

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

June/July 2017

ISSUE 100

FREE



A FEW WORDS FROM GAZETTE FOUNDER MATTHEW NEWTON

In Matthew's last interview with the *Gazette*, nearly seven years ago, he said:

"There are so many activities and groups, and the area is home to such a wide range of talented individuals. I think the Gazette is a mirror for the Glenkens and will continue to reflect the growth and energy of its folk and their community spirit for many years to come."

Well, here we are seven years on, and still going strong! So let's get a bit more background on the Gazette, and see what Gazette founder Matthew thinks of the publication now...

Q What gave you the idea to start a *Glenkens Gazette*?

A I had seen the *Glencairn Gazette* in Moniaive and thought it was a great idea.

Q When did you create the first edition?

A In 2000.

Q How many pages was it to start with, how was it printed, where was it made?

A It started at the kitchen table; sounds like a cliché but it's true. Lots of scraps of paper spread across the table; it was like putting a jigsaw together.

It was two sheets of A3 paper folded in half. I think I printed 50 copies at the school.

With all the news to report it started to take up all my spare time and, with the shop to run and two young children growing up, I made the decision to pass it on to GCAT.

Q Are you surprised that the Gazette is still going all these years on?

A No – not at all. There is so much of interest in the Glenkens. It's not only the beautiful countryside but the great mix of folk who live there.

Q What do you think of the Gazette nowadays?

A It's all I could ever have hoped for. Every edition covers such a range of subjects. It's what a community newsletter should be. Balanced, informative and fun to read.

Q You seem to have been doing a fair bit of globe-trotting since you left the Glenkens. How does the Gazette compare to other community papers/gazettes you've seen in your travels?

A I've seen quite a few and it's the top one!



Gazette founder, Matthew Newton.

Q What to you does the 100th issue represent?

A I think it reflects the vibrance and enthusiasm of the communities of the Glenkens. If there wasn't so much of interest in the area it wouldn't have lasted so long. It's about reporting the news, not making it.

"Thank you for the opportunity to give my thoughts on the past 17 years. It's made me reflect and realise how lucky I was to spend 18 years in such a fantastic area. I wish the Gazette the very best for the next 17 years and more!"

Thanks go to Carsphairn Primary for the front cover design, and to Dalry Primary p3,4,5 class for the back cover design.



The CatStrand Saturday Art Club also did some brilliant designs to celebrate the Gazette's 100th issue. Pictured above: Sarah, Freya and Ruby's 'Sparkly Glenkens'; Alex's 'Circle of Life in the Glenkens'; Jessica's '100th Issue'; and Sandy's 'Earlstoun Power Station'. To the right is Rosie's 'Shark Under Ken Bridge'.

OUR 100TH ISSUE!

So this is the *Glenkens Gazette's* 100th issue.

Quite a benchmark. Considering its origins as an eight-sided kitchen table project with a print run of 50 on the school printer, I think we've come quite a long way. And it's still growing - ever faster, it seems - as well as becoming surprisingly well-read for such a parochial publication. Apparently the last issue so interested a Times columnist that he gave the Gazette, and the 'name the salon' competition, a mention in his column! Also rumour has it that

we got a mention on Radio Four's News Quiz - what I wonder is, how do all these folks even know we exist?

I guess what it comes down to is that what's going on in the Glenkens is obviously so interesting that people remember it wherever they are - town, city, Scotland or the Sahara. Whatever 'it' may be, the Glenkens has it, so let's keep on doing it!

Thanks so much to the schools and local groups who submitted designs in celebration of the *Gazette's* 100th issue - two of which are on the covers of this issue, and some more are included

on Page 2, opposite.

We will be having a celebratory exhibition of *Gazette* past issues, along with a comments book for folk to note down anything they like relating to issues past and present, or what the *Gazette* means to them. It will begin at the CatStrand, and then tour the Glenkens in various locations over the next few months - we hope you come along and have a look at all the amazing things that have been talked about over the last 17 years. And we'd love to also hear from you - excerpts from the comments book may be used in future issues so be sure to write something!

Sarah Ade, Editor & Co-ordinator

An Interview with the Editor

For the 100th issue I thought readers might like to know a little more about the *Gazette's* editor and her thoughts on the publication - past, present and future.

What got you into starting the paper?

Matthew Newton, who used to run the shop in Dalry, founded the *Gazette*. He passed it on to GCAT, and I took on co-ordination of the *Gazette* in 2006 when it was a voluntary role. Johnnie Dowswell in New Galloway was responsible for the design and it was 12 pages, black and white. I turned it into a paid role, took on design as well as overseeing the sustainability of the paper, and it has now reached 32 pages per issue.

How long does it take to put an issue together?

It takes me about 80-100 hours per issue, depending on how many pages there are. It isn't a quick process as the layout must be right and I'm always conscious of making sure community issues are shared appropriately and that it's a fun paper to read.

How do you decide which story goes lead?

Whichever story has the most topical relevance to the communities of the Glenkens goes on the front page. The *Gazette* is about the community and for the community.

What's been the funniest story you've reported?

Hmmm...I'm not sure the *Gazette* does funny stories! Although I do love Sue Wiseman's pieces - *The Glenkens Hole Ceremony* went down really well with readers.

What's your vision for the future of the paper?

I hope the *Gazette* will level-out at around 32 pages and continue to be self-sustaining into the future with a larger online presence through social media.

What would you like to see more of?

I'd love it if the young people of the Glenkens got more involved in the paper - we have a young section sometimes and it was great when that was a regular feature. If anyone is interested in writing a piece then please get in touch. It doesn't have to be a regular contribution; a one off piece is great too.

What do you wish to say



to your readers on this historic 100th edition?

Thank you to all our contributors past and present - without you we wouldn't be here! Thanks also go to our tireless steering group for finding the time to proof read each issue and giving educated and informed answers to any issues relating to the *Gazette* which arise, and to the CatStrand team for their ongoing support.

Finally I would like to say thanks, on behalf of the community, for all the effort and energy you put into each publication and long may it continue.

Ian Patrick

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

Large quantity of glass jars. All sizes from spice to coffee. Contact: 450 655

A whole load of Letraset various styles, it's old but children might like to play with it. Contact: Sue on 07563 718 011

Chest of drawers, three-drawer, teak in colour, width 23" x depth

16.5" x height 29.5". Brand new.

Contact: Martin on 430 526

Child's 2 piece paddle/sand pit set. One half forms a lid for the

sand pit when not in use. hardly used. Contact: Ann on 420 445

Folding bed with mattress, suitable for occasional use for a child. Not suitable for adults. From smoke and pet free home. Contact:

Trevor on 440 683

Dog kennel. Contact: 460 640

WANTED

Old net curtains, any condition. Contact: Sue on 07563 718 011

Petrol lawnmower. Working or reasonably repairable... Contact: Simon on 07426 124 982

NEWS FROM THE BIOSPHERE

The Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere has been busy.

Nic Coombey and Simon Fieldhouse have left and Ed Forrest has come on board as co-ordinator.

In April the team were joined by Emma Harper MSP in hosting an event at the Scottish Parliament

that brought together Scotland's only other Biosphere, Wester Ross, for an awareness raising evening on what Biospheres are about.

April also brought with it good news that a new three-year European funding bid had been successful. This led to us hosting the opening meeting of international delegates from Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Finland who will

be working together to explore how designations like UNESCO Biospheres can be best used to generate new opportunities that support the local economy.

If you would like to know more about the Biosphere or to sign up as a Biosphere Proud Supporter, take a look at the website www.gsabiosphere.org.uk or get in touch with Ed at ed@gsabiosphere.org.uk

GLENHAVEN GALLERY

Showcasing original, contemporary, visual artwork and photography by Scottish artists in the picturesque village of St John's Town of Dalry.

OPENING TIMES : THURS - SUN 12pm - 4pm

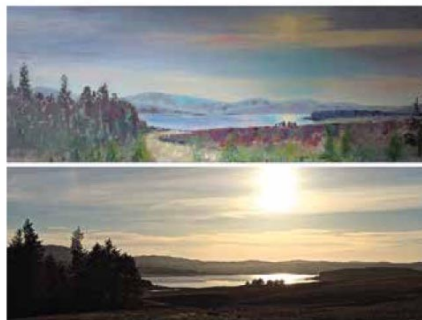
JUNE
FEATURED ARTIST

CURATED BY ARTIST DEBBIE CASSELS & PHOTOGRAPHER STUART GREEN



'Aine Devine'

Portrait artist, art teacher and finalist in Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the year.



Each month will include additional work by an invited Scottish artist.

Regular opportunities to meet the artists, see them at work in a studio environment!

WHAT THE GLENKENS GAZETTE MEANS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Congratulations to the Glenkens Gazette on reaching its 100th issue. An incredible achievement which has seen it become a regular feature of our lives, bringing local news and what goes on in the Glenkens to everyone. We look forward to its future success - not every community gets to read such a professional publication. Thanks to Matthew Newton for originally starting it and Sarah Ade for continuing his legacy. Well done!

Andi Holmes,

Dalry Community Council

Many congratulations on your 100th issue. The Glenkens Gazette has become an essential read for everyone keen to know what's going on. It's also a great way to get your message out to our community. Here's to another hundred and more!

Craig Millar,

New Galloway & Kells Community Council

Congratulations to the Glenkens Gazette on reaching a milestone of 100 issues. It lets us all know in the Glenkens what's going on in our beautiful region, and all for free! Well done!

Liz Holmes,

Carsphairn Community Council

Eco Feature

A New Educational Resource in the Glenkens

sponsored by natural power



The Hidden Mill is a 15-acre permaculture demonstration site on The Hidden Road, near Balmaclellan.

It's a beautiful site of so-called unproductive land, yet it has a compact mix of systems; a public road and the Shirmers Burn

divide the land into patches of pasture, wetland, homesteads, gardens, woodland and a mill pond. Absolutely perfect for permacultural experimentation!

Through the Permaculture Association we were able to make a successful funding bid to the Tesco 'Bags of Help' fund. After a round of in-store voting we were awarded the maximum £12,000 to build a children's permaculture forest garden. The design includes a greenhouse with solar powered underfloor heating, a compost loo, a round wood shelter, raised beds, a willow sculpture and a herb spiral.

Despite it being arguably over-scaled and under-budgeted, we are approaching the successful delivery of the project, it having been an all-consuming adventure on which we have worked full-time with the help of some superb volunteers. The last bit of the equation, the willow structure, will be built live by Trevor Leat (local willow-crafting legend probably best known for his crafting of the wickerman at the Wickerman Festival) at the 2017 Scottish Permaculture Gathering.

The gathering will be a celebration of sustainable culture, with lots of workshops and demonstrations for children and adults, including

heavy horses, blacksmithing, rug making and forest schools. Anyone with an interest in organic gardening, green building or pedal-powered machines should pop in.

More information is available at www.permaculture.org.uk

Our longer-term hope is to act as an educational resource for groups and individuals interested in sustainability. Starting the ball rolling, we are super excited about Carsphairn school visiting to learn about plants and food production. Later this summer local Forest School teacher Sisi Stravidi will use the site to host a range of outdoor learning opportunities.

To find out more or arrange a visit contact lorraine.ishak@gmail.com

Lorraine Ishak



Pictures: Top - Preparing 'hugel beds' with logs, manure, pond weed, seaweed and soil; Below - Pipes laid for the passive solar underfloor heating in the green house; Right - Lorraine harvesting from her no-dig 'lasagne bed'.



PERMACULTURE

Although a mysterious term with many definitions, it's most simply described as a whole system-based, nature-led response to climate change and peak oil, rich with practical solutions.

CatStrand Highlights

We have some wonderful shows and activities lined up for June and July at CatStrand and we're kicking off with our contribution to Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival.

Award-winning musician Mairi Campbell presents *Pulse* (2 Jun), a one-woman theatre show about her homecoming. The very next day (3 Jun) we have two plays, the extraordinary Alan Bisset performing the hilarious *Moira Monologues* before the innovative one-woman show *Richard III*. If the election is getting you down, why not cast your vote and then come and see the Oscar-sweeping *La La Land* [12A] (8 Jun).

Our most requested genre of performing arts in the last 12 months was jazz and June sees the launch of our new Dark Sky Jazz Club with a performance by Edinburgh Jazz Festival favourites Sugarwork (23 Jun). Other

musical highlights include Nashville's Americana sweethearts The Danberrys (17 Jun), acclaimed Country band My Darling Clementine (28 Jun) and the astonishing roots duo Redwood Mountain (21 July) the latter featuring Dalry fiddler Amy Geddes.

If films are your thing, we have the nearly 3-hour German comedy *Toni Erdmann* (15), a Mark Kermode favourite and an unlikely smash at the Box Office. We also have our first Animate Club Screening which is *My Life as a Courgette* (PG) a stop-motion feature film which will be preceded by taster animation workshop run by our very own youth arts co-ordinator and film maker *extraordinaire* Aidan. The Afternoon Tea Club continues with Mr Holmes (30 Jun) and the classic 1939 version of *Wuthering Heights* (28 Jul).

Some other highlights to watch out for are our very own CatStrand Youth Players (16 Jun) who'll be performing two humorous plays; a Midsummer Concert of Piano Duets (in aid



The Danberrys

of St Margaret's Church, New Galloway); and finally we're delighted to be hosting an album launch by classical guitarist Anne Chaurand (30 Jun) who will be playing extracts from *Airs d'Ecosse* on the night. Entry is FREE if you want to come down and listen.

We'll be back on full pelt in September with the likes of Judie Tzuke and Boo Hewerdine and of course in October we'll be hosting our 10-day 10-event showcase for our tenth anniversary. For more details and to keep updated with event announcements visit www.catstrand.com or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

The CatStrand Team

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

OFFICE BEARERS NOW ELECTED FOR BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY TRUST

The Trustees of Balmaclellan Community Trust (formerly the Balmaclellan Regeneration Project) would like to advise the community of their new charitable status with effect from 24 March 2017.

Office Bearers have recently been elected for the Trust and these are Kay Bird (chair), Ailsa Malone

(secretary) and Alan Rumble (treasurer). The other Trustees are Robin Jardine, Jim Kirkpatrick and Roland Chaplain.

We are pleased to confirm that the Stage 2 application form for funding to purchase the land to form the Community Garden has been submitted to the Scottish Land Fund and we hope to hear good news that our application has been successful over the summer - fingers crossed!

In replies to the Public Consultation Survey many residents suggested raised beds with soft fruit bushes and the Trustees of Balmaclellan Community Trust would like to thank Peter Birch of PB Engineering for donating wood for these raised beds, soft fruit bushes and other

plants and shrubs towards this project.

Our website will be live in the near future and will provide information on the trust, copies of the minutes of meetings, and updates on the development of the community garden.

Anyone wishing to become involved in the trust, or requiring any further information, should contact the chair, Kay Bird, on 01644 420 612 or email kaybird15@btinternet.com, or the secretary, Ailsa Malone, on ailsamalone@aol.com

Kay Bird, Chair, Balmaclellan Community Trust (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) number SC047278

HOARD TO LEAVE REGION

It has been decided that the Viking Galloway Hoard is to go to Edinburgh rather than stay in our region.

Cathy Agnew, Campaign chair, said: "This treasure was buried in Galloway for safekeeping 1,000 years ago – it is deeply disappointing that ... it should be allocated to the National Museum in Edinburgh where it

will potentially be lost amongst so many other wonderful artefacts.

"This is a most unfortunate decision for the region and for Scotland. It is doubly disappointing that a more enlightened approach has not been taken, especially as 2017 is Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

"The support from the public, from academics, politicians of all parties, and so many others – across Scotland and the world – to keep the hoard in Galloway, where it would be cherished, has been

magnificent. It is a real shame their voices and their passion have gone unheeded.

"Dumfries and Galloway Council's bid was outstanding. It would have saved the hoard for the region and the nation in a superb, specially designed exhibition area at the new Kirkcudbright Gallery – near to where it was found.

"We very much hope that even at this late stage discussions will continue and a fair compromise can be reached."

Letter To The Editor

I am deeply frustrated to hear that NMS has decided to remove the Galloway Viking Hoard from Galloway. A greedy decision, to take it away from a region that has fought so hard to create what would have been exactly the right and appropriate location for it (the Kirkcudbright Art Gallery), where the impact would be vastly more significant than it will in Edinburgh – magnificent

as it already is. Thoroughly disappointing that NMS chooses not to support this sort of endeavor, but fight against it.

I am struggling to understand the justification for a decision that removes such a valuable asset from an area where it is really needed, and a bargaining chip from a new gallery that deserves all of the help and support it can receive.

Please consider this to be

one more voice to the many pleading that arrangements are made to display the Hoard immediately, then regularly in the South West. Lamentably, although I thought NMS exists to serve Scotland, it appears 'Scotland' in this context means 'the central belt' and 'ourselves'. It would be wonderful to be proved wrong.

*Kind regards,
Emma Walker,
Chicago, USA*

Carsphairn Recreation Group Activities

Following on from a questionnaire sent out to Carsphairn residents, the recreation group have been holding several activities and have planned events for the rest of the year.

Weekly 'Photography for Fun' with Duncan McNaught, and badminton sessions in the village hall have been run in six week blocks (see website for future sessions) and a series of Ladies' Nights are planned for the village hall too. These nights will feature a variety of topics including health and beauty, baking, and Christmas gifts and decorations. The first Ladies' Night will be held on Friday 11 August - keep an eye out for posters and posts on the website for further details.

By popular request *Carsphairn's Got Talent* will return on Saturday 7 October. There are no winners or prizes, just a chance to spend an evening together showcasing the talent in Carsphairn and the Glenkens. The deadline for entries is 31 July so make sure to get in on time - we need performers to make it work so do please put yourself forward!

Final arrangements are being made for an art group and classes will start later in the summer. Please email carsphairnrec@gmail.com if you'd like to be added to the mailing list. You can find more details on all of the above and more at either carsphairnrec.btck.co.uk or www.carsphairn.org

THE WORLD GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS MOFFAT 2017

7-12 AUGUST

HOPE JOHNSTONE PARK,
MOFFAT, SCOTLAND

Moffat Gold 2017 is bringing **The World Gold Panning Championships** to the historic town of Moffat. Competitors from over 20 countries attend the championships each year to pan native sand and gravel in a specially made panning pool to find gold in a record time for the chance to become World Champion.

Gold panning is great fun and everyone is welcome to take part. There will be a free gold panning school at the event, a wide variety of stalls and activities, and a full programme of daytime and evening entertainment to complement the competition. A great day out for all the family!

MOFFATGOLD2017.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 Wednesday evening registered route) must 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 Balmacelllan, 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

July – December 2017 dates

Jul 29, Aug 26, Sep 30, Oct 28, Nov 25, Dec 30

Pickups

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

Carsphairn (1000)

Leaves Ayr 1500

Fare £3.50/ Concessions £3.00 each way

Glenkens to Dumfries Return - Saturdays

Cuckoo Bridge and Peel Centre Shopping

July – December 2017 dates

Jul 01, Aug 05, Sep 02, Oct 07, Nov 04, Dec 02

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

July to October

Other excursions may be organised throughout the period.

Please see the GTI website and posters for details.

July 5th New Lanark (plus Lego Brick City Exhibition)

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940.

Fare: £6/ £5.

Admission: New Lanark £8.50/ £7.00. Brick City £6/ £5 – to be paid on entry.

August 19th Galloway Country Fair, Drumlanrig Castle

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940.

Fare: £6/ £5.

Admission: £5.50/ £4.50 – to be paid on entry.

September 13th The Devil's Porridge, Easttriggs

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940.

Fare: £6/ £5.

Admission: £13/ £10 – to be paid on entry.

October 27th Stitching, Sewing & Hobbyscrafts Exhibition (plus Crafts at Christmas), SECC Glasgow

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0910,
Carsphairn (Shop) 0925.

Fare: £7/£6.

Admission: £9/ £8 – to be paid on entry.

GARDENS OF EXCELLENCE EXCURSIONS

July to October

Pickups can also be arranged at Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie and
Kirkcudbright: please enquire when booking.

July 23rd The Grand Garden Culzean Castle Garden, Maybole

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940.

Fare: £7 Concessions £6. Admission: £7.50 – to be paid on entry.

August 20th The Gulf Stream Gardens

Ardwell House Garden, Ardwell and Glenwhan Garden, Dunragit

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940.

Fare: £7 Concessions £6.

Admissions: Ardwell £3, Glenwhan £6 – to be paid on entry.

September 24th The Restoration Garden Craigengillan Estate, Dalmellington

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1400; New Galloway (CatStrand) 1410.

Fare: £5 Concessions £4.

Admission: £8 – to be paid on entry.

October 22nd The Autumn Garden Dawyck Botanical Garden, Stobo, Peebles

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0910.

Fare: £9 Concessions £8. Admission: £6.50.



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.

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

At this popular event held in New Galloway Town Hall, local people brought along personal items of interest to see if they might be holding an unknown 'treasure'.

This localised version of the TV programme was organised by Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) with the support of Thomson Roddick, Dumfries auctioneers and valuers, with Hamish Wilson attending as evaluator.

Items brought along included china, books, silverware, paintings, jewellery and small pieces of furniture. While some people were disappointed to learn that their 'treasures' had only personal rather than monetary value, others were pleasantly surprised.



Hamish Wilson (right) examines a jug brought along by Mike Brown.

Of bonus to the Town Hall was the interest in the old wooden lead lined 'punch' bowl which was dated back to the time of George III. This item can be viewed on display at the New Galloway Story open Days at the Town Hall. The next one is planned at weekends in July and August.

While the valuations were taking place afternoon tea was provided by SWI members and LING supporters.

A total of £240 was raised for Town Hall funds from the sale of tickets and home baking.

UNI-BUNNY

Over 70 people turned out through the showers on Easter Sunday to follow clues to baby uni-bunnies hidden around New Galloway.

Hunters then returned to the CatStrand where they collected their chocolate egg prize donated by New Galloway Community Council.

Pictured is the Easter Uni-Bunny with some of her eggs, created by the girls and boys at the CatStrand's Saturday Art Club.



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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COMMUNITY TEAROOM AWARD FOR CARSPHAIRN

These days, it seems as though Carsphairn Shop and Tearoom is picking up as many accolades as it is winning new fans.

The business has just picked up the 2017 Community Tearoom of the Year award from the Scottish Food Awards & Academy – hot on the heels of it launching a new venture, the 713 Pop-up Bistro.

The first bistro event in April had a Mexican theme and, following its overwhelming success, an American-style event was held at the end of May.

The plan is to hold these internationally-themed evenings every month, as a delighted Lindsay Duncan, shop proprietor, explained.

"There has been nowhere in the village to dine out in an evening since the Greystones pub closed almost 10 years ago," she said.

"Trying out the pop-up bistro was a bit of a gamble, but the support we have had has been tremendous."

Bistros will be held on the last Friday of each month – the next event will be an Italian evening on 30 June. Booking is advisable by phoning 01644 460 568.

She added: "We are thrilled at receiving recognition from the Scottish Food Awards for all our hard work in establishing the Carsphairn Shop and Tearoom as a 'must visit' place."

The business was also a runner-up in the Best Café category of the Dumfries & Galloway Life Awards.



Top: Lindsay Duncan with Paul Smith and daughter Courtney at the Scottish Food Awards ceremony in Edinburgh. Below: Carsphairn residents Nigel & Kath Martin and Karen Hall enjoy the food, drink and atmosphere of the Mexican evening.

JENNY'S DESIGN

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Thistle Award for Brookford B&B

2016/2017
Scottish
Thistle Awards
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At Scotland's tourism 'Oscars', Dalry's Brookford B&B won the national award for Most Hospitable B&B/Guest House.

This is a real feat considering these awards cover the whole of Scotland. Tourism Secretary Fiona Hyslop said: "The Scottish Thistle Awards recognise excellence and reward the creativity and innovation that underpins Scotland's tourism sector."

We asked Ronnie Bradford, the owner and host at Brookford B&B, for a short comment:

"Angie and I are completely elated to have our efforts recognised in this way. To be honest, being the first time we had entered the competition,

we had no expectations about winning the regional final, let alone winning the national title too.

"To us, hospitality comes naturally and is all about treating our guests and recognising their needs as we would when friends or family come to stay with us.

"We are particularly proud that our guests have been so generous with their praise, enabling us to reach this stage of the awards."

Doug Wilson, Regional Director at VisitScotland, said: "Huge



Ronnie and Angie Bradford receiving their award at the Scottish Thistle Awards 2016/17.

congratulations to Brookford B&B for being crowned the best in Scottish tourism. Tourism is more than a holiday experience – it creates jobs and sustains communities across Dumfries and Galloway and all finalists should be proud of their achievements in reaching this stage."

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COMMUNITY SHOP CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS

The Glenkens Community Shop recently celebrated its 5th anniversary - and what an asset to the community it's been with donations of over £30,000 from the shop going back into the communities of the Glenkens.

Manager Shirley McNaught said: "We first opened our doors on 23 April 2012 and since then have been going from strength to strength. Our very first Volunteer, Avril Brown, has now been joined by other members of the community and we now have 14 regular volunteers. We are truly blessed that we live in

such a wonderful community-spirited area as the Glenkens.

"Our little shop has become a hub where people can meet, socialise and communicate, and pick up a bargain as well. Since opening we have given back a total of £34,720 to various groups and individuals within the communities of the Glenkens.

"To thank all the volunteers for all their hard work, we had a lovely afternoon tea at the Kenmure Arms in New Galloway where a spread was provided by Liz Brannock - and what a spread it was!

"On a personal note I would like to thank all our

supporters, donors and buyers for all their wonderful items that have made our time and effort all worthwhile."

And thank you Shirley for creating such an asset to the Glenkens - may it continue long into the future, providing support in so many ways for local residents.



From left to right: Volunteers Lis Lewis, Janet Braithwaite, Ness Johnston, Elizabeth Peacock, Betty Godwin, Shirley McNaught, Lynne Duncan, Andi Holmes, Mirla Barkhead, Avril Brown, Kathryn Peace, and Elizabeth McFegan.

TREASURE OUR AMENITIES

The news that New Galloway has secured funding for a community shop totalling £800k should be celebrated.

It is quite an extraordinary achievement for those involved, and a huge sum of money to keep a small village shop. However, this project is being subsidised to a level that no private individual would ever dream of sinking their own hard earned cash into. As a small business owner myself, it got me thinking.

What sort of enterprises do we have already in the Glenkens? Are we all doing our best to use and therefore support what we already have? I'm writing this to try and rally some support for the businesses that survive, even in deepest darkest January, with no public funding. Many privately owned businesses keep going because families band together and make sure there's always someone ready to give up their weekends and get up at 6am to keep everything running. They work longer hours than the business would ever be able to pay an employee to work and contribute in so many ways to the community. We would probably

only realise quite how important they are if they ceased to exist.

We bought our house in Balmaclellan two years ago. The fact that the shop is merely a hop, skip and a jump away was a huge attraction and definitely contributed to us considering Balmaclellan as a place to call home. We don't need to drive to Castle Douglas (a 26 mile round trip) when we're missing a vital ingredient for a recipe, or have just run out of milk. It is a convenience that is worth a lot to us. We didn't quite realise quite how much it was worth until the figure of £800k came up if, in the future, the villagers needed to save the shop from closing. Balmaclellan shop is now being run by the second generation of the family. Many residents are elderly and totally rely on the shop. It is an amazing resource for the village. Not just a milk, papers and sweetie shop: I buy Lapsang Souchong tea, herbs, spices, gluten-free flour, Glenkens eggs, eco-friendly cleaning products and, of course, chocolate. They also have a vast selection of wines and the best organic cider.

Shortly after moving to Balmaclellan I suffered from severe back problems and I was unable to get in my car and drive anywhere. During my recovery, I would shuffle up the

street to the shop - it was sometimes the highlight of my day and I got a glimpse of what it would be like to be elderly and reliant on our fantastic 'Village Stores'.

So, what can we do if this precious resource is going to survive and breathe life into the village? Shop there of course. We're all a bit guilty of using the shop to get Sunday papers and 'emergency rations' and then doing a big supermarket shop when we're in the town but this is not going to make our village shop a sustainable business. Actually doing a proper shop and buying a range of goods encourages the shop to stock more of its unusual products alongside the everyday essentials. We really are very lucky to have this on our doorstep.

Dalry is also lucky enough to have a village shop and the same sentiments apply - just think how difficult it would be for the residents if the business closed and they had to take matters into their own hands, raise vast sums of money and then all volunteer to work in the shop. Treasure what you have and use your local shops on a daily basis, and they will look after you when the road is blocked with snow or when you are too ill to drive.

Zoe Davidson, Balmaclellan

Scotland to Sahara

Following on from last issue, here are a few photos from Ben and Melissa's travels... find out more or donate to Medecins Sans Frontieres at kaerus-overland.weebly.com



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CARSPHAIRN PRIMARY'S URBAN ADVENTURE

Recently Carsphairn Primary School boarded the GCAT bus to head to Maryhill, Glasgow to visit Oakgrove Primary School.

It was for the term topic comparing urban and rural communities. Upon arriving, they got a quick tour by one of the teachers at Oakgrove, Mr Chambers. Following that, all Carsphairn pupils joined Oakgrove in the correct classes.

Shortly after arriving, playtime began and everyone went out to play with their new friends. Everyone from Carsphairn was curiously looking around because the playground at Carsphairn is not as big as Oakgrove's, which has over 250 kids. After play time, everyone came in and had some milk.

In the P5 class, three Carsphairn kids (Courtney, Crawford and Naomi) played a math game. Courtney said:

"I really want this maths game at our school!" Finally, after maths, everyone went for lunch and a long play.

To start the afternoon, the P5s went in and had grammar. The Carsphairn P5 pupils finished first and then started some colouring. Once everybody had finished grammar, they moved on to art. For art, the P5 class were given a letter for a Gardeners Contest, so they all got into groups and designed a badge and a name for their group.

Finally the day ended and the Oakgrove boys and girls all had to go home - everyone was really sad. Two of the P5 Oakgrove girls named Michaela and Morgan, who had made friends with Carsphairn P5 girls Courtney and Naomi, said: "We hope we can come to Carsphairn".

With the day over at Oakgrove, everyone climbed back onto the bus and made their way back home to Carsphairn. On the way home, everyone said they loved it and they thought it was an amazing trip.

Courtney Duncan, P5



The Carsphairn children in front of Oakgrove Primary in Maryhill, Glasgow.

DEADLINE

I would like to thank Carsphairn Primary pupils for answering a question I asked them on a recent visit to the school; where does the term 'deadline' originate? The interesting answer is: "Deadline" is a term originally used during the American Civil War in prisons, where if you crossed a certain line you would be, literally, killed."

Sarah, Gazette Editor

CATSTRAND YOUTH ARTS

It's all go at the CatStrand as we start to launch our new programme for young people over the summer.

Our regular Writing Group, Youth Players, Choreo Skills Lab and Saturday Art Club will be running to the end of June.

The Edinburgh-based *Improv Academy* will lead a crash course in comedy improv on Friday 21 July. Then we've got a stop motion animation workshop running from 11am on Thurs 27 July for anyone 7+ who wants to try their hand at making their drawings come to life. This is followed by a fantastic, bittersweet animated film *My Life As A Courgette* (8+ Advisory) which took a team of 100 animators two years to make! From September there'll be a regular animating club on Tuesday evenings.

In June we'll be hosting two information sessions where you can find out about new groups and opportunities in and around the Glenkens for young people and meet Aidan, the new CatStrand youth arts coordinator. Come along on Thursday 22 June, 6-8pm, at

the CatStrand, New Galloway, or Saturday 24 June, 12-2pm, at Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry.

A new volunteering group has been started at the CatStrand for anyone 12-18 who wants to help out at youth arts events, programme films and shows and put on their own events here at the CatStrand. Volunteers meet monthly on a Tuesday, 6-8pm, to make decisions, plan and eat free pizza! Come along on 6 June if you'd like to get involved, or email aidan@catstrand.com to find out



Animated film My Life as a Courgette, screening at the CatStrand on 27 June.

more.

Our Choreo Skills Lab gave a wonderful performance of their work to an audience as part of their *On Stage Dance Share* in May. The five members work weekly together to choreograph their own

pieces of dance. If you'd like to take your dancing to the next level and create pieces for others to perform, the Monday night sessions run 7-8.30pm for 12+.

We're delighted to report that one of the CatStrand's youth volunteers, Joe Taylor (aged 17), has been shortlisted for the VOSCARS as Dumfries & Galloway's young volunteer of the year. Joe has been volunteering at the CatStrand for over a year helping out with administration, developing our new youth arts website, and helping on reception.

The CatStrand are also happy to welcome Cameron Lindsay, 18, to the team for the summer as a tech intern. Cameron is studying Game Development at the UWS in Paisley so will be putting his specialist skills to use developing our new Game Tech group (gaming and game design, on a Wednesday night from September) and game development workshops during the summer.

To find out more about what's happening at the CatStrand for U25s we have a new monthly e newsletter. Email aidan@catstrand.com to sign up. You can also follow our new Instagram or Twitter accounts - @catstrandyouth - or 'like' us on facebook.com/catstrandyouth

Glenkens Schools' Successful Opportunists

This term Glenkens pupils have been having a variety of successes as they take up opportunities that have come their way.

Sky Barrett in S3 had a winning entry in the NHS poster competition for her design which is both stylish and striking.

Eva Gibson in S2 has had her art work exhibited in Edinburgh as part of the Royal Society of Arts Friends School Award. She was highly commended for her monoprint.

The Dalry primary football team has been coached by our janitor, David Stewart, in his spare time and loyally assisted by S3 pupil Cameron Wilkie over the winter season. Now all the training is coming to a head

and the Small Schools Football Tournament at Crossmichael was the opportunity for them to really show what teamwork can do. They impressed with their skill and sportsmanship which also allowed them to bring home the trophy.

The secondary netball team spent a day at a tournament in Dumfries and played as many games in a day as they have played in the year! They were very tired when they eventually got home after a very long day.

Primary science across the cluster got a boost and the Zoolab introduced our young people to some interesting wildlife.

This is all good experience to be stored up and built on; the wider



Dalry Primary football team with their trophy.

the experience, the greater is the platform for creativity and success in the future. Taking opportunities and putting in the hard work required is what enables young people to move on. Our Glenkens students are doing it well and we are proud of them. *Jenny Smith*

Comedy for CatStrand Youth Players

The Youth Players bring down the curtain on a successful 2016/17 season with an evening of comedy on Friday 16 June at the CatStrand at 7.30pm.

It promises to be an evening of laughter, with two one-act comedies taking the stage: *All by Myself*

by Robert Scott (directed by Zoe Kirkpatrick): Seven years alone on a desert island after his shipwreck has driven Larry to the edge of sanity but that's nothing compared to the shock of discovering he is not – and never has been – alone!

A Simple Task by Alan Haehnel (directed by Brian Edgar): Empie has a seemingly simple first assignment at her new job – to

collect a box of merchandise for the Boss. It doesn't seem quite so simple though, when the box is guarded by an array of madcap characters and her Boss keeps changing identities!

Tickets available at CatStrand or online at www.catstrand.com

After the summer break, the Youth Players will start the new season on Sunday 3 September.

CHILDREN'S CLUB AND PLAYGROUP

Glenkens Children's Club (GCC) is having its AGM.

We will hold it on two dates, to enable as many people as possible to attend; **Wed 31 May** at 12noon at the Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, and also on **Fri 2 June**, at 11am, in the same location.

We really need role bearers.

Anyone with an interest in a child attending any GCC groups, even if it's just every so often during the school holidays, can step up to be Treasurer, Secretary or Chair.

The Parent & Toddler Group, Holiday Children's Club and GCC Playgroup are all busy and bustling. Look out for details of the **Children's Club Summer Programme** with exciting events happening on Fridays over the holidays. Activities have not yet been confirmed but some ideas are visits from ZooEd with furry, feathery and scaly friends which

children can hold as well as learn about; Magic Monty, local magician who is always a hit; Cumbrian Birds of Prey, a great show with beautiful birds; or any ideas you may have – please tell us!

Keep an eye on our Facebook page, and there will be a schoolbag drop before the hols with our full Summer Programme.

The Parent & Toddler group runs at the Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, Fridays 10am-12noon. During term time it is a parent and toddler group catering for children aged 0-4 and costs £2 for the first child and £1 for each subsequent child, babies under six months free, and a healthy snack for the children is provided as well as cups of tea and coffee and good company for the grown-ups.

During the school holidays the group becomes the Holiday Children's Club and caters for children aged 0-12, with day/

time/price the same except for special events where there may be a charge of £5 entry for the first child with £1 per subsequent child, to help us cover the cost of the event.

Please come along to the AGM. And please consider taking on a role - GCC will close if there is not enough community support; we need role bearers to allow these thriving groups to continue.

Many thanks, The GCC Committee



Playgroup children ready for the fundraising Easter Bonnet Parade.

Community Shop Hits Target

Residents and friends of New Galloway have broken the £20,000 target set to secure the Big Lottery award to save the Royal Burgh's last remaining shop.

In fact, after a hectic fund-raising campaign, some £22,000 worth of shares have been sold in New Galloway Community Enterprises(NGCE) Ltd, the community benefit society planning to buy Hopkins shop and house and when all pledges have been collected the total is likely to reach £24,000.

In March the Big Lottery awarded NGCE a £808K grant to purchase the property, refurbish the shop, convert the house into self-catering flats to generate income for the community and support a Community Engagement Worker to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the area over five years. However BL wanted the community to demonstrate its commitment by buying £20,000

worth of shares in NGCE.

The six-week campaign finished with two lively fund-raising events in New Galloway - a concert of ragtime music by local pianist Jim McPhee and, on the night the share offer closed, a celebration dinner - "Out with a Bang" - in the Smithy Tea Rooms.

"They were looking for ways of raising money for the community shop," says Jim McPhee, "and I wondered how I could help them and help Jim and Margaret to retire. I'm not one to sit in meetings or committees but I can play the piano and like giving concerts".

Marion and David Briggs, who own the Smithy Tearoom in New Galloway, knew from experience that dinner evenings could be a great way of raising money. "It's the easiest way to bring people together and have a good time," says Marion. "We had a big range of people from across the community, we put them all together at three long tables and the atmosphere was absolutely electric."

"The result of the share offer has far exceeded our expectations," says Mike Brown, Chair of NGCE.

"Already 240 individuals and organisations, two thirds of them based in the New Galloway area, have bought shares. We are very grateful to all these people whose generosity has ensured that this is truly a community-owned organisation."

The legal process of buying the property is now underway as is the recruitment of further staff starting with the General Retail Manager and Community Engagement Worker posts.

Helen Keron, Project Manager for the bid and now the renovation project, says: "The success of the Share Offer means that the funds from the Big Lottery are now available to us for the purchase and renovation. The shop will continue to look very much as it does now for a few months, although it will be open longer hours, and then after a month-long re-fit in the autumn, it will re-open as our brand new Community Shop."

"I'd like to thank Jim and Margaret Hopkins for their patience in this process, and look forward to helping to continue their legacy into the coming years."

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MOVING TO THE GLENKENS

Jim and Fiona Clubb moved their fold of 25 Highland cows to Blackmark Farm near Carsphairn just over a year ago.

Attracted primarily by the stunning scenery surrounding the Glenkens, the breathtaking peace, community spirit and wealth of cultural activity came as an added bonus.

Blackmark is being set up as a holistic farm project which, in simple terms, means bringing the business into a package that serves community, environment and economy. The first year has been about getting to know the land, climate, community and designing infrastructure to suit the cows' needs for the long winter.

Native cattle are able to provide tremendous benefits to the natural environment and the beef produced from slow-grown pasture fed animals is "just like beef used

to taste". 100% Highland beef is available from Blackmark and Jim is currently setting up a small farm shop from where it can be purchased.

The farm has a zero-waste policy and has chosen to have no council bin collection. The challenge is to work out how to recycle everything that comes on site. As a former engineer, Jim is using his artistic and welding talents to convert scrap metal into sculpture. Currently, some of these are being exhibited for sale at the CatStrand, New Galloway, and Jim also takes commissions.

Fiona is interested in land management culture from all perspectives, past, present and future. The Highlanders are great for managing swards of grazing which has been overwhelmed with unpalatable dominant species. They open up the ground for greater

diversity.

Working with horses is Fiona's other passion and the next stage of the farm project will involve demonstrating how draught power can contribute to solving many modern upland challenges. She says: "It is sad to see declining upland communities. These lands are high in resources, slowly forgotten as traditional knowledge is lost." The holistic project at Blackmark aims to address this problem by highlighting ways in which the hills can stay alive, and not just with the sound of music!



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INNOVATION IN EXCAVATION

DEE & GLENKENS HUSTINGS

Prior to elections of local councillors, a hustings was held at CatStrand, New Galloway, for the new Dee and Glenkens Ward.

Eight out of the nine local council candidates took part in a hustings lasting over two hours, skillfully chaired by Prof Ted Cowan.

With an audience of nearly 70 people of all ages, it was much appreciated that questions and discussions remained so focused on the bread-and-butter issues that mattered to people living in one of the remoter parts of Galloway. These included educational concerns such as fears about potential school closures and also about library provision.

Some particularly thoughtful responses came from candidates surrounding the pros and cons of campaigning for full National Park status for the Galloway Hills.

Afterwards members of the

audience welcomed the willingness of all the candidates to work together across Party and Independent Group lines to do whatever they felt best for our area. Cllr Ted Thompson (Labour) stood in for Elizabeth Maxwell. He, as well as long-standing existing councillors Patsy Gilroy (Conservative) and Jane Maitland (leader Independent Group) stressed what can be and has been achieved by parties working together.

Three newcomers to the political scene came across particularly strongly: Dougie Campbell (SNP) with widespread previous experience at a senior level in Strathclyde police and the Refugee Council, as well as work with young people; Laura Moodie, Green Party, as a younger candidate with four children and a range of insights into how to work from home in a remote rural area and



bring employment opportunities; Douglas Swan, Independent, with a well-kent business going back five generations, but also moving with the times and seeing the need to bring younger people to the area and not just bury the old.

Finally there was Andi Holmes who, until recently, was chair of Dalry Community Council and came with the advantage of first-hand local knowledge, not that all the others hadn't done remarkably well whilst knocking on hundreds of doors in recent weeks and picking up lots of the issues that matter to people living in the Glenkens.

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NEW WARD, NEW TEAM

Following the local council elections in May, a new team of councillors are in place - Dougie Campbell, Patsy Gilroy and Jane Maitland have been elected as Dumfries & Galloway Councillors for the new Glenkens and Dee ward.

The recent ward boundary changes meant that the Glenkens was always going to have new faces as none of our outgoing councillors were standing in our new ward. Only George Prentice stood again for election in the new Castle Douglas ward; Finlay Carson is now the area's MSP and Brian Collins did not stand again. New councillors for the Castle Douglas ward, which includes Parton and Corsock, are Ian Howie (Independent), David James (Scottish Conservative) and John Young (SNP).

With nine candidates standing for the three vacancies in the Glenkens and Dee ward, locals had plenty to choose from. All the candidates spent time canvassing in the area and a specially organised hustings event at the CatStrand gave them an opportunity to explain why they felt they were the right candidate for the job and also gave the public an opportunity to question them on specific issues.

Dougie Campbell, SNP, is the only one of our councillors who is new to local politics. He and his wife moved to Gatehouse in 2011 after he retired from the police force where he had worked for many years in both rural and urban areas. This background in public service led to his decision to stand and he adds: "My experience



Left to right: Dougie Campbell, Patsy Gilroy and Jane Maitland.

in policing, a job which is driven by action, will I hope stand me in good stead as a councillor." Whilst he admits he has a steep learning curve at the moment, he fully intends to attend community council meetings as often as possible in order to be visible and accessible. "Community Councils are an important aspect of community life and, for me, attending meetings will ensure I'm in contact with local views and issues," he explains.

Patsy Gilroy, Scottish Conservative, has been a DGC councillor since 1999 and, whilst she recognises the challenges of such a geographically dispersed ward, will take it in her stride having seen several boundary changes in that time. And she feels a positive aspect of the new Glenkens and Dee ward is that it takes in the whole area covered by the Galloway Glens Project. She is on the board of the GGP and is particularly interested in the idea of natural flooding which she hopes may assist in managing the flooding problems that Carsphairn has experienced in recent years. And after having spent some time canvassing in the area she is now even more aware of how important transport is for people living in the Glenkens.

Jane Maitland, Independent, also has many years' experience as a DGC Councillor in the old Dee Ward. She enjoyed canvassing in the Glenkens and meeting locals and was impressed to see that each village has its own shop. She feels that because of our relative isolation here in the Glenkens we are better served by local businesses and perhaps more resilient. A plain speaker, she says, "I will always be totally honest about any new policy or project and what the implications might be." She is a firm believer in the Community Council enquiry service run by DGC which she says allows communities to deal directly with the Council and frees councillors to concentrate on different issues.

With 13 community councils across the Glenkens and Dee Ward, our new councillors have plenty of work ahead of them but they have confirmed that they will work together to ensure that at least one of them attends as many community council meetings as possible. In the meantime, if anyone has any issues that they would like their help with, they can be contacted by email as follows: dougie.campbell@dumgal.gov.uk; patsy.gilroy@dumgal.gov.uk; jane.maitland@dumgal.gov.uk

Defibrillator for Balmaclellan

Balmaclellan Community Council and Balmaclellan Village Hall Committee are delighted to announce that the new defibrillator and heated cabinet have been installed on the front wall of Balmaclellan Village Hall.

Well done to all the residents, Natural Power and Dumfries & Galloway Housing Partnership for enabling the purchase.

Please note that the cabinet is NOT locked and anyone can access the defibrillator. Pads for the defibrillator to be used on small children and babies will be purchased in the very near future and are kindly being donated by Fiona and Duncan MacKinnon.

Balmaclellan Village Hall will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the defibrillator.

Iain Howie, ex-police and SCVS, and now a voluntary worker for The British Heart Foundation, provided 15 adults and four children with CPR and defibrillator training. A big thank you to Iain who will, if there is demand, provide another training session in the autumn. Anyone wishing to attend training please contact Kay Bird on 420 612.

DETECTIVE FICTION: *Some Minor Classics*

This review is of the slightly less famous, or well known, authors.

It may well include many readers' personal favourites but no slight has been intended when they are described as minor.

Beyond such familiar individuals as Morse, Dalziel and Pascoe, Taggart, Sherlock Holmes, Jane Marple, Brother Cadfael, Wexford and Maigret there is a vast wealth of detectives struggling, in print, to hold back a vast tide of well planned and, initially perplexing, crime and to bring the perpetrators to their well merited end. Many decent authors, and detectives, may well have been omitted. If any reader feels strongly then they may wish to draw the books to our attention.

Detective partnerships have included Christopher Fowler's Bryant and May series. They are

largely set in London and are quirky but gently humorous. Ann Grainger's Mitchell and Markby, the Cotswold detectives are well written. David Robert's Lord Edward Corinth and Verity Browne clean up crime in the 1930s and 1940s. Ben Aaronovitch's Constable Grant and DI Nightingale also has some appeal. Robin Paige's Lord and Lady Sheridan series is a

Some authors from a bygone era still have a timeless appeal.

little lighter in tone. Similarly, Inspector Witherspoon and Mrs Jeffries by Emily Brightwell provides some cheerful reading.

Some authors from a bygone era still have a timeless appeal. Edmund Crispin's Gervase Fen, Margery Allingham's Campion, Inspector Appleby from Michael Innes, Josephine Tey's Miss Pym, Gladys Mitchell's Mrs Bradley and Ngaio Marsh with Inspector Alleyn all fall into this

category. Patricia Wentworth and her creation Miss Jane Silver is another favourite. The British Library have recently reprinted some of our older crime classics. Freeman Wills Croft with Inspector French, EC Bentley with Inspector Trent and Ronald Knox with Miles Bredon are worth looking out for.

Other authors that may well repay a browse or two would include Tasha Alexander, MC Beaton (Agatha Raisin), Frances Brody (Kate Alexander), Jane Bolitho (Rose Trevelyan), Amanda Cross (Kate Fansler), Carola Dunn (Daisy Dalrymple), Peter Kerr (Bob Burns), Catriona McPherson (Dandy Gilver), Sara Sheridan (Mirabelle Bevan) and Dorothy Simpson (Inspector Thanet).

I have left out a few authors that were either rather too gruesome or where the detective or the plots failed to convince.

Bruce Smith

Richard Arkless MP Dumfries & Galloway Constituency



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GALLOWAY AND
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE
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THE LAND OF MY VOICE

I live in an old part of an old country.

The sky is wide, trimmed by low hills that are fragments of the towering mountains they used to be. Worn and rounded by ice, wind and time, they enclose a broad glen that has sheltered thousands of years of human life. Here, in the craggy reaches of the Ken basin, the bones of extinct villages protrude through bare patches of the Spruce Forestry that superseded them.

Landscape has always impressed itself upon me. As a very small child, I recall walking along a long, straight country road near my home that ended abruptly at the feet of the Campsie Fells. The hills towered over me in a way that made me dizzy with vertigo, a sensation I still recall quite clearly as I write.

Later, we came to Galloway. The landscape captured me immediately. With my collie dog, I roamed free through our glen, always seeking the summits that would grant me views in every direction. South, the Solway coast would shimmer in the sun.

North, the rolling green fields of Ayrshire could be glimpsed on a clear day. East, the hills tumbled slowly down to the Nith Valley and Dumfries. West, the Rhins of Kells loomed, still clinging to winter even late into spring.

This landscape fired my eleven-year-old imagination. I daydreamed as I walked, stocking the high hillsides with dragons, the green woods with elves and the many chattering burns with fairies. I wandered in a fantastical world of my own, transported from my awkward, nomadic childhood.

At my new school, we walked the hills to learn from them. Our History teacher led us on the trail of the Killing Times, showing us the savage nature of religious struggle right beneath our feet. She led us to the places where people had once gathered in secret to worship, where the roar of a waterfall drowned out their voices and the hills hid them from sight as they prayed. I felt their ghosts flicker at the edges of my perceptions. She led us to the place in our quiet village street where a public torturing had sparked an armed rebellion. In the silence of my imagination, I could still hear the screams.

When you climb to the summit of one of our hills, you can see clearly the connections that criss-cross the land below. You can follow the path of the river and see how it formed the shape and configurations of the villages and farms on its banks. You can see from the patterns of the roads how they

have sustained those places that remain, but you can also see the disconnected ruins of the places that died. You can see, simultaneously, how the land lies now and how it lay in the past.

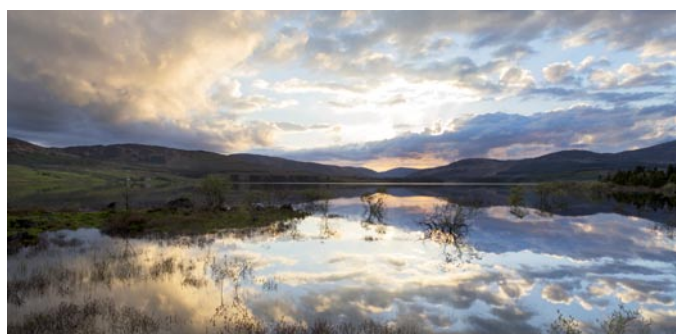
The old pack road that winds down into the glen from the seaport of Portpatrick is one of the marks left by the past. Maintained now for tourists as the Southern Upland Way, it once brought vital trade to our glen. I've stood in one of the ruined villages on its route. My feet planted on that old pack road, my hands on the tumbled stones of the former Inn, I pictured the drunken revellers stumbling away from the door in the moonlight, and heard horses nickering warily in the ruined stable opposite at the noise. It's just feet away from where the miller's wife

*In the silence of my imagination,
I could still hear the screams.*

once hid Robert the Bruce from the English and her husband.

That closeness to such potent history grew in me, fed my sense of 'scottishness', built my inner voice. As I have dug deeper into the landscape's past, it has fed me characters that have added nuance to my inner voice.

I followed the Bruce throughout our hills, stood where he watched the Battle of Glentworth unfold, slept in a bunk on a spot he once slept. I've followed him where countless others have too, seeking to relive the history of our country. But I've followed others too, others whose paths are much less well trodden. I followed the Covenanter 'Black' James McMichael from the spot where he murdered a turncoat minister, through the landscape in which he hid from the King's forces, to the bitter end of his life in an unmarked grave. His passing became a secret hidden in leather bound history books. He was brave but reckless, a savage man with a passionate belief, a compelling character who also repelled me. His voice was harsh, his tenor righteous, his passion driven by zeal. So different from me, but yet, his voice I understood. Sometimes when I stand in front of our Town Hall and close my eyes, I can still hear the creak of the gibbet where they hung him. I try not to imagine the rank smell that must have accompanied his corpse.



View over Clatteringshaws Loch by Duncan McNaught

I dug deeper again into the secret histories of our glen and found the Old Wife of Bogha, a woman who fell victim to the hysteria of Witchcraft, a woman suspected on account of her literacy. Each time we drive to our weekly shop, we pass the site of her home. In the Kirkyard, at the session house, I can pause and hear her staunchly vow her innocence, and I think I can hear scorn in her voice. I can follow the road they took her to Kirkcudbright, I can stand outside the cell where they starved, tortured and harried her for two long

years to confess to crimes I know she did not believe in. I can close my eyes and marvel at the strength of character it took her to resist. I can feel my heart break as she did at last, begging for death. Her voice is persistent, her suffering vivid through it, and all too easily I understand it.

One night I went for a walk past sunset. The sky was still awash with the golden glow of the sun's passing. The clouds were inky and lined silver. The moon appeared in a dislike rend in the clouds, a sliver of celestial magic framed against a backdrop of cosmic luminescence. Venus lingered below, peeking at the night. A mere pinprick of brilliance, she was dwarfed by an ominous bank of cloud as she skimmed low over the dark spine of the Rhinns. Beneath it all, lay the quieted glen, smudged by swirling tendrils of mist rising from the shrouded river.

The riot of autumn colour that clad the hillsides was muted in the gloaming, faded to soft, indistinct browns. The village appeared as brief splashes of white light while night crept over it with dewy fingers. Bennan Hill rose in the background, conical and sinister as Mount Doom in the last bloody light of the set sun, its sides smeared with haze and the murk of encroaching night. I committed each tone to memory, savoured the drama of this old part of this old country and imagined a thousand different sunsets that have gilded these old hills before.

Angela Miller

GLORIES OF MADAGASCAR

On a cold but bright afternoon, members of New Galloway Rural were treated to a talk on far away, hot and dusty Madagascar, by Sarah and Janet Woods.

We heard how, with an attitude of "if we don't do it now, we may be too late!", our intrepid speakers decided it was time to do it...

We learned that Madagascar is an island off the coast of South Africa created long ago when it broke away from the mainland, and took with it only certain creatures. No lions, tigers, elephants or rhinoceroses were included. The animals that went on the island

developed and became special to Madagascar. We learned about the rice fields going up the side of the mountains, and how people live mainly on rice and chicken. We saw some fantastic exotic plants in amazing colours, and creatures such as chameleons, lemurs, monkeys, spiders, butterflies, and birds, which we will never see in our colder climate. It was a lovely interlude from the long cold wet days of our Scottish spring.

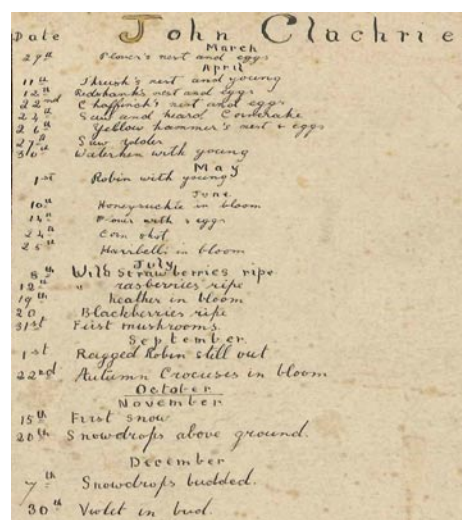
Helen Bullock, Secretary

Nature Notes 1914

Mr Ian McCulloch of Troquhain House, Balmaclellan, recently found a large sheet of handwritten nature notes from 1914 made by four gardeners from the estate.

He has permitted copies to be made and passed on to anyone

with an interest. Paul Goodwin has scanned and 'cleaned it up a little' and has sent in the extract to the right. These notes are over a century old and are fascinating to compare with the present day - note particularly the reference to a Corncrake, a bird not seen in Galloway for many years. If anyone would like an electronic copy of the full scan (best viewed with zoom on a computer) then please email Paul on notes@paulgoodwin.me.uk



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OBITUARY FOR BILL BLYTH OF BLOWPLAIN FARM

Bill Blyth was born at home on Blowplain Farm on 28 May 1935, the first son of his parents William and Anna.

His father had bought the farm in 1932 aged 21 and had moved down from Dundee to start in farming. Bill continued to live there for his 81 years except for the two years he left for his National Service when he was posted in Northern Ireland.

He married Mary in 1960 and they spent their lives at Blowplain, raising their three daughters, farming, planting trees and extending the gardens. He particularly loved daffodils and with Mary planted

hundreds of varieties.

He had many other interests throughout his life including bee keeping and poultry, and in particular his antiquarian books about local history. He studied Galloway history for many years, building up a wonderful collection of books which were his pride and joy, and latterly contributed historical articles to the Gazette.

He was ultimately a family man who loved being at home on his farm surrounded by family and friends, and will be sadly and very much missed by all.

He died peacefully on 10 April and was buried at home at Blowplain surrounded by his daffodils, with a view looking out towards the Galloway hills.



Bill with some of his beautiful collection of books.

Below is a submission that Bill had previously sent in to the Gazette, and he is also featured in Ted Cowan's history piece on p27.

The Brownies Well

In the area of the Glenkens there are many strange names for some of the local features.

One of these is The Brownies Well located at Bogue Farm, Dalry. An explanation for this mysterious name can be found in the following text taken from the book published in 1824 *Lights and Shadows of Scottish Character and Scenery* by Cincinnatus Caledonius - also known as John Gordon Barbour of Dalry.

"When Grierson of Lagg and Graham of Claverhouse were traversing Galloway for the destruction of Covenanters, some families, at their peril, concealed the persecuted, and carried them victuals. Among these, Ramsay of Bogue was one. He wished well at all times to his King. But he also wished well to virtue and his country.

There were some sequestered spots in his farm, where the persecuted often met, and to the Holy Linn, Society Holm and Cushat Craggs, himself or his children would carry bread to the hungry. The persecutors had spies - and the doings of Ramsay was known, and he was summoned before the Council of Scotland. Who was to manage his farm in his absence? Who was to cut his corn, and carry it to the barn? For it was the eve of autumn when he

was summoned away.

No matter, his corn was shorn and carried to the barn-yard. Twas threshed and carried to the kiln. The fields of Ramsay were seen waving yellow on the one day, and were observed to be cut down and stooked on the next. This was observed with astonishment.

But it had been whispered for some weeks past that the Bogue was frequented by brownies! They were seen issuing under night from the woods near the Garpal. They were seen, with long cloaks about the Cushie Craggs, and they had been observed cowering away from the ox-byre towards the large spring-well beyond it. No wonder then that the large crop, west from the well, was standing at night and stooked in the morning! No wonder "ae night there wasna ae threshen sheaf in a the barn, an the neist mornin' ten pecks o' threshen aits."

Well, blessed be the brownies. They had a strange howff about the Bogue. "Ramsay got his work very strangely wrought," so the neighbours said. But how indeed was it wrought? And who were these brownies? The poor persecuted, who got their bread and clothes from the family of Ramsay, now cut his corn in his absence. In the moonlight they stole from the wood and the stream, and, like unearthly beings indeed, dealt heavenly gratitude to the family of their benefactor. The Covenanters

alone were the brownies! Their victuals were sometimes carried under night to that croft, and they came to slake their thirst at the forenamed fountain. And while they stood there, under the spreading ash, often did these persecuted vow love to heaven, to one another, and gratitude to their benefactor. They got a candle by night, and in pairs threshed their sustainers grain. They took his horses under the September moon, and housed his corn, or sometimes carried the threshen grain to the mill.

Through the influence of Kenmure, a friend to the persecuted and Ramsays' own landlord, the tenant was dismissed. Although he was indeed fined. He scorned to deny the sustenance he had given, but he had not borne arms. He was therefore dismissed and returned to his family.

The helpful persecuted were happy at his return. He blessed them for their harvest aid; and they blessed him for renewed shelter. He abated not his kindness. The frowns of guilty power bore small terror to him. He would not curse his king; but he would succour affliction. The storm at length abated. William of Orange landed in England. In Scotland persecution came to an end. Presbyterianism, industry, and allegiance returned. The peasantry 'forgot not to assemble themselves together', but they now assembled in their native churches."

Contributed by the late Bill Blyth of Blowplain, with information sourced from www.kirkcudbright.co

AIR CRASHES TO THE NORTH OF CARSPHAIRN

Previous articles have told the stories of air crashes on Corserine and around Loch Doon.

This article covers three air crashes to the North of Carsphairn. The first of these was that of a Spitfire which crashed on the North East of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn on 23 May 1942 killing the sole occupant, Pilot Officer David G Hunter Blair. David was only nineteen years old when he died and was the son of Capt Sir Edward Hunter Blair Bart of Straiton.

Unusually for a crash in the Glenkens, this was an operational flight rather than a training mission. David served with 242 Squadron and was one of several pilots sent to provide top cover for the Queen Mary which was arriving in UK laden with US soldiers. His plane was a Spitfire Vb AD540 'Blue Peter' – it had been paid for by funds raised in Newmarket and was named after the 1939 Derby winner. The pilot blacked out due to a fault with the oxygen, but came to in time to bail out.

Tragically, his parachute failed to open correctly and he was severely injured and died shortly after he was found. He landed close to where the plane crashed on Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, only 15 miles from his family home. The aircraft wreckage was discovered and parts were recovered in 1993 with the assistance of a Royal Naval Sea King helicopter from HMS Gannet in Ayr. The engine has subsequently been restored and is on display at the Dumfries & Galloway Aviation Museum. There is also a small memorial at the very remote crash site and another marking the spot where he died. There are several well written articles on the web, just put 'blue peter spitfire' into your favourite search engine. The recovery of the wreckage was also covered by the

TV programme Blue Peter because of the coincidence of the name and that program is currently available to view on Youtube.

The second crash in this area was an Avro Anson serial DG575 which crashed on 5 December 1942 in Carsphairn Forest almost six miles North of Carsphairn. All five crew were killed. Ansons were used for general transport and also to train crews on flying multi-engined aircraft and in navigation.

The final air crash in this area is by far the largest aircraft, the most recent crash and therefore, arguably, the most memorable. On 7 July 1951, Boeing B29 Tanker serial 44-83950 crashed into the field to the South of Brockloch Tower killing all eleven men on board. This was a US Air Force Superfortress similar to the type used to drop the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but this one had been converted into a tanker for air to air refuelling. In addition to the usual crew of ten, it also carried a refuelling boom operator.

USAF Boeing KB-29P 44-83950 took off from RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk at just after 9am. At 11am the aircraft contacted the controller at Prestwick, the pilot reported they were at an altitude of 14,500ft. A few minutes later the aircraft was seen by witnesses on the ground descending out of cloud over Carsphairn. The fuel tanks, containing an estimated 8,000 US gallons, exploded and completely destroyed the aircraft, scattering it over a considerable area. A memorial was unveiled on 21 September 1952 by Mrs Evelyn McMillan of Brockloch, and latterly Lamloch, Carsphairn. The memorial is situated in a dyke to the South of Brockloch tower and facing the tower but the actual crash site is about 100 yards to the west.

There was actually a fourth crash in this area (on Beninner to the South of Cairnsmore) but I will carry this one



Top: Map showing crash sites. Middle: Royal Navy Sea King recovering Merlin engine from Spitfire 'Blue Peter' ©Alan Leishman. Below: Mrs Evelyn McMillan unveiling B29 memorial.

over to the next (and final) article on Air Crashes in the Glenkens. If you have anything to add to these stories, especially photographs of the crash sites or the men involved, please get in touch on 07973 174 342.

Paul Goodwin

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Polharrow School

The founding of the school in 1842 was due to Mr John Kennedy, the landed gentleman who built the present house at Knockalling.

This family was covered by Ted Cowan in Issue 96 of the Gazette.

The first Master was Mr John Cowan and he held the post for many years.

There are references to prizes won in 1843 and 1855.

The Post Office Directory of 1878 informs us that a Mr John Hamilton was the Master at Polharrow School. Subsequent Masters were Mr McJannet and then a Mr Wilson.

A new school was built in 1891 and was located a little further west on the other side of the Polharrow Burn. The building still remains and is known as the Schoolhouse. The roll was always rather modest and the various teachers through the years commented on the poor attendance pattern. The figures sat at around 20 children between 1900 and 1903.

We do have some record of the teachers. Miss Jeannie Brown was the teacher from 1891-95, Miss Hannay, 1895-97, and then Miss Jennie Lamb, 1897-98, Miss Isobel Fisher, 1898-1900 and then Miss Mary Jane Callander from 1900. We also know that a Mrs Alexander was teaching there in the 1930s. In 1944 Miss E S McClure was appointed as Headteacher, having previously worked in Mansfield.

Even at the end of the C.19th the younger scholars worked on slate and the older ones moved on to paper. The Inspectors Report for April 1892 included the section, "Miss Brown does excellent work in this small school." Her Majesty's Inspectors continued to be pleased with affairs at the school. In 1902 they said, "The pleasant tone which has in recent years prevailed in the School again calls for remark."

The School Log Book gives only brief glimpses of life at Polharrow.

"Snow lying deep today. Obligated to open School without scholars." (January 1895); "Special attention to cutting out and darning for girls." (March 1895); "Some difficulty in getting homework well done." (September 1895); "Merit Certificates for A. Hewitson and J. Smith." (April 1901); "Two boys have left being over 14 years." (March 1917); "The infant boys are making good progress with their knitting." (June 1917).

In the Great War the children made their contributions. However, there is not a single mention in the log book about the War or any of the national events. We know from other sources that they joined with others from Kells and Mossdale Schools to make crutches for the wounded and disabled soldiers.

The children always looked forward to their Annual Festive Treat in the Town Hall, usually hosted by the ladies of Knockalling.

In the Second World War the school, like all others, took evacuees. We have some of the names of the prizewinners from 1939-42 from the Dumfries and



The old schoolhouse, now converted into a house.

Galloway Standard. Between 1939 and 1942, each year has repeats of surnames often two or three times, such as Robertson, Pringle, Denny and Thorburn, which reminds us that, in small rural schools, most children sat in the schoolroom with brothers and sisters.

In 1944 the children from the school made the national newspaper with a distinctive contribution to the war effort.

"When they have finished their lessons the senior pupils of Polharrow School, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright put away their school books and take up dusters and mops. The Education Committee has been unable to find a cleaner for the school, and the pupils are doing the work ..."

18 June 1944- Sunday Post -

In 1947, in common with other rural primaries, the school lost its senior pupils to the new secondary department at Dalry. By 1951 it was on its last legs.

Bruce Smith

Photo of the Issue *Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel*

Fraser McCormick wins a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel's Sunday carvery with his shot of the Ken Bridge.

Competition judges Dave and Sue said: "we wouldn't normally choose a picture of the Ken Bridge as we have so many but it's a nice composition showing the arches, so we're putting that in first place for this issue. We also loved the panoramic views submitted, especially of Loch Dungeon. Well done to everybody, and congratulations on your anniversary."



Who Do We Think We Were?

This issue features Merryn Fergusson, describing her first experiences of life as the wife of an Ayrshire farmer.

The photo was taken at her wedding at (believe it or not) St Merryn Church, near Padstow in Cornwall.

Several readers have indicated that they too have a story they would like to tell. I am eagerly awaiting these promised contributions, or, indeed, any others; all that is required is 500 words of reminiscence, from any part of your life, whenever it was, wherever you were.

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

Next issue's contribution will be from Marion Bone, writing about her early memories of coming over from Ayrshire with her family for the New Galloway Show.

VILLAGE LIFE: 1974

Aren't you going to say "Good Morning" to Jim?" Alex asked.

I felt this rebuke was unwarranted. I was unaware that Jim was among the five men dressed in their Sunday best, that we had passed, standing in the Church porch.

We had returned from honeymoon that week and I was ill prepared for life

as a farmer's wife. I was guilty of a lack of imagination as to what living in a remote Ayrshire village might entail.

July is the time for 'gatherings' to shear and 'mark' the sheep. I contributed by learning to roll the shorn fleece and hold the lambs steady while marking. The hours were punctuated by meals provided by the shepherd's wife, and this was where my initiation into 'hogs' and 'gimmers' and singular attributes such as a 'soo mooth' began. Jim was not strictly a herd, despite his surname being Lambie, but a griever because as well as sheep he had care of cows and crops. I had never seen him other than with his close cropped fifties style haircut and working clothes. How was I expected to recognise him with his head covered by a hat and wearing a suit, or anticipate that he might be an Elder of the Kirk? This was only the first of many occasions where I was wrong footed in my alien world.

In August I caught a chill and was ill for a week. Once I recovered more than one person asked me if I was better. I was yet to learn that this was one of the boons, as well as the banes, of village life. No-one and nothing went unnoticed.

Why else had my newly acquired Uncle

planned to drive through the village with a pram strapped to the roof of his car if not to fuel speculations as to why we had married with such apparent haste?

As people got to know me, and I them, I would be asked in a friendly way if 'that was you going for your messages?' This mystifying question was solved once I realised the Scots connection with France. French I was familiar with, and 'faire de messages' means doing your shopping. This link helped again when I was asked for an

...this was where my initiation into 'hogs' and 'gimmers' and singular attributes such as a 'soo mooth' began.



Merryn and Alex Fergusson, St Merryn Church, near Padstow, June 20th 1974.

achette at a fund raising event.

Sooner than expected, but not before nine months, a baby arrived. Proudly I pushed the pram through the village. Half recognisable people would take Iain's hand, close his fist over a coin,

and 'crossing his palm with silver' slip the coin under his blanket. Alex became rather

mercenary and suggested unnecessary walks to the shop.

I joined others and their children to watch my first village wedding. When the young couple drove away to the reception the groom threw coins out of the window. With a flurry the children scampered unashamedly to fill their pockets. This tradition I learnt was called a 'scramble'. It was, I thought, a much more generous gesture than covering newly marrieds with confetti.

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VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

Bill Blyth's School Friend



Bill Blyth late of Blowplain will be sadly missed by all his friends and acquaintances.

At his funeral in April Balmaclellan Kirk was full to the brim. Many folk knew him in all sorts of capacities but some of us remember him best as a local historian with a deep knowledge of his parish, Galloway and the Southwest. He would drop by my house from time to time to discuss some aspect or other of the region's past inspired by his reading, or often by his memory. He would appear with some notes or some papers which he had been studying, but which he was uncertain how to take further. We both enjoyed the crack and often our differing opinions on the matters in question, agreeing to work together to answer some of the queries he raised. Unfortunately, Bill's health prevented us from taking our plans further, much to my regret.

Historians like me find scraps of information in books, manuscripts and printed sources which we then try to match by asking the likes of Bill if they have ever come across similar information. He had an enviable knowledge of the ground. He loved figuring out the meaning of placenames drilling into the names themselves but also by applying his knowledge of local topography.

It was quite hard to shake his opinions. He was very taken with the story that a Danish prince is buried under the Dalarran Stane, arguing that the details, for example that the prince had been killed at the Battle of Dalarran, had come down to our generation through oral tradition and

that the burial was also mentioned in poems and songs. My view is that

all over Scotland there are stories that Danish princes are buried under large monoliths and in any case if the prince had been slain would his followers have had time to bury him? Would they not have retreated at the earliest opportunity, chased out by irate Glenkensians? My views did not convince him one bit. He would not budge on the matter.

One project that he had in mind was to write about a friend of his that he had met at Balmaclellan School but he was worried that some notes he

In view of the Viking Hoard campaign...Carson succeeded in having the find's 'Treasure Trove' status for gold and silver objects extended to those made of bronze.

had acquired on this individual might somehow breach copyright.

The man he had in mind was Robert Andrew Glendinning Carson (1918-2006) who became the Keeper of Coins and Medals at the British Museum and 'the leading British expert in Roman numismatics of his generation'. He was born at Borgue but his family had lived in the Glenkens since the mid-eighteenth century. His first schooling was at Twynholm but when his family moved farms he



Robert Carson © the British Museum

attended the village school in Balmaclellan where he became good friends with Bill Blyth. At this point Bill was to have contributed a piece on his memories of Robert and their wanderings in the countryside. Robert passed the 'Qualie' or Qualification Exam with flying colours winning the Glenkens Bursary and the pathway to Kirkcudbright Academy, where he fell under the spell of an excellent Classics teacher,

John Mackenzie. Bill had to leave school at 14 to help on the farm. Robert achieved Dux of Kirkcudbright Academy and went on to Glasgow University where, among other subjects, he studied Roman coinage under Anne S. Robertson. On

graduation he joined the Royal Artillery and in 1947 he secured a post at the British Museum. A massive number of erudite publications on coinage followed.

At some point Bill Blyth decided to look up Carson at the British Museum. I am not sure when, but it was a successful visit as the two reminisced about Balmaclellan. Had he been spared he would have told us more but it was typical of Bill to renew an acquaintance after such a long time. In view of the Viking Hoard campaign it is of interest that Carson succeeded in having the find's 'Treasure Trove' status for gold and silver objects extended to those made of bronze. Bill was extremely proud of people like Carson who went on from 'a wee school like Balmaclellan' to become a leader in his or her profession. Bill also made an important mark but personally I regret that we lacked the opportunity to learn much more, especially about Glenkens, from his vast knowledge.

Ted Cowan

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QUIZ NIGHT FUN

Balmaclellan Village Hall's Quiz Night was a great success.

Eight teams, answered seven rounds of questions, including a picture round, based on famous

people with birds in their name, well the quiz mistress was Kay Bird, Secretary Balmaclellan Village Hall, so what would you expect! Other rounds included Pot Luck, Science and Nature, Sport, Name that Year, Geography, and Music.

Well done to the winners, Kells

Academicals. Thank you to everyone who supported the event which raised £180.52 through the quiz and raffle, which will go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the Village Hall.

Look out for details for the next Quiz Night to be held in early October 2017. *Robin Jardine, Chair Balmaclellan Village Hall*

Wendletrap Tai Chi

This style of authentic Tai Chi is a method of personal development, enriching the wellbeing of the body, mind, spirit and artistic sense.

The course embraces relaxation techniques, mindfulness and simple repetitive Chi Gung movements and, most importantly, students are taught 'The Form' of Tai Chi; slow, graceful movements.

**Wednesdays, 2-3.30pm
CatStrand, New Galloway**

SPALDING BOWLING CLUB



Spalding Bowling Club's President Mat Taylor welcomed everyone to the open day, and Mat's son Joe Taylor threw the silver Jack and declared the green open. It was a lovely day and a great turnout, and lovely to see new members. We hope everyone has a good season!

Valerie Russell



As part of the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership

'Loch Ken Fisheries Study'

Galloway Fisheries Trust invite you to attend an

End of Project Presentation Evening

Wednesday 19 July
7-9pm

CatStrand, New Galloway

For more information, please see the Galloway Fisheries Trust Website 'Loch Ken Fisheries Study' Project Page and 'Latest News' Section.



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Scout Thank You

To date, the total from our recent Glenkens Scout Group Jumble Sale stands at £1,194.

The leaders, Cub Scouts and Beavers would like to say a big 'Thank You' to the people of the

Glenkens and beyond for their support in donating and to all who came to purchase goods. A special thank you to parents, Group committee, Friends of Scouting and not forgetting the young members themselves, who worked very hard to make this happen. This is a fantastic amount of money and is very much appreciated.

Yours in Scouting, Heather

FACEBOOK FOR BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Balmaclellan Community Council now has a Facebook page.

Posted on Facebook are the names of the community council councillors, the minutes of meetings and information on events in and around Balmaclellan.

Bumper Sale!

The recent Plant and Bake sale held at St Margaret's Church, New Galloway, raised over £600 for the Stewartry branch of the Food Train and Befriending Service.

Despite a damp and chilly morning, the event was very well attended and sales were brisk. A wide variety of cakes, biscuits, bread, scones, tablet, tomato and vegetable seedlings, herbaceous plants, annuals and houseplants all proved so popular that the sale finished well ahead of schedule. Ladies Guild President Christine Rankin said: "We are very grateful for everyone's support for the excellent Food Train and Befriending Service but would stress that next year it would be a good idea to get there early to avoid disappointment!".

Calling Crafts Folk

Dalry Town Hall Management Committee propose to hold a Craft Fair in Dalry Town Hall on Saturday 16 September 2017.

Large tables are available at £10 each and half tables can be provided if required.

To book or for more info contact Noreen Bell on 07759 494 952 or noreenbell46@gmail.com

DALRY POLICE STATION DROP-IN

THURSDAY 1 JUNE
9-10.30AM

Our local PC is Chloe Ellis who can be contacted by telephone for non-emergencies on 101.

SNAIL MANAGER WANTED

Manager/Promotions Executive for a very successful long established snail racing stable needed.

For over 20 years now snail racing has been one of the highlights of the Alternative Games, raising many thousands of pounds for local charities.

The organising committee are looking to recruit someone to undertake the planning and promotion of the event this year.

This would include: signing up race sponsors, recruiting owners, pre-event promotion and preparation of snails for race day. Full training and support provided.

This would NOT include on the day race commentary as this will be undertaken by our local racing pundit.

Any local organisation willing to take on this role could be eligible for a percentage of the rewards. Please contact Margaret on 07770 688 514.

Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal 2017

Thanks to the generosity of our communities and participating outlets in the Glenkens, just over £133.55 was raised for Marie Curie Cancer Care during this year's Daffodil Appeal.

The static countertop cans raised a further £172.45 throughout the year. Our donations will go towards much needed practical nursing

care for terminally ill people in our area. Marie Curie nursing services are totally free to patients and their families, and the Daffodil Campaign is a vital part of fundraising for the charity. Please continue to drop in your loose change when you see the distinctive yellow cans, as every penny helps!

Thank you, and congratulations to the Gazette on 100 wonderfully informative issues!

Natalie Vardey

GAZETTE COMMENTS...

"I just thought I would let you know that I've heard a lot of good comments about the Gazette; a number of people mentioned how much they thought it had improved and someone said they looked forward to

getting it more than the Galloway News!"

"A great way to find all that's going on in the lovely place we live. Well done - thank you." Jenny

JUNE & JULY

MAY

Wed 31, GCC AGM, 12noon, Glenkens Community Centre, see p16

JUNE

Thu 1, Dalry Police Station Drop-in, 9-10.30am, see p29

Fri 2, GCC AGM, 11am, Glenkens Community Centre, see p16

Fri 2, Mairi Campbell: Pulse, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 3, Alan Bisset: Moira Monologues, 4pm, CatStrand

Sat 3, Richard III: A One Woman Show, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 8, FILM: La La Land, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 8, GTI Trip: Broughton House Garden

Sat 10, Jim McPhee at the Kirkcudbright Jazz Festival (runs Thu 8-Sun 11)

Fri 16, The Danberrys, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 16, CatStrand Youth Players Comedy Show, 7.30pm, CatStrand, p14

Sat 17, The Danberrys, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 17, Dalry Summer Ceilidh, part of the Great Community Get Together in memory of murdered MP Joe Cox.

Sat 17, New round of grants available from Glenkens Community Shop - pick up a grant application form from the shop on

Main St, Dalry.

Thurs 22, Youth Activities Info Session, 6-8pm, CatStrand, see p15

Fri 23, Dark Sky Jazz Club presents: SUGARWORK, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 24, Youth Activities Info Session, 12-2pm, Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, see p15

Sat 24, Glenkens Story: The War Dead Remembered, contact theglenkensstory@gmail.com or text 07766 686 402.

Sun 25, Midsummer Piano Duets, 6pm, CatStrand

Wed 28, My Darling Clementine, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 30, Anne Charaund: Album Launch, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 30-Sun 2 July, Permaculture/Sustainable Culture Gathering, The Hidden Mill, Balmaclellan, see p5

JULY

Tue 5, GTI Bus Trip: New Lanark (plus Lego Brick City Exhibition), see p8

Wed 6, FILM: Toni Erdmann, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 12, Open Stage, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 19, Loch Ken Fisheries Study; End of Project Presentation Evening, 7-9pm CatStrand, see p28

Fri 21, Redwood Mountain, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 21, Improv Academy, CatStrand, see p15

Sun 23, GTI Bus Trip: The Grand Garden; Culzean Castle Garden, Maybole, see p8

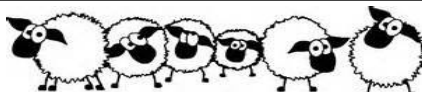
Thurs 27, 11am, Stop Motion Animation Workshop, CatStrand, see p15

Thu 27, FILM: My Life As A Courgette, 7.30pm, CatStrand

AUGUST

Mon 7-Sun 12, World Gold Panning Championships, Moffat, see p6

SHOW US YOUR TALENT! Submit an application now to be part of Carsphairn's Got Talent, 7 October - call 460 545. Closing date 31 July.



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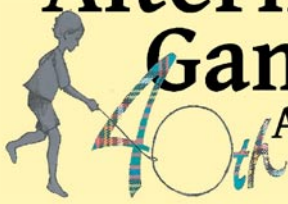
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The Scottish Alternative Games Anniversary

The Gird 'n' Cleek World Championship
Lockerbie Pipe Band - Classic Car Show
Tossin' the Sheaf - CatStrand Ukelele Band
Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane - Tractor Pull
Archery - Snail Racing - The Alternative Run
Barbecue - Teas - Stalls - Sideshows - Bar

SUNDAY 6th AUGUST
2pm, THE PARK, NEW GALLOWAY

Admission £4 Adult/£1 Child

A FAMILY DAY OUT WITH A DIFFERENCE!
Profits support local charities and good causes.

New Galloway is 14 miles north of Castle Douglas just off the A713.

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

Youth Volunteer Meet-up, Tues, 6-8pm, FREE PIZZA

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

Gentle Tai Chi: Wed, 10am, 60+

Wendletrap Tai Chi, Wed, 2-3.30pm

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, 1 June to 25 September, Thurs to Mon, 10am-4pm

Glenhaven Gallery, Thurs-Sun, 12noon-4pm, Main St, Dalry

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

713 Pop-up Bistro, Carsphairn Shop & Tearoom, last Friday each month, contact 460 568

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?
Cosy country cottage available (sleeps 4)
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

Glenkens Community Councils

Balmaclellan Community Council

Meetings: 4th Monday each month, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall. **CHECK OUT NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!**

Carsphairn Community Council

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

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

Dalry Community Council Meetings:

1st Monday each month, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.

New Galloway & Kells Community

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

CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sunday

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

Special Services/Events: Songs of Praise with Sanguhar & District Silver Band and Glenkens Church Choir, 4 June, 6pm, Newfield Green
United Family Service (Kells/Dalry), 11 June 10.30am, Dalry Church

United Service with Choir, 30 July 10.30am, Dalry Church

Communion Services: 2 July, 10.15am, Carsphairn Church. Although the Clachan Fair is no longer happening, we have decided still to hold the Songs of Praise.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES:

Kirkcudbright: Sun Mass, 9.30am.
Dalbeattie: Sat Mass, 5pm

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