbright on 10 June at the Cochrane Hall from 2-2.30pm, and also in the Bistro Restaurant from 6-8pm. A varied selection of Joplin's music will be performed.

SCOUT JUMBLE

The Glenkens Scout Group are holding their annual jumble sale on 22/23 April.

A letterbox drop nearer the time will give you details of the sale date and collection evening. If you are spring cleaning and have any unwanted clothing, shoes, handbags, books, toys and bric-a-brac, etc. We would be most grateful if you would keep us in mind. All unsold clothing, shoes and bags are sent for recycling. If anyone is free to help at the sale, we would be pleased to hear from you. For further info contact Heather on 420 375.

Thank you,

Heather, Hannah, Doug & Diana

Plants & Cream Teas

Balmaclellan & Kells Church are holding their annual Plant Sale with cream teas and a cake stall in Balmaclellan Village Hall on Saturday 27 May from 2-4pm.

The cost will be £2.50 per person and proceeds are in aid of Church funds. Please come along and support this event.

COMMENTS...

"I loved being able to read the Gazette online and spent an hour this morning reading. I have never read so quickly." Ruth

"What a bumper issue! Fantastic work, it really shows how wonderful and diverse a place the Glenkens is to live. Really enjoyable reading." Jenna

APRIL & MAY

MARCH

Fri 31, Clachan Clash Tea & Memories, see p20

Fri 31, Stargazing at Clatteringshaws, see p28

APRIL

Sun 2, Writing History from Original Sources, 2-4pm, CatStrand

Mon 3, Wed 5 & Fri 7, 10am-12non, Golf: Juniors Easter Camp, see p29

Mon 3, Drop-In: Dalry Police Station, see p3

Tue 4, Hard of Hearing Drop-In Clinic, 10-11am, New Galloway Town Hall

Fri 7, Stargazing at Clatteringshaws, see p28

Sat 8, Scots Gaelic Day Glenkens, see p25

Tue 11, GTI Trip: Logan Botanic Garden, see p8

Tue 11, Mousetale Puppets: Oscar's Space Adventure, 2pm, ages 4+, CatStrand

Wed 12, Open Stage, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 12, Balmaclellan & Kells Guild, New Galloway Town Hall

Fri 14, Patrick Monahan, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 14, Stargazing at Clatteringshaws, see p28

Sat 15, Backroom Vintage Pop-up Shop, see p11 & p16

Sat 15, Spalding Bowling Club: Green Opening Day, see p13

Sat 15, GTI Trip: Royal Yacht Britannia, see p8

before 21 April, fund your own youth event, anywhere in D&G, see p23

Sat 15 & Sun 16, Easter Events, Kirroughtree, see ad below

Sun 16, Owl Magic, Clatteringshaws, see p28

Fri 21, Stargazing at Clatteringshaws, see p28

Fri 21, Woody Pines, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 22/Sun 23, Scout Jumble Sale, see p29

Sun 23, GTI Trip: The Young Gardens, see p8

Wed 26, Dalry Film Club: Castles in the Sky, see p25

Wed 26, FILM: Julieta, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 29, Plant & Bake Sale, see p17

MAY

Tue 2 - Fri 5, Pamela Young Memorial Park: Tree Work, see p29

Thu 4, Local Elections, Glenkens voting stations, see p2

Sat 6, Scott Gibson: Life After Death (over 18s), 7.30pm, CatStrand

Tue 9, CatStrand Ukes Spring Party, 7pm, CatStrand

Wed 10, Open Stage, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 13, Dalry Farmer's Market, 10am-

12noon, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 13, Watson Birds: Book & Art Sale, during & after Farmer's Market, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 14, GTI Trip: The Small Gardens, see p8

Tues 16, PLAY: Descent, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 19, GTI Trip: National Museum of Rural Life, see p8

Sat 20, The Glenkens Story Field Trip: On the Trail of the Covenanters, email theglenkensstory@gmail.com

Sun 21, Laura Cortese and the Dance Cards, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 25 - Sun 29, World Ceilidh Music Festival, see p32

Fri 26, Heidi Talbot, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 27 & Sun 28, Backroom Vintage Pop-up Shop, see p11 & 16

Sun 28, GTI Trip: Corsock House Garden, see p8

until 14 May, Spring Show '17, The Gallery at Laurieston

Thurs 25, RNLI Fundraiser, see p19

Sun 28, Juan Martin Flamenco Trio, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

26 May - 4 June, D&G Arts Festival, various locations, see p18

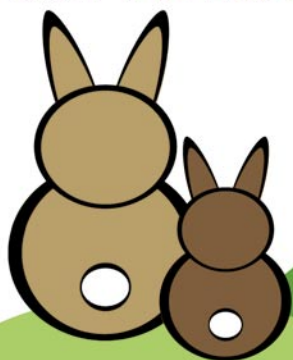
Fri 26 - Mon 29, Spring Fling Open Studios, see p19

Sat 27, Balmaclellan & Kells Church Annual Plant Sale, see p29



This Easter

Why not join us for some Eggcellent fun and games at **Kirroughtree** over the Easter weekend



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

www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark

REGULAR EVENTS

CatStrand, New Galloway:

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am

Margaret Morris dance 1: 3-7yrs, 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

Carsphairn Heritage Centre, Dates of opening: 15 April to 29 May: weekends & bank holidays only, 1 June to 25 September, Thurs to Mon. 10am - 4pm

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

Coffee & Craft Group: Fri, 9am-

12noon, Lagwyne Hall

Folk Music Session, 4th Fri each month, 7.30/8pm till closing, Ken Bridge Hotel

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

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

Family and friends coming to stay?
Short of space?
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Call Fiona on 01644 420 227

www.covenanters-holidaycottagescotland.co.uk

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

Tuesdays 12noon-3.30pm

Fridays 10am-12noon & 1-4.30pm

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

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USEFUL NUMBERS:

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

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 9am: 1st(May). Dalry 10.30am 2nd(Apr). Dalry 12noon: 3rd, 4th. Kells 10.30am: 2nd(May), 3rd, 4th.

Special Services/Events: 9 Apr, 10.30am: United Family Service for Dalry and B&K Churches, Dalry Church. 9 Apr, 6.30pm: Music for Holy Week, Carsphairn Church. 14 Apr, 7.30pm: Good Friday Service, Kells Church. 15 Apr, 2pm: Spring Teas, Dalry Town Hall. 16 Apr, 7am: Dawn Service, Dalry Church. 28 Apr, 7.30pm: Quiz Night,

Dalry Town Hall. 30 Apr, 10.30am: United Service with Choir, Kells Church. 14 May, 10.30am: United Family Service for Dalry and B&K Churches in Kells Church. 14 May, 3pm: Conventicle, Upper Holm of Dalquhairn.

Communion Services: 2 Apr, 10.15am, Carsphairn Church. 7 May, 12noon, Balmaclellan Church. 28 May, 9am, 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

20TH ANNIVERSARY FOR MUSIC FESTIVAL

2017 sees Knockengoroch World Ceilidh reach a significant milestone.

Organiser Liz Holmes says: "20 years! We can hardly believe it ourselves and are delighted to still be bringing some of the best world, roots and Celtic music to our own glen in the Galloway hills above Carsphairn. We are also of course highlighting the region, especially the hidden gem of the Glenkens, and introduce this beautiful area to visitors who travel from all over the UK and abroad to attend - and very often to return again and again."

The bill as always covers a broad range of musical genres, from traditional to cutting edge electronic to award winning silver band classics.

Heading the bill this year is Max Romeo, no stranger to reggae fans and a legend in the field of popular music with many chart hits over the years. There are a huge variety of acts performing over six stages including artists from Indonesia, Ghana, the US, England and of course Scotland.

The festival also features a sauna, dedicated children's activities, workshops in arts, crafts, heritage

and environmental subjects, global shopping, acoustic sessions, a healing area, fire shows, flash mobs, real ales, 'knocktails' and food stalls whilst cabaret, spoken word, comedy and dance all take place across the six venues.

The theme this year is Unicorns, Scotland's national animal, celebrated in myth and legend as a magical creature full of mystery and hidden powers.

The 2017 World Ceilidh is being spotlighted and celebrated as one of Visit Scotland's partners in its programme for *The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology*.

World Ceilidh 2017 runs from Thursday 25 to Sunday 29 May.

10% reduction

on tickets for residents of the Glenkens – Carsphairn, Dalry, New Galloway and Balmaclellan – are on offer again – email info@knockengoroch.org.uk to apply.

For more info on this year's celebration, including video footage of the artists and to buy tickets, visit www.knockengoroch.org.uk or find us on Facebook or Twitter.



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