

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

April/May 2018

ISSUE 105

FREE

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR GLENKENS CHILDCARE

The future for child daycare provision in the Glenkens is looking a lot brighter these days – thanks to funding from Natural Power, Glenkens Charity Shop, Cash for Kids and local community support.

A new name and revised operating hours for the existing Glenkens Children's Club Playgroup mean that the extended service will have so much more to offer in the coming months.

From August, the group will become the Bright Stars Glenkens Community Nursery, providing funded places for eligible 2 year-olds and all 3-5 year-olds as well as private



Current GCC Playgroup children with staff and parents.

wrap-around childcare. This will be for morning, afternoon and full day (9am to 3pm) sessions with a pick-up service available from Dalry School Nursery and lunch options.

An Open Morning and Early Learning and Childcare

Registration will take place on 18 and 19 April at the Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry where there will be the opportunity to meet staff and explore the future of Bright Stars.

Continued on p3...

Youth Players Win at Drama Festival

The CatStrand Youth Players' performance bagged them a first at the Stewartry District SCDA Youth Festival.

Exit Stage Left, written by Geoff Bamber and directed by Zoe Kirkpatrick, was the deserved winning entry, performed at The Fullarton in Castle Douglas this February, and for the fifth time CatStrand Youth Players would represent Stewartry District at the West of Scotland Finals.

The play is a cleverly written comedy piece and Zoe and her young cast certainly squeezed

every ounce of comedy from the script. Unfortunately they didn't progress to the Scottish Final but performed very well in Stewartron against the five other winning plays from the West of Scotland Division and the adjudicator praised the cast's excellent comedy timing and teamwork. He said that there wasn't a weak link in the cast and the direction was clever and considered. "All in all, a very strong

piece of work" was his summing up of the production.

Continued on p21...



CatStrand Youth Players performing *Exit Stage Left*
© Ruari Barber-Fleming

A SNOWY GLENKENS WINTER



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.

New Galloway Shop Moves

New Galloway's Community Shop will be in temporary premises from the end of March.

The business will be operating from Kitty's Tearoom, further up the High Street. The move will allow renovation of the shop to start, followed by the conversion of the adjoining house into two self-catering flats.

Mike Brown, Chair of New Galloway Community Enterprises Ltd (NGCE), says, "We are very grateful to Sylvia Brown for renting us the premises, which were once a grocer's shop

many years ago. We aim to provide as normal a service as possible with our opening hours remaining unchanged."

Lynsey Hogg, General Retail Manager, says, "We are looking forward to welcoming our customers into our temporary premises while the renovation work begins. Business will remain as usual and we will continue to offer our healthy recipe cards, seasonal fruit and veg selection and wide range of local produce."

As Project Manager Helen Keron explains, the alterations to our building, funded primarily by the Big Lottery, will result in a business that is completely fit for purpose and compliant as a stand-alone

shop and back office, plus two independent self-catering flats to let on the tourist market. A lot of the time in the renovation will be spent on ensuring disabled access, fire safety and sound insulation, as well as complete electrical re-wiring and central heating installation. The shop will move back in after approximately three months and the self-catering flats will take an estimated further three months. By autumn 2018 we should have a low-maintenance, energy-efficient community asset that will provide a sustainable income for the village for many years to come. Luce Bay Construction from Wigtown are carrying out the renovation for us.

AGM Defies the Weather

NGCE held its AGM at the start of March in New Galloway Town Hall.

Although the so-called 'Beast from the East' was still being felt, more than 40 members (shareholders) braved the weather and turned up in a heartening show of support.

The Chair reported on a remarkable year. Only 12 months earlier the last store in the village was within a month of closing. NGCE was awaiting a delayed decision on its funding application to the Big Lottery to buy the house and shop and had

been told there was only a 50 per cent chance of success. And, even if successful, it faced the daunting task of raising £20K in shares and more than doubling the membership before any award would be released.

However, within a few weeks the successful award had been announced. The share offer had been launched and was well on the way to exceeding its target reaching over £24K by the end of the financial year. And, in a splendid show of solidarity from residents and friends of New Galloway, membership rose from 80 to over 250 shareholders (of whom two thirds live in the community). Several local

organisations are among the shareholders.

The property was purchased in July and the shop opened for business with Lynsey Hogg as General Retail Manager. Longer opening hours and an increasing range of stock has seen the business build steadily. Although renovation plans fell behind schedule, the contract went out to tender at the end of 2017 and, as reported above, work is due to start in April.

Another key development has been the appointment of Sam Rushton as Community Engagement Worker. The creation of this post was a key element on NGCE's Big Lottery bid. News of her early initiatives appears elsewhere in this issue.

Continued from front page...

In the meantime, from May, the Playgroup will be increasing its current service from three mornings a week to morning, afternoon and full day provision (9am-3pm) for 2-5 year olds with eligible 2 year-old funded places and 2-5 year-old private places as they prepare for the launch of Bright Stars.

For more information please contact glenkenscommunitynursery@gmail.com or 07511 549413 and follow the group on Facebook @BrightStarsGlenkens

The Glenkens ELC also offers two other services

– Glenkens Baby & Toddler Group (Facebook @GlenkensBabyToddler), a stay-and-play session for parents/carers and their children on Fridays 10am-12noon, and a Holiday Club

for 0-12 year-olds and their parents/carers.

The next Holiday Club will run from July-August – keep an eye out for the Summer Flyer.



Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by natural power



EVERYTHING listed in the Glenkens Freecycle section is FREE - you just need to contact the owner and go and pick it up! If you would like to list something on this page, please get in touch with Sarah on 07727 127 997 or glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

VARIOUS

Folding bed with mattress suitable for occasional use for a child. Not suitable for adults. Contact: Trevor on 440 683

Water pipe, blue plastic, 25mm diameter, 14m long. Contact: 420 267

3 entire and 2 partial slabs of polystyrene insulation - 240mm x 120 x 10. **Pull-out washing line** - 5 wires, 20m drying space - in original box. **2 large reels of twisted plastic wire** - several metres. **Kodak 3250 all in one printer/scanner** with spare ink. **Table-top vice** - fully adjustable, for small craft jobs.

Contact: 430 031

Hutch for hamster or mouse, 28cm x 38cm x 24cm, good condition, with wheel, wee house, ball, water bottle and separate travel pod. Contact: 430 218

Beech effect worktop, good condition, 154cm x 60cm, call 430218

Singer sewing machine, 45 years old but still working. Contact: 430 218

Flymo multi trim 250 **electric strimmer**; Small Flymo **electric power hoe**; Three **elements for a Dimplex storage radiator** - Part number XT8321. Contact: Fiona on 07789 903 127

WANTED

Workshop/shed space with electricity, to rent for creative projects 2/3 days a week. Contact: 07967 959511

Old bike for Carsphairn Primary School to fit to a dynamo. Contact: Carsphairn Primary on 460 269

Used postage stamps for horse charity. Drop off at 3 Midtown, Dalry, or call 07563 718 011. Thanks to everyone who donated them over Christmas.

Old sideboard-type cupboard. Any condition. Contact: 07707 932 755 or 07827 481 463

GARDENS OF EXCELLENCE

Following the great success of the Gardens of Excellence excursions in 2017, the GTI team has announced a new series of garden visits for this year.

The season of visits starts in April with a trip to the grand estate gardens of North Cumbria, visiting Dalmain and Hutton in the Forest with their historic gardens and panoramic landscapes. A visit in late April to the springtime garden of Dawyck, with its early season colours of trees and shrubs combined with spring bulbs, will surely lift the spirits.

In May the hillside garden of Dalswinton will offer a fine display of rhododendrons and azaleas.

June trips include the Victorian Garden of Capenoch near Penpont in Dumfriesshire, with its raised knot garden and wild flower woodland walks. Later in the month there's a visit to the Romantic Gardens of Glenwhan and Castle Kennedy which will offer a variety of plantings for the keen gardener to copy and the armchair gardener to admire.

The GTI team takes a pride in offering these enjoyable excursions for the communities within which we live.

Local pick-up points are available and a low-floor bus is used for easy



Woodfall Gardens © Rhoda Rugg

access.

For full details and bookings visit www.glenkenstransport.org or telephone (01644 420374) or drop by the CatStrand in New Galloway.

As one passenger in 2017 said; "An excellent day out, good company, excellent gardens, tea and cake, what's not to like!"



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www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway



Eco Feature

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The Importance of Trees

Trees are important for a number of reasons, both in the countryside and in urban environments.

They have sustained us throughout the ages, providing fuel, shelter, tools and food, they are also vital for many forms of wildlife for the same reasons. In the last 50 years the removal of trees and hedges from the wider landscape has reached epic proportions. In some places there is nothing left but miles and miles of flat featureless landscape, making the area not only boring but denuded of wildlife. Trees are important for soil stability and there is evidence the fungi associated with their roots and biomass generated from trees,

enriches soil health.

In urban areas trees act as filters that help cut pollution and air-borne particles and give shade in hot weather. In addition they remove carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen. A mature tree produces enough oxygen for 10 people every year. They are an effective sound barrier and can limit noise

[Trees] have sustained us throughout the ages, providing fuel, shelter, tools and food...

pollution, as well as helping to reduce stress!

Looking after trees is not usually a problem. If they are damaging property they may need to be removed or reduced in size by removing some of multiple

trunks. Coppicing is an ancient form of woodland management where trees are cut low to the ground and regrow round the stump. The wood was used in all kinds of ways and the cleared area lets the light in to allow the understorey to thrive. Pollarding, where all the branches are cut back to the trunk has been popular in the past, and can

be useful if trying to keep the height down.

Topping, or cutting the top off hardwood trees can eventually kill them, by allowing disease in, or may make them unstable,

due to the tree trying to recover and producing a lot of new shoots that eventually unbalance it.

If you have to cut down a tree, try and replace it, ideally with two - native species naturally!

Maggie Kay

THE GALLOWAY HERMIT LOOKS AT: CRAB APPLE TREES

This month I will mostly be looking for ancient crab apple trees.

In my wanderings around this ancient land of Galloway I have discovered many such venerable beauties. Lurking in the quiet neglected corners where sheep are now the only ones to roam, which makes a quiet ramble around the glens a lovely peaceful experience...

Crab apples are thought to be the wild ancestor of all the common domestic varieties of apple. Its Latin name is *Malus sylvestris*, meaning 'apple of the forest', and it can be found frequently in quiet hedges, copices and woodland edges across Europe and SW Asia.

It can grow to a mighty ten metres tall, and some of the specimens I have discovered recently easily match this. The

bark is dark brown and deeply cracked into small square plates. From a distance it looks rather like an elderly Rastafarian gentleman, with a dense bushy crown of dark grey that stands out against the horizon. Once you have your 'eye in', they start to appear everywhere you look in Galloway.

It is a good idea to learn to spot these trees in the winter as once they are clothed in foliage and leaves, they can easily be mistaken for their cousins the hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna*.

The ancient mother trees of Galloway seem to in nearly every case be in close association with cairns, ruins and rocky bluffs.

It is easy to forget that until the clearances and enclosures, this was a free land, busy with



human activity. These wonderful old survivors from a distant past were no doubt venerated by our ancestors; for the shade they cast, the easily-carved wood they shed and, of course, for the health-giving apples they produced.

So come on people – get off the roads and into the hills! Happy hunting and keep your eyes peeled...

The Galloway Hermit

Glenkens Transport Initiative

www.glenkenstransport.org

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



Regular Services

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)

Booking not required.

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.

Return Fare £3.00

Booking required.

Fridays Dalry to Newton Stewart

(Swimming and Shopping)

Outward Pickups

Dalry (Underhill) 0930;

New Galloway (Town Hall) 0940, (CatStrand) 0942

Return Pickups

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

Return Fare £3.00. Booking required.

MONTHLY Glenkens to Ayr Return - Saturdays

Usually the last Saturday of each month

see www.glenkenstransport.org for dates

Pickups

New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930,

Dalry (Underhill) 0940, Carsphairn (1000)

Leaves Ayr 1500

Fare (each way) £3.50/ Concessions £3.00

Booking required.

Glenkens to Dumfries Return - Saturdays

This service has been discontinued
due to lack of demand.

EXCURSIONS

See the GTI website for full details of summer 2018 excursions

2018 Gardens of Excellence Excursions April to June

April 8 The Grand Estate Gardens Cumbria Dalemain House & Garden

Café. Wheelchair accessible. Admission £8.75.

Hutton-in-the-Forest House & Garden

Café. Wheelchair accessible. Admission £6.50.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0910; Crossmichael (Shop) 0925, Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0935

Fare £7. Concessions £6.

April 28 The Spring Garden

Dawyck Botanic Garden Stobo, Scottish Borders

Café. Partly wheelchair accessible. Admission £6.50.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0910; Crossmichael (Shop) 0925, Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0935

Fare £7. Concessions £6.

May 13 The Hillside Garden

Dalswinton House Garden Thornhill, D&G

Refreshments. Partly wheelchair accessible. Adm £5.00.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1300; New Galloway (CatStrand) 1310; Crossmichael (Shop) 1325, Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 1335

Fare £6. Concessions £5.

June 3 The Victorian Garden

Capenoch Garden Penpont, D&G

Refreshments. Partly wheelchair accessible. Adm £4.00.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1330; New Galloway (CatStrand) 1340. Fare £5. Concessions £4.

June 10 The Romantic Gardens

Glenwhan Gardens Dunragit, D&G

Café. Partly wheelchair accessible. Admission £6.00.

Castle Kennedy Gardens Stranraer, D&G

Café. Wheelchair accessible. Admission £5.50.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0910; Crossmichael (Shop) 0925, Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0935

Fare £7. Concessions £6.

For certain excursions pickups can also be arranged for Dalbeattie and Kirkcudbright. Enquire when booking.

Minibus Hire

GTI has 8, 15 and 16 seat minibuses
for hire

Hirers must be registered GTI user groups.

Information and Bookings

Email gti@catstrand.com

or call 01644 420374.

KIRK'S MODERATOR VISITS GLENKENS

The Church of Scotland's most senior figure, the Moderator of the General Assembly, has been visiting the Glenkens, meeting local people and learning about life in the area.

Every year the Church of Scotland elects a Moderator to chair the annual General Assembly. For the rest of the year the Moderator represents the Church and visits many different parts of the country, often pursuing his or her particular interests. The current Moderator, the Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning, has a particular concern for the life of rural communities and their efforts to build resilience.

He started his visit with an open-air Conventicle outside Kells Church to celebrate the life and witness of the Covenanters. The Rev Dr David Bartholomew, parish minister, led the service with traditional Psalm-singing and worship.

He then visited the CatStrand to hear of the work of Glenkens Community & Arts Trust. "It is encouraging to learn of ways in which the arts can help to bridge the interface between rural communities and some of Scotland's most exciting and creative performance talents," he said. He expressed particular interest in the wide range of activities and training for all ages, including the development of the Men's Shed in Balmaclellan.

A walk up the New Galloway High Street took him to the Community Shop where he learned of the development plans of New Galloway Community Enterprises and to the Town Hall where he was briefed on LING's plans to revive the landmark building for community benefit.

"It was great to hear and see how local people work hard and passionately to save, sustain and develop their local shop, with so many investing as shareholders. Good to

see locally sourced items for sale, too," he commented.

After visiting the church and churchyard at Dalry, he attended a Fellowship Dinner at the Ken Bridge Hotel. In his talk, *Life and Faith: A Disruptive Influence*, Dr Browning shared his personal faith journey, a story at times humorous, at times very moving - a journey which had had an inauspicious start when he was expelled from Sunday School!



The Kirk's Moderator, centre - holding a Glenkens Gazette! - along with parish minister the Rev Dr David Bartholomew and representatives of GCAT, LING and NGCE.



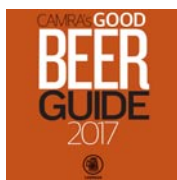
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Youth Booth Transformation

The youth volunteers group at CatStrand are about to start work on the transformation of New Galloway's disused phone box.

The group bought the phonebox from BT for £1 under their 'adopt a phonebox' scheme and now, with the support of GCAT, the New Galloway Community Council and Connecting in Communities they will be creating an art installation, youth information and community information space.

The group were successful in gaining funding from D&G Youth Work Choices Fund which was a fund voted on by other young people in the region.

The youth volunteers have arranged workshops with Lorrie Kyle, a glass artist, to create coloured glass panels which will replace the existing glass in the phone box.

The group will travel to Lorrie's workshop in April to make their designs, and the Rekindling

Creativity group have already visited Lorrie's workshop this month to create three pieces for the booth.

There will be an opportunity for 5-12 year-olds to go up to the glass workshop during the Easter schools break. The interior of the booth will be fitted out with information and resources gathered by the volunteer group from local service providers and will include mobile phone chargers for emergency use.

Preparation of the phonebox for painting is underway, and the group are aiming to have it kitted out by the end of April.

Anyone that would like to get involved in the project can email aidan@catstrand.com

The Glass Workshop for 5-12s at Lorrie's workshop outside Dumfries will run on Tuesday 11 April. A minibus will run from CatStrand, leaving at 10am returning at 3pm.

To book a place or find out more come along to our Saturday Art Club session on Saturday 17th April at CatStrand or email aidan@catstrand.com



CatStrand youth volunteers ready to transform the old phone box.

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:

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Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

Phone: 01556 504991

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Kirkcudbright and Dumfries*

CatStrand Highlights

After the drama of the March snows which saw our entire Ken Words Festival put on ice, I'm hoping the weather will leave the rest of spring shows alone!

As things stand, I am working with the Ken Words steering group, agents and writers to reschedule the events we had planned - watch this space.

Back to the present and we start April with rip-roaring comedy and tickets are already scarce for the return of Irish-Iranian comedian Patrick Monahan (Fri 6 Apr) who follows up his *That 80s Show* with the equally riotous *That 90s Show*.

The comedy continues with our screening of Armando Iannucci's hilarious film satire *The Death of Stalin* [15] (Wed 11 Apr) which Empire called "Iannucci's most impressive feat yet".

If history is your thing, I strongly recommend the next Glenkens Story

talk by Dr Graeme Cavers - *Crannogs of Galloway* (Sun 22 Apr).

Our Exhibition on Screen films have been very well received and they don't come much bigger than Vincent van Gogh: A New Way of Seeing (Tues 24 Apr) and I, Claude Monet (Tues 29 May).

May sees the launch of Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival 2018 and we're delighted to be taking part again with a variety of shows at the end of May and early June (see p20).

Other highlights over spring include the return of Glenkens favourite *Rob Heron and the Tea Pad Orchestra* (Thu 19 Apr) and Simon Thacker's new gypsy odyssey *Songs of the Roma* (Fri 4 May) which combines virtuosic guitar (Thacker) and cello (Justyna Jablonska) with the voice of Masha Natanson in the wild re-imagining of songs from Romani, Serbian, and Russian gypsy traditions.

Due to popular demand (or at least a very determined demand from our growing jazz audience) there will be an additional *Dark Sky Jazz Night* before we break for the summer with



Pat Monahan

Pericopes + 1 (Sat 12 May).

Finally, we launch a new art exhibition by *Mary-Clare Cornwallis* on Thu 29 March. Her work is wonderfully vibrant and full of the joys of spring. I hope you will come and have a look at over April and May.

The CatStrand Team

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CARSPHAIRN PRIMARY ADVENTURES

Children at Carsphairn Primary enjoyed an extra science day, prompted by a P4 child's question of "Mrs Davies, what freezes faster in the snow, hot water or cold water?" posed just as we set off back from our swimming lessons.

Mrs Davies, the new Principal Teacher and Science Specialist, spent the rest of the journey discussing how we could find out and what we could do on the return to school. Notes were made, more questions were asked such as; "Would it make a difference if it was windy? What about the depth of snow?" and, a personal favourite; "What if we added hot chocolate?"

Back at school, equipment was gathered and the inquiries began. Anyone who would like to inspire the children further can write to the school requesting a copy of the results or can send us new results following their own experiments - after all, if our investigations were successful, you'll come up with the same answers.

Focus on Health

Carsphairn pupils have been focusing on health and well being in all areas of the curriculum. They are challenging themselves and visitors to use a peak airflow meter to measure lung capacity and try to improve results over the term whilst using a pedometer to try to put more steps into a healthy future. So far this term they have had Tag Rugby weekly - "thank

you" to John from Stewartry Rugby Club, swimming lessons at Dalmellington Pool, stamina sessions and badminton with Mr Carmichael and are about to try out yoga and meditation as they find out about Buddhism. Alongside their efforts in the Daily Mile and trying to improve their speed for cross country they have all practiced bike handling skills and are now pogo stick nuts!

The children have a request - **does any reader have an old bike** that they can use to fit to a dynamo please? After all, a glen with solar, wind and hydro power should have pedal power too!

Wood Possibilities

In February came the tri-annual lopping of the maple tree in the school grounds by the electric company. Immediately the pupils spotted the possibilities. We could add to the surface area under our climbing frame...what about making paper? Can we use some for bug hotels and a wigwam in the playground? All were terrific suggestions but would necessitate the children putting in a lot of effort in their break and lunchtime. As the bell went they eagerly set to work, jobs were allocated and the digging, barrowing, shifting and sifting began in earnest.

Payback to Iain, our local astronomy expert, was suggested as a thanks for the superb stargazing night reported in last month's issue. The wheelbarrow



The children enjoying their Burns Supper music and appreciating the wonderful piping by Mr Wemyss.

was loaded and chippings were delivered to help him out with his new strawberry bed whilst some were saved to try out paper making later in the term. So, we started out sad about the chainsaw but ended up thrilled with the new light streaming into the classroom and the possibilities of experiments later - and maybe a strawberry or two..?

A Taste of Burns

At the beginning of January Carsphairn children decided to host a daytime Burn's supper for the village and set out to tell Mrs Davies all about the traditions as she had never been to one. "We must have a piper! Don't forget the speeches! Should we wear kilts? Who will give the Selkirk Grace?"

Tasked with organising the event, the children set to work designing posters and tickets. Mr Wemyss kindly offered to pipe in our haggis, toasts were written and chairs borrowed as a good number of 'Carsphairnites' agreed to join in the fun. And fun it was.

Mrs Davies, Principal Teacher



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DALRY PUPILS' POP-UP CAFE

Thursday afternoons at Dalry Secondary are an opportunity for a rolling programme offering wider activities such as mountain biking, debating and fishing.

A new group has started running a pop-up café which will offer something for the community and also raise money for school funds. The first pop-up cafe offering a 'soup and sweet' lunch was a great success. The pupils had spent time before the big day contacting local shops, planning menus and cooking everything themselves. Customers were asked to fill in feedback forms afterwards and the comments were

overwhelmingly positive:

Students involved in the cafe, Hana and Caitlin, said: We were kindly donated ingredients by Tesco, The Co-op and Corson's which were very much appreciated. All the profit we got went towards the library in school to buy the books that the pupils asked for! This was a big help to both the school and the community, as the pupils got their books and the community had a welcoming, home-made lunch. People said really nice things such as "I enjoyed the relaxed friendly atmosphere. The table was beautifully set... The girls were polite



Students who organised the Pop-up Cafe.

and attentive" and "the sticky toffee pudding was restaurant-class."

We will hopefully be running the pop-up cafe regularly. To find out dates and buy tickets please contact the school office at 01644 430 259.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and please feel welcome to attend the next one.

SCHOOLS JOIN IN POPPY PLEDGE

November 11 2018 is a particularly significant date in British history.

It marks the centenary of the armistice, and the end of WW1.

Poppy Scotland have launched a nationwide fundraising campaign - The 1918 Poppy Pledge - to raise money for honouring the many men and woman who fought in the First

World War and in the many conflicts since. The Poppy Pledge will also raise vital funds to help continue to support the Armed Forces community in Scotland today. Poppy Scotland has asked organisations around Scotland to each try to raise £1,918 to help improve the lives of ex-servicemen.

Dalry Secondary School and the Glenkens Cluster primaries have signed up to take the Poppy Pledge and we

have kick-started our year of fundraising by holding a '1918 Dress-up Day'. Pupils dressed up as suffragettes, chimney sweeps, English nannies, nurses, soldiers, munition workers, gangsters, and so on, and a 1918 themed tray bake was held later on in the day.

The primary pupils were transported back in time using slates and chalk to do their work and many of the old games were played in the playground.

James Wins Young Musician Award

Three students from Dalry recently entered the Rotary Young Musician of the Year Competition.

This is an opportunity for young instrumentalists and singers to showcase their talent, see others of similar standards perform and improve their own performance skills.

The first heat is at local level and the Rotary Club of Castle Douglas held this at Castle Douglas High School (CDHS). There was a total of 13 performers from both Dalry and Castle Douglas, playing and singing everything from classical to traditional, through ragtime and folk

– some more confident than others, but all striving to do their best.

Hardie Walker was the first Dalry pupil to play and gave us some Pink Floyd on electric guitar, which certainly woke us all up. Hardie always sets himself challenges and he did very well- he is a musician to look out for in the future.

Next up from Dalry was Rory Newbery who is sitting his N5 music this year. He played Prelude in C by Bach - a very musical performance full of dynamics (louds/ quiets). He found playing a new piano without practising on it first a bit strange but coped really well.

The last performer from Dalry was James Wallace who sang *Will Ye No Come Back Again*.

When the results were announced, Dalry were thrilled to discover that

the Vocal Award went to James Wallace, who was also given the Silverware as the overall winner.



Left to right: Rory Newbery, Hardie Walker and James Wallace.

SURVIVAL SKILLS AT KELLS

Kells school has been alive with the sound of enthusiasm, encouragement, eagerness and hard work! If you listen you might just hear us - it's been non-stop.

Well done and thank you to all involved. As ever, great to see the children, parents, community members and staff collaborating for the greater good. We should be proud of our achievements.

Planning for our current topic 'Survival' has been an interesting and exciting process.

Sat, pens poised, ready to write down all our own ideas... Amy, hand up, announces "Well, Mr Thompson, I think we should all have a sleepover. A survival-based one - with tents and games and singing..." more hands shoot up; "with food; with a star gazing walk; with hide-and-seek; with sausages; smores! a Kells tribal dance; a fort, lets build a fort; and we need head torches; and breakfast; and poetry; and storytelling". The children were brimming with fantastic ideas... "YES! YES! all together 'round a campfire"

- all the children chimed in with gusto; "and chopping wood; we must have all of this around a survival campfire".

And so we did. One afternoon we dug our fire pit. Mary arrived with her (now famous) bell tent. Amy's gazebo went up, as did a few smaller tents. The camp was beginning to take shape. The children quickly made the bunting neatly encircle the structures. The Jolly Roger was raised to whoops and cheers.

Children and parents came back to school for five o'clock armed with packs and bags... Food was brought in to share, tents too, sleeping bags slung in the corner of the hall, pyjamas piled up, torches turned on and off and some teddy bears sat guarding belongings.

Heather Mackintosh arrived to help supervise our sausage sizzle. We had a blast: supper, seeing a stunning sunset, spooky walks, spookier stories, star-gazing in splendid skies, singing, both hiding and seeking, munching a midnight feast and much much more. At the end of the evening, we all wound down and beetled off to the tents set up in the hall and classroom, the perfect end to the perfect evening. The fire burned gently then went out on its own at the end of the evening, a wonderful symbol at the very heart of



Tent-tastic fun at Kells Primary.

our experience.

The morning after we sat around the camp wearing survival costumes we had made. Toast, cereal and fruit went down a treat, and we reflected on our time. We had learned a lot. We decided embers were like memories and we'd made them with joy. We took the charcoal and wrote and drew about our time together. We had survived.

The P6 and P7 children have been in Edinburgh on residential. Meanwhile the P4 pupils have built a shop - Kells Spells Community Shop. The potion bottles' labels include ingredients and nutritional facts. We also sold soup we had made over the fire to parents, making nearly £15...all in all we've had a very creative and industrious time.

Graeme Thompson, p4-7 Class Teacher

PATIO TRANSFORMATION

Carsphairn pupils have transformed the patio area in their school playground.

Inspired by their work on buddhism, mosaics and by the amazing hills beyond the playground, the five pupils (Crawford, Naomi, Courtney, Eilidh and Mckenzie) designed and painted the paving area. They gained national Arts Awards qualifications through the CatStrand in the process, and had a great time getting wonderfully messy with Mary Smith and teacher Mrs Davies.



A CLOSE SHAVE FOR DALRY SCHOOL

Recently Dalry Primary pupils and James Wallace, S4, were invited to perform at a Family Evening at the Town Hall.

Those attending enjoyed the musical talents of the Primary pupils, who performed their pieces from the Galloway Music Festival. James Wallace also entertained with a selection of Scots songs and his very own musical composition written for a poem by Tommy Edgar.

The highlight of the evening was

David Bartholomew's sponsored beard shave. All funds raised will go towards the purchase of new digital cameras and resources for Dalry Primary, Secondary and Nursery. The total raised so far is £251.24!

If you would like to donate to

Friends of Dalry School (FoDS) following David's beard shave, you can do so by popping into, or phoning, the school on 01644 430 105 or contacting David directly.

Many thanks goes to

Dr Bartholomew for raising money for the Dalry schools by sporting a fresher face for spring, and to Dalry Church for hosting a very enjoyable evening.

Jenna Devlin, p3-5 Class Teacher



NEW SCHOOL ROLE

Walker McKenna, former principal teacher at Carsphairn Primary, has recently changed his role in the Glenkens Cluster of primary schools.

What is your new role in the Glenkens Cluster and what does it entail?

The official title of my new role is Partnership Principal Teacher (PT). In our new structure, each school has its own Principal Teacher, each of whom has one non-teaching day per week to develop school targets. While those PTs are not teaching, I will be covering their classes. When I am not teaching, I am working closely with Mr Scrimshaw on Partnership-wide projects such as school trips, assessment and being a spare set of hands around all three schools. Although we have dealt with a lot of change within the Glenkens, I do think that the new management structure gives us a chance to work much more cohesively, so we can share more of the wonderful things that are happening at all three schools.

What do you enjoy most about your new role?

I am very much enjoying my new role and being able to spend time at all three schools across the partnership. As a teacher, it is great for me to meet and to get to know the kids better at Kells and Dalry, and learn the nuances that make each school unique. Although part of my role is to help us work more closely by sharing good practice and reducing bureaucracy across the partnership, I hope that we can also celebrate the differences between the schools and indeed the three

communities.

Do you miss Carsphairn?

Absolutely. Working at Carsphairn was an incredible experience for me. Teaching the same children for up to seven years in some cases meant that I really got to know the kids at Carsphairn and their background, and was really able to work closely with families to develop the whole child. As an educator, having the freedom I had at Carsphairn really allowed me to develop my approach, while still tailoring the curriculum to the children of Carsphairn.

Between the staff I have worked with over the years at Carsphairn, and the way I felt embraced by the community as a whole, I will always feel like Carsphairn is my Scottish home [Walker is from Canada].

What do you see as the key benefits/strengths of our cluster here in the Glenkens?

I am struck now by the same things that struck me when I started in the Glenkens many years ago, our children are so lucky to have so much support. Class sizes are relatively small and teachers really know their children and their families. We have volunteers from within the community helping with reading, after-school clubs and bike-ability training. We have community organisations that reach out to work with schools from the Catstrand to the Heritage Centre. All this going on means that a child growing up in the Glenkens, must see and feel that support and further make them feel like a significant part of their community.

What do our schools offer that larger, more urban schools can't?

Working in smaller schools usually means that multi-composite classes are made, having more year groups in the same class. In the



Glenkens composite classes are the norm, and although teaching in a differentiated classroom can be challenging for a teacher, it also allows teachers to work with the same child for a number of years. That time really allows for the relationship to develop and for teachers to really know their pupils. Last year Carsphairn went on a trip to a big primary school in Glasgow, and were able to see for themselves what the differences were. They recognised how lucky they were to have as much one-to-one teacher time and to have such a wonderful environment right outside the school gates.

What are your goals over the coming year?

Certainly for this academic year, I am spending most of my time getting to know the kids and staff across the Glenkens. Having a responsibility for Assessment across the partnership, I am getting the chance to see what practice is really working at each of the schools and trying to make sure good practice is shared so all children in the Glenkens benefit. In austere times we also have to make sure that we are getting the most out of our resources.

Author's Success

Carsphairn author Hana Ade, 13, a member of Glenkens Random Writers group, is to have her short story *The Crow* published in a new book, *Confluence*.

The book has been created as part of the Upland project which worked with professional photographic artist, Laura Hudson Mackay, and

Celtic storyteller, Anne Errington, both based in Dumfries and Galloway, along with photographers and storytellers from Morocco.

Confluence is an international collaboration between photographic artists and storytellers, and looks to bridge cultures and highlight common links within the Arabian and Celtic storytelling traditions.



The Glenkens Random Writers group.

DALRY SECONDARY'S NEW MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Since last summer, Castle Douglas High School and Dalry Secondary School have been joined in partnership under the one senior leadership team.

There has been a process of recruitment to three out of the four posts, with only Mrs Cook having been in post on a permanent basis prior to the current school year. Since my appointment starting in February, the team is now fully in place and consists of Mr James Smith (headteacher); myself - Mrs Lorraine Gillies (depute head teacher); Mr Alister Cathro (depute head teacher) and Mrs Alison Cook (depute head teacher).

Under the overall leadership of Mr Smith, each of the depute head teachers have specific remits which cover aspect of both schools, but my own remit has the most significant role in Dalry Secondary.

Ordinarily I am based on site at Dalry on Monday mornings, Tuesday mornings, Thursday all day and Friday mornings, although this is flexible and is dependent on the needs of both schools. Mr Smith is based in Dalry on Wednesday mornings, Mrs Cook on Monday mornings and Mr Cathro on Tuesday mornings. In addition, Mr Bannister and Mrs Acheson have a management role and are on site on a full-time basis.

Although not originally from Dumfries and Galloway, I have worked all of my career in the local area, firstly as a chemistry teacher, then an assistant then principal teacher of guidance (now pupil support), then as part of the



Left to right: Lorraine Gillies, James Smith, Alison Cook and Alister Cathro.

multi-agency youth justice team and most recently as pupil support manager working with secondary schools across the whole authority area supporting the development of practice to meet the needs of all learners. Quite a journey, having originally intended to come to Dumfries and Galloway only to complete my two-year probationary training as a teacher of chemistry!

So, how would I reflect on my first six weeks? Dalry is a lovely little school and the staff and pupils have made me feel very welcome. It can be difficult settling in to a new environment and finding out how everything works and where everything is located, so it has been much appreciated that my endless questions have been answered with patience and understanding. Thus far my key aim has been to get to know the young people and staff and to meet some of the parents and members of the community: all of whom are crucial partners in providing the best learning experiences for our young people. I've had some lovely experiences: dressed as a suffragette at the 1918 day, seeing the pupils thrive in their achievement organising the pop up

café, hearing of all the successes of many of the pupils at recent music festivals, ice skating competitions and as part of wider community involvement.

We've had fantastic engagement in learning conversations at a fully attended parents night, a freecycle world book day event enabling and encouraging reading at no cost to anyone, a school excursion to a local workplace, pupils completing SQA assignments and assessments and staff busy preparing the senior students for their forthcoming examinations. We've also had to contend with bad weather which necessitated a temporary closure. All this, and it's not even April!

I am keen to involve parents and carers in planning and supporting their young people's education and am hopeful that I can foster positive relationships with the wider community.

I look forward to building on the strengths of Dalry School in the coming terms and to utilising the chances for both schools to benefit from the greater opportunities the partnership can bring.

Lorraine Gillies, Depute Head Teacher

Food Hygiene Awards

Congratulations to S3 pupils who have recently been awarded their Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate.

The REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene qualification is the most widely recognised food safety qualification in Scotland.

Intended for everyone who handles food, it provides a general introduction to food hygiene issues including hazard analysis and provides the necessary knowledge and information needed to underpin good food safety practices.



26-28 May 2018

SPRINGFLING

Scotland's Premier Art and Craft Open Studios Event

Spring Fling 2018 will encourage visitors to enjoy the Glenkens countryside and drop in to meet artists and makers with studios in the surrounding area.

The open studios weekend, from 26 to 28 May, features 86 specially selected visual artists and craft makers across Dumfries and Galloway.

Organisers *Upland* provide colour-coded suggested routes allowing visitors to take in a variety of studios and enjoy superb countryside.

The Pink Route runs from Castle Douglas to New Galloway and on to Kirkpatrick Durham and Corsock, taking in both sides of Loch Ken.

Photographer Phil McMenemy, who runs the Laurieston Gallery, is among those they can drop in on.

Visitors will find a variety of beautifully taken and presented pictures and can expect a warm welcome from their host.

Further on, at Mossdale, there is the textile artist Jo Gallant. As well as pieces for sale, there will be work in progress, photos, design work and explanations of materials and technical process. Visitors can also use Jo's fabric to decorate their own cotton bag to take away for just £5.

Elsewhere there will be the chance to encounter landscape artist Angela Lawrence, painters Jane Howe and Patti Lean, printmaker Pamela Grace, and maker of fabulous practical pottery Clare Dawdry.

New to Spring Fling this year is rug-maker Penny Lilley who says: "...I use rag rug technique utilising the bright colours and textures of recycled fabrics. Come and have a cup of tea while I demonstrate how I work."

There is also the opportunity to see the work of Michal Sur, a specialist in infrared black and white photography, whose images are unusual and very striking.

Other places to stop are Piper's Forge at Kirkpatrick Durham, which is the base for architectural and sculptural metalworker Adam Both.

For those who love jewellery, Natalie Vardey is a must-see attraction, in Corsock, along with Amanda Simmons who creates the most astonishing glasswork.

For full details and the suggested routes see www.spring-fling.co.uk



Glass by Amanda Simmons

Upcoming Events at Carsphairn Tearooms & Bistro

April:

Sunday 1st:

Easter Sunday Bistro, Set Menu, 12-6pm

Friday 13th & 27th:

Mexican-themed Bistro, 5-8pm

May:

Friday 4th & Friday 25th:

American-themed Bistro, 5-8pm

June:

Saturday 2nd:

Carsphairn Show Bistro, 4-8pm

Booking recommended

01644 460 568

Upland Arts Development CIC presents

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Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is Phil Day with this enchanting photograph of a red squirrel and great tit.

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

Competition judges Dave and Sue said: *"We have never seen a picture of a red squirrel and bird sharing a feeder and for that reason this has got to be the winner this issue, what a lovely photograph and how lovely for Phil to see this in his garden."*



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SUBSTATION EXTENSION ANGERS RESIDENTS

Glenlee residents are angered by plans by Scottish Power Energy Network (SPEN) to extend the electricity substation.

Residents are pressing for the extension to be moved to the other side of the plot, further away from their homes.

"We are all extremely disappointed that SPEN has not listened to our concerns regarding the extension to the substation. With this huge structure impinging right onto our gardens, there has been no consideration given as to how this will affect our lives and house prices. We have suggested moving the substation to the opposite side of the power station, away from our homes, and have been told that this is being considered. The question is, why hadn't this been looked into prior to development?"

Glenkens Men's Shed

Members of the Glenkens Men's Shed are feeling 'flushed' with success after the new accessible toilet was installed.

Our gratitude and thanks go out to the Glenkens Charity Shop in Dalry for helping fund this, and to CatStrand for donating the sliding door.

Work on the mezzanine floor is almost complete too, with the safety rails in place and the floor boards firmly positioned, well done to the hard working 'shedders' who have devoted considerable time and effort to make this happen. Now where can we get the money to sort the roof?

Our thoughts and prayers are with Christine and Stuart Rhodes at this time, after Stuart recently suffered a heart attack; get well soon Stuart, we're all thinking of you - best take it easy for a while and just come along, supervise and drink coffee.

The Glenkens Men's Shed website is now up and running, under the watchful eye of web master Ned Maxwell, who took time out from his gorilla project to launch the site. Why not see it for yourself at www.glenkens-mens-shed.com

We'll be taking part in the first Dumfries and Galloway Shedfest on 9 May at Dalbeattie Town Hall, where sheds from all over the region will gather to demonstrate their wares. Watch out soon for our new Men's Shed sign, currently under construction by famed local artist and scrap-metal sculptor Jim Clubb.

The days are growing longer so it's time to get out on your bike. Luckily, Kevin Telfer is doing amazing work on refurbishing old machines upstairs in the shed, so there's no excuse - if you haven't got one, give us a try and we'll see if we can sort you something for a modest fee.

Membership is still growing but new recruits are always welcome - contact Brian or Chris at the CatStrand on 420 374 or Tom Leach on 420 895. *Chris Jowsey*



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COMMERCIAL CLIENT

Stagecoach, Ayr

'Ross advised me on the best type of heating source for our needs, which are quite unique - a busy bus station. The installation, a new high efficiency gas boiler, was tailored to suit our needs, and carried out within the given time frame. It had to be done in stages due to our work needs, and this all went as planned.'



DOMESTIC CLIENT

John Dobson, Newton Stewart

"RJ McCulloch fitted a new air source heat pump in our home, swapping from an LPG boiler and using our existing underfloor heating system. The team were very clean workers, removing all the old bits without being asked, and they had all the right tools to hand. More to the point, when Ross came across problems in blending in the new system with the elements already there he was very helpful in finding economic solutions quickly. My background is engineering so I was pleasantly surprised that he really knew what he was doing"



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MOSSDALE HALL'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of Mossdale Village Hall which was opened on 7 May 1948.

The story began at a public meeting on 14 June 1943 when it was agreed by the folk of Mossdale to "get all the public funds and property pooled together and to raise funds to build a recreation hall".

Fundraising activities included whist drives, dances and free gift sales, events usually held in the school with committee and AGM meetings held in the station waiting room (Mossdale being the location of New Galloway station).

At a meeting on 30 May 1946 Mr Davidson, architect, "spoke favourably of the site on the Airds road opposite the football field and alongside the railway loading bank." The community has always been very grateful to Miss Henniker-Hughan of Airds for donating that land.

The committee learned that the Seamen's Institute had a hut

valued at £600 for sale at Troon; a deputation was selected to inspect and, if suitable, purchase the hut.

In March 1948 the committee discussed the hall's official opening and "agreed the dance arranged for 7 May should be an old-time one as it was hoped this would be the opening night of the hall".

The hall was opened on 7 May 1948 by the Rev JWT Dickie MC from Laurieston and his Prayer of Dedication included:

"We thank Thee for those who conceived the plan, who laboured in so many various ways to realise it and for all who by their interest, their energy and their gifts made its realisation possible.

May it prove of real value to all, young and old, who dwell here – a place where they can meet for refreshment of body, mind and spirit for all healthful pleasures. May no word of malice or falsehood ever be spoken within these walls and no unrighteous deed ever done within them."

It would be nice, if perhaps optimistic, to think these sentiments are always respected. It says much that, through both good and challenging times, for 70 years a very small community has managed to build, maintain and enjoy a range of activities in what started out as a temporary building. We are planning to celebrate the hall's 70th anniversary on Sunday 6 May.

Please visit our Facebook page for more information about hall activities and letting arrangements
www.facebook.com/mossdalevillagehall



FLASH FICTION COMPETITION

Are you a writer? Do you enjoy flash fiction?

As part of a new initiative, The Gazette are seeking writers to take part in a competition that will run bi-monthly. In each issue a new topic will be allocated. We are looking for the best fiction in 450 words, maximum.

In addition, you have 50 words to tell us a little about yourself and what inspired the piece you've written. If you're a winner your story will be published in the next edition.

Each entry will be judged by Ian Patrick, a local author, and the winner will receive a £10 Amazon voucher to spend on a book of their choice. What have you got to lose?

Here are the rules:

It must be your own work. It must be no more than 450 words. It must be Fiction. Minimum age of entry 12 years with no maximum age limit. It must include a separate 50 words about yourself and what inspired your story.

Publication will include print, Facebook and Twitter.

Email your entry to glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk by the 5 May 2018 where it will be allocated a number and sent to the judge. The judge's decision is final. No late entries will be accepted. Now get writing!



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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POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNITY FACILITY

Hidden away out of view behind Dalry's Town Hall is Dumfries & Galloway Council's former local roads depot, now only consisting of a large shed and section of land.

In September 2015 Dalry Community Council carried out a public opinion survey on local issues. One of the elements of the survey was the potential acquisition (by asset transfer) of the former Council yard behind the Town Hall for community use. On the survey, the suggestion was posed that the site would assist with emergency resilience plans and possibly provide a local recycling point, and the surrounding area could also become a village picnic site.

The survey response was nearly nine to one in favour of the proposal, with twenty-nine people also saying they would be willing to

get involved.

Following on from this, we need to form an action group to take this community project forward, whether it is gardening/landscaping work, DIY/building skills or fund raising. Any little bit you can assist with (even occasionally) gets the job done.

If enough supporters don't come forward soon, the site will probably be auctioned off by the regional council for private development, and Dalry will have missed out on creating a valuable village asset for

If enough supporters don't come forward soon, the site will probably be auctioned off by the regional council for private development...

current and future generations.

The successful Lottery bid by Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP) means that Dalry should benefit from additional visitors and their spending. However, local facilities like our public toilets fall below current standards.

The former Council depot land could be used to provide: Winter Resilience equipment storage and

maintenance facility; a home for an Eco-Fuels (eg log briquettes) Buying Collective; a community recycling facility, including local composting; community assets repair workshop, eg public benches; a facility for the GGLP Dalry to Castle Douglas Canoe Trail; new disabled friendly public toilets, also available for Town Hall users; small garages for private rental (providing community income); community garden and seating area; the Town Hall kitchen or Clachan Inn could potentially provide outdoor catering;

land to extend the Town Hall if needed, eg meeting/storage rooms or space to house an emergency generator for electricity outages.

All of the above could be possible to help improve

Dalry village, but we need more volunteers to make this happen.

If you are interested in learning more please get in touch - you don't have to live in Dalry to get involved. Email stjdalrycc@gmail.com or phone 07729 292126, or leave your name and contact details at Wright's Shop or Dalry Library. *Andi Holmes*

Dog Training Party

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

We were overwhelmed by people's generosity, with the amount raised on the night being £150, plus £100 carried over from 2016 from people who couldn't make the party.

The money raised has gone

to Dumfries and Galloway Canine Rescue. Thanks go to Margaret Schofield for

the chocolate cake and Jessica Nash for hosting the games

and judging the fancy-dress.

If your New Year's resolution is to train your dog, look up our website at www.realdogtrainingscotland.co.uk

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D&G ARTS FESTIVAL 2018

Scotland's largest rural performing arts festival opens its 39th event on 25 May in Dumfries.

The annual Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival covers the entire 3,600 square miles of Dumfries and Galloway, showcasing a wonderfully diverse programme of music, theatre, dance and spoken word for over 10 days.

A few snippets of what's on are...

Multi award-winning neo-trad band Elephant Sessions bring their energetic gig to the CatStrand, New Galloway, on 26 May.

Comedian Carina MacLeod gives an hilarious spin on her health issues in *Fibro My Arth* at Twynholm Village Hall on 27 May.

New York-based Doonhamer Ben Bryden returns to the region with his jazz/indie rock sounds in *Bright Noise*. He comes to Colvend public hall, on 31 May. After his popular performances at last

year's festival, novelist, playwright and performer Alan Bisset returns to the region with more hilarious antics from his straight-talking single mum Moira Bell. *More Moira Monologues* comes to the CatStrand, New Galloway, on 31 May. In the afternoon that day, Alan takes to the floor for an entertaining debate, focused on the question: Just how sustainable is rural touring?

BBC personality and Gaelic singer Mary Ann Kennedy brings her first solo tour to the Gordon Memorial Hall, Castle Douglas, on 31 May.

Tales of Beeswing and Beyond is a collection of tales, new and old, from Beeswing and the surrounding hills, rivers and roads. Told through music and theatre and created and performed by members of Loch

Arthur Camphill Community, the show comes to the Cresset Hall, Loch Arthur, on 1 June.

Sculpture, dance, music and sound come together in an imaginative collaboration between visual artist Alexander Ruth; dancer and choreographer Elisabeth Schilling; and musician Phil Niblock. *Sixfold: A Nexus* takes place at the CatStrand, New Galloway, on 1 June and will be preceded by a performance by the CatStrand's youth dance group Choreo Skills Lab.

From the creator of the hit show *Black Is the Color of My Voice* comes a new story about the 20th-century African-American experience. Against a powerful soundtrack of original music and traditional gospel and blues sung

live, two women 42 years apart become involved in the struggle for civil rights. Apphia Campbell gives another masterful performance in *Woke* and comes to the Fullarton Theatre, Castle Douglas, on 2 June.

To find out more visit www.dgartsfestival.org.uk



Elephant Sessions



National Theatre of Scotland & Catherinewheels Theatre | Alan Bissett | Apphia Campbell | Ben Bryden | Elephant Sessions | Carina MacLeod | Turntable | Mary Ann Kennedy | Right Lines Productions | Jenn Butterworth & Laura-Beth Salter | Edinburgh Graduate Theatre



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HELEN JUDGES AT CRUFTS

Helen Broadhurst, from outside Dalry, has been showing dogs for 40 years.

As well as showing dogs, Helen has also judged dog shows both at home and abroad. This year she had the once in a lifetime chance to judge at Crufts.

Asked to judge the Border collie dogs, it was a difficult decision with

428 Border collies entered into the section - the highest number of entries in the pastoral group.

On previous occasions Helen has also won best dog and best bitch at Crufts, as well as breeding the youngest Border collie to ever win best of breed at Crufts. She is currently campaigning her beloved papillons.



Helen (third from the left) with the winners at this year's Crufts.

Continued from front page...

For the first time the Youth Players had three entries in the Festival and *Tell Me Another Story, Sing Me a Song* starring Zoe Kirkpatrick and Eilidh Thomson was competing in the Open Festival - another first! This play was entered under our senior SCDA registered team Glenkens '73 Club, the first time the famous name had appeared at the Festival since 2009! Definitely a year of 'firsts'...

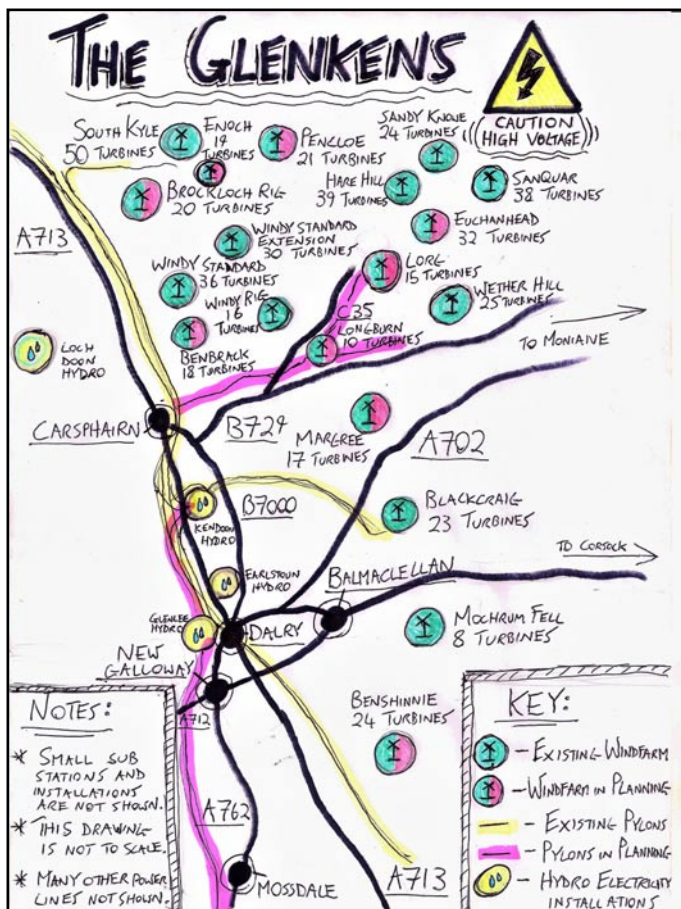
Our other production was *Rabbit*

by David Foxton, involving a cast of 15. It was directed by Brian Edgar and the adjudicator described it as "a brave and ambitious choice" which produced "memorable moments of theatre and a moving final image".

Tell Me Another Story, Sing Me A Song by Jean Lenox Toddie was previously entered in the Youth Festival in 2016 and reached the Western Final. Such an excellent play deserved another airing and the challenge of competing in the Open Festival against long

established, experienced clubs such as Crossmichael Drama Club and 88 Theatre was one which Zoe and Eilidh relished. In the end the production was placed a very creditable third, closely behind the two aforementioned clubs, narrowly missing out on a place at the Western Final.

The three plays provided a The three plays provided a diverse evening of excellent entertainment for a full house at CatStrand on 15 March, with many good comments as the audience left.



Above is a reader's interpretation of the existing and proposed windfarms and pylon networks in the Glenkens. Each windfarm will also have/need a network of single or double wooden-poled power lines carrying electricity to the nearest substation.

DEAR GAZETTE,

I would like to thank Sarah Ade and Phil McMenemy for their articles in the last issue prodding us to defend the unspoilt natural beauty of our area from creeping industrialisation by turbines and power line pylons.

The many reasons for saving our stunning landscape surely outweigh the community bribes for allowing it to be wrecked for corporate profit.

SPEN, of course, will continue going through the motions of politely engaging with stakeholders and communities. But at the end of the day SPEN's first duty is to their owner, the Spanish energy giant Iberdrola, and its stockholders in Bilbao.

As Phil mentions, power transmission lines are being undergrounded in sensitive scenic areas south of the border. What's good enough for England is surely good enough for beautiful south-west Scotland. And thanks to pressure from campaigners the term 'undergrounding' is suddenly part of the conversation with SPEN.

A National Park in Galloway is the only thing that would provide necessary protection for safeguarding our tourism prospects from wobbly planning and the relentless spread of ugliness. From now on, it will make no sense to talk about SPEN's proposal without relating it to current proposals for a National Park. Unfortunately the situation is not helped by the poor attitude of the Scottish Government, but this could change overnight with a ministerial shuffle.

Together, let's make sure the word 'undergrounding' translates into action. Future generations will never forgive us if we allow the vandals to win.

Kind regards, Stuart Littlewood

NGCE Community Engagement Initiatives

New Galloway Community Enterprises' (NGCE) new community engagement worker, Sam Rushton, has been busy over the last two months putting in place various new initiatives designed to enhance the social and economic wellbeing of New Galloway.

Her part-time post is funded by the Big Lottery 'Growing Community Assets' programme, has brought a valuable new resource into the parish of New Galloway and Kells, and the benefit is already being seen by local residents and organisations.

Several projects are already underway as Sam reports:

Group Oil Purchasing

Plans are progressing well for a scheme to facilitate bulk purchasing of domestic heating oil. This project has been researched by Janosh Schnee, who has been with us for 10 weeks, funded by Bright Green

Business. We are also receiving advice and support from Co-operative Development Scotland.

Business Networking

In mid-March, we held our first Business Networking meeting, kindly hosted by The Smithy in New Galloway. It was a great opportunity for local businesses to meet up, share information about their business, and identify what would be useful to enable their business to thrive and grow when operating out of the Glenkens. We would encourage anyone who has a business based in the Glenkens (large or small or just starting up) to join us at The Smithy on Thursday 26 April from 6-7pm.

Dementia Awareness Evening

NGCE, The CatStrand and Alzheimer's Scotland are working in partnership to present a dementia awareness-raising workshop in the Catstrand on Tuesday 20 May at 7.30pm. The event is open to anyone wishing to know more about dementia and the impact it can have on individuals and families. Particular focus is on how individuals and communities can support people affected by Dementia.

Sam's wider remit includes helping New Galloway and Kells residents to access help, advice and support locally and regionally for many issues; creating social opportunities and activities within New Galloway and Kells; starting up or growing a local business in the parish.

It's exciting times for NGCE as this critical role becomes established and we look forward to seeing how it develops and any cross-region working that can also be facilitated as part of the role.

Sam works part-time and is based at the back of the shop. Please feel free to drop in and see her, ring (01644 420633) or email SamCEW@newgallowaycommunity.shop



Sam Rushton,
NGCE Community
Engagement Worker.

Patsy Gilroy



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

patsy.gilroy@dumgal.gov.uk
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4-5.30pm – The Hidden Road

Fridays:

8-10.30am – Dalry
10.30-11am – Glenlee Area
11am – New Galloway
12noon – New Galloway Shop
2pm – Mossdale area
3-4pm – Laurieston to Gatehouse

Please note that all times are approximate.

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LOCAL INITIATIVES IN NEW GALLOWAY

Annual General Meeting

LING is pleased to welcome four new Trustees on to the Board, and is also thrilled with the many offers of help as and when needed. If you would like to be involved in any way please get in touch.

Members of LING

Last summer LING was registered as a Charity under the Scottish Charitable Organisation (SCIO). This will help when applying for funding. Another thing which would really help is to register as many as possible as Members of LING. There is no charge, but our membership will indicate the support of the community.

Friends of New Galloway Town Hall

The Friends of the Town Hall and supporters enjoyed a friendly cheese and wine evening last summer. Friends of the Town Hall contribute to general funds on a regular basis enabling charges to users to be kept as low possible. To become a friend contact Bob Glaister at rtdglaister@aol.com or talk to Ros Hill on 420 632.

After the AGM cheques of £100 each from donations from the Christmas Celebrations were presented to Heather McIntosh on behalf of the Cubs and Beavers, and to Helen Keron on behalf of Kells School. LING is now pleased to welcome the ongoing steering group as a sub-committee. The Cubs and Beavers have booked to try out New Age Kurling and Kells School is also planning a visit.

LING members raise their glasses as the New Galloway painting is unveiled

Also following the AGM this newly hung framed print of a painting of New Galloway donated by William and Elizabeth Johnstone was unveiled by Heather McIntosh and Ros Hill in New Galloway Town Hall.

The original painting by Adam Bruce Thomson is held in the National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh.

Exhibition of New Galloway Paintings, Photographs and Artefacts

The New Galloway Story will be popping up again in The Town Hall during holiday weekends and a special exhibition of paintings, photographs and artefacts of New Galloway is being planned. The paintings and photographs will be images of the borough both as it is now and as it was in the past.

If you have any items you think

might be suitable for the exhibition please do get in touch with Avril and Ray Bridgeman on 420 438 or raymond.bridgeman@btinternet.com

Grants

With increased use the Town Hall is developing a more lived-in feeling. Tuesday Elevenses and Lunches are now seated more comfortably with the soft chairs acquired through grants from Natural Power and the Stewartry Area Committee. They are attended mainly by folk from New Galloway and Dalry and also occasionally by passersby. A grant from the Glenkens Charity Shop had enabled the purchase of new planters and open signs. The NHS Integrated Care Fund has again contributed. Visitors who have attended have commented on the friendly atmosphere. It is a drop-in so no need to book just come along, and if you need help with transport let us know.

New Galloway Town Hall moves into the 21st Century

With funding from Loreburn Housing Association we have been able to install Broadband and host a Curious about Computers series of drop-in workshops run by the Castle Douglas IT Centre. They are able to donate two of the laptops to leave with us. We are investigating ways in which we can fund continuation of support. LING has already received a small amount of funding from the CD Co-op Local Fund towards setting up an internet cafe - if you are a member of the Co-op sign in to add your vote to contribute to the next rounds! In the meantime you are welcome to access broadband on your own laptop or tablet on Tuesday mornings or evenings.

Eyes Down for Bingo

LING recently held its first ever fund-raising Family Bingo Evening in the Town Hall. The necessary Bingo machine, cards and daubers were generously donated by Loreburn. For Bob Glaister, LING Treasurer, this was a new experience - first

ever time at a bingo session, let alone first time as actual caller! But he did us proud. Eyes were firmly down from 7.30pm onwards so that numbers were not missed in the pursuit of prizes generously donated. Tea, coffee and a wide range of delicious traybakes were on sale with free squash and biscuits available for children. The next bingo session is already being planned into the busy New Galloway social scene.

Circuit Training

Many folk who enjoy getting up early were sorry when Willer left the area. However, under the CatStrand Connecting programme John Fagan has stepped into the breach, starting up a group in the Town Hall from 8-9am on Saturday mornings.

Love Food: Hate Waste

LING is hosting a free workshop in New Galloway Town Hall on Tuesday 10 April. This will be run by Kim Young, Project Manager for Zero Waste Scotland. The workshop is free, but booking in advance will be necessary as numbers will have to be planned around. All ages are welcome. It is recommended that a food waste diary sheet is completed for the week before.

For further info please contact LING secretary Ann Glaister at raglaister@aol.com or Ros Hill at ros.hill@rathanhouse.me.uk or 420 632.

Town Hall Family Activity Sports Day

Dumfries & Galloway Community Sports Team will run a two hours drop-in of varied activities in both halls on Friday 13 April.

Fundraising Friday Night is Music Night

Friday 18 May is the date to come to a 'lightsome' concert of melodies for everyone with Geoff Davidson and the Vintage Ensemble with Director Jonnie Dowsell and guests Janette Davidson and Yinpianni.

Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Project

LING's project includes the restoration and management of a nearby walled garden, the conservation and improvement of the woodland paths beside the Golf Course and other longer distance paths. This will be coming on stream in the early summer. Anyone interested in taking part in such outdoor activities please contact Gerry Cinderby on 420 852 or Ros Hill on 420 632.

Ros Hill



LING members at unveiling of painting.

War Updates: September-November 1917

I hope that readers will forgive these death reports of the Autumn of 1917 being later than I intended.

Oddly enough this parallels what happened to many families whose loved ones were reported 'missing in action'. It was often weeks or months (or in some cases years) before 'missing' was clarified as 'prisoner of war', 'died' or frustratingly 'presumed dead'. And of course, there was the added anguish of 'no known grave' in many cases to deny a sense of closure.

John Twynholm Little had been a gamekeeper at Garple Cottage, Holme, Balmaclellan when he enlisted in November 1914. He was born in 1892 in Glencairn, Dumfriesshire the son of John and Agnes Little of Torwatletie, Balmaclellan. By 22 September 1917 he had been promoted to Lance Corporal when he was wounded, and then died of his wounds at the age of 25. He is recorded on the Balmaclellan war memorial.

Thomas Bryden Wilson enlisted at the beginning of the war in September 1914. Born 1895 in Kells Parish, Kirkcudbrightshire the son of the late Thomas Wilson and of Jane (Bryden) Wilson, (later Jardine) and step-son of John Jardine of Main Street, Dalry. His grandfather was James Bryden of Dukieston, Dalry. Tom died of wounds on 27 September 1917 at the age of 22 and is recorded on the Dalry war memorial.

Those who have read previous articles will be familiar with the name McCheyne. Six McCheyne brothers served in the Great War and James was to be the third to die (a fourth

would come soon after). James was the son of James and Mary (Mulholland) McCheyne of High St New Galloway. James was born in 1890 in Kirkcudbright and was the husband of Janet (Adams) McCheyne of Maryhill, Glasgow who he married in 1909 in Kelvin, Glasgow. He died of wounds on 3 October 1917 at the age of 26 and is commemorated with three of his brothers on the Kells war memorial.

James Kidd Gordon was employed as an assistant to Mr Reid, Merchant, in New Galloway when he enlisted in February 1917. He joined his battalion (the 6th KOSB) in France in August 1917. Born in 1898 at Mount Pleasant, New Galloway, the son of John and Marion (Kidd) Gordon. John was slightly wounded by a piece of shrapnel on 20th October 1917 and was to make his own way to a clearing station for further treatment but nothing further was heard of him. He was reported missing in action at the age of 19 and is recorded on the Kells war memorial.

John Lambie was born 1891 in Carsphairn, the son of James and Janet (Wilson) Lambie of Woodhead, Carsphairn, and later of Dalmellington, Ayrshire. John was a shepherd like his father. John enlisted into the Royal Field Artillery and served with 460th Battery. He was killed in action on 20 October 1917 at the age of 26 and is recorded on the Carsphairn war memorial.

George Murray Mckie was born in 1879 in Balmaclellan, the son of James and Margaret (McRobert) Mckie. A carpenter, George worked in Gatehouse-of-Fleet before he emigrated to Canada. He enlisted in May 1915 at Calgary, Alberta. He was reported missing in action on 27 October 1917 at the age of 38 and is on the War Memorials in Gatehouse-of-

Fleet and Balmaclellan.

Thomas McEwen was a gardener at Glenlee, Kells in 1911. He was born in 1882 at St Michael's St, Dumfries where his name was registered as McKune. This illustrates a common thread of fluidity of the spelling of names at the time. He was the son of David and Mary (Campbell) McKune of Maxwelltown, Kirkcudbrightshire and husband of Isabella (McMorrine) McEwen who he married in 1902 in Dumfries. Thomas was serving with 1/4th (Border) Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers when he was killed in action at the age of 33 on 2 November 1917 and is named on the Dumfries War Memorial, the Greyfriars Church memorial in Dumfries and on the Kells war memorial.

It has proven very difficult to obtain photographs of most of those commemorated on the Glenkens war memorials (including those killed in World War 2). If anyone has any photographs of those commemorated or knows where they can be found then please email me memorials@paulgoodwin.me.uk so that we can commemorate the men to the best of our ability.

Paul Goodwin



Above left, John Little; above right, Thomas Wilson.

Galloway's Artificial Islands

Crannogs, the ancient artificial island settlements found in many Galloway lochs, are the subject of the next Glenkens Story lecture at the CatStrand at 2.30pm

on Sunday 22 April.

Because water-logging preserves wooden and other organic artefacts that don't usually survive on other archaeological sites, crannogs are a particularly valuable resource or archaeologists using the latest scientific techniques. Dr Graeme

Cavers will give an overview of recent investigations of crannog remains in Galloway, considering what they tell us about the people who lived there in prehistoric and early historic times.

Tickets, priced £5, can be purchased from www.catstrand.com and 01644 420 374.

Photograph: How an inhabited crannog might have looked - image by Dr Graeme Cavers.



LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

GALLOWAY: GAELIC'S LOST PROVINCE



On 8 September 2018, the CatStrand will host what is believed to be the first academic conference to closely scrutinise the history of Gaelic in Galloway.

It will focus on the origins and duration of Galloway Gaelic, and the remarkable demise of the language in the fifteenth or sixteenth century, issues about which there remain considerable doubts and disagreements. It seems that Gaelic disappeared rather suddenly, and there are differing views about when and how it became established.

The first Gaelic speakers probably crossed from Ireland in early AD. Then the Gall-Gaidheil, who gave Galloway its name, possibly originating in the islands of the Clyde arrived in possibly the 10th century. Balmaclellan was formerly thought to have been named for MacLellans who migrated southwards due to Gordon patronage, in the 13th century. This view has been revised to suggest that the MacLellans were actually members of the long-established Galloway kindred known as the Canes. By 1600 Gaelic in Galloway seems to have been all but finished, but were there some survivals?

'Galloway' in the period 1100-1200 seems to have extended into Carrick, Ayrshire, and east to the far side of Annandale. Some references suggest the term, Galwegians, included everybody south of the Clyde at that time. By the 12th century the Lords of Galloway had emerged under their rí or king, Fergus. They engaged in internecine mayhem as they fought one

another, as well as the hostile armies of the Scottish kings. The legacy of both sides survives in our remarkable concentration of mottes, primitive castle sites, such as those at Dalry and Balmaclellan. The Galwegians were known as bare-arsed, vicious, psychopathic warriors.

Gaelic reposes in numerous placenames. Central to the province's history was the Galloway Forest extending from the west of the Loch Trool, the Forest of Buchan, to the New Forest around Glenkens. Robert Bruce fought a civil war against Balliol supporters in Galloway. The king encouraged settlement in the Forest, which had its own laws down to the 16th century.

The Galwegians were known as bare-arsed, vicious, psychopathic warriors.

The conference will open with Prof Thomas Clancy of Glasgow University, speaking on the Gaelicisation of Galloway. His colleague Prof Rob O Maolalaigh will discuss Galloway Gaelic, while Dr Fiona Edmonds will look at Gaelic across the Solway. Dr Donald McWhannell will explore the origins of Galloway Cinella or kindreds while Prof Richard Oram will investigate the social and economic structure of the medieval province and Prof Hector MacQueen will review Galloway's Gaelic law and society. Dr Aonghas Maccoinnich will be 'Looking for the Gaidhealtachd; identifying Gaels in the historical record 1560-1700'. Glenkens own Michael Ansell co-organiser of the conference will explore the ceathramhan (units of land) of the Cree Valley, Alistair Livingstone will consider the transition from Gaelic to Scots. His two articles on Gaelic in Galloway have recently appeared in D&G Transactions. Well-known authority Ronnie Black will

present on a 16th century poem, Óran Bagraidh which seems to point to feuding between the Kennedys and some other Galloway clans, perhaps in the 15th or 16th centuries. It contains several local place names.

John McDiarmid (1790-1852) was the son of the minister (presumably a Gaelic speaker) of the Highland Church in Glasgow. John was one of the founders of The Scotsman who later moved to Dumfries to edit the Dumfries Courier. He also published a few books including 'Picture of Dumfries and its Environs' (1832).

In the latter he has the following passage. 'The Gaelic language, or at least a dialect of that tongue, seems to have lingered longer in Galloway than in any other portion of Scotland on the southern side of the Forth, with the exception of the islands of Man and

Arran. Some years ago we visited a respectable gentleman in Galloway who died about the age of 66, and whose mother, as we understand, attained to a much more lengthened term of years. At table the conversation turned on the amazing number of farms whose names could be traced to the Gaelic. This, the gentleman said, was not at all to be wondered at, as he had often heard his mother say that in her younger days the servants and common people in Galloway knew little of either Lowland Scotch or English, and were in the habit of conversing in Gaelic. It is just possible that our memory may deceive us, and that in place of his mother, our authority meant his grandmother; but even then the statement strikes us as very remarkable'. So far there are expressions of interest from Dublin to Inverness. Be there!

For tickets and further information contact The CatStrand. *Ted Cowan*

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THE FORGOTTEN SCHOOLS: PARTON MERKLAND SCHOOL

The parish of Parton had two or three schools but they were founded rather later than most in the Glenkens.

Sadly we are missing most of the church records for Parton during the 18th and 19th centuries. The few fragments we have indicate that the Kirk was unable to provide a school for the parish in the early years of the 1900s. However, by 1834 the population of Parton supported three schools. The various Gazetteers [Bartholomew's, Groomes or Lewis's Topographical] tell us that in 1801 the population was 426, peaking in 1831 at 827, then falling a little to 783 in 1836.

In 1834 the two parochial schools had a combined total of 117 scholars and the private school had 20 children. In official Returns the two schools are often referred to as

the Parton Kirk School and Parton Merkland School. The Merkland School is further to the north east towards Corsock and the site is still visible in a field. In 1836 it had 20 boys and 8 girls with 21 boys and 8 girls in 1837.

The School at Merkland is stated by one of its Headmasters to have been founded in 1805 and the life of James Clerk Maxwell by Lewis Campbell informs us that he was anxious that this school continued its existence. Mr John Donaldson was one of the earliest, if not the first, schoolmasters here. Mr Alexander Knox, Headmaster at the Merkland School from 1829, received his education at the Parton [Kirk] school and at Dumfries Academy. Knox appears to have been headmaster for nearly 50 years.

The school day lasted from 10am until 3pm in the winter. In the summer the Merkland continued until 4pm in the afternoon to allow for a midday break. It was recognised that attendance was higher in the

winter since the children were needed on the farms during the summer months; few rural children attended until the oat and potato crops were secured. The curriculum almost puts modern schools to shame. English, Greek, Latin, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Arithmetic, Geography, History, Religious Instruction and Catechism filled the day.

Schoolmastering was not well paid and around the 1840s we have a reference to the retired schoolmaster, Mr John Donaldson, who was the master at the Merkland School before Alexander Knox. He was living on his pension and his wife, Elizabeth was forced to apply to the Presbytery for poor relief. Donaldson died, "at an advanced age" in 1847.

The 1868 National Gazetteer still refers to two schools in the village. Mr Browne at Parton earned £48 and a Mr Alexander Knox, at Merkland, earned £32.

The Merkland School is still mentioned in the local papers in 1939.

Bruce Smith

JACK WINS POETRY COMPETITION

Jack Howard from Dalry recently won the Writers' Forum magazine poetry competition.

Jack was born in Blackburn, Lancashire, and has moved progressively north. He lives with his partner, a textile artist, in Dalry, where they also run a small gallery on summer weekends.

Jack says he chose the poem *The Dance* as it is one of his favourites. When asked what he enjoys most about writing poetry, Jack said: "Getting things out of my system and seeing ideas developing in print". Having moved to Dalry four years ago, Jack, who also writes short stories, says: "The Glenkens is a wonderful place - I cannot help being inspired by its beauty and its people. I like its rhythm, its people and its closeness to nature".

The Dance by Jack Howard

and
she wove a tapestry
dancing forwards
and backwards
to the rhythms
of the colours
of the silks

the threads of her hair
iridescent in the moonlight

and
I stood spellbound
bewitched by her movements
and by the subtle hues of her
weave
and by the softness of her touch

and even though her space
now filled with other thoughts
remains

and
even though the memories
of her soft caresses
and of her sweet kisses
dim
the feeling remains

and
her tapestry
hangs on my wall
swaying gently in the breeze
matching the rhythms of her dance

SUMMER THEATRE FESTIVAL

The Fresh Face Theatre Festival is an exciting new residential festival for young people aged 12-16 to showcase

their talents and develop new skills in theatre.

Based at CatStrand on 26, 27 and 28 July, the booking cost includes all food, workshops, shows and

camping - £5 per day or £10 for the whole weekend. Youth theatre groups get a weekend ticket for £50 for up to eight people. Places are limited so book soon! For bookings and further information contact zoe@catstrand.com or phone 01644 420374 or visit www.catstrand.com

Crockett's Glimpses Of The Glenkens

This, the second in the Glimpses series, focuses on Laurieston and offers the modern reader an insight into the history, adventure and romance of Crockett's Glenkens.

LAURIESTON

'Whinnyliggate has few recreations, save those of standing about the bridge on summer evenings, and in quietly subdued tones, talking over its own domestic affairs. But in addition it has its quoiting-green.'

Most people in the Glenkens will be aware that Laurieston has an older name – Clachanpluck. Fewer may know that Crockett fictionalises it as Whinnyliggate (the real Whinnyliggate is further south.) The reason for his fictionalising is easy to see in the many references he makes to the people of the village which, though humorous, are often far from complimentary. He places it in its natural surroundings as follows in *The Loves of Miss Anne*, set in the 18th century: 'The village itself strolled down a whinny knowe in a meandering fashion, and whenever the gardens stopped, the broom and the gorse would be looking at you over the dyke. The commonest birds were of the same scheme of colour— mostly grey and brown and yellow—the yellow-yoit, the whinchat and the stonechat. Only at Whinnyliggate the whinchat lived on the moors among the stones and the stone-chat close to the

houses among the whins...To this day there is a 'lane' which cuts the village in two about the middle. Now in Galloway this is not a woodland walk, but a slow, sleepy, peaty stream, and it was dammed just below the bridge permanently by a weir—as well as frequently elsewhere by unwary fishermen who attempt to catch trout in its murky pools.'

He also gives us an overview of the people, offering an explanation of why he fictionalises both time and place: 'Curiously enough there is a solid difference in character between the inhabitants of the two principalities. Above-Bridge and Below-Bridge could not be said to have no dealings the one with the other, but it is certainly true that they had as few as possible.

The reason for his fictionalising is easy to see in the many references he makes to the people of the village which, though humorous, are often far from complimentary.

Above-Bridge folk are generally haughtier, more quarrelsome, louder in argument, hungrier, yet with less to appease that hunger. They carry their noses more in the air, owing possibly to the superior elevation of their cottage feus upon the crest of the brae. The shop where they sell cravats and imitation linen collars has always been Above-Bridge.

Below-Bridge, on the other hand, is universally kindlier, sweeter, humaner, more humorous in its outlook upon the world. It wears a portlier belly, and, with more of the good things of this life, makes less pretence of gentility. It was apt to laugh in its sleeve at Above-Bridge. The blacksmith's shop, with its perennial clink-a-clank of heartsome labour, tolling the hours in the sweat

of somebody's brow, is, of course, Below-Bridge. There in the forenights a jovial crowd of ploughmen and orra (odd) men forgather. In my time the prettiest girls all belonged to this part of the country.

Though with small claims to beauty, and our lodge being a considerable distance off through the woods, I myself was always at heart Below-Bridge.'

Crockett began his schooldays in Laurieston and there are many more stories of it in *Lads' Love*, *A Stickit Minister's Wooing*, *Love Idylls*, *A Galloway Herd* and *Kit Kennedy*.

For my money one of the best descriptions of the village and its inhabitants comes in *The Smiddy Parliament in Raiderland*. But I leave the reader to explore that for themselves. *Cally Phillips*

For further information and insight into Crockett's Galloway writing visit www.gallowayraiders.co.uk

Crockett's Galloway fiction was republished in a centenary edition

The Galloway Collection by Ayton Publishing in 2014, and are available in paperback from the online bookseller www.unco.scot, Amazon and other retailers.

The Glenkens also features in Cally Phillips 2016 work *Discovering Crockett's Galloway, Volume 2*

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Who Do We Think We Were?

Who is this strange man with the baby, who landed in Dalry in 1973?

This is not a competition; the answer is below. Andrew Mellor recalls how he and Anne, and almost immediately Amy Mellor first arrived in the Glenkens.

Perhaps this makes you think of your first arrival here, or perhaps you have always belonged here? Either way, you too have a story to tell. Please send in your 500 words of memoir, from any part of your life, whenever it was, wherever you were.

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

Next issue's contribution will be from Barry Bryan-Dixon, remembering his time in Northern Ireland.

The Land of the Midnight Butcher

I wonder if folk who move from a city to the Glenkens today are as much struck by the foibles of rural life as my wife and I were when we moved here from Dundee in July 1973. Leaving behind the tenements and cobbled streets of the city of jute, jam and journalism where we had spent the first few years of our married life, we rattled off in our ancient Reliant three-wheeler on an eventful journey which took all day and which ended in a pretty little woodland cottage on Glenlee Estate with a view across the Glen to Dalry.

There was so much to learn. You

didn't go to the shops, many of them came to you, including a butcher's van which often didn't arrive until well after bedtime - you just left a note of what you wanted wrapped round some money in a box by your front door. Births and deaths were registered not in an office but in Cowan Fergusson's front room - with political opinions thrown in for free. And people didn't knock on a neighbour's door when visiting - they just walked in.

The birth of our daughter, Amy, just a few days after our arrival, closely followed by the start of my teaching career, added to the novelty of the situation. Dalry School in 1973 was unique. The corridors were covered with colourful murals depicting an idyllic world inhabited by white horses and dancing nudes. The classrooms, bursting at the seams with the last throes of the baby boom, were ruled over by a disparate collection of teachers ranging from the formidable Miss Barr, who had arrived with evacuees from Glasgow at the start of the War, to Miss Hydes (soon to become Mrs Porteous), who could easily be mistaken for one of the S4 girls.

The school's jannie was Frank Dalziel, a gentle giant and an expert poultry keeper. He encouraged me to keep some birds. When one of our ducks went lame I found Frank whiling away a long evening class duty sitting by his wee cupboard in the school's cloakroom surrounded by a pile of feathers plucked from the next day's dinner. After listening to my description of the duck's symptoms he said that nothing could be done. "Ye'll just have to kill it," he advised.

I said that I had never killed anything, asked if he would do it for me, and was taken aback by his blunt reply. "No, I won't."

"Why not?" I whimpered.

"Because, if you're going to keep birds, you have to learn how to kill them. But don't worry. I'll tell you how



to do it." Another lesson learned.

Early in 1974 we moved into the Old Schoolhouse in Dalry. This had a productive walled garden inhabited by an old man who had the use of part of the ground in exchange for odd jobs and wisdom. Eddie McCreadie had come to the Glenkens from Ulster in the 1930s to work on the Galloway Power scheme. Ironically, the wee house in Kirkland Street where he lived with his "housekeeper", Amy, still had no electricity. Inside it was like a museum. Eddy, flat-capped and bent with arthritis, could often be found rocking back on a kitchen chair with his feet propped on the rail of an old cast iron kitchen range on which were drying an (unwashed!) hanky or two. On the wall were pictures of his heroes - King Billy and Ian Paisley - while in a corner a battery powered wireless poured out Scottish dance tunes.

Eddie taught me how to use a scythe and how to mend a wheelbarrow. It has to be said that some of his tips - such as how to get rid of a wasps' byke with nothing more than a long pole and a plastic sack - were a little dubious but, who knows? They might come in useful one day.

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VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

HELP THE LIFEBOATS

The Glenkens Fundraising Branch of the RNLi is holding a Coffee Evening in Dalry Town Hall on Thursday 17 May at 7pm, and warmly invite Glenkens folk to join them.

As well as enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, there will be lots of stalls including delicious home-baking and a selection of RNLi Souvenirs. You can stock up on plants for your flowers beds or vegetable patch, browse the large selection of books and try your luck at the Tombola stall. All proceeds go to the Lifeboats who do not receive any government funding for their vital service keeping our coastal waters safe and therefore rely on the generosity of the public.

Balmaclellan Quiz Nights

Balmaclellan Village Hall Committee ran another quiz night recently, which was a great success and a good night had by all.

Thirteen teams took part and the winners were the Plumber's Mates from Dalry, well done to them. Over £330.00 was raised, through entry fees and a raffle which has gone to the upkeep and maintenance of the Village Hall. A big thank you to everyone who attended and continue to support the hall. The next quiz night is to be held on Friday 27th April 2018, at 7.30pm at Balmaclellan Village Hall. Teams of 4-6 people welcome.

*Kay Bird, Secretary,
Balmaclellan Village Hall*

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Dougie Campbell is holding surgeries on **Monday 9 April.**

2pm - 3pm Catstrand, High Street, New Galloway DG7 3RN

3.30pm - 4.30pm Dalry Town Hall, Main St, St John's Town of Dalry DG7 3UW

Please come along to the surgery to discuss any issues, or he can be contacted as follows:

Tel 07388 956558

Email: dougie.campbell@dumgal.gov.uk

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway

NEW GALLOWAY CELEBRATORY EVENTS

Following the successful Christmas Concert and Christmas Light switch on in New Galloway, the organising committee have decided to continue.

Originally this committee was formed for a one-off event to celebrate the many great things that had made 2017 so memorable.

A meeting of the committee was held in January and we all felt that having brought together representatives from most of the organisations and groups

in New Galloway it would be a shame to let it be dissolved. We therefore decided to call it the Celebratory Events Committee and it has been agreed that it can be a sub-committee of LING which is an organisation for the benefit of the public of New Galloway.

This group was never intended to be fund raising. Hopefully we can continue that way with the support of the community and have free events but with donations for the community and local causes.

The next event we are planning is a "PICNIC IN THE PARK" to celebrate the Royal Wedding, it will be held on Sunday 20 May. No details yet, but watch out for Posters and information in the near future.

Eat Cake For Scotland's Air Ambulance

St Margaret's Church annual Plant and Bake Sale will take place on Saturday 28 April from 10am to 1pm, outside the church in Kenbridge Road, New Galloway.

This year, all the proceeds will go to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. The SCAA is a registered charity that assists the Scottish Ambulance Service by providing a helicopter air ambulance

for time-critical emergencies anywhere in Scotland. They rely 100% on donations from their supporters.

Stock up on tomato plants, vegetable seedlings, house plants, annuals and herbaceous plants, all lovingly grown locally by church members. At the same time a delicious selection of home-baking, jams and marmalades will be available inside the church, and teas and coffees will also be offered - outside if the weather is clement, inside if not!

Evening with Ted Cowan at Balmaclellan Village Hall

Ted Cowan gave a very interesting and entertaining talk on Balmaclellan in Scotland History, Clans, Covenanters and Characters.

Over 50 people attended braving the very cold and unpredictable weather. Ted gave a 50 minute talk which was followed by a substantial buffet and an opportunity afterwards to reconvene and the floor

was opened up for a questions and answers session. Many thanks to Ted Cowan for being so generous with his time, everyone enjoyed the evening and hopefully we can hold other similar events in the future.

*Robin Jardine, Chair,
Balmaclellan Village Hall*



Village Hall Committee representatives presenting a bottle of whisky as a thank you. Left to right: Jim Kirkpatrick (Hall Keeper), Kay Bird (Secretary) Ted Cowan and Robin Jardine (Chair).

APRIL & MAY

APRIL

Sun 1, Carsphairn Tearoom Bistro, 12noon-6pm, see p15
Tue 3, Drop-in, 9-10.30am, Dalry Police Station
Fri 6, Patrick Monahan, 7.30pm, CatStrand
Sat 7, Craft Fair, Dalry Town Hall,
Sun 8, GTI Bus Trip, see p6
Tue 10, Love Food: Hate Waste, 2.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall, see p23
Wed 11, Film: The Death of Stalin, 7.30pm, CatStrand
Fri 13, Puppet Animation Festival: Myths of the Vikings, 2pm, CatStrand
Fri 13, Family Activities, 10am-12noon, New Galloway Town Hall
Fri 13, Carsphairn Tearoom Bistro, 5-8pm, see p15
Sat 14, Spalding Bowling Club Green Opening Day, 2pm, Dalry
Thu 19, Rob Heron & the Tea Pad Orchestra, 7.30pm, CatStrand
Sat 21, D&G Science Festival, 12noon-5pm, Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries, see back page
Sat 21, D&G Science Festival, 12noon-

5pm, Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries, see back page
Sun 22, Glenkens Story Lecture: Graeme Cavers - Crannogs, 2.30pm, CatStrand, see p24
Tue 24, Vincent Van Gogh: A New Way of Seeing, 7.30pm, CatStrand
Thurs 26, Glenkens Business Networking, 6-7pm, The Smithy, see p22
Fri 27, Carsphairn Tearoom Bistro, 5-8pm, see p15
Fri 27, Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall, see p29
Sat 28, Plant & Bake Sale, 10am-1pm, outside church on Kenbridge Road, New Galloway, see p29
Sat 28, GTI Bus Trip: Spring Garden, see p6

MAY

Fri 4, Carsphairn Tearoom Bistro, 5-8pm, see p15
Fri 4, Songs of the Roma, 7.30pm, CatStrand
Sat 5, Drop-in, 1-2.30pm, Dalry Police Station
Sun 6, Mossdale Hall Anniversary Celebration, see p18
Sun 13, GTI Bus Trip, see p6

Thu 17, RNLI Coffee Evening, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p29
Fri 18, Music Night Fundraising Concert, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall
Sun 20, Picnic in the Park, New Galloway, see p29
Tue 20, Dementia Awareness Eve, 7.30pm, CatStrand, see p22
Thu 24-Sun 27, Knockengoroch World Ceilidh, see back page
Fri 25, Carsphairn Tearoom Bistro, 5-8pm, see p15
Sat 26, Elephant Sessions, 7.30pm, CatStrand
Sat 26-Mon 28, Spring Fling Open Studios, see p15
Tue 29, I, Claude Monet, 7.30pm, CatStrand
Thu 31, Alan Bisset, CatStrand, see p20

JUNE

Fri 1, Sixfold: A Nexus & CatStrand's youth dance Choreo Skills Lab, see p20
Sun 3, GTI Bus Trip, see p6
May 26-28, Spring Fling Open Studios, see p15
Sat 2, Carsphairn Tearoom Bistro, 4-8pm, see p15

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SCOUT GROUP SALE

The Glenkens Scout Group are holding their annual jumble sale in the Scout Hut in New Galloway on Saturday 5 May from 2-4pm and Sunday 6 May from 1.30-3pm.

We are collecting for the sale in the villages on Wednesday 2 May in the evening. The group are small, so we are appealing for anyone who can help with sorting from 6.45 onwards, either on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, before the sale, or on the sale weekend. This would be much appreciated. Any queries, please phone Heather on 420 375.

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REGULAR EVENTS

CatStrand, New Galloway:

Film Makers' Club, Mon, 7-8.30pm

Exercise to Music: Mon, 9.30-10am

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, Mon, 6-8pm, FREE PIZZA

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

Start to Write, 1st Tues each month, 3-5pm (**no Feb meeting**)

Animation Club, Tues, 4.30-6.30pm

Gentle Tai Chi: Wed, 10am

Wendletrap Tai Chi, Wed, 2-3.30pm

Continue to Write, 1st Wed each month, 3.15-5.15pm

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

Writers' Cafe, 2nd Thurs each month, 7-9pm

Sing it Out, Thurs, 11am-12pm

CatStrand Ukes, Thurs, 1-3.30pm

Yoga, Thurs, 6.30pm

Zumba Gold, Fri (term-time), 9.30-10.30am, CatStrand, 16+

Saturday Art Club, 2nd & 4th Sat of the month, 10am-12noon

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

Guides, Tues, 6-8pm

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+

Saturday Circuits, 8-9am with John Fagan

Various Locations:

Hatha Yoga, Mon, 10-11.15am, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Mens Shed Mondays, 6.30pm, Balmaclellan

Carsphairn Post Office, Tues, 1-3pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Dalry WI, 3rd Tues each month, 2pm, Dalry Town Hall (except Jun, Jul & Aug)

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

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

Coffee & Craft, Fri, 9am-12noon, Lagwyne Hall

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

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

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



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

www.covenanters-holidaycottagescotland.co.uk

To hire the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) behind Dalry School call Sonja Tranter on 430 244 or Nicolette Wise on 430 218.

Dalry Library

Tuesdays 12noon-3.30pm
Fridays 10am-12noon & 1-4.30pm
For further library van stops and information contact Castle Douglas library on 01556 502 643

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: 1st(Apr), 3rd, 4th.

Dalry 10.30am: 2nd(May), 5th(Apr).

Kells 10.30am: 2nd(Apr), 4th. **Special**

Services/Events: 1 Apr, 7am: Easter

Dawn Service, New Galloway Park,

followed by breakfast in NG Lower Town

Hall. 1 Apr, Easter Sunday services,

10.30am, Carsphairn & Kells Churches;

12noon, Dalry Church. 8 Apr, 10.30am,

United Family Service for Dalry and B

& K Churches, Dalry Church. 27 Apr,

7.30pm: Quiz Night, Dalry Town Hall.

29 Apr, 10.30am, United Service with

Choir, Dalry Church. 13 May, 10.30am,

United Family Service for Dalry and B & K

Churches, Kells Church. 26 May, 2-4pm,

Plant Sale & Cream Teas, Balmaclellan

Village Hall **Communion Services**: 6

May, 12noon, Balmaclellan Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

St Margaret's, New Galloway: Holy

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CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES:

Kirkcudbright: Sun Mass, 9.30am.

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Knockengorrock World Ceilidh music festival will take place from Thursday 24 to Sunday 27 May in the hills above Carsphairn.

This year founder member of legendary hip-hop band Jurassic 5, Cut Chemist, drops in from the US for a rare one-off date in Scotland.

Pioneers of international music fusion Transglobal Underground return after their last visit to Knockengorrock in 2007, and African female powerhouse Les Amazones d'Afrique tackle love,

oppression and female empowerment with ancient rhythms blended seamlessly over funk, blues and dub.

The diverse line-up incorporates top music to dance to from across the world with more than a healthy splash of traditional Scottish sounds.

This four-day festival, based in the Glenkens, has been running since 1998. A festival run by a family, for families, in the very broadest sense of the word, it attracts young and old to the banks of the glittering river Deugh at the foot of Cairnmore of Carsphairn.

As well as music the festival



© Douglas Robertson

features a children's area and procession, creative, heritage and environmental workshops, a cinema, sauna, healing area, real ales and ciders, global shopping stalls, fire shows, circus, comedy, theatre, storytelling and lots more!

Book now for advance tickets, concessions available. Under 11's free, ages 11-16 half-price. Dogs on leads with responsible owners welcome. To find out more visit www.knockengorrock.org.uk

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ALL LINE UP IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

D&G Science FESTIVAL
FAMILY DAY 21ST APRIL 2018

As it's the Year of Young People (YOYP) Dumfries and Galloway Science Festival have lots on offer at this year's Family Day to promote STEM, careers and personal development.

YOYP - LETS CELEBRATE!

WORKSHOPS
 Learn how to sold a circuit board with a soldering iron at Mad Lab!
 Learn about your body and science with Body Works from Glasgow Science Centre.
 Play with real robots Miors, Noas and Shperos from Edinburgh Centre for Robotics!

SHOWS
 Be amazed with dry ice and science displays with Ian Alexander.
 Take a trip through the digestive system (top to bottom!) with Disgusting Digestion from Glasgow Science Centre. You can even learn about rockets and planes and see and hear a real life jet engine ready for take off!

SO MUCH MORE! Dance with the Science Ceilidh. Learn about local wildlife and bats. Become a scientist and do experiments. Learn about the Earth with Dynamic Earth Exhibition, learn skills for life with RAF and lose yourself in the land of small science stories..... plus so much more, come along and see!

APRIL 21ST 2018 12-5PM

Sat 21st April 2018 @ Easterbrook Hall with thanks to The Crichton Trust, Crichton Campus, Dumfries
 12-5pm FREE ENTRY
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 More Info - www.dgsciencefestival.co.uk
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