

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

December/January 2017-18

ISSUE 103

FREE

DUNCAN WINS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

A Glenkens photographer has won a prestigious prize with a picture of local wildlife.

Duncan McNaught, who lives in Glenlee, has been named the Royal Society of Biology's Photographer of the Year for 2017.

The winning photograph, taken in Dundee Forest, is entitled 'Welcome to My Humble Abode' and features a tiny fungus gnat inside a mushroom.

"Winning the RSB award was amazing, once the shock went away" says Duncan. "It was a world-wide photography competition so to be named out of all the competitors when I am from such a small area of Scotland is truly astonishing in my eyes." The first indication of possible success came when Duncan was named as one of eleven photographers worldwide shortlisted for the award.

"This competition did not reveal other entries like some do so I had no idea what I was up against but looking back at last year's



Duncan's winning photograph, titled 'Welcome to My Humble Abode'.

winners gave me an idea that the competition was going to be extremely challenging which made choosing my particular entry difficult."

Earlier this year Duncan was highly commended in the international Sony Awards competition.

Duncan grew up in Dalry and moved to Glenlee when he was 21.

He worked for Scottish Power for 25 years before taking early retirement and taking up photography in earnest.

• **Duncan's work is currently on display in the Carsphairn Heritage Centre - see page 3.**

• **He talks about his photography in an interview with the Gazette on P6**

A Fundraising March to Remember



Photograph courtesy of the Galloway News.

Glenkens man Robin Hood, who lives outside Mossdale, is planning to hike more than 400 miles from Dumfries to the Cenotaph in London pulling a huge stone statue.

The statue, of a Scottish soldier, is the mascot of South West Scotland RnR. Robin hopes to raise in excess of £20,000 for the charity which supports wounded service men and women.

Robin will set off next October, arriving at the Cenotaph on November 11 for the ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1.

He said: "This is such an important anniversary and from a military perspective this is significant to me as my great grandfather was killed at Gallipoli and my grandfather, was killed at Dunkirk."

To train for the walk, Robin will build up his stamina by walking the statue from his home to Dumfries and back each week. So look out for Robin around the region – and feel free to donate to the cause!



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST

25 years of help with housing in the Glenkens

The late Pam Young was very involved in Glenkens life.

Her family had lived in the area for generations and she had always wanted to do something to help the community she loved and was so much a part of. She was the sort of person that people looked to for help so when she received a request for help in finding accommodation for retiring farm workers, who had previously been living in tied houses, this proved to be the catalyst that started the Pamela Young Trust which she set up in 1992 and which has been helping to provide affordable

housing for those in need in the Glenkens ever since.

Early on in her plans she asked her friend John Maxwell to become a trustee. As well as living in the Glenkens, John was chairman of the Stewartry Housing Committee for over ten years and continued to serve as councillor for the area when the Stewartry was absorbed into Dumfries and Galloway Council. His knowledge and experience in all matters to do with housing was of enormous value, particularly in the early days of the trust. Following Pam's death in 2008, John Maxwell was elected chairman, a role he continued with diligence until stepping down two months ago. He remembers that "Pam's enthusiasm

was infectious and I was flattered and pleased when she asked me to become a Trustee. It has been wonderful to see her vision become a reality. The trust's property portfolio has grown considerably over the last 25 years and it is humbling that we have been able to help so many people."

Steve Davie, a trustee since 1995, comments: "we have been lucky to have had John's thoughtful leadership and quiet determination to further the work of the trust over so many years. He leaves the trust in excellent shape and my fellow trustees and I are all delighted to carry forward Pam's legacy to the Glenkens."

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKER FOR NEW GALLOWAY

New Galloway Community Enterprises Ltd (NGCE) is delighted to announce the appointment of Samantha Rushton as its Community Engagement Worker.

The creation of this part-time post is an innovative step for the organisation, and Sam's role will be to enhance the economic and social

wellbeing of New Galloway. She will work with local charities, businesses and individuals to support and empower them in these aims. Sam comes to us from a background of teaching and child support and also runs her own dance business. She is excited to be taking up this post and is looking forward to working with the New Galloway community.

• In other news, NGCE will be holding its AGM on the 1st March 2017 at 7.30pm in New Galloway Town Hall - all Members are cordially invited. If you are not already a Member, you can join by

buying one or more £10 shares at any time. Ask for details at the shop or email ngce5000@gmail.com

• The building work to renovate the shop and house is expected to start in spring 2018 when the shop will be relocated to temporary premises within New Galloway.

NGCE wishes to thank everyone who has supported the shop and the organisation over the last few months. We have been very well supported by the community and our hard-working shop staff.

Mike Brown, Chair, NGCE

Balmaclellan Community Trust

Would you like to become actively involved in the trust?

The trustees of Balmaclellan Community Trust would like to invite the residents of Balmaclellan Parish to become involved in the work of the trust and its projects.

These are very exciting times for Balmaclellan. The trust is currently working on the purchase

of the ground within the centre of the village for development into a community space/garden. Community Benefit monies from Blackcraig Wind Farm should become available during the beginning of 2019 which will pave the way for further ideas and projects.

The trust is currently looking to increase the number of trustees and members, as well as supporters who have skills

to bring to the projects. If you would like to become involved please contact either chair, Kay Bird, on 01644 420612 or kaybird15@btinternet.com or secretary, Ailsa Malone, on ailsamalone@aol.com by Wednesday 3 January 2018.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Kay Bird, Chair
Balmaclellan Community Trust
(SCIO - SC047278)*

Articles contributed to the *Glenkens Gazette* do not reflect the opinions of the paper. The *Gazette* stays neutral on local, political, religious and any other issues, providing a platform for members of the Glenkens communities to share their thoughts, views and opinions.

Arts & Crafts at Carsphairn

Carsphairn Heritage Centre is diversifying to secure its long-term future, piloting a scheme to introduce local crafts and artwork to visitors over consecutive Saturdays in December.

This will be the first time the centre has opened for winter hours and it is being done in a bid to attract a greater number of people – local residents and tourists alike – through the door.

The first exhibition will be a display of photography by Duncan McNaught, winner of the 2017 Royal Society of Biology Photographic Competition (see front page story). An extremely talented amateur photographer born and bred in Dalry and now living in Glenlee, Duncan and his amazing work are well known and admired, especially by Carsphairn residents who may have attended his photographic classes in Lagwyne Hall.

"It's been a challenging year for the Heritage Centre with a steady decline in visitors and willing or able volunteer stewards," said Karen Hall, chairman of the Carsphairn Heritage Group.

"The introduction of arts and crafts will allow local artisans to showcase their work in a permanent setting in exchange for stewarding hours, so it's a win-win scheme. If the pilot is successful then exhibitions will sit alongside the annual heritage exhibition



Duncan McNaught's photos adorn the walls and locally-made crafts are on display inside the new-look Carsphairn Heritage Centre.

which will reopen in Spring 2018 as normal."

She added: "Carsphairn Heritage Group remains the same as always and membership to the group is still available for anyone with a local interest in the heritage of Carsphairn and the surrounding area."

Gail Challis, the centre's crafts coordinator, commented: "The increased craft presence is intended to appeal to and attract people who may not be aware of the great work that our volunteers do every year."

"We greatly appreciate the support already shown for this project and we have received some fantastic artwork and crafts, Duncan's exhibition looks amazing!"

"As well as supporting the Centre, this is a great opportunity to pick up some one-of-a-kind, handmade Christmas presents that you won't find on the high street."



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Glenkens Freecycle

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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

Water pipe, blue, plastic 25mm diameter, 14m long. Contact: 0776 668 6402

Three seater sofa and matching armchair, oak and green leather will need repairs to leather or use with a throw. Phone for info on availability and condition. Half a roll of roofing felt. Contact: Paul on 01644 430062 – evenings.

Black and Decker 420W **electric hedge trimmer**, 50cm cutting blade. Contact: Nigel on 460 545

Aquarium, 610 x 365 x 310 cm. It comes with a hood/light etc, gravel and some in-tank furniture. Contact:

07712 825512

Unopened 10-litre tub of Leyland Trade magnolia **matt emulsion paint**. Contact: Nigel at 460 545

Beith Craft table, medium coloured wood, with six matching chairs, **cabinet/ sideboard** that has shelves and doors. Table measures closed 4' 9", extended table measures 6' 4", matching cabinet/ sideboard measures, 5' in length by 1' 6" width by 5' 6" height. Lovely pieces of furniture. Free to a good home! Contact: Angie on 07766 476 125

Room divider, beech frame with cream cotton screen. Contact: Angie on 07766 476 125

WANTED

OS Pathfinder maps for the Glenkens. Contact: Simon on 07426 124 982

Small chest of drawers. Contact: Simon on 07426 124 982

Gloss paint, wood preservative, compost, herbs & pond plants. Kells School, New Galloway, 420 340

Xmas decorations please - baubles, tinsel, beads, from anyone having a clear out. It's for the Gardening Club. Contact: Mrs Devlin at Dalry Primary on 430 259 or drop them into Dalry Primary School.

THE ROTTNEST MARATHON

The timing of our first visit to our daughter in Australia was determined first on finding a nearby marathon and secondly that it shouldn't be too hot!

Luckily the Rottnest Marathon is in October, the end of the winter in Western Australia. Rottnest is a small island about 12 miles off the coast of Fremantle. It measures seven miles long and 2.5 miles wide. Our daughter had taken part last year in a relay swim from Fremantle to Rottnest.

Rottnest is home to about 12,000 Quokkas, friendly, furry little marsupials. Although they are not supposed to be fed they are well aware that the cafes are good places for hanging out. There are no private vehicles on the island but there is an opportunity for a bus trip around the coast. We were lucky to see a group of dolphins playing close in to one of the white sandy beaches which surround the island. The bus driver also spied and stopped for a dugite snake crossing the road in front of us. Rottnest and

its surrounding waters are a Class A Reserve. We didn't have time for a ride on the train, a disappointment for Gordon who enjoys trains of all sorts. Nor did we have time to take part in the Gun and Tunnel Tour. Rottnest was part of the defences in case of invasion by Japan in WWII.

A thunderstorm broke out during the evening and night before the run so we were hoping that the day would not be too hot. The marathon itself was to start at 6.45am with a skirl of pipes by two young kilted lads.

The bus excursion had given Gordon an opportunity to see the marathon route, not around the whole island as we had originally assumed but 4 laps around a group of salt lakes with very little overhead vegetation.

The fastest runners, under three hours, were through before the heat but as time went on the heat built up to 26 degrees, being commented on as hot by the announcer. As we met Gordon starting his last lap, he was feeling the

heat but determined to carry on to finish in a credible 5 hours and 34 minutes, 20 seconds.

As we sat on the grass while he recovered and the awards were presented, we were surprised to hear his name called - first in the over 70s.

By the evening he had already decided on another trip to OZ next year!

Ros Hill



Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power



This is a shout out to report red squirrel sightings around the Glenkens, and further afield into the rest of Dumfries & Galloway, as greys dominate the map.

Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels is calling for the public to report more red squirrel sightings in Dumfries & Galloway to help paint a truer picture of the region's native wildlife.

Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels encourages the public to report their sightings of both red and grey squirrels, to help the project monitor the situation across the country.

However, in Dumfries & Galloway, the sightings map does not tell the full story.

The region is home to a significant population of red squirrels, but numbers have fallen rapidly in recent decades, as non-native grey squirrels have moved into their territory.

Grey squirrels out-compete red squirrels for food and shelter. They also carry squirrelpox, a virus that doesn't harm them but is deadly to red squirrels. Squirrelpox is a particular threat in Dumfries & Galloway, where outbreaks have been recorded near Lockerbie, Thornhill and Moffat.

However, despite these challenges, red squirrels are known to be holding on strongly in many parts of Dumfries & Galloway, with the project's spring survey results suggesting that there are still many places with red-only populations.

Dr Stephanie Johnstone, Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels Conservation Officer for the region said: "People in many parts of Dumfries & Galloway

Places like ... New Galloway are havens for red squirrels, yet our current sightings map would make anyone think they were grey dominated areas.

are fortunate to be living so close to red squirrels, and are very used to having them around.

"Places like Gatehouse of Fleet, New Galloway and New Abbey are havens for red squirrels, yet our current sightings map would make anyone think they were grey dominated areas.

"It is true that small numbers of grey squirrels are moving into these areas, and it's fantastic that local people understand how important it is that we know about these sightings, but reporting red

squirrel sightings is equally important. It helps us monitor the impact our work is having, and know where to focus our efforts and limited resources.

"Plus, we want to show the rest of the country what a great place Dumfries & Galloway currently is for red squirrels, and demonstrate that they are still worth saving!"

Red squirrels were once widespread across Scotland

and, while three quarters of the UK's red squirrels are found here, their numbers have fallen drastically to just 120,000. This is largely due to the spread of the grey squirrel, which was first introduced to Britain from North America in the mid-19th Century.

Residents and visitors to the Glenkens, and the wider region, can support the project by reporting their sightings of both red and grey squirrels at scottishsquirrels.org.uk



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Continued from front page:

The *Gazette* has been speaking to Duncan McNaught about his photography

Q. What inspired you to take up photography?

In my early teens, I was given a tiny 110 cartridge camera to go on holiday with. I had no idea what I was doing to begin with but I soon realised that within a photograph you can capture a moment in time for others to see which inspired me to take up photography.

Q. How long have you been taking photographs?

The interest in photography started about 20 years ago through experimentation, but after I changed from film to digital my interest grew to a thriving passion.

Q. Does living in the Glenkens inspire you?

I grew up within the Glenkens so of course it has had a huge influence in my work. What I love about the Glenkens is that I have so much at my back door just ten minutes away. It is truly a hidden

gem within Scotland.

Q. What is your favourite subject matter?

My favourite subject matter is micro where I can get really close up to nature that is hidden from the normal eye. Individual seed heads, tiny fungi, dew drops, etc. It has truly opened up a whole other world for me. It's certainly not an easy subject but the difficulty and challenges it presents makes it all the more worthwhile.

Q. Any tips for aspiring photographers around the Glenkens?

I advise people to look at the details within their scene even before switching the camera on. Pay particular attention to the background which is equally important as your main subject and



Duncan McNaught receives his certificate and £1000 prize for winning the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) Photographer of the Year competition from professor Dame Jean Thomas, RSB president (left) and biologist and marine photographer, Linda Pitken, one of the competition judges.

watch your horizon i.e. keep it level.

Q. How can we find out more about your work?

If anybody wants some advice they can contact me on Facebook at @DMcNaughtPhotography where I post regularly, or via email at duncanmcnaughtphotography@btinternet.com

Councillor Vacancies

Due to the retirement of two of our councillors, Balmaclellan Community Council has two vacancies.

The new members would be co-opted onto the council and would have full opting rights.

The community council meets once a month, usually on the last Monday of the month, and members are encouraged to participate in a number of events throughout the year run for the residents of the community.

If you are interested in joining the community council as a councillor at this very busy and exciting time, and

want to contribute towards decision-making within your village, please give your name, address, telephone number and email address by 5pm on Wednesday 3 January 2018 to Kay Bird, Secretary, Balmaclellan Community Council, Hillcrest, Balmaclellan, DG7 3QE. For further information you can call 01644 420612 or email kaybird15@btinternet.com. We look forward to hearing from you. *Alan Rumble, Chairman*

GAZETTE ARCHIVE UNDERWAY

After discovering that the *Gazette* archive of past issues had been destroyed in the CatStrand flood, we thought we had lost any chance of creating a full archive of back issues.

However, David Bartholomew has come to the rescue and kindly notified us that he has nearly all the back copies of the *Glenkens Gazette*.

Previously, Paul Goodwin had generously offered to convert paper

Gazettes into pdf format, suitable for uploading onto the website, thus creating a publicly available archive of past issues.

Work on this is underway, and we'll let you know when you can browse nearly two decades worth of *Gazettes* online!

However, there are still two issues missing which David didn't have in his collection - issues 13 and 14. If anyone has these issues at home, we would be very grateful if you could get in touch and we could arrange to have them copied in order to get the full set onto the website, making our *Gazette* archive complete.

Do you have issues 13 and 14 of the Glenkens Gazette - from around 2002?

If so, please get in touch at glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk or 07727 127 997

Dalry's Christmas Twinkle

After last year's successful Christmas Twinkle event in Dalry, how could we not have Santa and his elves visit us again this year?

Last year 120 adults and children sang festive songs around our Christmas tree, ate goodies and drank hot chocolate and non-alcoholic mulled wine, whilst they eagerly awaited Santa's arrival on his beautiful sleigh filled with presents. The atmosphere was 'sparkling'.

Christmas is a time for sharing your laughter, having fun, meeting people and making friends. Our free community event is for everyone, bringing together the young and the 'not so young' from all around our Glenkens Communities.

So this year why not come along, wrap up warm, bring a torch if you have one, meet us around Dalry's Community Centre's Christmas tree, at 5.30pm on Saturday 16 December and join in the fun, sing, eat and drink.

Santa and his elves plan to arrive on his sleigh at approximately 6pm. If you wish, your child can meet Santa and his elves, chat to them and give a Christmas hug, if they want to..... and if they are very good,

maybe there will be a surprise in Santa's toysack for them.

This is a free event. However, the Glenkens Community Centre is now owned by our Dalry Community Property Trust, and any donation given on the night will help with the upkeep of the building and it would be gratefully received. All children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

The contact for this event is Angie Bradford on 01644430512.



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Thank you to everyone who joined us for our launch night, a wonderful evening was had by all.

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Glenkens Transport Initiative

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Regular Services

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

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 Dalry to Newton Stewart Swimming and Shopping

Outward Pickups

Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (Fire Station) 0940

Return Pickups

Newton Stewart (Aldi Car Park) 1130; (Merrick Centre) 1140

Return Fare £3.00

Information/ booking phone Ann on 01644 460518

Thursdays Glenkens to Castle Douglas Day Centre Return

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

Outbound pickups:

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

Pickups can also be arranged from Balmaclellan, Parton and

Crossmichael bus stops or from passengers' homes.

Return service will leave Castle Douglas Community Centre at 1430.

Fare £3.

Glenkens to Ayr Return - Saturdays December 30, January 28

Pickups

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

Carsphairn (1000)

Leaves Ayr 1500

Fare £3.50/ Concessions £3.00 each way

Glenkens to Dumfries Return - Saturdays

Cuckoo Bridge and Peel Centre Shopping

December 2, January 6

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

December 9th, Saturday

Hetland Garden Centre and Moffat

The GTI annual trip to these two great Christmas shopping locations.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940, Crossmichael (Shop) 0950; Castle Douglas (Market Hill) 1000.

Fare: £6. Concessions £5.

January 17, Wednesday Gretna Gateway and Carlisle

The January Sales

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940, Crossmichael (Shop) 0950; Castle Douglas (Market Hill) 1000.

Fare: £6. Concessions £5.

Check the GTI website for news of other excursions in December and January. Please contact us on gti@catstrand.com with suggestions for excursions.



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

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or call 01644 420374.

Glenkens Men's Shed Update

It's all 'go' over at the Old Smiddy in Balmaclellan, home to the Glenkens Men's Shed.

Fresh from their successful Round the Loch fundraising bike ride, which netted just over £1000 for improvement works, things are moving on at a pace. The new Monday evening sessions, which run from 6.30-8.30pm, have proved a hit and the 'shed in a shed' project is now complete.

After a concerted effort the main shed has been cleared ahead of construction work by local steel fabricator Peter Birch to put in a mezzanine floor. The new floor will create additional work and storage spaces as well as helping keep the place warm, essential in the long winter months.

Some of the shedder's handiwork will be on display at the CatStrand Christmas shopping day. Membership is still growing and potential recruits and existing

members are reminded that the £10 annual membership is due from the start of January. Prices remain unchanged for the third year running and are really good

value for the facilities on offer.

Anybody interested in volunteering contact chris@catstrand.com or 01644 420 374 for more information.



Round the Loch fundraising team.

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

Write to:

107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

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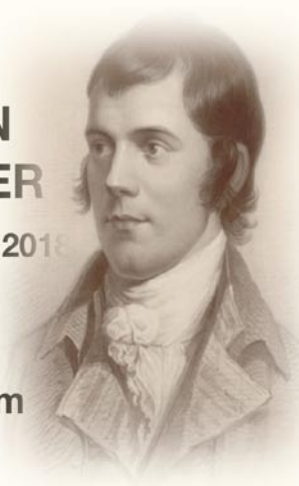
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7:30pm for 8:00pm



£12.50 per person

Tickets available on-line @

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This year's Speakers & Artists include:

ALEC ROSS - The Immortal Memory
BOBBY LANDERS - Toast to the Lassies
SARA BARBOUR - Reply from the Lassies

New Galloway Celebrates

2017 has been a great year for New Galloway, with the CatStrand's 10th Birthday celebrations, taking over the Town Hall on a long-term lease, and the opening of the Community Shop.

Volunteer projects such as the flower-bombing of the High Street seemed to pop up out of nowhere and brightened people's lives all summer. In every village, all the time, there are hundreds of acts of unseen kindness and support going on - they are very much appreciated.

So, with the amazing success and community spirit of the last year in mind, a small group of New Galloway residents has got together to organise a Christmas Celebration for the village. It

will be a combination of all the traditional volunteer events - Senior Citizens Lunch, Guild Coffee morning and Santa's Grotto - plus some extra bits and pieces.

On Sunday 3 December from 3-5pm in New Galloway Town Hall, there will be a concert to give thanks and celebrate our local talent. Tickets are free but space is limited so please come and collect yours from the New Galloway Community Shop or CatStrand in advance. Following the concert, there will be mulled wine and then a gathering at the Smithy at 5.30pm to see the inaugural switching on of New Galloway's Christmas lights!

Later in the month we are delighted that Kells School, New Galloway, is bringing its ever-delightful Nativity Play out of the school and into the Town Hall so that more people can enjoy the performance. That's Thursday 14 December at 1.15pm, and there will be a Christmas fair on afterwards.

There's much more going on too, from a tasting evening at the Shop to a community Christmas lunch and, although its got a New Galloway focus, we'd be delighted to see our Glenkens friends and neighbours at any of the events too.

For further information please visit the New Galloway Town Hall website <https://newgallowaytownhall.wordpress.com>

Thanks to our local business sponsors and supporters for helping us make this happen, and in particular to the volunteers from Local Initiatives New Galloway (LING), New Galloway and Kells Community Council, New Galloway Community Enterprises (NGCE), the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT), the Churches, the Glenkens Cubs and Beavers, Kells School and Parent Council, and many enthusiastic individuals for bringing this festive schedule together. We hope you enjoy it!

New Galloway Community

Patsy Gilroy



*As one of your local councillors,
my contact details are:*

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Please note that all times are approximate.

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CatStrand Highlights

December 2017/ January 2018

The Festive Season at CatStrand kicks off with a new art exhibition by **Blueprint101** curated by Young Stove artist Emily Cooper.

The exhibition launch (Fri 1 Dec) is at 7pm and is free for all, though might not be suitable for very young children.

From profound visual art to the sensational CatStrand Youth Players panto (Fri 8 - Sun 10 Dec) which this year sends up the story of **Robinson Crusoe** by throwing in some pirates, some sweets, some singing and dancing, and a whole ton of corny jokes. Tickets are already selling fast so please get yours as soon as possible.

From the mayhem of panto to the mayhem of the **Ukes Christmas Party** (Tues 12 Dec) which features the CatStrand Ukes performing your favourite festive classics and a few old faves too. There will be a free glass of mulled wine and mince pies to help get you into the Xmas mood.

Moving on to the sublime and surreal world of Graham Steven and Lizabett Russo who, in **Enchanted Tales** (Thu 14 Dec), will be performing a brand new live score to a special collection of 1920s fairytale films in a uniquely enchanting evening. Keeping with the enchantment, we strongly

recommend you come to see the fascinating and much loved play **It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play** (Sun 17 Dec, 2pm) which is ostensibly a play of a radio play set in the 1940s about the much loved Christmas movie of the same name (*It's a Wonderful Life*).

After the Christmas break, January is dominated by our first ever **Midwinter Film Festival** which will see six films screened across the Glenkens with treats and goodies at each one. The films have been chosen by a team led by our youth intern Ruari Barber-Fleming who went to see each film before collating those which fitted our theme of rural isolation.

We begin at CatStrand with **God's Own Country** (15) (Fri 12 Jan) lauded as Yorkshire's *Brokeback Mountain* and focusing on life in a Dales farm. We move to Dalry Town Hall for the highly acclaimed **Lady Macbeth** (15) (Sat 13 Jan) which is a fascinating exploration of female desire in Victorian high society.

From stark morality to nature and a screening of **Mersehead Short Films** (Sun 14 Jan) which chart the amazing birdlife the RSPB reserve and for good measure will be followed by a poet and film maker Roseanne Watt. The first weekend closes with a move further afield and the astonishing Icelandic underground hit **Rams** (15) which follows the travails of two sheep-farming brothers who don't get along. Join us in Carsphairn Village Hall from 1.30pm for free hot toddies.

The following weekend sees the harrowing but hugely gripping **Riverhead** (15) at Balmaclellan Village Hall. Set in small



It's a Wonderful Life

Newfoundland town, the film follows a blood feud and rural tensions between two enemies.

The Festival closes with the extraordinary British film **The Levelling** (15). Following the tale of a young woman forced to go back to her family farm and confront a father she hasn't spoken to in years.

The Spring Season brochure will be available in early January but keep an eye on our website for shows appearing as we no longer wait until the brochure is out before putting tickets on sale!

We will be closing for Christmas at 4pm on Sat 23 December and will re-open on Wed 3rd Jan at 10am.

We'd like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who has supported us through this, our tenth year, and we'd like to wish you all very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year!

The CatStrand Team

GLENKENS COMMUNITY & ARTS TRUST

After the success of the CatStrand's 10th Birthday celebrations and the relief of building the flood wall, it's back to business as normal for the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT).

GCAT is a charitable trust whose activities cover the CatStrand, the Glenkens Transport Initiative, Glenkens Children's

Club, Balmaclellan Men's Shed, Connecting in Communities, CatStrand Youth Arts, the Watson Bird Project and of course this *Glenkens Gazette*. GCAT's aims are to bring art in all its forms to the Glenkens and to enhance our community life. GCAT's staff and volunteers do a fantastic job on the frontline in all these areas but behind the scenes, GCAT is managed by a Board of yet more volunteers. They are always open to new nominations for Directors, so

if you'd be interested in helping out this fantastic local organisation and have skills and experience relevant to managing it, then do get in touch with Alan Smith, Chair, on alan.smith12345@btinternet.com

The next AGM is on 29 January at 7pm in the CatStrand - all are welcome to come along and see what GCAT has been up to and its plans for the future. GCAT's continuing success relies on community support in all forms, so do come along if you can!

SPALDING BOWLING CLUB

Spalding Bowling Club recently held their annual prize-giving dinner at the Clachan Inn, Dalry.

President Mat Taylor and his son Joe presented the prizes. This year we have two new club champions, Kate Bone and Gordon McAdam. Well done to everyone - a great night was had by all.

Winner of the Crozier Cup was Kimberly McAdam who, after being in the final three times, scooped a win before heading off to university.

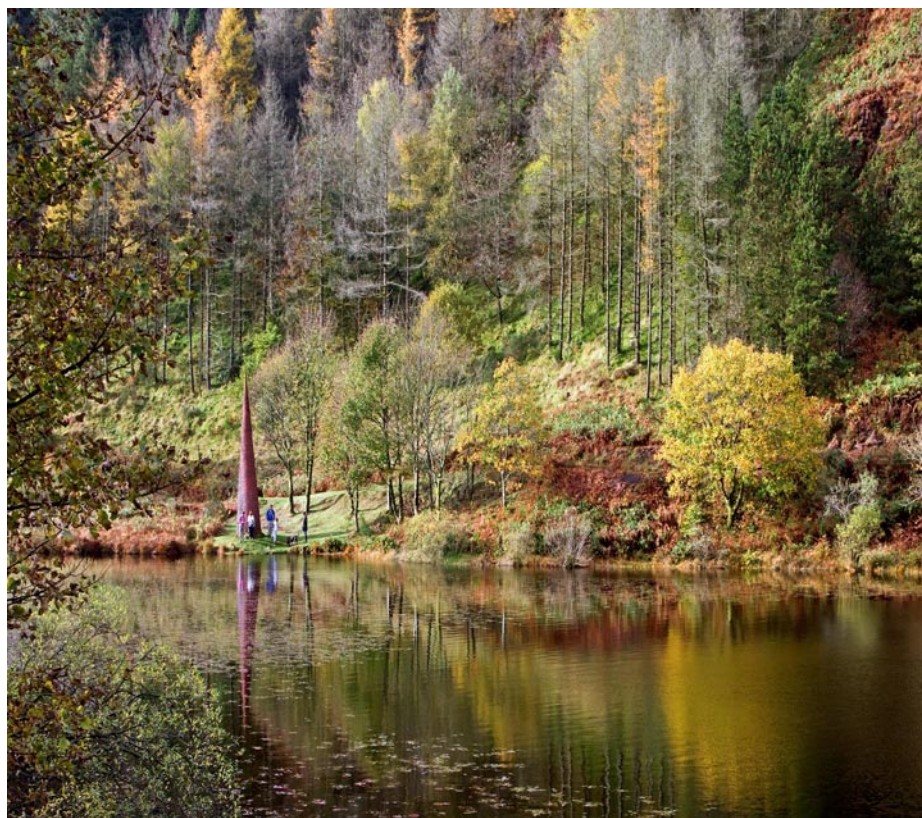
Valerie Russell



Left - Kimberly McAdam, winner of the Crozier Cup. Right - Prize-giving dinner at the Clachan Inn.

Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel



This issue's winner is John Lindsay with this stunning shot titled Reflections at the Black Loch.

John wins a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel's Sunday carvery.

Competition judges Dave and Sue said: "We've chosen John's photo as the winner this issue because of the spectacular array of autumn colours featured - simply stunning."

Local Initiatives in New Galloway

"So that's what a £50 note looks like!" exclaimed Janette Davidson on being presented by Bob Glaister, treasurer of Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING), with her prize as the first winner of the draw for Friends of New Galloway Town Hall.

This took place at a fund-raising Cheese and Wine Evening in support of the town hall.

Amidst plenty of time for chat and laughter, there was also an update about plans and developments for the town hall and a chance to browse through the New Galloway Story exhibition set out in the

Upper Hall.

This was also an opportunity for people to enjoy the architecture of the hall itself including the impressive vaulted wooden ceiling.

By looking high up on the walls, it's possible to make out some old Victorian sign writing. These 'moral maxims' run all the way along both sides of the hall, advising us, for example, to; 'Ever help those in trouble' or 'Recompense to no man evil for evil'.

"I'd been in here so many times, but I'd never noticed that before", was a frequent comment, as

print-outs of the wording helped people to make out what was written.

Downstairs in the Lesser Hall, people had fun trying their hand at indoor bowls - a few more recruits perhaps for the popular Tuesday sports evenings in the Town Hall, with bowls on offer downstairs and table tennis in the main hall.



Bob Glaister (Treasurer) points out the benefits of becoming 'Friends of the Town Hall'.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR DALRY SECONDARY PUPILS

Dalry School has received an award from the 'Food for Thought' education fund run by Education Scotland.

The theme of this year's bid was to educate pupils on the food and drink industry while promoting sustainability and food education, closing the attainment gap.

The bid, submitted by home economics teacher Susan Farquhar, was to use our already established school garden to grow produce and stage a fine dining

pop up restaurant in the school for all secondary pupils using those ingredients and locally sourced ones. We would work with Fraser Cameron, ex pupil who now works at 21212 in Edinburgh, to devise a menu. The pupils would then grow the produce and work with Easterbrook Hall in Dumfries to get hands-on experience and training in all the different aspects of the industry.

A group of pupils from S3/4 went to Easterbrook Hall in November. They were given a tour by the events manager Fiona Rand. The tour involved

them seeing both Easterbrook Hall and Neuro's restaurant and spa. The pupils were then divided into three groups. They rotated around different workshops for the remainder of the visit. The workshops consisted of mocktail making in their own bar, preparing and cooking a dish with the chef in the kitchen, and designing and setting tables for an event.

The hands-on activities were greatly received by the pupils and they departed having a better understanding of the pressures involved in the food and drink industry, as well as new knowledge

of the different roles that are involved in big businesses such as the Easterbrook Hall.

*Alison Cook,
Depute
Headteacher,
Castle Douglas
High School*



Bonfire Night Daytime Fun

Primary 1-7 pupils at Dalry School were learning why Bonfire Night is celebrated.

The children also took part in some outdoor learning activities;

hedgehog safety, firework chalk art and made campfire popcorn and toasted marshmallows.

The children worked in groups to create a 'Bonfire

Mural' using chalk on black paper. *Mrs Devlin & Mrs Turner*



Pupils creating firework artwork and toasting marshmallows.

KELLS PUPILS GO THE EXTRA MILE

At Kells Primary School, New Galloway, we have had the opportunity to focus on raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The children organised a Coffee Morning and under the wing of Ms Harper they presented themselves with great pride and confidence at the Cross Keys Hotel. Thank you to Mrs O'Hare for providing the venue! The P7 children were encouraged to be grown up and independent at this lovely hotel.

Also a big thank you to one and all who supported us by donating food, money, their skills and time – much appreciated, all in the name of a splendid cause.

In class we have had the opportunity to spend some time discussing health and well-being; looking at how to deal with subjects such as cancer, loss, hope, charity, and community involvement.

The children were inspired to go the extra

mile (quite literally) and a sponsored walk was suggested.

With the help of Natural Power, RJ Mcleod and Blue Energy, a walk up onto the Blackcraig Windfarm site was organised. The children

set to in maths and designed sponsorship forms, working out how much money we would have to raise to hit certain targets – all good fun and interesting learning!

The following account is written with whole class input as we feel that we had a super time and it would be positive to share our experience:

We walked and ran six miles. It was awesome! The wind turbines were huge, colossal and impressive.

We did get hungry after five minutes of walking but we managed to listen to advice and pace ourselves both with food, drink and the rate at which we climbed.

We stood on top of the cairn, it made us feel excited and we put our arms out – it was like being on top of the world.

Nine of us tried to join hands and measure around a turbine, we estimate that it might take about 15 children to make the circumference; we are going to check this in maths.

The day was marked by some fantastic moments:

Two of our classmates have never walked six miles before - one was the first to run to the furthest turbine and the other walked backwards as it helped manage and balance out the sensation felt in his legs.

The laughter and excitement cut through the quiet as we approached the enormous turbines.

One member of the class loudly proclaimed; "Look guys, we should be proud of all we have accomplished!" It is true, we should be and we are!

It is a fantastic achievement - a big well done to everyone involved.

For me, as a teacher, the thing I take away from this endeavour is everybody encouraging everyone else; happy times.

We have realised that counting up (which we are still finalising) our tiny class have raised in the region of two thousand pounds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Graeme Thompson



Kells pupils, teachers and parents at the base of a wind turbine.



The Dalry P6/7 class attended a TAG Rugby event in Kirkcudbright. Pupils really enjoyed the session and the coaches were pleased with the children's attitude and enthusiasm.

TORI WINS DANCE TROPHY

Tori McMurray is a talented dancer and often helps in school with choreography, during dance sessions.

Outwith school, Tori performed in The Ballet Box dance school's Christmas show. At the end of the show's run, she received the Dancer of the Year trophy for her endeavours.

The Ballet Box School of Dance performed at the Fullarton in Castle Douglas.



Tori McMurray (P7, Dalry Primary) with her trophies.

Outdoor Learning Going Strong at Carsphairn Primary

Over the years, we have grown our Outdoor Learning programme at Carsphairn Primary School.

In October, the children at Carsphairn participated in a ramble to help raise money for Children in Need. Once a route was decided in the bucolic hills behind Carsphairn, the children took their sponsorship forms home to find sponsors. Incredibly, the six pupils at Carsphairn were able to raise £209.50, proving once again that being a small school is no hindrance to being able to accomplish big things!

The school would also like to express thanks to the landowners for allowing us access to their land, without which this event couldn't have happened.

Over the years, the boys and girls from Carsphairn have really enjoyed the time taking our learning outdoors. Indeed, the school has benefitted greatly from the generosity of local members of the community who have granted

us access to their land. Without access to these beautiful places we wouldn't be able to do the Outdoor Learning that we have all enjoyed so much over the years.

As a token of our appreciation, the children decided to make a gift for the land owners at Glenlee Estate and Knockgray. With the help of the Technology teacher

Mr Murray, the children were able to design, carve and paint road end signs for Richard Agnew of Glenlee and Rory Clark Kennedy of Knockgray, as a token of our gratitude. We were able to present each with their gifts last June during Outdoor Learning sessions, as we were wrapping up the school year.

Walker McKenna



Carsphairn Primary pupils with Rory Clark-Kennedy, Walker McKenna and Forest School teacher Sissy Stravidi.

Harvest Art

The winner of the Kells Primary School Harvest Art Competition was Elizabeth Spernagel, Primary 2.

She painted a beautiful picture called 'Fields of Gold'. This painting was used on our gift tags that accompanied the harvest food Kells distributed among the elderly of New Galloway. One of those who received a food package, Mr Hamish Yoeman, liked the picture so much that he photographed and printed the picture and framed it in a lovely frame to be presented to Elizabeth.

Unfortunately Mr Yoeman was unavailable to present this at the Kells assembly, but was presented to Elizabeth by Acting Principal Teacher Mrs Muir.



Glenkens Children's Christmas Party

**Sunday 17 December, 3pm
Balmaclellan Village Hall
with Magic Monty & Santa**

All Primary and pre-school children from the Glenkens welcome.

We would appreciate if all children were accompanied by an adult.

Some food will be provided but unfortunately there may not be enough for everyone - we would be grateful if you would bring a food donation.

Donations for the raffle would be very welcome!

MARKET TO PLATE IN FIVE HOURS

Fleet Fish, our local mobile fish and veg van, was recently interviewed by Salmonbusiness.com - below is the article.

With the demise of the specialist high street fishmonger in many of the UK's towns, customers have become increasingly dependent on the fish counter of the major supermarkets.

However, there is a welcome alternative for customers in many parts of the country: the 'fish van', or mobile fishmonger.

Some of these are run by big outfits - the Seafish Industry Authority does not have figures for the total number of mobile fishmongers in the UK, but told SalmonBusiness that they know of large distribution companies e.g. Regal Seafoods, which operates 70 vans from Grimsby. Around a hundred vans in total operate from Humberside.

But many are also micro-businesses, of the 'one man - one van' type.

One such is operated by Charlie Coid, who serves the small town of Gatehouse of Fleet, in SW Scotland, and its hinterland - an area which is sparsely populated, but very busy in the tourist season with its many caravan parks and holiday chalets. His van carries a wide range of seafood, plus fresh vegetables.

"Salmon is my main seller," Charlie told SalmonBusiness. "I sell a lot of it, especially in the summer, with all the caravan sites, because people can serve it hot or cold, and it doubles up as something to have with salad. Then, of course, it's a main ingredient for a fish pie. So it's

very versatile."

Q Fish vans are big business now - why do you think they're so popular?

A "The vans are selling fish fresh from the market to your door to your plate. The supermarkets are buying in bulk and in many cases it could have been frozen then defrosted. And the customer often doesn't really know how long it's been sitting on the counter, whereas the van's coming to your door every week at a set time. You also get that personal touch and rapport with the fish-seller himself. That's important."

Q How many days do you go up to the market in Glasgow?

A "Twice a week. Tuesday and Thursday are the main business days at the market when the fresh produce comes in; I collect it from the market at 3 00 am and I'm out trading by 8 00 am, so five hours from the market to the customer's door. You run your stock right down, then stock up again in the middle of the week. You're constantly turning

over your produce, and there's nothing lying. That's how you're maintaining your freshness."

Q How many vans are stocking up in Glasgow?

A "I'm not certain, but there'll probably be over a hundred."

Charles, his uncle (who has three vans), and another couple of vans cover the whole of Dumfries and Galloway and the Stewartry - just six vans to cover a very large geographical area.

"And of course, as you get further north and inland, the more sporadic your customers are. It's a lot of driving!"

His two cousins in Inveraray both operate fish vans, and they cover the whole of Argyll and Bute - another very large and sparsely-populated part of Scotland.

Fleet fish was established over 30 years ago by Mary and Eric Cowan, Charlie's aunt and uncle, and the other family fish vans stemmed off Eric's business model. These vans now cover Argyle, Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders.



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GRACEFELL GIG REVIEW

Our intrepid *Gazette* youth reporters, Hana Ade (13) and Sky Barratt (15), went along to see local band Gracefell play at the CatStrand - and here's what they found out...

Q: Who brought the band together?

A: We were in the pub and Ruari suggested the idea. "Warren used to play in a band called Cloud Nine, Liam was in a band, and I suggested we had a jam and jam we did - and we just haven't stopped jamming!"

Q: Who writes the songs or do you write them all together?

A: Definitely all together. There's no set pattern, it can start with a drum beat, it can start with a guitar riff, and then we'll just chuck bits in after that.

could hear us - it was class!

Q: What advice do you have for young artists and musicians?

A: Practice. Keep plugging away, just keep doing it. I think success or 'making it' isn't a matter of skill, it's a matter of persistence, it's a state of mind - and hard work. Don't get hung up on a bad gig. Especially where you've got a small area like here, where it's embarrassing, but just keep going, it's a snowball effect, it just gets bigger and better. Or that's the theory! Overnight success is a myth.

Q: What's your best gig, and your worst gig?



Left to right: Sky Barratt, Liam Russell (bass/vocals), Morgan McConnell (drums), Hana Ade and Ruari Barber-Fleming (guitar)

string broke and he couldn't tune it...it was awful!

Q: How did you come up with your name?

A: We put it out in a group chat on Facebook, and we were thinking

...success or 'making it' isn't a matter of skill, it's a matter of persistence, it's a state of mind - and hard work.

Q: What was your first gig like?

A: It was at The Brewery, it was good, we weren't miked up so noone could hear us. It was absolutely packed. Probably the most packed gig we've played. But there was no pressure as nobody

A: This (CatStrand) gig could have been our best, and another one of our best was the Livelounge in Dumfries. The worst was on new year's day at 11am. We shouldn't have agreed to do the gig! We were extremely hungover; Liam's guitar

of a fall from grace, and then someone suggested Grace fell... it's kind of like the music we're playing, sometimes it's a bit weird, sometimes we're messing about. Maybe a fall from grace...and we ended up with Gracefell!

Rock and Roll Ain't Noise Pollution!

The Connecting in Communities Rocktober event at the CatStrand was a rock night to remember.

Top North-East rockers FM blew the crowd away with their driving rock and AC/DC & Led Zeppelin covers, whilst rock DJ MC Mal played some classic tunes.

It was standing room only in the auditorium, where Anne Errington led the bopping and jiving, and great to see so many new faces at CatStrand.

Rock themed burgers, lovingly crafted by Brian, Lorna and Rhoda, went down a treat, and Ian Biggar was kept busy all night running the bar - roll-on summer, party in the park anybody?

On a more sedate note, Thursday

evening Yoga has proved to be successful and the Photography Group's exhibition in the Pyramid Gallery was very well received.

We have had a number of new volunteers come on-board recently - many thanks, your help is greatly appreciated. We're running some formal bar training sessions soon and the new-year will see some basic hygiene courses for the volunteers too.

GUIDES FUNDRAISING QUIZ

Please support your local Glenkens Guiding Group (Guides, Brownies and Rainbows).

Come along to our Quiz Night in the Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry on Friday 15 December at 7.30pm.

Our Quiz Master for the evening will be Mr Keith Dickie. This quiz is for teams of up to six members at

a cost of £3 per person. The cost includes a supper. There will also be a raffle.

If you would like to enter a team, please let Hilda know on 430 383 so that we know roughly how many to cater for. *Hilda McAdam*

Gleanings from the Glenkens

A local writers' group has celebrated its first four years by publishing a collection of poetry, prose and memoir.

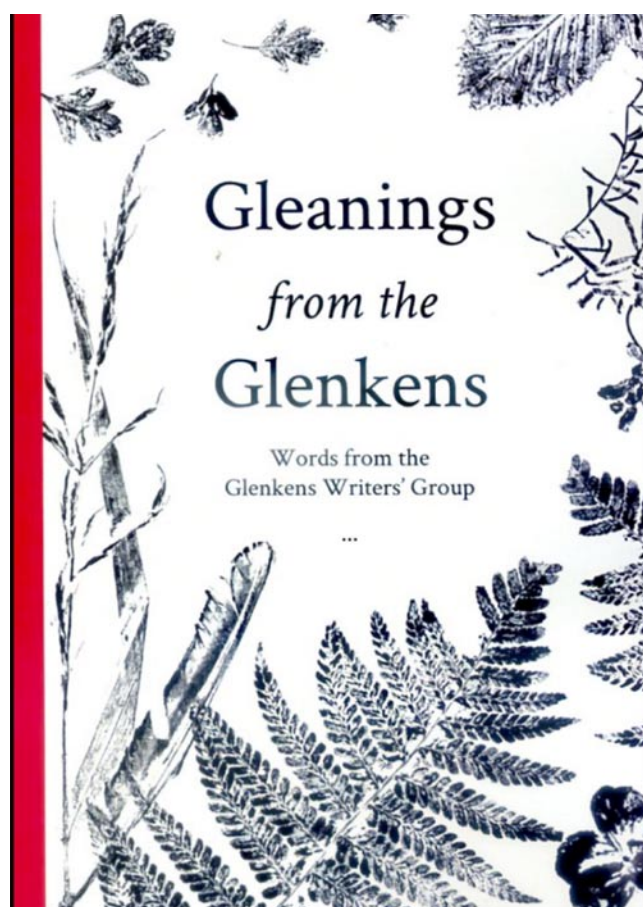
Gleanings from the Glenkens features the work of members of the Glenkens Writers' Group, most of whom are appearing in print for the first time.

The twelve writers; Roger Adams, Barry Bryan-Dixon, Stella Cruickshank, Wendy Davis, Merryn Fergusson, Gordon Hill, Philip Hussey, Ann Maxwell, Margaret Pringle, Christine Rae, Carol Salsbury and Beverley Vaux, have tackled, over their time together, a wide variety of writing styles, from sonnets and haiku to dialogue and reminiscence and this is reflected in the new publication which was launched at the CatStrand Christmas Fair.

The group's tutor, Margaret Elphinstone, says: "It has been a

delight to work with such receptive and enthusiastic writers. I have been struck by the dedication each writer has shown, in finding the right words, and the right medium, to express what they have to say. The experiences of twelve lives have gone into this book: that's a rich resource in terms of memories, ideas, humour, talent and philosophy."

The Glenkens Writers' Group meet under the auspices of the Connecting in Communities project at CatStrand from where copies of the book can be purchased for £5.50.



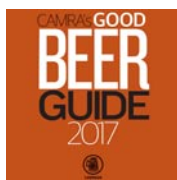
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MANY HAPPY RETURNS FOR BRASS BAND

The rafters of Carsphairn Church rang out once again to the sound of brass when Dunaskin Doon Band returned for an autumn concert, raising more than £300 for church funds.

The band was back in the village after a much-acclaimed performance last year. It was the band's fourth appearance at the church in eight years.

Dunaskin Doon ended 2016 by becoming the top Second Section band in Scotland and being promoted to the First Section.

Its entertaining programme of both light and classical music delighted the audience who had braved the cold, wet and windy weather to be present.



Members of Dunaskin Doon Band during its autumn concert in Carsphairn Church.

Funding for Community Groups

Get Involved Get Inspired is a simple way for organisations to access small but important amounts of money to use for arts and creative activities for the benefit of

people in their local communities.

They can apply for up to £500. This is a rolling programme with a final deadline of 25 February 2018.

Further information, including the guidelines and application form, can be found at www.dgunlimited.com/funding/



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Light in the Middle of Winter

The hugely popular Feral Choir is performing in Dalry in December, bringing to life songs and stories that have been handed down through the generations.

Forgotten Carols will be performed in Dalry Town Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 15 December.

"Some of the stories behind the carols and songs I've found are extraordinary," says Alison Burns,

the Feral Choir's conductor. "I've composed music for a carol written for a Sunday Times competition in the 1940s, as well as discovering songs from the pub carol singing tradition in the Peak District.

"People who come along to hear the concert will hear a real variety of music that comes together to lead us to the turn of the year."

The choir is joined by reader Tom Pow, soloist Polly Bolton and harpist Irene Watt.

See www.feralchoir.co.uk for more information and booking details. All



tickets are £10.

Tickets for the Dalry event can also be bought from Wright's shop Dalry and New Galloway Community Shop.

YOUTH PLAYERS PANTO PREVIEW

Robinson Crusoe and The Pirates are ready to take to the stage for the seventh annual CatStrand pantomime.

Rehearsals have been going well and this year's panto promises to be the best yet, with plenty of laughter and lots of audience

involvement too. The young cast have been working very hard since September to bring the panto to the stage and are looking forward to the performances. Despite their tender age, some of the Youth Players are now experienced pantomime actors, having appeared in up to five of our previous pantomimes!

As usual with a pantomime story there is a fair degree of poetic

licence and along the way we also encounter King and Queen Neptune, a Medicine Man, a Gorilla and a motley collection of pirates, sailors and islanders!

At the time of going to press, Saturday tickets were almost sold out with the other shows selling fast too – we hope you got your tickets in time! Oh yes we do!!


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Available to both domestic and commercial properties the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is a long-term financial support programme designed to encourage people to install green energy heating systems. Payments are made over a 7 year period.

You can claim for; Biomass boilers, Solar Water Heating and certain Heat pumps.

To find out more and see if you are eligible talk to us at **RJ McCulloch** or visit **GOV.UK**

QUIZ NIGHT FUN IN BALMACLELLAN

Balmaclellan Village Hall Committee's last Quiz Night proved a big success.

The Hall's Chair, Robin Jardine, welcomed everyone and the Hall's Secretary, Kay Bird, was the quiz mistress. The quiz consisted of seven rounds including a picture round, with refreshments and a raffle at half time.

Thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes. Many thanks to all the teams who attended making it a great night and thanks to

everyone who helped set up the hall and make the refreshments. Congratulations to the winners,

The 49'ERS, a team consisting of players from Kirkcudbright and Corsock, (see picture of the winning team).

Profits from the evening go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the village hall.

The next quiz is to be held on Friday 26 January at 7.30pm in Balmaclellan Village Hall. Teams of 4-6 persons welcome, and entry is £4 per person which includes tea, coffee and biscuits. *Kay D Bird,*



Shop Thanks

The Glenkens Community Shop would like to give a big thank you to all our customers and volunteers for another wonderful year.

Thank you for your continued support, and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Shirley McNaught

Christmas Lunch

The Balmaclellan Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch is to be held on Wednesday 13 December 2017 from 12.30pm at the Kenbridge Hotel.

The lunch includes a three course lunch, a drink, a raffle ticket, music and entertainment.

This event is by invitation only, for residents of Balmaclellan parish, and invitations will be available at Balmaclellan Village Shop from the third week in November.

 **Alister Jack MP**

**Member of Parliament
for Dumfries and Galloway**

ADVICE SURGERIES

THIRD FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

■ **Castle Douglas
Town Hall**

2.15pm – 3pm

■ **Constituency Office
Dumfries**

4pm – 5pm

No appointment necessary

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE ADDRESS

20 Academy Street, Dumfries, DG1 1BY

e: Alister.Jack.MP@parliament.uk

t: 01387 216109

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Glenkens Children's Clubs

GCC Baby & Toddler

Friday's 10am-12pm

Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry

A 'stay and play' group for 0-4years olds and their parents or carers.

Providing a space for parents and carers with babies and toddlers to come together for vital peer support and developmental stimulation for the children. There is a mix of free play, structured activity and input from relevant professionals including health visitors, Book Bug sessions, and creative storytelling, drama and music.

Free for under six months, £2 for the first child and £1 for additional children. Follow us on Facebook - @GCCBabyToddler

Upcoming Fundraising Events:

Please watch our facebook pages for upcoming fundraising events to keep GCC funded for the remained of 2017/18 academic year - ALL SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED.

A huge thank you to our local supporters - GCAT, Glenkens Community Shop, Natural Power and Cash for Kids as well as our local community groups!

See p25 for details about GCC Playgroup...

Malawi Fundraiser

Abbas Rest Fundraiser which will now be known as Care and Share in Malawi had a successful coffee morning in Dalry Town Hall, raising £792.04.

I would like to thank all the people who supported in so many ways with generous donations to baking, raffle, tombola, bric-a-brac and also with monetary donations. Without your continual support it would not happen.

A big thank you, Avril Brown

Flower Show Categories

Ladies and gentlemen, below is a copy of classes for the **Handicraft Section** for next year's **Glenkens Flower Show**. Please get needles, etc, out over the winter and let us have some more entries for the Show next year! *Hilda McAdam*

- 71** – A Hand Made Card
- 72** – Jacket and Hat for Premature Baby (to be donated to Cresswell Maternity Hospital)
- 73** – Item of Embroidery
- 74** – Toy – Any Craft
- 75** – Knee Blanket – Any Craft

- 76** – Article of Decoupage
- 77** – Article made on Sewing Machine
- 78** – Any other Needlecraft (Sewing)
- 79** – Article in Wood
- 80** – An Original Painting
- 81** – Recycled Article (State Medium Used)
- 82** – Any Other Craft, article not specified
- 82A** – (13-18 years only), Hand Made Bird Feeder
- 83** – Photograph – 'Reflections'

Marriage Tax Allowance

This item of interest has been submitted by Paul Goodwin - something I imagine most have never heard of but might help at this time of the year.

Two million couples are missing out on a government tax allowance worth £230 per year. This is half of the people eligible according

to the government's own figures. The marriage allowance can be claimed by married couples or civil partners providing one is a basic rate taxpayer and the other earns £11,500 a year or less. Claims can be backdated to 2015 when it started so you might have over £400 by Christmas if you are eligible and haven't claimed.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-marriage-allowance>

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Email: dougie.campbell@dumgal.gov.uk

Phone: 07388 956558

Facebook:
@DougieCampbellSNP



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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- We would like to thank all our customers for their continued support and pass on best wishes for the Festive season -

Festive Season Opening Times:

Christmas Eve: 8.30am - 4pm

Christmas Day: closed

Boxing Day: 8am - 2pm

Hogmanay: 8.30am - 4pm

1st January: closed

2nd January: 8am - 4pm

Normal Opening Times (both shop & PO):

Monday to Friday: 7am – 6pm

Saturday: 8am – 6pm

Sunday: 8.30am – 4pm



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MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

There has been some wonderful support generated by Glenkens folk to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Hair by Jayne hosted a fabulous fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support in October.

The community turned out en-masse and helped to raise a staggering total of £1017.87 in support of the cause. Jayne said: "The support was incredible. It was so lovely to see the community come together on such a glorious day and help to raise money for such a worthy cause."

A vast array of cakes were quickly consumed and the event showed just how well the Dalry community will react to help raise much needed money in support of charity.

Victoria Birch would also like to say a massive thank you to all who attended the Macmillan Coffee Morning and Craft Fair in Castle Douglas for their generous donations. The final total raised for was £765.

Victoria says: "Many thanks also to the local

businesses who donated raffle prizes and displayed posters, the very talented Crafters and the lovely ladies who made it happen with a special thank you to all the ladies who donated delicious cakes. I look forward to hosting again next year!"



Above left: Coffee Morning in Castle Douglas. Above right: Coffee Morning in Dalry.

A Wonderful Life Radio Play

On Sunday 17 December, CatStrand will play host to the hugely successful radio play on stage version of the much-loved Festive movie *It's A Wonderful Life*.

The play of a play is set in a 1940s radio studio replete with costumes, sound effects and live music as the cast recreate the American family classic for radio. One of the performers, Leonna McGilligan, who originally hails from Annan, spoke to the *Gazette* about its enduring popularity.

Q: Leonna, this show is now in its sixth consecutive year - why do you think it is so popular with audiences in Scotland?

A: It's such a fantastic story - a true classic. The show has become a bit of a new tradition since No Nonsense Productions first staged it in Greenock in 2012. When we first took it out on tour last year it proved a real hit with the audiences, so much so that we're back at several of last year's venues, and also performing at new venues like CatStrand.

Q: Tell us a little bit about your role in the show and how you prepared to "act for radio" (so to speak!)

A: This is my second year with the show and I play a character who plays several other characters in the radio play including Zuzu Bailey and Mrs Hatch. I love being able to switch between the characters and to use an array of voices. In the past I've done radio commercials and voiceovers in the studio, but there's nothing like the thrill of performing live. We have a lot of fun working on developing the characters during rehearsal and once we get on stage it really engages the audience, who are also an integral part of the show!

Q: The story follows the travails of a man who feels left behind and unvalued by the world - do you think this is resonating more and more with your audiences?

A: Absolutely. It's a true morality tale, and I'm sure there are lots of people who identify with George Bailey. In the age of 'fake news' and social media it's so easy to become influenced by rumour and hearsay and that's exactly what happens to George in the story.

Q: The film has become synonymous with Christmas, will the play get us in the festive spirit?

A: Without a doubt! It's a story with family and community at its very core, and don't we all love it when the good guy wins the day?

To book tickets for the CatStrand performance of *It's a Wonderful Life* on 17 December either phone 420 374 or visit www.catstrand.com



Leonna McGilligan

THOUGHTS ON SR CROCKETT

Below are some thoughts in response to Ted Cowan's piece on SR Crockett from the last Gazette (Issue 102), submitted by Cally Phillips.

It's good to see SR Crockett acknowledged as "an accomplished writer", but the suggestion that he "nurtured" the erroneous views of urban dwellers by "shamelessly romanticising Galloway and the Glenkens in particular" is something of a simplification.

I know I am not alone in finding in Crockett's Galloway works realistic portrayals of rural community life, 'warts and all' as well as an abundance of Scots humour through which he delivers some insightful and quite biting criticisms of hierarchy, power and privilege within Scottish society. Perhaps Professor Cowan has not read Strong Mac, The Moss Troopers or Silver Sand recently? Or perhaps I am a shameless romantic myself?

To my reading these (and other) works offer quite insightful

commentaries about a number of the country/rural issues Prof Cowan raises. Writing in the Scots Romance style may be described as 'romanticising' but I find no shame in his masterly use of it. There is more than enough rural realism in Crockett if the reader cares to find it.

If we claim Crockett as 'our own', perhaps it's about time we started reading him more deeply and taking pride in his achievements rather than following a well worn

area it would be less easy for the Church of Scotland to try and sell off Balmaghie Church and Hall as a private residence rather than as they rightly should, gift it to the local community as some kind of community/heritage centre.

The local history and heritage are strong in the Glenkens and I don't think that talking down Crockett's contribution to the area does anything to help sustain vibrancy or pride in the current rural community.

What is 'romantic' may be a matter of opinion, but a reading of many of Crockett's locally based novels shows much to recommend them as ways to understand and connect with the past – for those who are not consumed by figures and statistics but who appreciate the 'softer' issues such as local culture.

I can't imagine Thomas Hardy would be treated thus in his local area. Or Dickens. Or indeed Walter Scott. Crockett holds his own with all of these writers and while I know many local people appreciate this, it's sad when 'voices of authority' seem determined to damn him with faint praise, where they mention him at all.

...the Glenkens needs all the support it can get, and Crockett is a key figure in the history of the area...

path which in essence regurgitates the erroneous views of the city towards the countryside – in which respect, sadly, the more things change the more they indeed stay the same.

It seems to me that the Glenkens needs all the support it can get, and Crockett is a key figure in the history of the area – perhaps if there was more attention to his work and its significance for the



Glenkens Children's Clubs



Enrol now for GCC Playgroup, Term 3: January 2017 - limited funded and private spaces available.

GCC Playgroup is a Care Inspectorate registered service offering staffed (Playgroup Manager and Assistant) Early

Years Provision for 2-4 year olds.

Best practice guidelines from Early Years Scotland are core to GCC Playgroup and the drive is to provide a service to nurture and develop our children's emotional, social and behavioural wellbeing within their early year's education, promoting your children's first taste at independent learning through child directed play and exploration.

Currently GCC Playgroup is the ONLY provision available for our two-year-old children within the

Glenkens area, and the service now offers Council funded provision to eligible two-year-olds as well as private places for £6 a session.

Enrol now via gccplaygroupmanager@gmail.com for limited places - sessions run on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9.15-11.45am during term time at the Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry - **Don't miss out!**

Follow us on Facebook (@gccpgroup) or see p22 for details of GCC Baby & Toddler sessions and further info on GCC activities.

Excerpt From the Dumfries & Galloway Standard, 26 July 1913: *The Late Mr McNaught, Dalry*

Widespread regret was felt throughout the Glenkens when it became known the Mr RA McNaught, merchant, Dalry, had suddenly passed away on the evening of Friday last.

Mr McNaught had a severe illness a little over a year ago, but he had made a wonderful recovery and on Friday last he appeared to be in his usual health, and during the day he was actively engaged in his business. In the evening he assisted to rick hay in a field belonging to him. About half past seven he left the field to go to his house. When he was a short distance from home he was observed to stagger, and a by stander came to his assistance and caught him as he was in the act of falling. It was seen that he had had a seizure and that he was unconscious. Medical assistance was at that time procured, and he was carried home. In a short while, however, he became conscious and spoke quite cheerfully to his relatives. While he was conversing with them, he had another seizure and five minutes afterwards he passed away – his illness having lasted about an hour.

The deceased had been in business in Dalry for the long period of 47 years, he served his apprenticeship as a grocer with the late Mr David Cowan and was afterwards for two or three years in Dumfries in the employment of Mr Thomas Brash, grocer. He then returned to Dalry and commenced business on his own account. By his ability and energy, and largely on account of his obliging disposition he soon built up one of the largest business premises in the Glenkens. His original business premises were of a very old-fashioned and quaint appearance and about twenty-five

years ago he acquired the site of the old baron Court House of Dalry, and created thereon extensive business premises of such a handsome appearance that they would have done credit to a very much larger place than Dalry. He had a great pride in the appearance of his premises and spare neither time nor money in keeping them in the acme of perfection.

Mr McNaught had a great love for the Glenkens, and more especially for his native village – the Clachan of Dalry. He took an active and prominent part of everything affecting the well-being of the village. He was one of the oldest Freemasons in the district, having been initiated a member of New Galloway Lodge in 1871. He was also one of the founders of the Glenkens Lodge of Oddfellows, and acted as secretary to the Lodge for many years. He was on the committee of management of the annual horse race meeting which was formerly held at Dalry and he took a leading part in the formation of the horticultural and agricultural show, which over twenty years ago took the place of the race meeting. He took a great interest in the Show up to his death. He was a keen curler and was one of the most energetic members of Dalry Curling Club. To the Bowling Club he presented a handsome cup for annual competition. He was appointed registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in 1870 and held the appointment for forty years until his resignation in the month of May, 1912. He was a staunch Liberal in politics and a devoted member of the Established Church and he was at the time of his death, and had been for many years, an elder of the church at Dalry. Two years ago he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for



Inscription on the fountain in Dalry reads: McNaught's Fountain, bequeathed by the late R A McNaught, merchant, as a free gift to the inhabitants of St John's Clachan of Dalry.

the Stewartry. Mr McNaught had a most genial personality, and he had a wide circle of acquaintances and friends. His cheery presence will be long missed by them and by the many visitors to Dalry, to whom he was well known. He was of a most generous disposition, and no one who was in need ever applied to him in vain for assistance. Mr McNaught was never married.

Mr McNaught has left legacies to a number of local charities and societies and a substantial sum to the Kirk Session for behoof of the poor.

*Contributed by
Hilda McAdam, Dalry*

War Updates: May to October 1917

From some perspectives the Great War turned a corner in April 1917 when the United States entered the situation by declaring war on Germany, but for the first few months they had very few men trained to send to the front line so the allied losses continued unabated.

Herbert McFadzean was born at Auchenshinnoch, Dalry. He was the grandson of Adam and Grace McFadzean of Ashburn Cottage, New Galloway, and he enlisted into the 6th Battalion KOSB in May 1916. He was serving at Arras when he was declared missing in action on 3 May 1917 at the age of 20 and is remembered on the Kells war memorial.

Thomas Milne was employed as a gamekeeper for Mr Forbes at Earlstoun, Dalry, and lived at Barlae House before enlisting in the Lanarkshire Yeomanry. The regiment went to Egypt and became part of the 12th Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers in January 1917. Thomas died of wounds on 6 May 1917 at the age of 34 and is remembered on the Dalry war memorial.

James Murray was born in Straiton, and was the son of John and Agnes Murray of Forrest House Lodge, Kells. He enlisted into the Royal Field Artillery in October 1915. He died of wounds on 22 May 1917 at the age of 29 and is remembered on the Kells war memorial.

James McClung was the son of James and Jessie McClung of Airds, Mossdale. He was farming at Christchurch, New Zealand, when he enlisted into the New Zealand Field Artillery in September 1915. In April 1916 he went to France where he served at Armentiers, Somme, Arras, Messines and Ypres. James died on 11 June 1917 at the age of 41 and is remembered on the Kells war memorial.

William Robertson was the son of James and Eliza Robertson of Ivy Cottage, Balmaclellan, and enlisted

into the Highland Light Infantry in August 1914. William's father (James) was farm manager at Blawquhairn Farm, Dalry. He went to France with his Battalion in July 1915 and died on 5 July 1917 at the age of 22. He is buried in an official Commonwealth War Grave near the South-East corner of Dalry Churchyard and is remembered on the Dalry war memorial.

Albert Stevenson was born in Kirkcudbright, the son of Robert and Dorcas Stevenson. He married Maggie Conchar in 1904 at Drumrash, Parton, and by 1911 they were living with their three children in Balmaclellan. He enlisted into the Royal Scots in January 1917 and by July of that year was serving on the Western Front as a Lance Corporal where he was recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He was reported missing in action at Frezenberg Ridge near Ypres on 31 July 1917 at the age of 38 and is remembered on the Balmaclellan war memorial.

It often occurs that we know much more from men of notable or well-to-do families. Such is the case with 2nd Lieutenant John Murray who was the only son of the Rev George Murray, TD, minister of the parish of Balmaclellan and his wife Elizabeth who lived at Troquhain and later at Meadowbank, New Galloway. John was commissioned into the 5th Battalion KOSB in the summer of 1916 and proceeded to France in December 1916 where he served with the 1st Battalion KOSB. He was killed at the age of just 19 by a sniper at Langemarck in the early hours of 16 August 1917. [The Battle of Langemarck was one of the most successful attacks of the 1st KOSB's entire campaign (including the award of two Victoria Crosses)]. John is listed on the memorial to the missing at Tyne Cot. He is commemorated on the Balmaclellan war memorial. There is a stained-glass window in Balmaclellan Parish church which commemorates John and his father. The window was created by Gordon Webster whose father (Alfred) was also killed in the war. The most significant memorial to John

is a large granite cross above Loch Ken between New Galloway and Mossdale. It sits a little way up the Lowran Burn and is sited so that it can be seen from the family's former home. Over the years this memorial had been virtually lost in the undergrowth but a few years ago, the Forestry Commission kindly made a significant effort to make access to the memorial somewhat easier. I must here make special mention of Robin Hood who lives nearby and takes a keen interest in the memorial and who arranged a ceremony at the memorial on the centenary of John's death.

The final name for this article is that of William Dickson. He was born in Dalry, the son of William and Jane Dickson of Stroanpatrick, Dalry, and married Mary McMillan of Carsphairn in 1913. He enlisted in the Home Hospital Reserve (Royal Army Medical Corps) in March 1915 and was Ward Master at the Maryhill Auxiliary Military Hospital in Glasgow. He was discharged from the Army due to illness in May 1916 and awarded a Silver War Badge, and died of tuberculosis at Craigview, Carsphairn, on 26 August 1917 aged 32. He is buried in an official Commonwealth War Grave in Carsphairn Parish Churchyard. There seems to have been collaboration between the War Memorial Committees in the Glenkens to make sure that each man was commemorated on the most suitable memorial. However, uniquely, William is remembered on both the Carsphairn and Dalry memorials reflecting the fact that his wife lived in one parish and his parents in the other.

I would like to acknowledge the work done by Kenneth Morrison of Rockcliffe in much of the research that has gone behind this whole series of articles.

Paul Goodwin



John Murray's memorial by Loch Ken

Who Do We Think We Were?

Margaret Lamont's family lived in Edinburgh, but were on holiday in Ruthwell when the outbreak of war was announced on the radio at lunchtime on 3 September 1939.

Aged seven, she was evacuated with her older sister to New Galloway. She gives a fascinating picture of an evacuee's life here between 1939 and 1941. Margaret now lives in Dalbeattie.

Perhaps you have similar memories, or perhaps you grew up in quite a different time and place. Either way, if you have a connection with the Glenkens, readers would like to hear your story. 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 - WDWTWW'

Next time we move to the south-west of England, with memories from Stella Cruickshank.

A Child's View of Life in New Galloway, 1939-1941

When war broke out, my sister and I were sent to stay with my Great Uncle John Robb and his family at the Mains of Kenmure. Five of his nine children still lived on the farm, the younger two at school in Castle Douglas, the other three working on the farm and in the house. Ken, the youngest son, had a

weekend job at McKnight's the grocer, in New Galloway, delivering messages by bicycle. It was all a complete contrast to the sheltered suburban existence of a small family - our widowed mother and us. It turned out to be a rather happy adventure.

We started school in New Galloway; there were two classrooms, one for the 'wee ones' and another for the older ones, which included my sister. The headmaster was Mr Wardlaw. We wrote on slates.

Twenty Glasgow evacuees, with a teacher, arrived, almost doubling the size of the

school. Having been at the school for three weeks, we felt like superior locals.

There were many Robb family members living around New Galloway. Our paternal grandfather lived at Burnbank, opposite the smithy, having retired there from farming at Barscobe. There were also three colourful great aunts. One was a permanent resident in the Kenmure Arms. Her room was full of Maori treasures - she had been on a trip to New Zealand to housekeep for a brother, but by the time she arrived he was married!

Another lived at Kenview at the top of the High Street. Her husband, Dr Cowan, had been the village doctor, and a founder member of New Galloway Golf Club. She had a parrot in the kitchen - it had a rather ripe vocabulary.

The other, my namesake, lived at Bogleknowe at Balmaclellan. She was an ardent collector of alpine plants, acquired on trips to Austria and Switzerland. Sunday afternoon there was always a boiled egg cooked on her Aga. There was also an aunt at Ruthwell, another lived opposite the New Galloway Town Hall, and a third at

Waterside Farm near Dalry. There, two beautiful cart horses - Gert and Daisy - did the ploughing. Butter was churned in the dairy.

The shadow of war did not impinge greatly on our lives. Gas mask practice was a great joke and a source of interesting noises. When our aunt told us about the fall of France we knew it was a 'bad thing', but did not realise its implications. Our Brownie Pack was industrious at knitting squares for blankets and in collecting sphagnum

moss for wound dressings. A highlight of the week was buying our sweetie ration of two ounces in Miss Clark's

sweet shop in the High Street.

Two incidents stand out. In the park opposite the school, a board had been erected with a surface on it which would turn from yellow to green in the presence of poison gas. One morning there was general alarm: the board had turned green. It transpired that some school lads had painted it in the night. There followed copious use of the tawse! Another time there were reports of a parachute landing in woods near Castle Douglas. The Home Guard was called out in force - I remember watching them marching over the Ken Bridge - but nothing was ever found.

That winter there was a very heavy snow storm followed by flooding. Many sheep were drowned in the fields by the Ken. The school playground was flooded; the big boys had to carry the small children inside.

By the summer of 1941 the risk of bombing in Edinburgh was diminished, and we went home.

The broad tapestry of stories told to us by my grandfather and the great aunts, and the excitement of life on the farm, have left me a rich source of memories of my sojourn in New Galloway.

...She had a parrot in the kitchen - it had a rather ripe vocabulary.

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VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

Lamentation of the Levellers



Last month Alistair Livingston presented an excellent lecture in our Glenkens Story series.

He is now, thanks to his extensive research, the recognised authority on the subject of the Galloway Levellers. Following his talk several folk have asked about James Charters of Kirkland, Dalry, author of *The Lamentation of the People of Galloway by the Pairking Lairds*, but alas we seem to have no further information about him.

Some years ago, while researching my book, *Folk in Print: Scotland's Chapbook Heritage 1750-1850*, I did some work, like Alistair, at the Hornel

Library in Kirkcudbright.

For those who missed the lecture, the Levellers were Lowland

Scotland's only true agrarian rebels. They banded together to resist enclosures, mainly dykes, which resulted in a reduction of the work-force since fewer hands were required to tend the livestock.

In their associations and carefully worded documents explaining their actions they were clearly following covenanting practice. Protest took the form of levelling, or casting down, the offending dykes. In August 1726 Daniel Murdoch was arrested and imprisoned in Kirkcudbright, accused of distributing Charters' verses, which also went by the name of *Levellers' Lines*. Murdoch declared that he bought a ream of ballads from James Duncan, a printer in Glasgow, selling about 14 of them in Kirkcudbrightshire. He claimed that earlier in the year Samuel Gordon and George Park, merchants, had circulated copies in the south-west. Murdoch was discharged from dispersing any more prints, "as the same tended to stir up and foment ryots and disturbances of the peace and

were of a calumnious and defamatory tenor".

All of these 'merchants' were itinerant chapmen, or hawkers, who travelled around the countryside selling clothing, knick-knacks and assorted merchandise designed to particularly appeal to lonely wives, who seldom escaped their farms or modest cot-houses. Galloway had the reputation of spawning significant numbers of chapmen who established businesses of one kind or another in England or back home once they had accrued some savings. They were generally welcomed

Dalryans were clearly a stropky lot with their hearts in the right place!

as the source of news and entertainment but were often suspected of thievery and libertinism.

Charters and Murdoch fittingly represented Dalry's reputation for political dissidence, which had fed the agitation leading to the Rising of 1666. There is a story that Viscount Kenmure angrily told an opponent to go to Hell or the Auld Clachan because although, according to Alexander Trotter, he was a staunch Liberal in political principles, he had a strong dislike of the democratic ideas of the weavers and cadgers of Dalry. On one occasion 50 Dalry folk invaded New Galloway to protest militia conscription, trashing the court-house to cries of 'Brain Kenmure; to Hell with (Laurie of) Redcastle'. Dalryans were clearly a stropky lot with their hearts in the right place!

Alistair's talk is available online at greengalloway.blogspot.co.uk

Ted Cowan

The Lamentation of the People of Galloway by the Pairking Lairds

A generation like to this
Did never man behold,
I mean our great and mighty men
Who covetous are of gold.
Solomon could not well approve
The practice of their lives,
To oppress and to keep down the poor,
Their actions cut like knives.

Among great men where shall ye find
A Godly man like Job,
He made the widows' heart to sing,
But our lairds make them sob.
It is the duty of great men
The poor folks to defend,
But worldly interest moves our lairds,
They mind another end.

They from the hungry take the sheaf
And of them corn do crave,
They turn them out to ly in fields
Nor house nor shelter have.
The word says rob ye not the poor
Nor widow in distress,
Or else your wives shall widows be,
Your children fatherless.

For they that strain the poor man's right
Of either lands or food,
The lord says he'll debar their souls
From any spiritual good.
They are more forward to thrust out
Poor people from their land,
Than Israel was the heathen folks,
When Moses did command.

The lords and lairds they drive us out
From maillings where we dwell,
The poor man says 'Where shall we go?'
The rich says 'Go to hell.'
These words they spoke in jest and mocks,
But by their works we know,
That if they have their herds and flocks,
They care not where we go.

Against the poor they still prevail
With all their wicked works,
And will enclose both moor and dale
And turn corn fields to parks.

DECEMBER & JANUARY

DECEMBER

Saturdays in December, Carsphairn Heritage Centre local crafts and artwork for sale, see p3

Sat 2, Xmas Craft Fair, 11am-4pm, Mossdale Village Hall

Sun 3, Christmas Celebration, 3-5pm, New Galloway Town Hall, see p10

Mon 4, Police Drop-in, 9am, Dalry Police Station

Sun 7, Glenkens Children's Christmas Party, 3pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Fri 8, Sat 9, Sun 10, CatStrand Youth Players Panto, see p21

Sat 9, GTI Bus Trip: Hetland Garden Centre, Moffat, see p8

Tues 12, CatStrand Ukes Xmas Party, 7pm, CatStrand

Wed 13, Balmaclellan Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch, 12.30pm, Ken Bridge Hotel,

invite only - see Balmaclellan Village Shop for invites

Thurs 14, Ornithologists' Club Talk, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Thurs 14, Enchanted Tales, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 15, Glenkens Guides Fundraising Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, see p18

Fri 15, Feral Choir: Forgotten Carols, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p21

Sat 16, Christmas Twinkle, 5.30pm, Dalry's Community Centre, see

Sun 17, It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play, 2pm, CatStrand

JANUARY

Thurs 4, Police Drop-in, 1pm, Dalry Police Station

Thurs 11, Ornithologists' Club

Talk, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Fri 12, Film: God's Own Country, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 13, Film: Lady Macbeth, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 14, Film: Mersehead Shorts & Talk, 11am, CatStrand

Sun 14, Film: Rams, 2pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Wed 17, GTI Bus Trip: Gretna Gateway, Carlisle, see p8

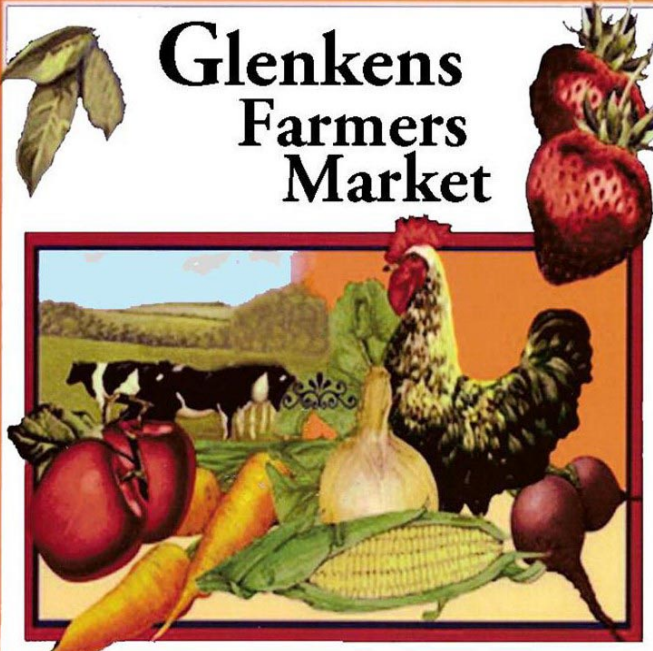
Wed 18, SWANC Talk: 'Darkness and Light', 7.30pm, Ken Bridge Hotel, New Galloway

Fri 19, Film: Riverhead, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Sat 20, Film: The Levelling, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 26, Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Mon 29, GCAT AGM, 7pm, CatStrand



Glenkens Farmers Market

2nd Saturday Monthly
9th December
13th January
10am-12.30pm

For further information or to book a stall
 ring 01644 430 454 or visit
www.dalrytownhall.co.uk

Entrance by donation - proceeds towards Dalry Town Hall Refurbishment Fund
 North of Castle Douglas, A713 Ayr Road



Christmas at Carsphairn Heritage & Craft Centre

The Centre will be open every Saturday from 4th November to 23rd December, showcasing a wide variety of gifts, handmade by local artists and crafts people.

Open Saturdays
 10am - 3pm
 throughout November
 and December
 2017

www.carsphairn.org/HeritageCentre

Carsphairn Heritage Group is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC007408

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

Keep Taking the Tablets computing course, Tues, re-starts 3 Oct

Beginners Writing Group, Tues, 3.15pm

Gentle Tai Chi: Wed, 10am

Wendletrap Tai Chi, Wed, 2-3.30pm

Glenkens Writing Group: First Wed each month 3-5pm

Music/Jam Youth Drop-in, Wed, 6-7pm & rehearsal/recording space available for booking from 7-9pm

Sing it Out: Thurs, 11am-12pm

CatStrand Ukles: Thurs, 1pm - 3.30pm

Yoga, Thurs, 6.30pm

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, 2-4pm

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

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:

Hatha Yoga, Mon, 10-11.15am, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, more info at www.carsphairn.org

Mens Shed Mondays, 6.30pm, Balmaclellan

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 & Art/Craft Gallery, Saturdays in December

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

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Call 07727 127 997

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USEFUL NUMBERS:

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

Glenkens Community Councils

Balmaclellan Community Council

Meetings: 4th Monday each month, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.

Carsphairn Community Council

Meetings: Last Monday each month, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn. **CHECK OUT NEW WEBSITE!**

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

Dalry Community Council Meetings:

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

New Galloway & Kells Community

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

CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday Services - Balmaclellan

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

Special Services/Events: 10 Dec, 10.30am: United Family Service, Kells Church. 10 Dec, 6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight in Kells Church. 23 Dec, 5pm: Carsphairn Church Community Christmas Service & Children's Party.

24h Dec, 11.30pm: Watchnight Service, Dalry Church. 25 Dec, 10.30am: Christmas Day Family Service, Carsphairn Church. 31 Dec, 10.30am: United Service with Choir, Balmaclellan Church.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES:

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

CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE - COULD YOU SHOP LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS?

As Christmas draws near, thoughts turn to the necessary time of present-buying...

But with the wealth of local shops and businesses, craft people and eating places in the Glenkens, here's a challenge for you - how many of your Christmas presents could you buy locally this year?!

We are lucky to have five thriving village shops in the Glenkens, and there's local food and treats on offer at all of them. The CatStrand always has a tempting array

of gifts, lots of them locally sourced, and the many craft fairs and vintage stalls that pop up at this time of year are a real showcase for our talented local makers.

Or how about getting a loved one an experience instead of more stuff - a cosy dinner out at one of our traditional pubs, a beauty voucher or a day out of sporting activities?

So this year, don't just turn to the superstores and the online megaliths - if you love the Glenkens, put your money where your heart is!

Friends and family visiting this Winter?



If you live in the Glenkens, Brookford B&B in Dalry will give your friends and family 10% off the cost of staying with us this winter.

Visit our website at www.brookfordbandb.co.uk and follow the 'Offers' link for more details, or call us on 01644 430512 to arrange a visit to see our rooms and facilities.



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

FEB/MAR COPY DEADLINE: 5 JANUARY



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