

# Glencairn Gazette

Issue 55

December/January 2009

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## Moniaive Post Office to close

The Post Office closure programme's six week public consultation finished on the 29 September 2008.

Sadly despite submissions to retain Moniaive Post Office it will close in early 2009. Full details of the decision can be found at [www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange).

Postwatch Scotland scrutinised each of the proposals and worked to ensure Post Office Ltd took into account responses submitted. Masters of the understatement they said: "*We recognise that some communities will inevitably be extremely disappointed that Post Office Ltd has decided to proceed with the closure of their post office. ...We would like to thank all those who forwarded their submission to us. This was extremely helpful in our discussions with POL.*"

SNP Westminster candidate for Dumfries & Galloway, Andrew Wood, expressed deep concern that the UK Government is considering the privatisation of Royal Mail. Commenting on this Cllr. Wood said: "*We have just seen POL ignore the groundswell of public opinion across Dumfries and Galloway and continue with its hated closures programme and now Lord Mandelson appears to be considering the privatisation of Royal Mail. This is complete lunacy. Royal Mail is not just a business but has a huge social role. ....Dumfries & Galloway have just received confirmation of a round of closures and downgrades despite very strong local opposition. The whole process is deeply flawed.*"

For a brief moment I was cheered by the November 12th announcement that the Post Office Card Account would remain with the Post Office – this meant a number of Post Office's threatened with closure were going to be saved, sadly those 'where a decision to close has been made' were still going to close.

**I would like to thank all those who took the trouble to contact me and comment favourably on the Post Office story in the last issue of the Gazette. Next issue we will feature a retrospective look at, and a farewell to Moniaive Post Office.**

Sue Grant

### Watson's Grocers

It had been agreed that an outreach service will be run from Watson's Grocers in Moniaive. Graham and Elaine write:

Dear Editor,

As you are all now aware our shop will be the new venue for the Post Office Outreach. There has been much debate on this subject, which is only right and proper, there has also been equally as much misinformation – isn't it funny how everybody is an expert on everybody else's business!

On the whole Elaine and I have tried to keep our own counsel on the subject with varying degrees of success. We neither sought, or particularly wanted, to take on the Post Office Outreach, but it was either us or nothing. Some may say that the Post Office used moral blackmail tactics – perhaps they did, what I do know is that we were put in an impossible situation.

What I find most galling about this whole situation is that at no point was there any consideration of the impact the Post Office would have on our business as a whole. Things like wages, staffing requirements etc and the change to the whole dynamic of the shop. The financial package that is being offered by the PO is derisory to say the least! And may not even cover the extra wages that will be required to manage it (please do not start a petition – that's the way it is.)

We too are feeling the effects of the current economic crisis, particularly from our financial institutions who are putting us under immense pressure – the banks have a lot to answer for.

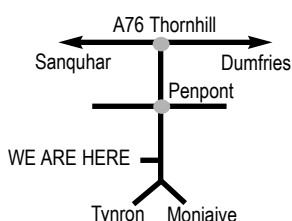
We, as a small business, will try to make the best of the situation. But, make no mistake, it will have a long term effect on some of the services we provide and some will have to finish.

Let's hope that 2009 brings us all a little more cheer.

Graham and Elaine Watson

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# Moniaive Memories...The Final Chapter

Mr Jim Black of Sawmill Green kindly re-wrote this article for the Gazette after it was lost by myself a while back. He has extended the story to bring it up to date and to cover the sad loss of the Post Office. I'd like to thank Mr Black for this very informative and timely piece.

Sue Grant

**John and Ruth McCheyne, with daughters Connie and Dora, ran the Post Office on Moniaive High Street from 'Westfield House' with the Telephone Exchange also on the premises which was manned day and night. They also owned the 'Sheiling House' next door which was run as a Guest House with a lovely little tea room.**

The building where the Post Office is today was John McCheyne's Cycle Shop. The building at that time had a large door to the left hand side to accommodate the Post Office hand cart and postmen's bicycles.

Four local postmen were employed to deliver mail in the village and up all the glens, the men were away all day in all kinds of weather. At that time the Royal Mail came to the village by passenger train from Dumfries and was collected at Moniaive Station with the hand cart. It was then sorted at the High Street PO for all destinations. However, in 1943 the passenger train service was discontinued and mail was brought to Moniaive PO by road.

The McCheyne family worked hard with long hours, not only running the PO and manning the telephone exchange switchboard, but tending to other businesses – the guest house and cycle shop etc.

Not many people had telephones at that time and telegrams would come in to the Post Office which had to be delivered urgently to addresses which could be many miles away. A messenger was usually sent out on a bicycle, bringing 'good' news, and sometimes 'sad' news to recipients during the war years.

Changes were to come when the new automatic telephone exchange was installed in North Street. Sadly in 1944 John McCheyne died aged 70 years at the High Street. Mrs Ruth McCheyne decided to sell up and sold 'Westfield' and 'The Sheiling' to a Mrs Stephen McColl to run the business, but she retained John's old cycle shop and being a very astute business woman she also owned other properties about the village. On retiring in 1944 she bought 'Nethertack', a lovely house just outside the village and stayed there with her daughters Connie and Dora.

Again more sadness hit her family, in 1945 aged 32 years her youngest girl, Dora, died at Nethertack.

Mrs Ruth McCheyne died at Nethertack in 1947 aged 71 years.

Big changes were to happen later at the Post Office. In 1950 Stephen McColl decided to sell up and sold 'Westfield' and 'The Sheiling' as dwelling houses. Mrs Ruth McCheyne's eldest daughter, Connie, bought a house on Dunreggan Brae, married and became Mrs W. McVittie, and she again took over the Post Office in her father's old cycle shop, where with little alteration it is as it is today.

Further changes were afoot in the Post Office, the sorting of the mail was transferred to the main office at Thornhill in 1961, this meant the postmen on bicycles in the Moniaive area were no longer required and mail was delivered from Thornhill by two men in vans who then went round the village and up all the glens.

The Moniaive Post Office has changed ownership twice since Connie McVittie retired.

**Sad news the old Post Office on the High Street is to close soon... the end of an era.**

**Jim Black  
Sawmill Green.**

*See page 8 for a poetic take on the closures – Ed*

Moniaive Gala

New Year's Day

Ceilidh

Thursday  
January 1st 2009  
8pm till late  
Memorial Institute, Moniaive

Full Bar  
Ceilidh Band

## Christmas Posting Dates

Following is a list showing the last recommended posting dates for Christmas delivery. A full list is available from [www.royalmail.com/christmasposting](http://www.royalmail.com/christmasposting). The Post Office also have handy leaflets. Remember if your card is larger than 240mmx165mmx5mm you will need to use a large letter stamp.

**UK 2nd class:** 18 December

**UK 1st class:** 20 December

**Special delivery:** 23 December or for Saturday guarantee 19 Dec.

**Parcelforce 48:** 22 December

**Parcelforce 24:** 23 December

**Parcelforce Global Priority:** 15 December

**International airmail:**

5 December: *South & Central America, Caribbean, Africa, Middle East, Far East, Asia, New Zealand and Australia*

10 December: *Japan, USA, Canada and Eastern Europe*

12 December: *Western Europe*

*International Surface Mail dates have all passed.*

New stamp themes this year include characters from Pantomimes or Madonna and Child. Both collections are available now.

## Grey Squirrel in Moniaive

Worryingly a grey squirrel has been seen (and reported) in the gardens up Dunreggan Brae. Please keep watch and report sightings to 01556 610051 or email [stephanie@redsquirrels.org.uk](mailto:stephanie@redsquirrels.org.uk).

## MacMillan Coffee Morning

The coffee morning at the Green Tea House, Moniaive raised £350.

"I would like to extend special thanks to Jean Stewart and Pam Bradley for all their help." said Catherine Braid.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who took part and contributed to the total.

## The Blessed Thing

I received a copy of the very professional 12 page church newsletter through my door in November. Here I read that John Young has just retired as Editor due to work commitments. I hope they are able to find someone to take over what I know can be a difficult job. Congratulations on an informative final issue John.

Sue Grant

**JOHN STOTT**

JOINER

01848 200325

THE DOMINIES HOUSE  
AYR STREET

MONIAIVE

*Great care is taken  
in all work*

## Sculpture by Lucianne Lassalle

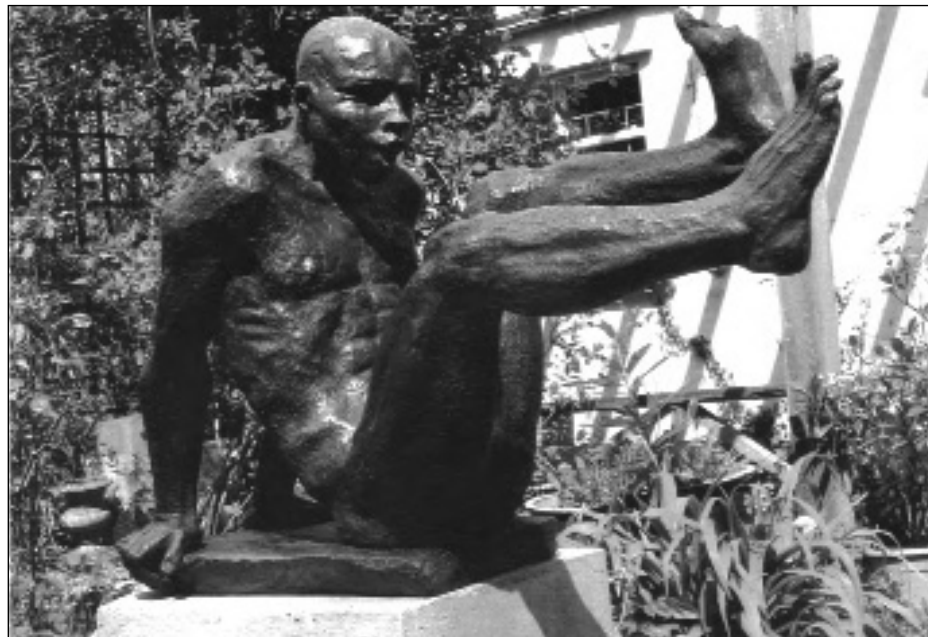


Photo courtesy of Lucianne Lassalle

**Lucianne Lassalle moved from Totnes in Devon to Laurieston Pottery, Dunscore in October 2008.**

Born in Paris and brought up in Kent Lucianne's father was a painter and her mother a potter, both now live in France.

Since leaving Winchester College of Art Lucianne has worked as a professional sculptor in London, Sussex, Los Angeles, and Vancouver.

"I worked in the film industry making sets and props for films and commercials," she said. "In 2000 I moved to Totnes in Devon where I continued to develop my work and reputation, exhibiting in London and Devon. I also teach sculpture from live models in southwest England and Tuscany, Italy."

She met potter Jason Shackleton through teaching his mother who attended some of her courses in Devon.

"In October I moved to Scotland to live

with Jason in Laurieston House Pottery where I intend to continue working and teaching for the foreseeable future. My work can be seen in the 'Pink Joe Gallery' and at the pottery in Wallaceton.

"My work is inspired by the human form and I work from life models and from photos using a variety of clays, stoneware and earthenware, as well as bronze resin, solid bronze and other metals. I also paint and draw." she said.

Lucianne creates fragmented torsos and full figures which explore the beauty of the human form and the expression of different states of human experience..

Lucianne is currently looking for a further studio, workshop or barn with natural light, electricity and water to rent.

Lucianne can be contacted on 01387 820472 and examples and further information about her work can be found at [www.luciannelassalle.co.uk](http://www.luciannelassalle.co.uk).

## An apple a day...

### Surgery Opening Hours

	Dunscore	Moniaive	Dumfries
Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri	9.00 – 10.15am 3.45 – 5.45pm	9.00 – 10.15am 4.45 – 5.45pm	11.00 – 1.00pm
Thursday	9.00 – 10.15am 3.45 – 5.45pm	9.00 – 10.15am Closed from 1pm	11.00 – 1.00pm
Saturday/Sunday	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

**EMERGENCY CALL ARRANGEMENTS 01387 820266**

There is a leaflet available detailing all services. Please ask for one at the surgery.

### SURGERIES

Kirkgate, Dunscore 01387 820266

Rosevale, Chapel St, Moniaive  
01848 200244

7 Buccleuch St, Dumfries 01387 262012

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# Erskine Donation

Photos: Sue Grant



*Left: Jane Murray-Flutter, Sandy Hall and Lesley Miller at the Erskine presentation.*

*Right: Youngsters Lauren and Heather McKinna examine the battlefield map in St Ninian's.*



## St Ninians Church hosted a morning of events on Saturday 8th November to tie-in with Armistice Day.

An exhibition of portrait photographs of the Glencairn Soldiers 1914-1918 were on display, courtesy of The Glencairn History Group and the Glencairn Memorial Book. This fascinating exhibition, depicting 45 of the 73 names in the book, drew a lot of interest from both young and old alike. Rev Christine Sime accepted a copy of the book on behalf of the parishioners and announced that the exhibition would remain in situ for the Armistice Service.

A cheque for £1,500 was presented by Sandy Hall to the Erskine Hospital. The monies came from the gross proceeds of the sale of 100 copies of the Glencairn War Memorial Book. Lesley Miller, Community Fundraising Manager of Erskine, was on hand to accept the cheque and to tell us a little about the role of Erskine today.

She said all at Erskine were delighted to have the support of the community as a tribute to all the heroes of the past who gave so much for us all. Erskine was started in 1916 to cope with casualties from the battlefields. It was originally called The Princess Louise Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers.

Lesley explained how Mr McEwan, Surgeon, had pioneered the founding of Erskine House which opened in 1917. The house was turned into a hospital for wounded servicemen and the limbless as a place for both treatment and recuperation. The shortage of artificial limbs led McEwan to come up with a 'one size fits all' version which became known as the 'Erskine Limb'. It was thought that WW1 was

the war to end all wars but then followed WW11 and sadly the limbs are still needed and used today. 1967 has been the only year when there has been no active service. Nowadays Erskine find themselves treating some very young casualties and have an extensive therapy programme to help casualties live independently within communities.

Jane Murray-Flutter thanked Lesley and said that rooms were being refurbished within a home in Edinburgh and it was hoped the monies donated could be used towards this with a view to naming a room 'Glencairn'. She also warmly thanked Sandy Hall for his work on the exhibition.

A wonderful lunch of soup, sandwiches and cakes was prepared and served by church members.

**Sue Grant**

*Lesley Miller wrote to Sandy Hall and Jane Murray-Flutter:*

"Thank you very much for inviting me to attend the exhibition and lunch at St Ninian's Church. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit.

Thank you for the magnificent donation in support of Erskine's work with Scottish veterans which will go a long way in helping to provide the care which our ex-servicemen and women both need and deserve.

You can be proud of your achievements in compiling the Memorial Book. Not only have you created a lasting reminder of the sacrifices made by so many local families but through your efforts have held out a helping hand to men and women who have gone through more recent conflicts."

## Ian Henderson

At the time of going to press the Gazette was saddened to hear of the death of Ian on November 20th.

It is hoped, with his families permission, that a retrospective look at his life and times in Moniaive will appear in the next issue.

Condolences to his family and many friends here in Glencairn.

## Moniaive Under Fives

We would like to thank the whole village for helping us out with our clothes collection this year. We collected a fantastic amount of items and the playgroup has once again raised well over £200 which is great for our group. We hope you will all continue to help again next year!

**Claire Ritchie**  
Playgroup Manager

## Sorry!

In the last issue of the Gazette I reported that, at the last Glencairn Windfarm Fund allocation meeting, Moniaive Musical Theatre Group were only awarded £2,600 out of the £3,000 applied for. In fact they were awarded the full amount towards the costs of their next production.

I apologise for any confusion and distress caused.

Sue Grant

# In bit of a hole!

**Peggy Rodan and Elsie Henderson of Dunreggan were returning home from one of their wee jaunts.**

Due to the roadworks to lay new waterpipes in Dunreggan Peggy couldn't let Elsie off at her door so she stopped outside the bowling green. Elsie got out of the car and....disappeared. Peggy got out to see what had happened and there was Elsie wedged into a hole in the ground up to her waist.

Peggy tried to pull her out, but Elsie was stuck fast. More tugging was attempted but there was no movement. Elsie then instructed Peggy to 'run up the road and get a man' . Given that Peggy is 86 with a wonky hip, this was not such an easy task, but she did find some workmen further along, who came to their aid. With one workman asked the other to help, saying 'C'mon and help me get a wumman oot o' a hole'.

Of course a story such as that has an alarming side, but the pair of them seem to be dining out on it, realising that it is very funny.

Maggie Rodan

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## Help Light Up Moniaive

Glencairn Community Council have acquired several lengths of second-hand outside Christmas Lights. These are available in varying lengths **FREE** to householders, community groups or businesses to display outside their properties and help make Moniaive look more festive over Christmas and the New Year.

How about getting together with your neighbours to light up your street?

**Come on Moniaive – with dark nights and a despondency over the recession let's brighten up our surroundings while we have the chance!**

Help will be needed to deliver and put up the lights. Please contact Robin McIver 01848 200412 as soon as possible with your 'order' so we can arrange a 'village light-up day' and a list of volunteers.

Help is also required to decorate the village cross with greenery using the 'frame' prepared by Mr Fletcher. Donations of ivy, greenery, holly etc. etc. needed plus volunteers to erect the frame. This could be done at the same time. Again contact Robin with your offers of help!

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## Firework Extravaganza

**This year we had good weather, a good sized bonfire, two beautifully made 'Guys' and a truly stunning range of fireworks which seemed to go on forever!**

The gala committee would like to thank everyone who helped on the day itself and the days leading up to this event.

We hope you enjoyed the display, bonfire and refreshments and would like to thank all those who attended and made donations on the night. The 'event' cost £628 to put on and we took in £244.62 in donations. Every year we make a loss on this event but it as a way of saying thank you to the community for their support of gala fundraising events over the year. We'll be after you all to buy Duck Race tickets very soon!

Moniaive Gala Committee

## Upcoming Housing Survey

Rural Housing Survey – Local Houses for Local People

In the New Year the Dumfries and Galloway Small Communities Housing Trust, at the request of Glencairn Community Council, will be conducting a survey to assess the need for affordable housing amongst local people in the Glencairn area. The survey will look at all sectors of housing including housing both for rent and sale for older people, families and younger people.

Following the completion of the survey, the Trust will work with the Community Council and other agencies to look at the best ways to meet the housing needs of the community. This may include, depending on demand and feasibility, low cost self build plots (with possible grant assistance for construction), a community self build project, development by a housing association, a community owned housing trust, or the provision of supported housing for older people.

The survey form will be sent out with the next edition of the Glencairn Gazette and anyone with a housing problem is encouraged to respond. Shortly after the survey there will be an opportunity to discuss housing needs in confidence with Trust staff at a series of housing surgeries to held in Moniaive. Responses from younger people with a local connection wishing to return to the area but currently living away are also particularly encouraged. All information collected will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Anyone wishing further information should contact Jamie Dent on 01556 612331 or [Jamie.dent@dgscht.co.uk](mailto:Jamie.dent@dgscht.co.uk)

The D & G Small Communities Housing Trust is a local charity working on behalf of communities to encourage more investment in housing accessible to people on local incomes in rural areas.

Jamie Dent

Development Officer

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## One that didn't get away



Photo courtesy of Ian Jehan

Jack Birbeck, from South Yorkshire, has been coming regularly to Glenluiart Cottages for the fishing. This October he caught a big salmon, over 19lbs, on the Dumfries & Galloway AA. We had a bit of trouble getting it in my freezer, and even more trouble getting it out! Congratulations Jack.

Sue Grant



**After two years of planning and hard work Moniaive's newest restaurant will be ready to open in time for Christmas.**

Proprietors, Judith and Fraser Dykes, explained how the idea of a place to eat, where people would feel comfortable and enjoy good food, came about. "The story begins in Italy, where Fraser and I spent our honeymoon, we found some wonderful places to eat and in Regello we discovered the Valloriana oven - perfect for cooking pizzas, pastas, bread, game, beef, fish and more. The idea of cooking using a woodfired oven and allowing people in Moniaive to sample the results took shape," said Judith.

"The Old Bakery was for sale and so we took the plunge. Ordering the Valloriana oven (Vesuvius) I decided to re-use the bricks, from the bread oven in the shop, to surround it and form the counter. These bricks originally came from the 'Old Bakery' in Chapel Street, so for the third time they are being used to produce fresh fare for the community. The bricks were made in Prestongrange, East Lothian in the Hoffman Kiln which is now open as a visitor attraction."

Judith and Fraser haven't had to do all the research, sampling and tastings alone. Wendy Wall has been taken on as Manageress of the restaurant. Wendy said: "We've been very busy sourcing local produce, meeting suppliers, tasting the produce, meeting with wine merchants (and sampling their wares), and planning menus using available fresh local produce. When it came to hiring a chef we interviewed 12 people before deciding that Jason was the one for the restaurant. He seemed to understand immediately what we are aiming for and had all the necessary skills to make it work."

Jason Azzopardi has been a chef for eleven years and is from Malta. "I was trained in Malta - the course lasted for six years - and I then worked in a top Maltese hotel and afterwards worked abroad

for a year at a Hilton Hotel and a fine dining restaurant," he explained.

"During my studies I travelled a great deal working in Ireland, England, Scotland and Australia where I was able to learn new techniques and perfect local cuisine styles."

Asked why he had decided to come to Moniaive and tackle a project as big as the setting up of a new restaurant he said: "I love a challenge and my aim as Head Chef in Three Glens is to prepare good, honest, locally sourced fresh food simply and to let the food speak for itself. Traditional and modern Italian, Mediterranean and local dishes with a modern twist will be the heart of this restaurant. I am looking forward to using the wonderful woodburning oven on which I aim to produce fantastic food so patrons will experience a relaxing and enjoyable meal. To me the restaurant has a cosy, lovely and good feeling about it."

Jason has been preparing sample menus which the small team then discuss, test and refine before agreeing to put them on the menu.

"I find Moniaive a lovely peaceful and picturesque village which represents a true old Scottish village to me - it is an amazing village and very romantic," he added.

The restaurant will have 36 covers with dining spread between the main room and the conservatory, Patio dining will depend on the weather. Judith's stone carvings are incorporated throughout the restaurant and patio area. A tree of life sits above the oven and the three glens are artfully depicted on the counter wall. Local tradesmen were used to transform the building into the inviting space it is today.



As for the name 'Three Glens', Judith explained, "Moniaive is situated where the three glens of Craigdarroch, Castlefairn and Dalwhat meet. Knowing that there was no other name we could come up with that would have been more suitable!"

"The people of Moniaive are vital to the success of this venture, it must be their place, catering for all ages and providing a 'feelgood' factor as well as excellent freshly prepared food."

Jason added: "The a la carte menu will vary with added dishes reflecting available seasonal, local produce."

The first menu is reproduced opposite. There will be a special Christmas Day menu and bookings are already being taken at [threeglens@googlemail.com](mailto:threeglens@googlemail.com) or call 01848 200057 or 07803 607721.

Sue Grant



Photo: Judith Dykes

*Installing the wood fired oven.*



**New restaurant opening mid December**

The three glens provides excellent, affordable cuisine, sourced from fresh, local produce, in rustic, intimate surroundings. The three glens meet at the village of Moniaive and the restaurant blends warmth and taste with discovery at its heart.

Our chef has developed an a la carte menu of classic, distinguished dishes from Italy and the Mediterranean which he changes regularly and marks with his own signature. Diners may also choose from our pizza and pasta range.

Our wood fired oven from Tuscany is a centrepiece in the kitchen and serves authentic pizzas, vegetables, perfect fish dishes and roasts.

Everyone is welcome at the three glens and our staff will be happy to meet individual, party and family needs and any special diets. Meals served: Wed to Sat lunch: 12.30-2.30pm; dinner 5.30pm to 9pm. Food served all day Sunday from 12.30pm (includes Sunday roast in wood fired oven.)

**Christmas menu and Christmas day menu out now.**

**Book early to avoid disappointment.**

**email: [threeglens@googlemail.com](mailto:threeglens@googlemail.com) or call 01848 200057 or 07803 607721**



**Christmas Menu**

*Starters*

- Terrine of local game, dried fruits, hazelnut and home made chutney
- Warm king prawn salad with spicy marmalade and garlic bread
- Santa's surprise parcel served with scented buttered broccoli
- Cream of mushroom soup topped with croutons

*Mains*

- Oven baked local fillet of salmon with tomato and lemongrass broth
- Grilled venison steak, caramelized apples and sauce au cassis
- Roast turkey with all the traditional trimmings
- Tagliatelle with creamy walnut sauce
- All main courses served with seasonal vegetables

*Desserts*

- Traditional Christmas pudding served with brandy crème Anglaise
- Raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake
- iced praline torte
- Floating islands
- ~
- Coffee and petit four
- ~

£26.50



*The Bull*  
by Jane Blair



**thomas tosh**

**Gifts Antiques Cafe Gallery**

**A great range of Christmas gifts at sensible prices including:**

Art from our Christmas Exhibition featuring local artists Jane Blair, Fiona Allardyce-Lewis and Melville Brotherton

**Christmas Exhibition runs December 1st-January 10th**

**Special December opening hours for cafe, shop and gallery:**

**Monday to Saturday 9am- 6pm**

**Sunday 7th, 14th, 21st December: 11am- 4pm**

**And Thornhill Late Night Xmas Shopping Monday 8th December until 9pm**

The old parish hall building, 19 East Morton Street, Thornhill. DG3 5LZ

**Tel: 01848 331 553 [www.thomastosh.com](http://www.thomastosh.com)**

Thanks to Alasdair Reynolds, of High Street, Moniaive who sent his poem in after seeing the debate in back issues on the fate of the Post Office.

"I have no contribution that might change things, however, you may like to print the attached as a form of protest and, at least, it might amuse. I originally wrote it back in the 'eighties, when Post Office services first came under attack from privatisation." he said.

## The Ryme of the Ancient Postman *(With apologies to S. T. Coleridge)*

### *Part the First*

It is an ancient postman  
And he stoppeth one of three.  
By thine old peaked cap and cycle clips,  
Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?

'Twas opening time the hour they met  
It was a thirsty man,  
The postman fixed him with a stare  
As only postmen can.

"Oh, Sir!" quoth he, "I tell a tale  
Of a foul and darkling deed,  
And God forgive my loosened tongue,  
I pray, Sir, take you heed!"

### *Part the Second*

"For I did once o'er hill and dale  
A red steel upright ride,  
A post-bag fast upon my back,  
I was a man of pride.

From dawn 'till dusk I pedalled on,  
Come sunshine, snow or hail,  
And all who saw me waved me by,  
I was the Royal Mail.

From Paddy's shop to vicarage  
And up by Manor Farm,  
A cup of tea with Mrs. Smith,  
(A lady of great charm!)

Then down the hill and round the bend,  
A sharp ring on my bell,  
I think that I can really say  
I served the P.O. well."

### *Part the Third*

"Then came the day the government  
Consigned us all to Hell,  
By selling off the G.P.O  
It was the postman's knell.

About, about, in reel and rout  
The franchise-seekers came,  
My rounds were cancelled at a stroke  
And who was there to blame?"

The listener now licked his lips  
For his throat was sorely dry,  
"Last orders now!" from in the pub  
He heard the landlord cry.

But from the postman's haunted gaze  
He could not turn away,  
'Though it was nearly closing-time  
Perforce he needs must stay.

"Our very sacks did rot, Oh, Christ!  
And we did stay in bed.  
And slimy things with legs did dwell  
Within the cycle shed.

Cursed be the one who thought of this,  
It does the country loss,  
A post bag round his neck be hung,  
Just like the Albatross!"

### *Part the Fourth*

The dawn was breaking ere he left,  
A sad and broken man,  
And slowly drove off in his car,  
An ex- Post Office van.



Girlguiding

## 1st Cairn Valley Guides

The Guides have been busy with Alex McMillan for nearly a year now and some of their highlights are:

My name is **Alma Riddell** and I am new to the Guides in Moniaive. I think Guides are really fun – a lot more fun than the Brownies as we mostly played games and not much making things or parties. I think Moniaive Guides are good because there are not too many people to get out of control. I think the uniform is great, lots to do and everyone is very friendly. I know them all.

**Tilda Borrows:** 'Showtime' - we were doing a 'Go for It' based on 'Showtime'. We all got together and talked about what we were doing. It took time, over four weeks, to practice but in the end we were great! We wrote a script called 'Best Friends Forever' and all the Guides took part. The moral of the play was friendship. We also sang campfire songs, learned poems, which we all enjoyed, and performed in front of a small audience.

My name is **Jessica Ireland** and I chose to do my 'Confectioners Badge.' I had to know how to make three types of icing, show I could do piping and know how to

melt chocolate successfully. I made a cake and showed off my piping skills. I also made 'Top Hats' with sweeties on the top, gingerbread men with icing and fairy cakes with coloured icing. Everyone loved them and we had these at our Halloween Party. I got my first 'Interest' badge and hope to do more.

My name is **Ashleigh Telfer** and I enjoyed our Halloween Party on 28th October. Chelsea had planned it for her 'Party Planner' badge and Jessica planned the food for her 'Confectioner' badge. We all dressed up in some very scary costumes, played a few games, 'ducking for apples', 'corners' 'pass the parcel;' and Val was so funny!!!

My name is **Chelsea Johnstone** and one of my favourite night at Guides was making the Guys for the Bonfire. We got some clothes and stuffed them with newspapers and decorated them. On 5th November it was really good watching them burn. Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament and got caught - and this is the way we remember that day long ago. It was good fun and helped towards 'Community Service'.

My name is **Anya Borrows** and I would like to write about 'Remembrance Sunday.' On 9th November the Guides and Brownies bought a poppy wreath and laid this at the Church. Before we sat down for the service

three ex-soldiers brought in the flags. There were lots of pictures of soldiers and where they died. This means we don't want any more wars, we all want peace.

'Guiding with Alex' by **Amelia Snape**. We have had Alex as our Guider for a year now; and let me tell you we've had some good times. When she first arrived she looked very scared... too right she did. She didn't know what she was putting her name down for. Only joking Alex! Let's hope we have many more happy years in front of us and many laughs too! All the best Alex from the Guides.

## 1st Cairn Valley Brownies

The Brownies have been having a lots of fun and welcomed a new prospective Brownie Guider, Sharon Young, who is going to start up Brownies in Keir and Penpont. Nan is mentoring her for her Adult Leadership Qualification and she has brought some new songs and games to the meetings.

We enjoyed our Halloween Party with lots of games and scary costumes. We have been swimming and working for badges. Lauren, Ellie and Myrna received their 'Collectors' badge and Eva made her Promise. Caitlin is working on her 'Writers' badge and Myrna on her 'Artists' badge.

Georgia Watson and Hazel Keast are enjoying themselves at Brownies and working hard on 'Becoming a Brownie'.

## Oceans Apart

The sheltered bays around Albany's distinct coastline offer respite from the southern ocean to various marine visitors. From may to October humpback and southern right whales take advantage of the bays, they are easily seen from the headlands and paths in and around town. The local golf course promotes itself as 'the best links course in Australia' (I think it is the only one), a better slogan might be 'the only links course in Australia where whales can be seen breaching from the 5th tee'.

The last whaling station in Australia operated here until 1978, while we in the old country were on the march with Ally's army, conservationists and whalers clashed on Albany's Middleton beach, these conflicts are now regarded as the early days of Greenpeace. Thankfully the old whaling station at Cheynes beach has been converted into 'Whale world' an award winning visitor attraction. Probably the only visitor attraction where you can watch informative 3-d films in a converted blubber tank.



Photos: Doug Milne

The locals are quite inventive that way, one of the many large lumps of granite scattered about the town resembles a dogs head, naturally enough the locals have painted a

collar on it and named it the dog rock. Nearby there is the dog rock motel and of course the dog rock shopping centre. Not long after arriving in here the defacto and I were enjoying a coffee in the dog rock shopping centre, the local radio station is piped around the centre complete with adverts, one minute some 80s rock anthem was blasting out, the next a chirpy Aussie voice announced, 'Suffering from erection problems? nasal delivery technology could get you performing at your peak! Call 1800 20 40 80.' I almost dropped my cappuccino, looking around expecting to see shocked shoppers, no-one even looked up, I said to the defacto, "we are a long way from Glencairn."

Sea creatures apart we receive other nautical visitors, there is a working port here which does a respectable amount of trade, perhaps a couple of bulk carriers a week. On top of that the odd liner interrupts a cruise to visit the town, they get a big welcome, free transport from the port to the town centre, jazz band etc. There can be 2000 people on these vessels, so the town centre does quite well out of it, the passengers have a more intimate experience than in the bigger cities.



Early one morning last summer the QE2 arrived as part of her farewell voyage, a fair

crowd got up early and watched her entering King George sound and glide through the narrow Attaturk straights into Princess Royal harbour. For the defacto the sound of the wash lapping on the granite rocks stirred memories of her early years in Glasgow, where she saw the same ship launched in 1969.

More recently to commemorate the centenary of the arrival of Roosevelt's Great white fleet the city opened the port to the public for the day, three warships turned up for the occasion, 2 Australian, 1 American. They combined forces to sizzle sausages for the 5000 hungry locals who turned out for a sticky beak round the port and the warships.



Only a few years after the Great White fleet had visited, early on the morning of November 1st 1914, 38 shiploads of Anzacs sailed to war from here. Behind our house is Mount Clarence, near the top in a stunning location is a huge bronze statue, this is the ANZAC light horse memorial to the Gallipoli warriors. Originally erected in Port Said the statue was damaged in the Suez crisis and subsequently relocated to its present location, which is the site of the original ANZAC day dawn service, a tradition which continues to this day not only in Albany but all over Australia.

## Discovery Success

On October 13th, at the Dumfriesshire Trefoil Guild meeting in Tinwald Church Hall, Nan Tait was presented with the Silver Discovery Award Certificate and brooch, by the former County Commissioner, Jane Middleton.

The Discovery Award is a national award for 'over fifty year-olds' and demands sustained work in four sections: Service, Recreation, Interest or Hobby and a 'Journey of Discovery'.

Nan's work included community service, visiting older people, challenging swimming sessions and learning to read music in the Handbell group. Her help with planning and running the recent Guides trip to Switzerland was indeed a journey of discovery.

At our November meeting Jane Murray-Flutter duly received the Bronze level award. Her work had included service with Meals on

Wheels, Book Club membership and making a study of paintings and writings about Angels, both here and on a visit to Florence.

Congratulations to both Trefoil Guild members and our very grateful thanks to all the willing local assessors.

Rosalind M. Hall, Chair of the Dumfriesshire Trefoil Guild



### The Bells of St Ninian's

We have a new logo and uniform - pink blouses decorated with the logo. We're working hard for some forthcoming events. Kath, Helen and Nan attended a 'Ringin' from scratch' day at Perth and enjoyed the experience despite the hard work! We spent the day practising new music and different ringing techniques and in the evening held a performance. This was a steep learning curve and we realise we still have lots to learn. We meet Monday evenings so come along, participate or sit and listen.

## Dick Gaughan at the Marquee Club

Saturday 8th November found me driving over the Dalveen Pass into Red Squirrel country as darkness descended with rain lashing down and strong winds. An interesting drive, high concentration necessary to keep on track, disorientating, glad to reach Thornhill and to see the first sign for my destination, Moniaive.

I was visiting friends, Alan and Sue, for the weekend, and was glad to finally arrive safely and in time for the Dick Gaughan concert that evening in the Memorial Institute, which was the reason that weekend was chosen for the visit.

After a welcome meal, Alan and I went along in time to select our seats and take in the scene. Alan introduced me to Hugh Taylor, the organiser of the Marquee Club, a new musical vehicle for Moniaive, and Compere for the evening. Hugh explained that he wanted to steer clear of the 'folkie' label, and a Marquee had apparently been erected in the grounds of the Craigdarroch hotel over summer, so he opted for that as the title, wisely leaving options open for all kinds of music to be arranged. But then, Dick is more than a run of the mill folk singer, his voice a thing of beauty and anger, passion and compassion, the songs he sings challenge the listener to think deeply about issues many would want to ignore, the history of the struggle for rights too easily forgotten or taken for granted in the present time. Then there is his guitar playing, simply stunning.

This is what Alastair Clark has to say about the art of Dick Gaughan, better than I could: "Dick Gaughan has never been easy. The songs he delivers ask questions that some listeners may have thought never existed - so they may not, instantly at least, know the answers. When the answers duly come, delivered in a voice that throbs with a unique kind of controlled, vibrating passion, he can shake the most complacent mindset out of its skull. You go home from a Dick Gaughan session feeling exhilarated, not just at the wonderful skills of the most potent singer ever to emerge from the Scottish folk-music revival, not just at the astonishingly fluent and explosively eloquent guitar playing, but by the sense of the stark exposition of wrong and the tremulously argued legitimacy of right. Even those who disagree profoundly with his view of life recognise the conviction and the supreme artistry. And, of course, by 'right' here, we mean 'left'. This is a man who, asked to list his greatest influences, begins instinctively with Karl Marx (immediately followed, it has to be said, by Groucho and taking in such disparate forces as John Lennon and Illyich Lenin along the way).

"Dick Gaughan has never been attracted by the current vogue of consensual, namby-pamby, pragmatic politics. He gives voice

to an uncompromising solidarity with the flotsam and jetsam of tunnel-vision global capitalism: the victims, the helpless, the wronged, the fighters, the brawny working-class bravehearts who made capitalism work (after a fashion). The hideous events in Chile in 1973, when the liberal world lost not only Allende but also the poet and singer Victor Jara, served to underline his feeling for the oppressed, wherever on this planet they may be, and his desire to shout their case from the metaphorical rooftops. And out of that solidarity, Gaughan burns. There is fire. There is anger. There is cauterising scorn. Yet there is also deep compassion. There is peace and much love. There is old - his versions of some of the great Scots traditional ballads, "the Muckle Sangs", as Hamish Henderson dubbed them, have probably never been equalled in their pulsating intensity by any recorded singer with the exception of one of his great heroines, Jeannie Robertson - and there is new: his own compelling compositions as well as those of Brian MacNeill, Leon Rosselson and a host of others, and his stunning steering of such unexpected vehicles as Joe South's 'Games People Play'. Where did it all come from, this power, this commitment, this commanding musical prowess, this 'thing' that can mesmerise halls not only in his own land but all over Europe and North America?"

The hall was surprisingly large and airy, the sound was very good, with about a hundred seats, most taken on a night you wouldn't put a dog out in! Alan reckoned those he knew from the village were in the minority, testifying to the drawing power of the man.

The concert started with the support act called 'Wing and a Prayer', an acoustic blues duo who did five or six numbers and who were very good, very easy listening.

Then Dick did two sets. He was in great form, a powerful, masterful performance. He began as he always does with a Si Kahn song: What You Do With What You Got, a 'belter' of a song that gets things going. He continued with The Devil And Pastor Jack; Waist Deep In The Big Muddy; a tune - Caoineadh Eoghain Rua; Whatever Happened.

The second set consisted of his favourite song of all time, which he has been singing for over thirty years, by Robert Burns: Now Westlin' Winds; followed by Thomas Muir Of Huntershill; No Gods And Precious Few Heroes; a tune - Florence In Florence; 'Last Soldier'; Outlaws And Dreamers; and Tom Paine's Bones. For an encore he did Both Sides The Tweed, the words originally by James Hogg the Ettrick Shepherd, adapted and set to a tune by Dick.

A great session, and good to see Dick again in such fine form! The rumour is that a session went on late into the night in the Craigdarroch.

Sunday lunch in the Green Tea Room was very enjoyable, and the quiz in the George Hotel was also. Another good nights sleep, and a journey home in daylight a pleasure on the Monday. And I did see a red squirrel on the Sunday morning from my bedroom window.

Oh, and it was announced that Dick would be playing in New Galloway in March, date to be finalized! Well worth the effort!

Thanks Sue, Alan for kind hospitality, and Hugh for the concert!

Tom Graham  
Edinburgh

### Hotchpotch

Jackie would like to thank all her customers for their support and wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year

# Holland House

## Merry Christmas



### SANTAS GROTTO

Children - tell Santa how good you've been and receive a special gift on 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st December, 12 - 4pm

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# Shop Local this Christmas...

Glencairn may be a small parish but we're not short of businesses and shops. With Christmas looming and the recession biting now is the time to support local tradespeople to ensure we still have such a diverse selection in 2009.

## Moniaive Post Office

There are plenty of bargains to be had here, albeit sadly because of the planned closure. Although no new lines are being ordered the Post Office still has a wide range of festive and greeting cards, wrapping paper, local gifts, calenders, Moniaive tea towels, stationery, dvds, cds, diaries, sweets, chocolates, envelopes, games, toys and much, much more. And of course it's the place for advice on posting and wrapping gifts.

## The George Hotel

Traditional surroundings and a warm welcome with music nights and other festive events planned. There will be live music between Xmas and New Year. Darts, dominoes and pool competitions and a Mega Quiz are also planned. Watch for posters. Robin 200203.



## Hotchpotch

With a 'Xmas Wish List' and the ability to reserve items shopping is easy at Hotchpotch. Open 7 days a week in December with late night opening on Wednesdays. During December there will be a 'Christmas raffle'. Tea, coffee and a comfy couch are available whilst browsing and there is a credit card facility. Jewellery, dolls, soft toys, wooden items, candles, handbags, soaps, gift sets, cards, locally made giant xmas stockings, trays, pottery, pictures, photos, walking sticks, books, knitwear, scarves, cushions.... the list goes on. With prices to suit all pockets it's an ideal place to start crossing things off your present list.



## Causies Cross GUEST HOUSE

Family and friends coming to visit? No room at home? Try Moniaive's newest 3 star B&B for affordable comfort and a great homecooked breakfast. Call Wendy and Derek on 01848 200719.

## WATSON'S GROCERS

With special lines brought in for the festive period and an excellent selection of reasonably priced wines, beers and spirits you can't go far wrong by checking out what Graham and Elaine have on offer to make this Christmas special (see advert page 21).



**Closed:** Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.  
**Open:** Hogmanay 7am-7pm; January 2nd 10am -2pm. All other opening hours are as normal. 01848 200204.

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## Dalwhat Garage

With winter upon us now is the time to get your car, tyres, battery and oil checked and to get your vehicle filled with fuel for the festive period. The garage also supplies Calor gas, kindling, coal and car accessories. Call John, Andrew or David on 01848 200216.

## JRK Campbell & Co

JRK Campbells 'country store' has a large range of clothing, decorations, gifts, household items, toys, candles, xmas trees and speciality foods, to name but a few. Open on Sundays from Dec 7th 11am-3pm. Late night shopping Thursday 4th Dec 6-9pm. Pre-Xmas sale on clothing and footwear 4th-29th December, sales rails 40% off! You can also shop on line at [www.jrkcampbell.co.uk](http://www.jrkcampbell.co.uk).



See advert page 6

## Duck Race Tickets

What better present than the chance to win £150, £100 or £50! Duck race tickets available from Post Office. £1 ticket/£5 per book. Sue 200331.



## the green tea house

Ever popular, the Green Tea House is opening over the festive period. (Closed Xmas Day, Boxing Day and Jan 1st.) On the 12th/13th December the menu will feature festive fare. Call 07752099193 to book. There will be mulled wine and mince pies during the Christmas week. Catherine is also offering gift vouchers for meals at the Tea House which are already proving a popular gift choice. The cafe has a range of gifts, ceramics, equine statues, handmade cards, jewellery, soaps and paintings and stocks Catherine's 'Tighten Your Beltie' cookbook and the Dangleberries CD. If you are planning a big family get together over Christmas then call in and pick up an order form for home made quiches, pies, gateaux and roulades. These items serve between 10 and 12 people and include delights like: Trifle; White Chocolate Terrine; Roasted Red Onion & Red Pepper Quiche; Bacon, Brie & Wild Mushroom Quiche and Salmon & Asparagus Puff en Croute. Order by 20th December for Xmas delivery.



## The Glencairn Gazette

How about a years subscription of the Gazette (£6)? A lovely present for those who have moved away. Call Lynda or Perry on 01848 200026.

## Moniaive Tea Towel

Easy to post and a constant reminder of Moniaive, £3.50. The tea towel, by Su Palmer-Jones, lists local businesses and is available from the Post Office.



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**Christmas day menu out now.**

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## George C. Richardson Photography

Looking for a present with a personal touch? How about a family portrait for someone far away? A photo of a well loved pet? or even the beautiful 'Sketches of Moniaive' calendar (£5.50 available from the Post Office or George) .

For further information or to arrange a sitting call George on 01848200470 or see [www.georgecrichardsonphotography.co.uk](http://www.georgecrichardsonphotography.co.uk)



## Must Wines Limited

Debbie and Vaughan Trower, Must Wines, stock large range of New Zealand wines. Minimum order is 6 bottles. The wine list can be seen at [www.mustwines.com](http://www.mustwines.com) or ring Debbie on 01848 200677 for more information.

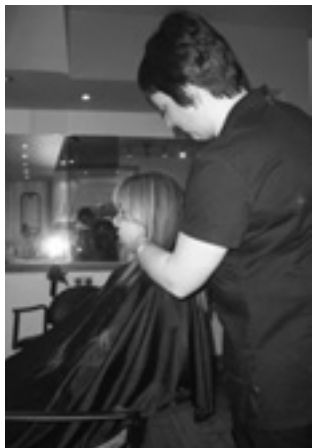
## Glencairn Memorial Book

Looking for a present for your father, grandfather, uncle or someone interested in the history of, or with a connection to, the parish? Look no further than this beautifully illustrated book. Available from Moniaive Post Office and Jane Murray-Flutter on 01848 200388 or email [ardnacloch@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ardnacloch@tiscali.co.uk). Price £15 plus £5 p&p.

## Julie Richards Hair Salon

Want to look your best for the festive season? Then look no further than Julie's Salon. Open Xmas Eve 10-3pm. Closed 25th/26th. Dec 27th 10-2pm. New Years Eve 10-3pm. 3rd January 10-2pm. All other times as usual. The salon offers a full range of hair care products, styling, putting hair up, cut and blow dries, perms and, if you fancy a change how about a new hair colour for Christmas?

Bookings taken on 01848 200552.



## Jason Shackleton & Lucianne Lassalle

Potter, Jason, has a range of items suitable for Christmas presents and Lucianne has sculptures in all sizes with prices to suit most pockets. She also takes commissions and would be happy to advise (see article page 6). They are open during the run up to Christmas but please 07977938151 or 01387 820472 to ensure they are in before you visit.

## Quantum Chainsaw Carving

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**Email: [rodney@chainsawcarving.co.uk](mailto:rodney@chainsawcarving.co.uk)**

**Web: [www.chainsawcarving.co.uk](http://www.chainsawcarving.co.uk)**



*Glencairn Gazette*  
*Merry Xmas*

everyone  
in  
moniaive  
& tynron

and a prosperous new year

## The Craigdarroch Arms & Thistles Bistro

*thistles*  
bistro

For the festive period the Craigdarroch are running Xmas Party Nights with a set menu from 1st-24th December. Booking is advisable.

Xmas Day the bar will be open between 12 and 2.30pm.

## Hogmanay with The Dangleberries

Tickets available now from the Craigdarroch.

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## Benson 'Benny Boy'



After a long dog life of 91 years it is with great sadness that we must report the passing of a famous village legend. Like the moose in 'Northern Exposure', Benson added a distinctive flavour to the village. With an independence of spirit more akin to a cat and the aloof disregard for traffic of a cow, Benson would sun himself on Chapel Street ensuring traffic slowed and respected the speed limit.

While not free of the most common vice of dogs, Benson had an endearing pacifist nature (unless you were a caged rabbit) which made him widely respected on his regular patrols of the back streets in search of miscreants and new scents. In common with many Monroviens, his wanderings often finished on a bench in the George in search of (spilt) beer and crisps - eaten one by one of course.

In the end it wasn't his vagrant nature which led to his demise, but the vagrancy of nature itself as old age finally got the better of his regular cocktail of drugs used to combat his failing heart and debilitating arthritis. Benson is survived by Chelsea the chicken.

Benson was a beautiful, loving dog with so much character and we loved him to bits. He joined our family thirteen years ago. Stu

and I decided we wanted a dog to come and live with us in the WestEnd of Glasgow. We visited a dog rescue home in Cardonald. It appeared that all the dogs there barked, yelped and whined for our attention, understandably. Benson didn't. He sat sedately in his shared cage, back to us, not a sound. We looked, pondered, considered and walked on..... he then howled. He was the dog for us.... and he never howled again. Benson was a stray dog on the streets of Glasgow and one year old when when he came home with us.

Why the name 'Benson'? I thought he 'rather had the air of a snooty butler about him'. He was therefore named Benson in the car and when Stu went back to the Natural Power office that afternoon, I decided to enjoy Kelvingrove park with my new friend. Off the lead he shot like a bullet across the mass of greenery and shrubbery. Oh...uhh...oh...a small part of me, lead in hand, began to wonder if I had lost him already, having only spent less than an hour together on our journey home. How can he know his new name? His new owner? This small element of slight anxiety seeded in my brain was about to grow ... and then...was suddenly squashed. Phew! In the distance, Benson was coming hurtling towards me, a spring in his step with his newfound freedom.

A few years later Josh was born. Benson slept one side of the crib watching over him - the youngest member of his 'pack.' He would nudge me during the night to breastfeed and indeed showed himself to be incredibly protective over both of our sons, Josh and Brodie. Benson would have made a great father and had beautiful puppies but this opportunity was taken away from him in Glasgow before he joined us. Benson was a loving, affectionate friend who never really barked.. well, occasionally at the postman and more occasionally when he became old, oh, and always at balloons, and he never begged. He was such a good example to us all and, I used to joke, the "most well-behaved member of our family."

When our family buried him with his belongings up at Gordonston, a beautiful spot up on the hills near St John's Town of Dalry, we realised how little materially he needed to live a long and happy life in the glorious countryside that surrounds us.

We miss Benson terribly and loved him dearly.

The Hall family

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# Winterfest December 5 -7th

This is a weekend of fun and entertainment to kick-start the run up to Christmas.

Glencairn Community Trust, MAP and Dumfries and Galloway Council get the weekend underway with the launch of the new Community Website, [www.monიაive.org.uk](http://www.monიაive.org.uk), in Moniaive Primary School on Friday evening at 7pm. Web designer Tim Jones will present his new creation and answer any questions. Web Supremo Sue Grant will be on hand to explain how the new site will help everyone keep in touch with what's happening in the community and how other organizations and individuals can get their own pages. Then everyone will have a chance of hands on experience.

This will be followed at 8 o'clock with a free concert by Wing and a Prayer who have chosen Moniaive to launch their latest album. The Glasgow/Moffat based duo of Jim Gilchrist and Dave Dick are no strangers to the village and last appeared here a few weeks ago as support for Dick Gaughan.

At 9.30 Dave and Jim will move to the Craighdarroch Arms Hotel where they will be joined by other musicians for a live session that will go on until daft o'clock.

On Saturday morning it's Moniaive Primary School annual Christmas Fair where a variety of craftspeople will be selling their wares. It's just the place to start Christmas shopping.

The main event of the weekend is in St Ninian's Church at 7.30pm. Gloucestershire musicians Johnny Coppin, Paul Burgess and Mick Dolan bring their acclaimed show, 'All on a Winters Night' to Moniaive. This feast of songs, carols, stories and folklore was described by The Living Tradition magazine as 'A seasonal delight.....beautiful and inspirational'.

Tickets are available, priced £10 from St Ninian's Church, The Craighdarroch Arms Hotel and Barnstorm Records in Dumfries.

After the performance, main sponsors, The Craighdarroch Arms, invite everyone to the Craighdarroch for seasonal mulled wine and mince pies followed by a live music session.

Hugh Taylor

## Oral History Project

After several years of talking about the subject it is now time to make a start. Bob Martin of Glencairn History Group is looking for volunteers to start the ball rolling by having a recorded chat about their memories of Glencairn. These recordings will be stored for posterity as a resource for future generations.

If you are interested in taking part please contact Bob Martin on 0777 2877443.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Post Office

I have just read my copy of Gazette and congratulate you on the lead article 'secrets and lies' in which you very comprehensively expose the sham that was the 'consultation' surrounding the closure of Moniaive Post Office. Having scanned through it again and digested the various points of view contained therein, I am surprised that nobody has highlighted a very basic and fundamental problem with moving the PO to Watson's Grocers, that being, there are three very formidable steps to be negotiated to gain entry to this premises, and whereby they may prove no problem to the younger and more agile, they will present a very daunting obstacle to the elderly and infirm who need to utilise the PO services to withdraw their pension or use any of the other facilities now to be located inside. In comparison, the existing Post Office is largely on one level (apart from a rather chunky doormat) making access much easier. I wonder if this was ever taken into consideration during the 'consultation' process, and if not, I would suggest that Watson's Grocer's may not be fit for the purpose which it is now intended, thus alienating the elderly and infirm within our community and borders on discrimination. I also wonder if Mr Watson took into consideration the needs of his more senior customers when signing his 'in principle' agreement to take over running of the Post Office Services, or if he duly intends to remedy this situation by altering access to his premises accordingly.

It is also interesting that, in response to your request for a public meeting, PO Press Dept state that all branches proposed for closure are "loss making and unsustainable with low customer useage". We would therefore have to assume that Penpont, only two miles from another PO in Thornhill, is profit making and sustainable with an exceptionally high customer useage.... what other logical reason could there be for its retention ???

You will note that I have copied two of our local Councillors into this email, and I would hope that they share my concerns, and may be able to address, and gain answers to the issues I have raised here. Moniaive continues to grow and we can ill afford to witness further erosion our rural services, and I would hope that closure of the existing PO is not yet a done deal, and we may yet see the (up till now) silent majority get their wish for a public meeting, and if the present PO is to close, that decision is seen to be made in the proper democratic manner.

Allan Davidson, Dunreggan

## Happy Visitors

Everyone very much enjoyed the fishing trip and as ever, our stay with you and the community of Moniaive, the locals I think have got used to us coming up and descending upon them and have made us feel more than welcome and more than just tourists. We really appreciate the sense of place and community that there is in Moniaive, I think we all feel we've been very lucky to find such a village. I read with interest your local paper each time I come up and wish you well in the battle against the post office downsize/closure, it's a shame that rural communities that are 'on the up' as Moniaive

appears to be, have to fight for basic services that others (in more urban areas) are lucky to take for granted.

*Andrew Renwick, Shropshire*

## Switch off

Inspired by your article I thought you might be interested in the email I just sent to Russell Brown re the impending loss of the Lookaround programme!

Dear Russell Brown,

I am sure you have had a plethora of complaints about the OFCOM agreement with the decision to ITV ending local news broadcasting from Carlisle on Border television. I would like to add my own protest at this decision.

As you know this is not an area well served by the BBC for local news, the Edinburgh based local news being very much interested in what happens in the Midland Valley and points north. Border Television has served us well here for 47 years with local news. Their newsgathering vans are very much a local feature, and the programme itself is well made, warm and interesting. The presenters are all well known figures here and will be sorely missed.

Border TV tied together a very disparate area and has always made a special point at emphasizing the differences here and the things that bring the people of the area together. The plan that our news will now come from Newcastle with a 10 minute opt out for a newsteader to read news items along with the odd video insert seems quite inadequate. The rest of the 'local news' will come from a neighbouring region with a very different culture and history. It is also an area that people here do not have that much to do with or a vast connection with. A main road and a rather ropey train service connects Carlisle and the Solway coast with Newcastle in a few hours but it could hardly be called a main artery of cultural mixing. I would not think the Central Scottish Borders, the Lake District or the Isle of Man to be too connected either to the old 'Tyne Tees' TV region either. If anything we need more local news coverage to bind communities together up here, not less. I think a serious mistake has been made by OFCOM allowing Michael Grade to push through his cuts. As a Londoner he might "not see any reason for the existence of Border TV these days", but we who live here do. There are also issues as to the 'consultation' we were promised here on this issue...this seems to have been virtually non-existent.

Please, may I ask that you do everything in your power to block and protest this ill thought out decision, which will have serious consequences for your constituency for years to come.

Yours Sincerely,

*Lee Brown*

*Craigdarroch Lodge, Moniaive*

## Benson

I was very upset when I returned from a recent trip to find that Benson had passed away.

For many years he was a regular fixture in Chapel Street and around the Green Tea House taking over from David Grant as the Moniaive traffic calming scheme. But where Grant would walk slowly down the middle of the street and glower at any driver who had the temerity to hoot his horn, Benson's chosen method was to lie in the middle of Chapel Street and give a disdainful look at approaching motorists before slowly getting out of their way.

Although he lived with Stuart, Liz, Josh and Brodie he was Moniaive's dog. Kids loved him, visitors loved him. I loved him. He's the closest I've ever come to having a dog and with the advantage that I didn't have to feed or walk him.

He was a true dog of the street, of the kind that used to be plentiful when I was growing up. In these litigious days of buttoned up political correctness where the canine species is expected to be kept muzzled, on a lead and not allowed out without their owners Benson was the last of his kind.

But Benson was much more than a dog. He was one of my neighbours. I'd often stop and pat his head or engage him in conversation. And he was a wonderful conversationalist always listening intently, never interrupting or disagreeing and looking as if he understood exactly what I was saying.

He was on the street to the end. Old, a bit unsteady on his legs and not moving far from his garden gate but wrapped in his warm winter coat and slowly turning his head towards me as I approached.

*Hugh Taylor,*

*Chapel Street*

## The Secret Life of the Gala Committee

What does the Gala Committee actually do? I vaguely knew that they organized the Duck Race but other than that, I imagined that at their meetings they sat around discussing the Gala - what worked at the last Gala, what to do at the next one, and so forth. Ha! I couldn't have been more wrong.

At the end of the last Gala, somebody made an appeal, saying that there were now so few people on the Gala Committee that we wouldn't be able to have a Gala in 2009 unless more people joined the Committee. I didn't like to think of Moniaive losing its Gala, so I joined the Committee. I have been on it for 4 months now and it has been a real eye-opener. The Gala Committee don't spend much time sitting around discussing the Gala because they are too busy doing stuff. For instance, years of running the bar at the Gala Dance has made them so experienced that they can now offer a Bar Service to people giving parties. This is one of the ways they raise money towards the next Gala. So the second Gala Committee meeting that I attended consisted of stock-taking, i. e. counting up all the cans of coke, bottle of wine, Vodka etc. (stored in a secret location), in preparation for the next party. The meeting after that, we were setting up the bar for the party. Some committee members then served drinks all evening. The morning after, we were clearing up the bar and putting everything away.

Then came Bonfire Night. The Gala Committee bought the fireworks, went round the village collecting people's stuff for the bonfire, built the bonfire, bought all the food and drink for Bonfire Night, cooked the food, and served the soup, burgers, sausages, mulled wine etc. to the people who came to watch the fireworks. All this for donations towards the Gala. So, not much talking but lots of activity. We can always use another pair of hands so if anyone would like to join us, please contact Sue Grant on 200331.

*Su Palmer-Jones, Ayr Street*

## Halloween

Dear Editor,

With all that is written about children joining gangs, using drugs or knives and generally being something to avoid, our family are happy to report we saw none of this on 31st October, just lovely costumes (we particularly liked '3 blind mice' and 'dead riding hood' for originality) and lots of well behaved good natured children who were unfailingly polite and eager to tell their piece for the goodies we provided. We had 49 children visit us, many dressed as improbable fairies or ghouls and each group warned the next about the traffic on the corner. Such caring kids. Long may it continue.

*Henshall Family, Afton.*

# Gallantry in the Great War – France and Flanders

Few aspects of the 1914-18 war could truly be termed great, but acts of gallantry displayed by individuals must be one of them. Most successful engagements result from careful planning, determined leadership and co-ordinated teamwork and so it is not surprising that team leaders are decorated for leadership, which reflects the competence, tenacity and endurance of those under their command.

The first three officers from Glencairn to be killed in the war were posthumously mentioned in despatches.

GERARD R. L. ANDERSON, a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment, was killed at the head of a counter attack through a wood, on 7 November 1914 near Ypres. One of his men said: "Lieut Anderson led us in the charge... I see he is missing. He was a very brave officer".

In September 1915 WILLIAM N. MONTEITH, a lieutenant in the 2nd Rifle Brigade, was killed at Loos. His commanding officer wrote: "He was, I think, about the finest fighting officer I have ever seen, and he was killed leading his platoon in an assault on the German trenches on the early morning of the 25th September..." His company commander said in a letter: "I am certain I never met a more fearless man than he was."

William's elder brother, Major JOHN C. MONTEITH, had not long assumed command of the 2nd Battalion The Bedfordshire Regiment at Loos, when he was killed in the early hours of 1 October, "while superintending the blocking of a trench in a very dangerous part of the line". The brigade commander wrote: "He was a very fine and gallant soldier, and had he lived, would no doubt have made a great name for himself".

Their younger brother, HUGH G. MONTEITH, was a doctor who was created a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order (London Gazette 15 Sept, 1915): Capt. Hugh Glencairn Monteith, Royal Army Medical Corps (attached 2nd Battalion, the Duke of Cornwall's Light



Infantry). For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in picking up and attending to the wounded under heavy fire in the actions near St. Jean and Wieltje, east of Ypres, between 23rd and 27th April, 1915, when the casualties in the battalion to which he was attached were very heavy". Later he received the O.B.E. and was mentioned in despatches four times.

Gerard Anderson's elder brother Captain ARTHUR E. D. ANDERSON served in the King's Own Scottish Borderers and was awarded a Military Cross (L.G. 3.6.16) and a D.S.O. (L.G. 1.1.18).

JOHN E. LAURIE, when a captain in the Seaforth Highlanders, was awarded a D.S.O. (L.G. 22.9.16) for gallantry at Beaumont Hamel on 1 July 1916. "Capt. John Emilius Laurie, Sea. Highrs. For conspicuous gallantry in action. At a critical time he rallied men of various units who were without leaders, did fine work consolidating the position and helped to repel a bomb attack".

He received a bar (L.G. 8.3.19) which was detailed on 4.10.19. "Capt. (A./Lt.-Col.) John Emilius Laurie, D.S.O., 1st Bn., Sea. Highrs., attd. 6th Bn., T.F. For conspicuous gallantry near Avesnes-le-Sec on the 15th October, 1918, when one of the companies under his command was driven

back by heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, thus exposing a flank. He immediately went forward under heavy fire, reorganised the company in the open, and himself led them forward to their position in the line. On 25th October, near Famars, he made a personal reconnaissance under heavy fire, reorganised the troops on their original front line, and so consolidated the position securely".

Major Laurie was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour (L.G. 11.3.19) and mentioned in despatches five times.

CHARLES CONNELL, whose family owned Auchencheyne estate until 1909, was commissioned into the K.O.S.B. in 1897. He was mentioned in despatches while serving in the 2nd Battalion in 1914.

Captain James Charles Walter Connell was awarded the D.S.O. "for services in connection with operations in the field", (L.G. 18.2.15) and as a Lt. Colonel he was again mentioned in despatches – December 1916.

The London Gazette, which is the government's official paper, announces all military appointments and gallantry awards including Mentions in Despatches. Citations should be available for the D.S.O., M.C., and D.C.M. – but not always. Mentions in Despatches, the M.S.M. and the Military Medal, 'for bravery in the field', do not have published citations.

A.B. Hall

Sources:

*The V.C. and D.S.O., a complete record etc: Creagh, O'Moore and E.M. Humphris 1924*

*The London Gazette*

*The Glencairn Memorial Book : Alexander Hall and Anthony Murray-Flutter 2007.*

**Note:** Many thanks to James Heald for research assistance.

**Editors note on a small world:**

*My very first job, aged 15, was working for the London Gazette in High Holborn, London – Sue Grant*

## The Isle of Iona

This walk is hardly easy of access as it involves some very long drives and two ferry trips to reach the start. Hopefully it will all be worth the effort as the Isle of Iona is a glorious spot as St Columba found out all those centuries ago.

It takes a ferry from Oban to Craignure on Mull, then a drive right down the Ross of Mull to reach Fionnphort. From there a short passenger ferry trip across the Sound of Iona takes you to this Hebridean gem of an island. You will want to see as much of the island as possible so this route goes to all points of the compass. From the jetty head left and south alongside Martyrs Bay a short distance. After a while the road veers sharp right and west to cross the island to the golf course and a wide open western bay.

Walk southwards along this bay to and then climb towards a gap where a bouldery track leads on towards Loch Staoneig. Pass the loch on its eastern shore and take the indistinct path down through rugged country to Coracle Bay. This bay is allegedly the place where St Columba landed for the first time on Iona. This is also one of the best places on the island for finding the famous green and white Iona marble. Backtracking from here for 200 yards brings you to a grassy gap on your right that takes you around to a point above the old marble quarry. From here head over boggy ground around rocky knolls in a northeasterly direction and eventually you will pick up the track that leads down past the croft at Ruanaich. Turn right at the end of the track and backtrack along the road to the pier.



Northern Iona

Instead of turning down to Lagandorain take the track then path northwards down onto the beach from here or climb the rocky knoll above it on the right. There you can sit and take in the tremendous Hebridean seascape which extends as far as Skye and the outer isles. Reverse your route from here back to the ferry pier.

Distance: 7.5 miles Ascent: 700feet OS Explorer Map 373

Dave McFadzean



Iona Abbey

From the jetty head up through the old nunnery past MacLean's Cross towards the abbey. The views over to Mull from here are truly stupendous with the beetling cliffs of the Burg peninsula drawing the eye. The abbey is well worth a look as is the Reilig Odhrain the traditional burial place of ancient Scottish kings. Following the road northwards you pass under the rocky cone of Dun I, at just over 300feet, the highest point on the island. Keep walking north to Lagandorain Croft road end where there is a rather unique wee independent hostel. Listen out for a strident rasping sound amongst the machair meadows here as this is the domain of the corncrake.

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'Tis the season to be jolly' ..... or..... 'bah, humbug'?

Full of the joys, or feeling sadness even more acutely as everyone else around seems to be 'getting into the spirit'?

With a variety of Services offered for the Christmas celebrations there is, within these, a service of quiet reflection - a time to ask if the lonely, if those with problems are remembered. To ask if instead they are put on hold, left listening to some sweet and sickly musak until the lines are clear again, and folk, or even God, has time to spare.

Well, God has time to spare. All the time in the world and beyond. His time is what he gave, and what he gives us in Jesus. His attention for each and every individual. He does not ask us to hold the line please, your call is important to us. He does not get out his 2009 diary saying maybe we could find a window in February - sometime. He sits down with us, he listens to what is on our minds and in our hearts.

Scripture tells us: He will bind up the broken hearted (Isaiah 61) - and he will. He will cry with us, he will hold us, he will walk with us.

Scripture tells us: he will comfort those who mourn (Isaiah 61). He will help us cope, he will give us hope.

Scripture tells us, and Jesus is the fulfilment of Scripture. His coming to this world, his being with us his people, Christmas is all about God's promise fulfilled.

We cannot always shout for joy, nor celebrate Christmas as others think we should - but we can be sure that Christmas is for

us too. And then maybe inside we will discover the joy of God's love for us, a love that never fails or diminishes with our mood, our circumstances, our finances.

If you do feel more down than up but still want to mark Christmas and the birth of Jesus the service for you is on 14th December, 7pm in Dunscore Church, a reflective time to make Christmas our own, to remember and to pray for the coming of the Prince of Peace, the God of Love.

On 4th January at the joint service in Dunscore we will mark the start of a new year with the celebration of Communion and ask God's help for our 2009 events, challenges and opportunities. ALL are welcome.

**Zambian Update:** The Boys' Brigade in Lubuto welcomed the arrival of so many instruments to start up their marching band. The drums are now on their way in time for Christmas, when the BB will receive music lessons from the Zambian Army! Sincere thanks to all who supported the visit from our friends from Lubuto to Scotland - they loved it.

**It's a funny life:** A stingy man went Christmas shopping - but was too mean to spend his money. He saw a jug for £50 reduced to £2 because the handle was broken off. He reckoned he would get away with it as his friend would assume it had been broken in transit. He bought it and had the shop mail it for him - so their label would be 'seen'. A week after Christmas he received a wonderful thank you letter from his friend. 'Thank you for the lovely jug. It was so thoughtful of you to wrap each piece separately.'

Christine

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# Hydro Energy

**About 70 people attended the open meeting in the Tynron Hall on 22 September about renewable energy and the possibilities of having multiple micro-hydro electricity schemes in this area.**

Joe Fergusson of the Energy Agency gave a presentation on heat pumps: how they work, their different forms (ground to air, air to air, water to air), and what would be needed to install them. This was interesting not only to those who do not have water on their property that might be used for a hydro scheme, but also to those who do, as a way of making best use of the electricity they could generate by hydropower.

Gavin King-Smith then reported on how his hydro scheme at Appin had been performing: it has been running for 20 months. What with the returns from exporting unused electricity, the sales of Renewable Obligations Certificates that green electricity generation attracts, and the savings on the electricity bill, the capital outlay for this scheme should be repaid in the next 5 years; after this, the scheme should provide a clear revenue stream. One other house in the Shinnel Glen also has hydropower: Frank and Margaret Irving at Shinnelhead have an off-grid scheme which has put their trusty generator more or less into retirement (except when suffering from teething troubles or when their burn is too low - not often this summer).

Gavin has identified 54 other homes in the Shinnel, Scour and Cairn glens that look likely to have viable hydropower: he outlined what the costs and returns might be, the benefits of co-operating to bring these schemes to fruition, and the possibilities of making a return to the community with some of the proceeds. If anybody missed this meeting and would like to know more about how a hydro scheme works and whether it might be possible for them to have one, they are very welcome to contact Gavin on 01848 200770 or by email: gkingsmith@gmail.com. Please also get in touch if you are interested in options for reducing CO2 emissions from your home but have no opportunity for making hydroelectricity.

Since then a few people have expressed an interest in following these ideas up, notably the Estate Manager for Buccleuch Estates, Mark Coombs. He is enthusiastic about Buccleuch Group getting involved in developing smaller schemes across the estate. This is important as a number of potential schemes are situated on or run through Buccleuch land. Buccleuch Estates may be looking to set up their own capability to design and install hydro schemes in the future. People with electrical engineering skills, plumbing know-how and electricians' qualifications, as well as those with diggers and brawn, could be in demand in the near future.

Sue Peppé

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## **Glencairn History Group**

The History Group has been using the new meeting room in the Institute. The lay-out and decor makes it a pleasure to use and we take our collective cap off to Duncan Saunderson and the Institute committee for providing this facility. The display cabinet provided by the History Group is now ready for use to show items relating to the history of the Parish. Initially, objects will be provided by the Group, but we would welcome offers of other items to put into the cabinet for short periods.

Our series of talks continues through the winter. On December 4th we have Mr. Norman Anderson, who is giving a talk on The Buchanites, followers of Elspeth Buchan (who believed that she was alive at the time of Jesus) who would be raised to Heaven from wooden platforms by the Angels of the Lord. A fascinating look at an early religious cult who lived in Nithsdale and the Stewartry. In February Mr. David Duncan, will share his knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the history of Lead Mining in Scotland's highest village: soon to star in the new TV drama series. As well as being interesting, our talks raise funds. We are also organising a general knowledge quiz. Question sheets will be available in December from outlets in Moniaive. 1st prize £30, 2nd £15, 3rd £5. Entry £1. The proceeds will go towards our target for the year, which is to continue the dig at the farmstead site on Martour Hill. Fundraising will continue throughout the Spring. One event worth noting in the early Spring of next year is the AGM on Thursday March 5th, 7.30pm in Moniaive Institute. With everyone out buying a 2009 diary, it is always nice to have an important date to start the new one off! For information about Glencairn History Group, contact Bob Martin on 07772 877443.

Bob Martin

## **WATSON'S GROCERS**

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***Graham and Elaine would like to thank all  
our friends and customers for their  
continued support over the last year.***

*As you are aware it will be all change again in  
the next couple of months. As to exactly what  
shape that will take is yet to be determined.*

*We shall of course keep you informed.*

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## COUNCILLOR GILL DYKES



Councillor Gill Dykes

You can contact me on 07736 255423  
or email Gill.Dykes@dumgal.gov.uk

*Representing the Mid & Upper Nithsdale ward*

### Round Up for 2008 and looking forward to 2009

Well it's difficult to decide where to start, there has been so much happening in and around the Cairn Valley in 2008. However, I have just looked over the Glencairn Gazette Edition for December 2007 and I see that some of the projects I mentioned then are still in the pipeline now - one year on, well they do say Rome wasn't built in a day and working with the Council I can assure you that things don't happen overnight.

Anyway, I am pleased to say that the Institute upgrade has taken place, some of the new pathways are now open, the Folk Festival was a great success, the car park has now had some tar put down and the toilets have had a partial improvement. Hopefully it will not be long before we hear the chimes of the village clock again and that we see some new road improvements on the back road between Moniaive and Kirkland, an upgrade of the area around the cherry tree, the bus shelter painted and the long awaited car park improvements for North Street.

As a Councillor you are asked to participate in all sorts of events and it was an honour this year for me to be asked to take the salute from the British Legion in Thornhill and to lay the wreath on behalf of the Council at the church service in Moniaive on remembrance Sunday. It was particularly important to me as my father, father-in-law and brother-in-law are all members of the British Legion and I think it is important for us all to remember what sacrifices families both past and present have made. You only need to read the opening introduction of The Glencairn Memorial Book to see that between 1914 and 1918 around 330 men and women from the parish of Glencairn served their country in the armed forces and a staggering 22 percent of them did not return home.

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Another achievement for me this year was a personal one, I actually abseiled from the rooftop of the Inverness Conference Centre and I can assure you I have never been so terrified in my life. My husband (Trevor) had signed up to doing this for charity but is afraid of heights, he arrived home one night and said that he had agreed that if he wasn't able to do it I would abseil in his place - no problem I thought, I'm not scared of heights. Well it was windy and wet and I could hardly stand on the roof; scared was not the word for it as the instructor said just lean back and step off... I am not usually stuck for words but by the time I got to the bottom my tongue was stuck to the roof of my mouth and I couldn't speak - never again!

I did say, when I was standing for election, that I thought that the Cairn Valley needed a new surgery and I am pleased to say that I have been working closely with Cairn Valley Doctors and the Health Board to make sure that a new surgery can be built at Dunscore while Moniaive remains. I am delighted that this joint effort has paid off and that the Health Board has given the new build at Dunscore the green light, subject to funding of course. Thanks must go to Dr Lowry, Bonn and Desai for the continuing hard work and effort they have put in to secure this for their patients. I hope that we will see some signs of funding coming forward in the next 12 months.

I am also delighted to support Tynron Community Council in their quest to see some improvements in the extraction of timber from the glen. We are about to trial a new lorry which should mean that less loads will be moved out of the forest in any one day and less damage should be done to our roads - watch this space for more information.

Also on the plus side I must take this opportunity to mention that I continue to promote the possible reopening of Thornhill Station and it is with great pleasure that I am able to inform you that this has taken another step forward. Last week the consultants were appointed to carry out the STAG reports that the Government has requested, and I remain optimistic that these will come back favouring the reopening of the railway station... I will keep you posted, hopefully by the next edition I will know the results.

It's coming up to Christmas again and on Monday 8th December between 6pm and 9pm it will be the Thornhill Christmas open night - usually well worth a visit with late night shopping, street stalls and a special visit from Santa.

I can hardly believe that it is this time of year again, I haven't entered in to the spirit of things yet but I'm sure I'll get round to doing some shopping some time soon and with the current climate the way it is it is important to try and shop locally if you can.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their support over the last twelve months and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gill Dykes

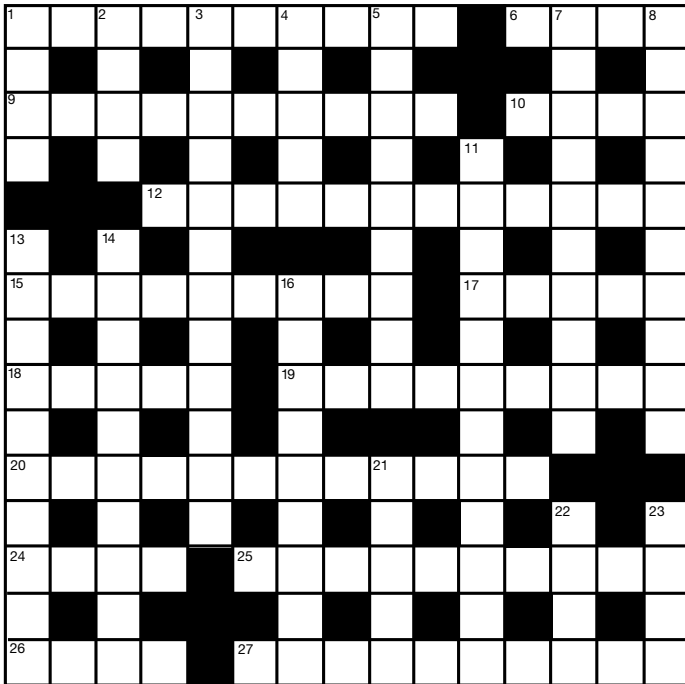
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1. Singer of popular Christmas song (4,6)
6. See 5 down
9. Bond urged not to say this (5,5)
10. Hair-style (4)
12. How a colour or sweetener may be used in cooking (2,2,8)
15. Obsession with fire (9)
17. Year-Book (5)
18. Ars Gratia \_\_\_\_, Film company's motto (5)
19. Has no confidence in (9)
20. 'ow a Cockney might describe someone he relies on for help (2,4,6)
24. Greek Letter (4)
25. Shrubby plants popular at the Christmas season (10)
26. Notch (4)
27. Positive statements (10)

### Down

1. Is 007's word his \_\_\_\_? (4)
2. Main part of church (4)
3. The height of the festive season (9,3)
4. A kist o' whistles (5)
5. and 6. across. Children's party game (5,4,4)
7. It leads to undue advantage over rivals (10)
8. The moss plant is (10)
11. A falling-out (12)
13. Scrooge saw more than one (10)
14. One of the three R's (10)
16. The bare facts have \_\_\_\_ (2,7)
21. A dainty girl, (US) (5)
22. Single performance (4)
23. The Thames at Oxford (4)

### Last issues answers:

**Across:** 1. Pauline; 5. Coup; 7. Steam; 8. Tannic; 10. Opus; 11. Triangle; 13. Fulfil; 14. Inlays; 17. Computer; 19. Over; 21. Affirm; 22. Curio; 23. Zing; 24. Theseus. **Down:** 1. Post Office; 2. Unequal; 3. lamb; 4. Exhort; 5. Contains; 6. Using; 9. Censorious; 12. Misusing; 15. Adverse; 16. Hermit; 18. Mufti; 20. Acne.

**Last issues winner was Audrey Wilson, Dunreggan. Congratulations Audrey your prize is in Moniaive Post Office.**

## Caption Competition No 39

Sponsored by Julie's Hair & Beauty Salon



Photo: Sue Grant

*"They're gonna need a golden eagle to scare that away!"*

Can you come up with a funnier caption?  
If so, please leave it in the Gazette box in Watson's Stores by January 20th.

The prize is a box of chocolates from the PO courtesy of Julie's Hair and Beauty Salon.

## Caption Competition No 38 winner

The winning caption from Margaret St John-Frear, Penpont, is: *"So that's what they mean by pole position."*



Photo: Sue Grant

## A VERY BIG THANK YOU

With the demise of the Post Office the Gazette 'box' will be moving to Watson's Grocers. I would like to thank Sharon, Paul, Lorna and Helen at the Post Office for their unstinting support for the Gazette over the past 9 years. They have acted as the unofficial drop-off and collection point, allocated prizes, collated information and generally helped in any way they could. I really appreciate all you have done for the Gazette – THANK YOU. The Gazette would also like to thank Julie's Hair and Beauty Salon and H&S Property Solutions for their continued support of the competitions. Thanks also to Mary for taking the time and trouble to devise the wonderful crosswords each issue and to all the unsung volunteers who collate and distribute the Gazette to your door, whatever the weather!

Sue Grant

*CoCaMaya*

Coming soon –  
chocolates, hand made in Moniaive  
from Mexican cocoa beans!

**Watch this space**

**DECEMBER**

**Monday 1st** Glencairn Community Council Memorial Institute 7.30pm. All welcome.

**Thursday 4th** Glencairn History Group A talk by Norman Anderson on 'The Buchanites'. The Galloway cult with a Stairway to Heaven. 7.30pm Memorial Institute. Members £1/non members £3. Refreshments. All welcome.

**Thursday 4th** Community bus trip Lanark, New Lanark experience (£7 entry), garden centre. Moniaive 10am. £6. 01387 820877/820236.

**Friday 5th** Launch of new Moniaive website Moniaive Primary School 7pm. All welcome, hands on experience.

**Friday 5th** Winterfest Moniaive Primary School 8pm Free concert by Wing and a Prayer.

**Friday 5th** Winterfest Session musicians and Wing and a Prayer in Craigdarroch Arms 9.30pm.

**Saturday 6th** Moniaive Primary School Xmas Fayre. 10am to 12pm at Moniaive Primary School. Please come along and give us your support.

**Saturday 6th** Winterfest – All on a Winters Night Johnny Coppin, Paul Burgess and Mick Dolan at St Ninian's Church Moniaive, A feast of songs, carols, stories and folklore 7.30pm. Tickets £10/£8. Afterwards at Craigdarroch for mulled wine and mince pies. Hugh Taylor 200474.

**Saturday 6th** Community bus trip Carlisle, Xmas market/shopping. Moniaive 9am. £5. 01387 820877/820236.

**Sunday 7th** Service 11.45 St Ninian's.

**Sunday 7th** Christmas lights switch on 5pm at Tynron Hall: involves a few carols, a song from Emily Smith, a mince pie and the usual Tynron cheer.

**Thursday 11th** Moniaive Primary School Rag Bag Collection. Please hand in any donations to the school week beginning 8th December.

**Saturday 13th** Community bus trip Glasgow, Silverburn shopping centre, transport museum. Moniaive 9am. £7. 01387 820877/820236.

**Saturday 13th** Christmas sale and lunch St Ninian's from 12-2pm. Holly wreaths, baking, tombola, gifts, lucky dip etc.

**Sunday 14th** JaM Nativity Service 11.45am St Ninian's. Evening service in Dunscore 7pm.

**Friday 19th** Moniaive Primary School Christmas Service. 11am at St. Ninian's. All welcome.

**Sunday 21st** Lessons and Carols 11.45am St Ninian's.

**Monday 22nd - 24th** Church open for personal prayer and reflection. 1-4pm daily.

**Wednesday 24th** Christingle Family service Dunscore Church 4pm.

**Wednesday 24th** Watchnight service Glencairn 11.30pm.

**Thursday 25th** Christmas service Dunscore

10am.

**Sunday 28th** Joint service with Dunscore at St Ninian's 11.45am.

**Wednesday 31st** Tynron Hogmanay Ceilidh Tynron Hall from 8pm with the 'Backroom Boys'. Adults £10, at school £5. See ad page 20.

**Wednesday 31st** The Dangleberries at the Craigdarroch. Tickets available now. Gary 200205

**JANUARY**

**Thursday 1st** New Year's Day Ceilidh Memorial Institute, Moniaive. 8 till late. Traditional ceilidh band, full bar. All welcome. Moniaive Gala. Sue 200331.

**Sunday 4th** Service in Dunscore Church 10am and 7pm. The Sacrament of Holy Communion included in both.

**Monday 5th** Glencairn Community Council Memorial Institute 7.30pm all welcome.

**FEBRUARY**

**Sunday 15th** Moniaive Gala Annual Duck Race Racing of the ducks from the garages Ayr Street 2pm followed by soup and refreshments in the Institute. Moniaive Gala. Sue 200331.

**MONIAIVE REGULAR EVENTS**

**Darts** Craigdarroch Arms Hotel, Moniaive. Gary 200205.

**Carpet Bowls** Tuesday evenings George Hotel, Moniaive. Robin 200203.

**Pool Competition** Thursday evenings George Hotel, Moniaive. Robin 200203.

**Book Reading Club** Fourth Thursday of month, Craigview, 7.30pm. Muriel Young 200318.

**Yoga** Wednesdays 7.30pm, Memorial Institute. Carol Godridge 200681.

**Bells of St Ninian's Handbell Ringing** Mondays meet 7.30pm in St Ninian's Nan Tait 200403.

**Kickback Martial Arts** Weds 5-7pm Memorial Institute. Ages 5 to adult. Just turn up.

**Happy Hour Quiz** Every Sunday 5-6pm The George Hotel. £1 per head – winner takes all!

**Easy-obics** Thursdays Institute 11am-12pm.

**Wallaceton Carpet Bowling.** Monday 7.30pm. Wallaceton Hall. Bob Graham 01387 820288.

**Glencairn Community Council** First Monday of month, Memorial Institute 7.30pm. All welcome. Robin McIvor 200412.

**Glencairn History Group** First Thursday of month, Memorial Institute 7.30pm. Bob Martin 0777 2877443.

**Glencairn Memorial Institute Committee** Fourth Thursday of month in Institute. All welcome. Sharon Henshall 200201.

**Evergreen Club** Tuesdays 1.30pm Craigdarroch Hotel. Community bus available to collect. Call Jean Stewart 200599 or Betty McMillan 200453.

**Moniaive SWRI** Every third Wednesday 7.30pm, St Ninian's. Linda Stott 200325.

**Brownies** Memorial Institute, every Tues of term. 6-7pm. Marysia Zoltowska 01848 200072.

**Episcopal Service** Fourth Sunday of every month 9.30am Maxwellton Chapel. Tony Freeman 200150.

**Rock Solid** Fridays (term-time) Church run Club for 11-14 year olds. Glenriddell Hall, Dunscore 7.30-9pm. Christine Sime 01387 820245.

**Toy Library** St Ninian's Thursdays of school term 2-3.30pm.

**JaM ('Jesus and Me' Kids' club)** every Sunday (except school holidays) Redpath Cottage, North Street 11.45-12.45am. Children from 3 years up welcome. Third Sunday of the month is a family service at St. Ninian's. Contact Anja Lyttle 01848 200272.

**TYNRON HALL REGULAR EVENTS**

**Weekly Walks** Eunice Laidlaw on 200343.

**Tynron Carpet Bowling Club** Thursdays 7.30pm. Tynron Hall. Frank Irvine 200355.

**Tynron Community Council** Last Monday, odd months. George Freeborn on 200439.

**Tynron SWRI** 1st Monday of the month. Madge Rorison on 200305.

**Tai Chi** Fridays. Mary Newbold on 200379.

**Ceilidh Dancing Classes** Every Tuesday 8.00 - 10.00 pm. £3. Mary Newbould on 200379.

**Wishing all our readers a  
very Happy Christmas and  
a Prosperous New Year**

**BOOKING CONTACTS**

**Cairn Valley Community Transport** Charlie McAllan on 01387 820877.

**Glencairn Memorial Institute** Elaine Wilson 200725.

**Tynron Hall** Phil Armstrong 01848 200225 or 07967 049 792.

**Wallaceton Hall** Wendy Stewart 820241.

**COMING AND GOING**

**Mark, Sarah and family** to Largmore from Fellview, Dunreggan • **Paul O'Keefe and David Cripps** from Castlehill to Scour Water •

**DISTRIBUTION**

For distribution queries or to be added to mailing list please call Lynda or Perry on 200026.

**ADVERTISING**

Contact Sue Grant on 01848 200331 or email: sue@badpress.demon.co.uk.

**EDITORIAL CONTACTS**

We depend on you for news and ideas to fill the Gazette so please help by supplying diary dates, advertisements, articles and letters. These can be handed in at the Post Office or given to any of the people listed below.

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DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH ISSUE IS 20TH JANUARY 2009. Layout and editing: Sue Grant.

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial team. The group reserves the right to encourage the expression of a variety of views on subjects of interest to the local community.