

Glencairn Gazette

Issue 57

April/May 2009

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Unexploded Bomb?

In February, Mr and Mrs Machin started work on refurbishing Marlin in Chapel Street.

Whilst digging the garden Mr Machin unearthed an object which appeared to be an unexploded bomb.

The police were called and they in turn contacted the bomb disposal unit. After detailed descriptions and discussions it was decided that the object posed no immediate threat and was removed from the site. It turns out it was a marker used by the Navy during the war. How it ended up in a back garden in Moniaive is something of a mystery. Can anyone shed any light on the matter?

A police spokesman said, "If anyone happens to come across another similar item please leave it in position and let the appropriate people deal with it."



Darts - Open Pairs Competition

On March 7th the first open pairs darts competition took place in the Craigdarroch Arms Hotel.

The event, sponsored by Gary Henry, was a huge success with 26 pairs taking part. The prize was £200 donated by the Craigdarroch. It is hoped that a brewery can be found to sponsor a trophy for the event so it becomes a regular fixture.

Pairs from Moniaive and Thornhill took part with Thornhill winning by beating Campbell McIntyre and Cha McNeil of Moniaive in the final.

Alan Mensdorf

Defibrillator for Cairn Valley Practice

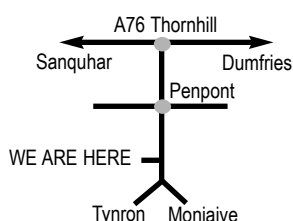
The donations given at Sharon Henshall's funeral totalled over £1,350 and this was given to Cairn Valley Medical Practice as a result of all the support they gave Sharon. The money will be used to fund an automated defibrillator for the benefit of all patients.

The Henshall family would like to thank everyone for their donations in Sharon's memory and for the support and kind words of the community.

Paul Henshall and family

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'Lights for Lambs' Project

With the lambing season now underway and the weather reverting to cold and snow, Dumfries and Galloway Council's Sheep Farming Department, the European Lambing Commission and the newly formed 'Lights for Lambs' Initiative have come up with funding for an innovative plan to reduce the number of lambs lost this year.

"Everyone knows that bulls and cows are attracted to bright colours and lights," said Lights for Lambs spokesperson Ralf Spirit. "What isn't realised is that so are lambs!"

Ralf went on to explain the new initiative: "Portable energy supplies are being fitted in all fields across Nithsdale and this will allow us to fit each ewe with a lighted collar which will help the newly born lambs to locate their mother and hence their feed source. It will also enable farmers to locate their sheep in the darkness."

Work is well underway but there is now a shortage of coloured bulbs in the region and this is where Glencairn can help.

At Christmas we were given strings of coloured lights to decorate the village; however, uptake was minimal and so we have a surplus. Ralf is asking for volunteers to attend a Lights for Lambs workshop in Moniaive where you will be shown how to attach the lights to the specially prepared 'Ewe Collars'. "It's a fairly simple task," he said, "very little electrical knowledge is needed but we do ask participants to bring along a Phillips screwdriver and to wear rubber soled shoes."

Once the collars are ready they will be distributed to farms across Nithsdale. Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association have also contributed to the funding of this project. Their spokesperson said, "We decided to get involved as it's a valid form of existential installation art – the fields of Nithsdale will be covered with moving coloured lights. We plan to film at night and set the piece to the music of 'Mo Mhollachd aig na Caoraich Mhòr' (My curses on the great sheep). This film will form the centrepiece of the Homecoming celebrations in Dumfries and Galloway."

If you are interested in helping with this project please meet Ralf at the Cross on April 1st at 2pm where you will be given further instructions.

Sue Grant

Post Office news

Sadly, the Post Office in Moniaive finally closed its doors at 1pm on Wednesday 25th February.

Prior to this Paul Henshall was busy getting ready for the auditors, holding a closing down sale (I was lucky enough to purchase the last batch of 'shrimps' – my all time favourite sweets which I'll sorely miss) and selling off fixtures and fittings as well as returning items that had been displayed in the Post Office windows.

Paul plans to concentrate on his design business – Cairnvalley Graphex with scanning and photo restoration work a speciality. More information can be found at www.digitalrestoration.co.uk and www.moniaive.org.uk. The Post Office reopened the next day in Watson's Grocers where space had been made by removing the instore cafe seating. Graham said, "The transition was fairly smooth although setting up the new computer system took time and it will take a while to learn everything it can do."

The installation of the cash machine for the Post Office is now in place but fans of the lottery will have to wait a while longer. Graham has applied to Camelot for the lottery machine but to date doesn't know if he has been successful.

Post Bank?

Tuesday 17th March saw the formal launch of 'The Case for a Post Bank' based on the Post Office Network.

The main aims of the campaign to set up a Post Bank are:

1. To build up a trusted financial system.
2. To strengthen the Post Office network by building up its business so that local economies are enabled to grow through the convenience of locally based Post Offices.
3. Universal Banking Obligation: to help the three million without bank accounts; to put trust back into the banking system.
4. To connect with other banks and credit unions, etc.
5. To do as other countries and set up a Post Bank.
6. To take the opportunity of the current crisis to radically re- design the banking system.

The launch was designed to demonstrate all Party support for the proposal and to build up to getting the Government to commit to setting up a Post Office bank. Glencairn Community Council will be discussing these proposals and implications at their next meeting. Your input would be appreciated.

Green Tea House Bistro

'The alternative place to eat'.

Reopening on May 4th the bistro is family friendly with children's specials, fresh homemade local cuisine, vegetarian specials, soups and tasty desserts. The menu changes weekly reflecting the availability of fresh produce. Bring your own bottle (no corkage charge). A takeaway service is offered, just call in and place your order. Opening Monday to Thursday evenings. Call 07752099193/01848 331272 for bookings and takeaway service.

Thistles Bistro & Steak House

Thistles Bistro at the Craigdarroch Arms Hotel, has reopened.

It is being relaunched in April as Thistles Bistro & Steak House, the menu had been updated and as the name implies will specialise in steaks! Owner Gary Henry said: "We now have two new chefs on staff and plan to hold special steak nights using meat from native breeds including Aberdeen Angus, Galloway's, Highland cattle etc. Watch for posters for the relaunch evening."

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New Noticeboard



A new noticeboard for the village, highlighting places of interest and information on local landmarks has finally been completed and erected in the car park.

The board has been three years in the planning by the Community Council and funded by a grant from the Community Trust. After much discussion about content and style the final artwork was produced by Sue Grant from information found in existing 'Around Glencairn' series of leaflets produced by Moniaive Action Project in 2001.

Photographs and text were supplied by Dave McFadzean, Hugh Taylor, Sue Grant and Su Palmer-Jones.

Two years ago Moniaive Primary School pupils took part in a competition to design a logo for Moniaive and Ella Shnapp's winning logo is the centrepiece of the board.

It is hoped the board will encourage visitors to stay a little longer in Moniaive, visit the places of interest and appreciate some of our local history.

Glencairn Community Council

Inventor awaits patents

Inventor Bob Johnston, from Dunreggan, has come up with two inventions which have both been published but are still awaiting the granting of a patent.

Both are eco-friendly and use recyclable materials in their manufacture and both ideas are connected to the Fishing Industry – Crustacean and Bi-Valve Molluscs.

One is to capture, minimising seabed damage such as that caused by trawling, and preserve juvenile stocks. This idea already has a granted European Design Protection Certificate.

The second invention is a life support system, which allows transport and life sustaining ability anywhere in the world, with sustainable power supplies and an ability to carry its own power pack where power supplies may be erratic.

Bob has been working on these inventions for about five years, inclusive of a very long period with the Intellectual Property Office where it is recognised processing any Patent will take at least two years.

"These inventions are the hub of a very much larger project," said Bob. "I have managed to locate funds, in principle, from an International Organisation. When they get round, to releasing funds (sadly, unlikely soon due to the current global financial crisis), I would expect to create a number of sustainable jobs, support the marine environment and improve Scotland's exports!" he added.

Obviously commercially sensitive details cannot be revealed by the Gazette but we wish Bob every success with this project.



three glens restaurant

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Tel: 01848 200057

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LUCKY MEAL TICKET!

ONE lucky reader will find, within the pages of this issue, a ticket for a meal for two from the pizza and pasta menu at the *three glens restaurant* in Moniaive.

To claim your prize and book a table call 01848 200057 and present your ticket to the restaurant. *Drinks and starters not included.*

Thanks to the three glens restaurant for sponsoring this item which will be a regular feature in the Gazette.

Windfarm Fund Proposals

After the article in the last Gazette asking for your views on retaining some of the windfarm money for use on 'larger' projects the Community Council received six replies, all of which nominated a project they felt was worthy of consideration.

These ideas will be looked at although, any applications for funding would have to come from community groups or individuals who could show support for such a project.

The three ideas to date are:

1. A renovation project for Moniaive encompassing both small and large local projects for example the refurbishment of the centre of the village and benches; replacing benches in Macara Park; attractive and appropriate street lighting etc.
2. Establishing a link/alternative route for the Southern Upland Way that would pass naturally through Moniaive.
3. 'Sustainable Moniaive' promoting projects that mitigate the effects of climate change which could include a gardeners network, a community market garden and an Economic Action Group to establish the basis of a sustainable economic plan for the area.
4. Reinstatement of the golf course in Moniaive to encourage youngsters into the game and attract visitors.
5. Purchase of a building for a heritage centre/museum to capitalise on local history, the Covenanters and links with artist James Paterson. Showcase for local artists.

6. The building of a dedicated changing room/gym in the Bottom Park to encourage football team back plus orienteering and other sporting events. Benefit to the school who with the new footpath could access BottomPark for sports events.

The Gazette and the Community Council would be very interested in hearing the community's views on these proposals. So write to the Gazette or contact a community council member and let them know what you think. The results of the latest wind farm allocations given out on March 31st are on page 11.

Sue Grant

New passing places on C116

Work has been completed on the back road (C116) to provide additional passing places and some bend widening at a total of 11 locations.

Work started on February 2nd and was expected to take three weeks. It overran somewhat due to the inclement weather.

The work was undertaken by Dumfries and Galloway Council with the support of the Community Council who felt there was a great need for passing places as this road is the designated route for wood lorries passing through Glencairn.

The Community Council was assured that the upgrading of this road was not an indication that wood lorry traffic would be increasing but just a response to the damage to verges and the difficulties being encountered by both the lorry drivers and other road users. It is hoped that the ten new passing places and improvement of the existing sites will help everyone.

Glencairn Community Council

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Film: Burn After Reading • Wednesday 29 April

Scotland on Film: The Movie • Saturday 2 May

Benny Gallagher • Friday 15 May

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Film: Changeling • Wednesday 27 May

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Gala Duck Race 2009

Photos: Stu Palmer-Jones



- The duck race in pictures.
 Clockwise from top left:
- a) Gala Queen Kayleigh ready to start proceedings.
 - b) Expectant crowds gather at the start.
 - c) Scott checks all ducks are in the dumper.
 - d) Away they go.
 - e) Craigdarroch Fishing Club members chase the ducks down the river.
 - f) Scott (magically transported to the finish line) awaits the the first duck.
 - g) Crowds cheer on their duck.
 - h) Helpers gather the ducks.
 - i) Gala committee members serve soup and teas after the event.



Winners were 1st: Athol Ferguson, Moniaive. 2nd: Danielle McGregor, Glasgow
 3rd: Philip Armstrong, Tynron

Thanks to all who took part and helped.



An apple a day...

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Fishing Club Successes

Photos: Sue Grant



On February 28th the Craigdarroch Fishing Club held their annual dinner dance and prize giving.

After a great meal the prizes were presented by Paul Lyttle and Wattie Yule



with lots of 'fishy' jokes by Paul.

Winners: The Invitation Pairs Trophy – Cha McNeill and Stewart Kennedy. Club Pairs – Brian Thompson and George Leech. Alan Nichol Memorial Trophy –



Brian Thompson. Challenge Shield – Bob Johnston. July Shield – Bill Lyttle. Club Championship – Bob Johnston.

The prize giving was followed by a raffle and then dancing into the night.

Blessing the Loch

Photos: Sue Grant



Jimmy, Craig, Wattie, Rab, Kenny, Cha, John, David and John toast the new fishing season.

Saturday 25th March saw the loch blessing ceremony where the fishing club gathered at Loch Skay to pour whisky into the depths – in the hope of making the fish dizzy.

Glorious sunshine, but a biting wind, greeted us. On the way a few roadside adjustments were made to the loader which involved eight men watching as one hit it with an iron rod. On arrival at Loch Skay the job of moving the shed to it's new concrete plinth was organised. This will be used to store and repair boats and act as a shelter in inclement weather. Then an overturned boat in the loch was hauled out. John was tasked with tying a



Left: John attaches the rope before being lifted aloft to oversee the landing of the boat to a critical audience.



rope to the boat to enable the loader to pull it ashore, despite his precarious position he didn't fall in (I had the camera ready in case).



Finally it was time to open the whisky, bless the loch and then a few drams to keep warm.

My thanks to the fishing club for looking after me and making me feel so welcome and I hope it's an excellent season for all.

Sue Grant

Letters to the Editor

Bridge

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to thank the community council for the construction of the new path from the football park to the school. As a mother of two young children who attend the school, it is fantastic to have a route which is free of traffic (tractors, vans, wood lorries etc) and is safe and fun for the kids. We and many others use it on a daily basis and it has made a huge difference to reducing the stress of getting to school safely. Thank you!

Sheelagh McKinna, Dunreggan



Photo: Sheelagh McKinna

Mary Stewart 1881

Thank you for listing my query on the Family Connections site of your website. I am looking for any information on a Mary Stewart who was born in Moniaive on 7 June 1881 - or possibly 6 July 1881 (the date was written down on a small piece of paper and I'm not sure if it's a British style date or American.) I'd appreciate any help your readers could give me. Thank you !!

Heather Wallace

h_and_sw Wallace@roadrunner.com

McQueen's uncovered

Hello Sue,

My name is Jennifer Brisk and I have an entry under McQueen on your Family Connections web site. My husband and I also stayed in one of your cottages during our visit to Scotland in April 2006.

I wanted to thank you for the listing and to tell you I have had replies, some of which have been very helpful and uncovered useful facts and, more importantly, previously unknown kin.

With best wishes

Jennifer Brisk, Australia

Miss Torrence?

My very dear friend and teacher had a cottage in Moniaive and when she retired from teaching she returned to her home. I visited just once shortly before Miss Torrence/Mrs Gray died. Miss Torrence was my inspiration and I would love to know if her niece or family is still alive and living in Moniaive. I have been living in Canada for the last 33 years and for the first time since 1972 am returning to Scotland. I am planning on coming to Moniaive to visit Miss Torrence one last time and if her family are still living in the village I would love to make contact. If you could assist me in telling where she may be buried or in any other way I would be most grateful. I know you probably have many questions like this and I hope that you will bear with me, as Miss Torrence was a key person in my life and without her I would not have become the person I am today. When ever I cook she is in the kitchen with me, even after all this time. Thank you for any assistance you can give me.

Regards

Anne Huffman (nee Light)

annelighthuffman@hotmail.com

Appin Lodge, Tynron

Hello, I am researching my family tree and Scottish history and find that my Uncle (Dennis Tochrane) was born at Appin Lodge in Tynron in 1937. Is it possible you have any information on Appin Lodge i.e. was it a family home, mother and baby home etc? My uncles father (Thomas Tochrane) was an insurance broker in Edinburgh at the time and I am trying to understand why his son was born in Tynron. If you can help with this or put me in touch with a local historian, I would be very very grateful.

Kind regards

Jayne Hatton

jaynehatton@tiscali.co.uk

Two tier seating

Dear Editor,

Could someone, preferably for the Building and Maintenance Dept of Dumfries and Galloway Council, offer an explanation as to the siting of the two handsome new seats at the Cherry Tree corner? Why is one fixed onto two paving slabs and the other on lower level tarmac?

Do we now have lower and upper seating arrangements, and how shall we define ourselves to qualify?

Yours sincerely,

Edwina Fletcher

Ayr Street, Moniaive

Accommodation needed for folk festival

We urgently accommodation for visitors to the folk festival. We're not looking for ensuite, TV's in rooms, tea making facilities or even the provision of breakfast. All we need are bedrooms.

It's an opportunity to meet some nice people, help the village and make a few pounds. So if you have a spare room and would be willing to provide accommodation over the weekend 8 -10 May let us know as soon as possible. We need to know how many beds you have, if you want to provide breakfast, if the accommodation is smoking or non smoking and what you want to charge per night. Please contact Hugh Taylor 200474.

HotchPotch – make some money!

Hotchpotch is offering you the chance to make some extra cash by selling unwanted goods.

There has been an excellent response and we now have a 'Bits and Pieces' corner with a selection of ladies clothes, jewellery, curtains, towels, bedding and lamps etc. Prices from £2 -£10. The idea is to let people have a chance at selling goods (a small commission is charged) with a time limit of two to three weeks, then unsold goods have to be uplifted so more people get the chance to sell their items. If anyone is interested please contact me first on 200157 (leave a message) or call in to discuss it. For larger items I hope to have a 'notice board' with photographs.

I have returned to my old job, as a Crossroads carer in the village, in an effort to make sure Hotchpotch remains in business. My shifts work well round the shop hours we should be open at the usual times of 11am - 4pm Tuesday - Sunday, closed Monday.

Jackie Goddard

Nithsdale Business Forum Survey

In view of the difficult economic climate we presently have to endure, Nithsdale Business Forum is conducting a short survey in order to gain an insight into how abnormal trading conditions are impacting on the local business community.

We would be grateful if you could take just a couple of minutes and complete the questionnaire. We shall be inviting all elected representatives to discuss the results at an open meeting in the recently opened New Cample Farm Shop on the A76 south of Thornhill, on 14th April 7.00pm. Your input is extremely valuable. No doubt, you'll have seen press reports that £750,000 is being made available for regeneration of businesses across Dumfries and Galloway and we are keen that members use their voices to say what they feel would make tangible difference.

The Survey can be accessed on www.networkun.co.uk/questionnaire.pdf alternately email Adfenco@aol.com and one will be sent to you.

Allan Davidson

Public toilets

After discussions between the Community Council and D&G Council the public toilets in Moniaive are now lit in the evenings.

Previously the light switches were in a locked cupboard accessible only by the cleaner. Now they are on a timer switch and should be on every evening. The issue of access to the disabled toilet is ongoing.

April Fool's Day

I hope you found and enjoyed this year's April Fool's Day story – Sue.

JOHN STOTT
JOINER

01848 200325

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Competition Sponsors Needed

New sponsors are urgently needed for the Gazette's Crossword and Caption competition.

Julie's Hair Salon and H&S Property Solutions have very kindly sponsored both these competitions for the past two years but now we need new sponsors from the next issue.

To sponsor the crossword costs £30 per year and the caption competition the price of 6 boxes of chocolates per year. For this your company name appears above the competitions.

If you can help please call Sue on 01848 200331. Thank you.

The George Hotel

Robin Edgar has been busy getting the George's rooms, kitchen and dining room refurbished ready for opening early May.

"The plan is to have everything complete in time for the Folk Festival this May," he said.

New windows and a log burner have been fitted in the function room and the small bar removed increasing the space. The kitchen has been revamped and the upstairs accommodation upgraded.



Athol's Stag Night

After winning the Duck Race Athol Ferguson carried on celebrating his impending nuptials.

He was then set upon, covered in oil and sawdust and let loose in the High Street. Thankfully he cleaned up nicely for his big day and he and Jenni were married in Gretna Green with family and friends attending.

Congratulations to you both.

Thornhill Station to reopen?

On behalf of the Community Council, myself and Duncan Saunderson, attended a meeting on 'Improved Transport Links to Thornhill' on March 12th.

Only key stakeholders were invited to the meeting. A survey of businesses in Thornhill had already taken place and Thornhill Community Council had a separate meeting. Cllr Dykes asked that Moniaive were invited to put forward a rural view along with a representative of Thornhill shopkeepers association. The remaining participants were from Colin Buchanan (the consultancy hired to oversee the project), Cllr Andrew Woods, and representatives from SWESTRANS, Network Rail, Scottish Enterprise and Stagecoach.

Thornhill Station closed in 1965 due to the lack of patronage. This new study is looking at options to improve transport in this area.. Those on the table for discussion were: *Option 1 – Enhanced bus services* 1(a) increased frequency to every 30 minutes from Thornhill to Dumfries; 1(b) enhanced service to local interchange points and long distance services. *Option 2 – Reinstated railway stations* 2(a) reinstate Thornhill station; 2(b) reinstate Eastriggs station; 2 (c) reinstate both stations. *Option 3 – preferred choice from option 1 plus preferred choice from option 2.*

Glencairn Community Council support the move to reopen Thornhill Station and these views were passed on to the meeting. The consultants will now produce their report and recommendations by the end of March. This will then be passed to the SWESTRANS board who will then consult with Dumfries and Galloway Council who will make a decision as to whether to take this further. Costs will then be identified and a detailed operational plan put forward. If there is agreement after this then funding will be sourced. A long process but hopefully one with a positive outcome that would benefit our region.

Sue Grant

Glencairn History Group AGM

The fourth AGM was held on March 5th. Following are edited highlights of the report From the Chair.

"I would like to begin by acknowledging the Group's sadness at the loss of Sharon Henshall in January, she is sorely missed.

"Our programme of talks has proved to be popular. Subjects have included: Tracing Family History, The 'Buchanite' Cult, Lead Mining, Galloway Doctors and Archaeology with a Metal Detector. At £1 for members, £3 for non-members and tea and biscuits too, a History Group talk is an inexpensive night out! These talks appeal to an audience beyond our membership indeed, three members signed on as a result of their interest in our speakers.

"My thanks to our treasurer Jane Murray Flutter. Activities have resulted in an income of £165 with expenditure of £103 – a profit of £62. Our bank balance at February 2009 was £842 of which £376 belongs to us. The remaining £475 is income from the sale of the 'Glencairn Memorial Book'. The Erskine Hospital received a donation of £1,500 from profits. We have contributed a glass display cabinet situated in the Institute meeting room to display objects relating to Glencairn. Tim Jones and Hugh Taylor have created a page for us on the Moniaive website and we have provided some basic information. Visitors to the page will be interested in family history or Annie Lawrie and we need to be able to tell them where they might find the information they seek or provide the information ourselves. We have also taken a stand at the Gala and organised a fundraising quiz.

"Some planned activities already taking shape. We intend to commemorate the Glencairn diaspora by taking a stand at the 'Homecoming' history event in Dumfries. The first volunteers will soon be interviewed for our long-awaited Oral History Project. The prospect of a local archeological dig is being explored. The first books have been donated to what, we hope, will become a history library for the Parish.

"When I sat down to write this, I was surprised to realise that this is our fourth anniversary. A lot has happened in the world since then; not all of it benevolent. It is heartening, therefore, to know that people can enjoy the pursuit of a common interest. If local history has taught us anything it is that no matter what happens, the world keeps on turning. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Group, especially Sandy and Rosalind Hall, Jane Murray Flutter, Helen Kelly, Duncan Saunderson, Frances Dunse, Evelyn Boyes and Paul Henshall. Also those who have donated time, money and effort to the cause. Peace be unto you all. It means a lot."

Bob Martin, Chair

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Windfarm Allocations

The allocation meeting on March 31st was to dispense the remaining funds from the year's payment received from Wether Hill. Payment to the fund is made to us once a year but we hold two allocation meetings in the year to allow projects started after the first allocation a chance to apply without having to wait a full year.

For this second allocation £10,000 remained in the fund after the awards given six months ago to groups within the parish.

This time round five applications were received for varying amounts from:

Moniaive Under 5's who were looking for £2,000 for toys/books, field trips, outdoor equipment, a computer desk, help towards a new heating system, wages, bird box and art equipment.

Moniaive Evergreens who requested £1,250 for a portable grit spreader which would enable pavements in Moniaive to be gritted by the community in bad weather, a battery operated table lamp for visually impaired members, help with hire of room for meetings and help with cost of their summer outings.

Glencairn Bowling Club were seeking £5,000 to purchase ground maintenance equipment which they currently borrow from a neighbouring group once a year. Having their own wold mean maintenance could take place monthly rather than yearly.

Mid Nithsdale Churches Youth Work Project were looking for £2,000 for help with transport for this newly formed youth group. Planned activities and weekly meetings would be held in Moniaive, Dunscore and Penpont in rotation.

Glencairn Singers Club requested £2,500 for hall and venue hire, rehearsal and workshop tutor fees, tutor travel expenses, conductor fees and performance expenses.

A total of £12,750.

At the meeting the following amounts were awarded:

Moniaive Under 5's – £1,000 reduced amount as the group were awarded funds from this years allocation earlier in the year. £500 to be spent on toys/games and the remainder for a contingency fund.

Moniaive Evergreens – £1,000.

Glencairn Bowling Club – £4,000

Mid Nithsdale Churches Youth Work Project – £2,000 .

Glencairn Singers Club – £500 reduced amount as this group were awarded monies from this years allocation earlier in the year.

Glencairn Community Council

Gala Barn Dance

Saturday May 23rd

8pm-1pm

Memorial Institute, Moniaive £3.00

The Bandidos • Full Bar

Please support your local gala

Pyjama Day

On Friday 13th March, Moniaive Primary School had a day called Pyjama Day for Red Nose Day.

Everyone wore their pyjamas to school. Even the Teachers wore pyjamas to school!

After the 'Pyjama Parade' Primary 5, 6 and 7 had great fun programming robots. Two men came in with laptops and robots and everyone was put in a group of three. Each group was given a laptop and robot and each group had to programme a robot and at the end the groups had to make them break-dance. Everyone had a great day and had fun.

Reporter David Kilgour



Photo: Sue Grant

World Book Day

On Thursday the 5th March it was World Book Day and at Moniaive everybody was allowed to dress up as a book character.



Gavin Wilson as Bob the Builder and the winner of P6/7 was Poppy McMillan as Goldilocks.

After lunch we had a contest to see who was best dressed in categories. These categories included P1/2/3, P3/4/5, P6/7. The winner for P1/2/3 was Isaac McMillan as Harry Potter. For P3/4/5 the winner was

Reporter Sean Wicks

May Day Fundraiser

Letters will be sent to all parents asking for their support. If you can help with donations for prizes, or could act as a judge please let the school know.

Reporter Tilda Borrowes

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Girlguiding

This week proved my theory on why I joined the Guides. I joined to be part of the community. As Tilda Burrows agreed, and quoted, she: "joined to

help the community."

You learn a lot at Guides but, the main ones are: how to make things, work in a team, respect others and look after the country. Some people want to be a Guider when they are older. Most though said that they thought it was more fun to be a Guide.

The only changes I would make to Guides is that more would be planned outside. This week the Guides were having fun as it proved by the statement that Anya Burrows (the planner of the party) gave us after Thinking Day, "I think people enjoyed themselves because from my view they looked as if they were having fun."

In the next issue there will be a few pictures that I would like to share with you about the Guides.

Reporter Amelia Snape

Alice in Wonderland

I think the production was great, nearly everyone was there.

Julie worked hard and all the cast worked well. I know this because I was here. Everyone was very good. My favourite scene was the Caterpillars, Harry was awesome and so was Eilidh.

Reporter Anya Borrowes



VISITING CHIROPODIST

Bobbie Grundy, SRN MSSCh MBChA

07717 394092
between 6 and 9pm

8th Moniaive Folk Festival



It's nearly Folk Festival time and we're getting organised for the annual invasion of musicians and it looks like being even better than last year.

Irish supergroup, Dervish are breaking off from their European Tour to play Moniaive. The Irish Dance troupe, Absolutely Legless, are making a welcome return and this year we also have a group of Appalachian dancer from Gloucester. If the weather is good they will be doing displays outside so watch out for them.

American singer Marilyn Middleton Pollock has been talked out of retirement and will be performing in both of the main concerts and running a singing workshop. Hilary James and Simon Mayor will headline the Friday night concert and the Saturday afternoon Children's Concert. Simon is also running a Mandolin workshop.

Add to that a host of exceedingly talented youngsters, lots of visiting musicians, pub sessions, talent concerts and competitions and we have what is now regarded as the finest small festival in Scotland. That's why Living Tradition Magazine will have a photographer here and the editor of the alternative music magazine Fatea is travelling up from the south of England.

The Folk Festival brings a lot of much needed income into the village. Its weekend like this that helps to keep the hotels, shops and restaurants open. It's also a great weekend so take advantage of it whether it's enjoying the free music in Hotels and Green Tea House or buying tickets and coming along to the concerts. Tickets are available from the Craigdarroch Arms or from Hugh Taylor 200474.

FRIDAY

CONCERT - THE MARQUEE 7-10.30pm. Applejacks Appalachian Dancers, The Singers Club, Alison Clelland, Marilyn Middleton Pollock, Sean and Robyn Gray, Hilary James and Simon Mayor
FESTIVAL CLUB - THE INSTITUTE 8pm - 2am with Fox face, Tom Snowball, Suzy and Karina, The Sons of Fergus, plus DJ's.

SATURDAY MORNING

PIPING COMPETITION 9am. Chanter Competition - St Ninians Church; Piping Competition - The Institute. WORKSHOPS

11am-12pm. Guitar -Masonic Hall; Whistle - Craigdarroch Arms; Bodhran - The Marquee; Singing - Maggie Macrae - Masonic Hall; Irish Dancing - Diane Newman - George Hotel Function room; Appalachian Dancing - Applejacks - St Ninians Church.

SATURDAY

CHILDRENS CONCERT - THE MARQUEE 2-4pm with Hilary James and Simon Mayer, Wendy Stewart and a cast of thousands - The Marquee. OPEN MIC CONCERT 2-4pm. George Hotel Function room. Hosted by Mary Kathleen Burke with Lizzie Nunnery and Simon Kempston. SATURDAY EVENING CONCERT - THE MARQUEE 7-10.30pm. Absolutely Legless Irish Dancers, Darcy Carson, The Late Jake Thackery, Marilyn Middleton Pollock, Dervish. FESTIVAL CLUB LATE NIGHT EXTRA - THE INSTITUTE 8pm - Daft O' Clock. Doghouse Roses, John Langan, James Ragbone, Wing and a Prayer, Wierdstringband, World Music DJ's.

SUNDAY

OPEN MIC CONCERT - The Marquee 2-5.00pm hosted by Doghouse Roses with Mary Kathleen Burke.

ALL WEEKEND SESSIONS

THE GEORGE HOTEL Function Room - Singers Only. Public bar and lounge bar - Musicians and singers.

CRAIGDARROCH ARMS HOTEL Public and Lounge Bars - Musicians and singers.

Private water survey

Researchers from the University of Aberdeen are undertaking research on the management of private water supplies on behalf of the Scottish Government.

They want the views of as many private water supply owners and users as possible. There is an online questionnaire, which should take no more than five minutes to complete.

If you are the owner and/or user of a private water supply, they would be grateful if you could fill in the questionnaire which can be found at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/~geo553/privatewatersupply/>

Responses will be anonymous and only the overall findings of the survey will be made available to the Scottish Government.

If you would like further information, please contact the project researcher Dr. Petra Vergunst 01224 272352. Email: p.vergunst@abdn.ac.uk or the project manager Dr. Colin Hunter 01224 273694. Email: geo341@abdn.ac.uk.

Creative writing course

Local writer Alan Grant will be joining Ian Rankin and Mark Millar as lecturers for a new creative writing course to be run from Napier University, Edinburgh.

Summer Gala Concert

After the acclaimed concert in June 2007 violinist Abigail Young and pianist Sophie Rahman, are returning to Glencairn Church for an evening concert on Friday 29th May. Wine and a buffet will be served in the marquee. Tickets are £10 and will be available from April. Watch for posters.

Alice in Wonderland

Photos: Sue Grant



Friday the 13th they say is unlucky for 'some'. And those 'some' were the people who missed the performance of Alice in Wonderland in St Ninian's Church.

Once again Moniaive Musical Theatre group put on a show worthy of a bigger stage. Set against the stunning backdrop produced by Rose Hall, Fiona Allardyce-Lewis and Magnus with amazing costumes by Leona, who scoured Dumfries and Galloway for materials with which she managed to perform miracles, and the choreography by Julie all added up to a feast for the eyes with many cast members sporting grins wider than that of the Cheshire Cat.

Despite being a well-known story the twists in the plot to allow for inventive songs gave it a new slant. The White Rabbit was cuteness personified matched only by the cast of Starfish made up from the younger members of the community. The three different sized Alices were all brilliant, easily ad libbing when the White Rabbit really was late!



Tweedle Dee & Tweedle Dum were magic, with young Rachel Shnapp eerily menacing during her flawless rendition of the Walrus and the Carpenter. Then there were the all singing and dancing 'flowers' who certainly made Alice feel small as she wandered between their stalks (legs).

Harry Cowan was once again brilliant as the Caterpillar, excellent diction with a magnificent singing voice to match, word perfect and in my opinion, although nowhere near as cute as a lot of cast members, the star of the show.

The young Starfish then returned to the stage as an Insect army and led by a bolshie 3inch high Caterpillar with attitude (Eilidh) who sang and danced. Young Lauren McKinna 8 years and 3 days old gave a confident and clear performance as the Tree with a fair number of lines to learn.

After the interval with tea and cakes supplied by the Church we moved onto the solo song and dance routine by the Cheshire Cat, resplendent in a shocking pink and purple striped costume. The Mad Hatter's Tea Party was superb with the Dormouse and March Hare helping to celebrate the un-birthday day. Alice, lost in the woods, was then serenaded by the Glencairn Singers with a multi-harmony version of 'All By Myself'.

A nice touch was the army of playing cards who instead of painting roses, painted 'noses' as it was Red Nose Day. Another natural was Katherine as the Queen of Hearts. She was both regal, scary and really rather mean and one of the few who had no need for a microphone! She was ably assisted by her King who tried to placate her throughout. The Trial, presided over by the Queen was nicely played with the characters shining through although it was the Queen who seemed to fill the church with her presence.

After the final curtain fell the cast took their bows to wild





applause and Julie thanked everyone who had taken part, helped and watched.

As it was Red Nose Day the cast then started singing promising to stop only when the collection buckets making the rounds were filled!

The major problem with photographing a musical/dance based production like this is that no one stands still long enough to get them in focus! These are the best pictures I could get from the 70 odd I took on the night – you had to be there!

Sue Grant



The Cast:

Alice: Darcy Carson/Clare Nicholson. **Small Alice:** Chloe Lancaster/Miami Smith. **Tall Alice:** Jenny Hutcheson/Sophie Lancaster. **White Rabbit:** Tamlyn Tait. **Mad Hatter:** Roy Goddard/Morgan Davies. **March Hare:** Johnny Payne/Kyna Hodges. **Dormouse:** Caitlyn Harley/Scott Nicholson. **Cheshire Cat:** Charlotte Kennedy **Dodo:** Anna Robson. **Tweedles:** Stu Hall & Ross Gibson/Sally Hutcheson & Rachel Shnapp.

Caterpillars: Harry Cowan & Eilidh Thompson. **Matilda:** Shaunagh Rennie. **Doorknob:** JoJo Hutcheson. **Queen of Hearts:** Catherine Braid. **King:** Robbie. **Tree:** Jessica Ireland/Lauren McKinna. **Lion:** Chelsea Johnston. **Rose:** Tilda Borrows. **Flowers:** Steph Wilson, Corrie Gracie, Jessica Ireland, Charlie Kennedy, Jamie-Lee, Laura Mushet & Anya Borrows. **Playing Cards:** Rachel Thompson, Amy Dykes, Sheelagh McKinna, Liz Hall, Patsy, Stephanie Wilson, Corrie Gracie, Jessica Ireland, Charlie Kennedy, Jamie-Lee, Laura Mushet & Anya Borrows. **P1-P4:** Georgine & Naomi Watson, Lauren & Heather McKinna, Catherine Philips, Ellie Arnold, Eilidh Thompson, Freya Gracey, Izzy & Flo Trower, Olivia & Millie Macklin, Lily Cave.

Julie would like to say a huge vote of thanks to all the cast; Leona, Pauline and Trisha for the amazing costumes; Rose, Magnus and Fiona for the props and backdrop; Christine for her support and the use of the Church; Moira McCrossan and staff for the use of the school and equipment and apologies to John Stott for forgetting his bill from last year... we will get it to you.

Julie would also like to let everyone know that the theatre group's wardrobe of costumes are available for hire for fancy dress parties, galas etc. Please call Julie on 01848 200257.



Beyond the March Dyke By Foreign Correspondent Doug Milne

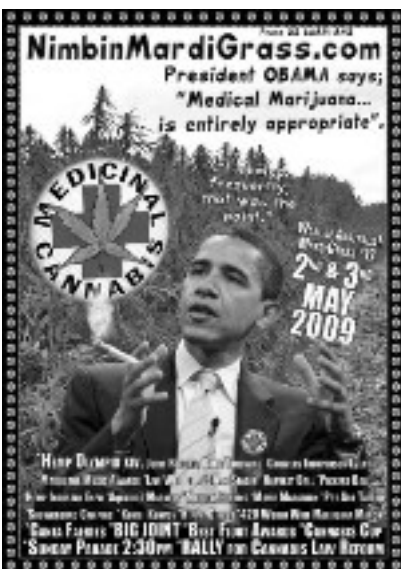
Byronshire

Less than 100ks south of the Queensland border in Northern New South Wales Byronshire is a long way from Albany in more than one sense. This area lies in the sub-tropics, warm and wet in summer, cooler and drier in winter, at the height of summer going for a coffee is enough to bring on a bit of a sweat. It rains here too, in short drenching showers, an hour later you are left wondering where all the water has gone. A farmer I know back in Albany describes this as "rich country", driving around the lush green hills I understand what he means.

As elsewhere in Australia some of the place names seem second hand – Lismore, Dunoon, Ballina, no prizes for guessing where the early settlers came from then. After felling the handiest of the local forests for their valuable timber, red cedar or red gold as it was known, they settled into an agricultural life, mostly dairy and beef farming. Until the 1970s that is.

Deep in the green hills, inland from Byron Bay, the village of Nimbin was home to the Aquarius festival in 1973. Billed as a counter-culture arts and music festival, the worm turned for Byronshire. Some of the participants stayed, Byronshire became a centre for alternative living, vegetarian restaurants thrived, activists campaigned on various fronts saving bits of rain forest from loggers and the coastline from developers. They even managed to stop the golden arches and co from setting up shop, waistlines are a little trimmer in Byronshire!

Although the Aquarians have mostly gone that age has had a lasting effect, the area is more diverse for it. The green hills are a patchwork of orchards, nut farms, sugar cane, banana and coffee plantations. The cafes sell locally grown coffee, fresh produce is sold at a network of local markets. Nearby Lismore houses the main campus of the Southern Cross University, whose motto is 'a new way to think', an American environmentalist I met in Albany describes this region as Australia's California. Nimbin is still here and celebrates all things grassy on the first weekend in May, (www.nimbinmardigrass.com).



ByonBay, the most easterly part of mainland Australia has become a mecca for backpackers and surfers, with the sub tropical climate, world heritage listed national parks and arguably the best beaches in the world who can blame them? Although a bit more mainstream nowadays Byron is a unique place – still no golden arches!

Last year the critic George Steiner described our time as 'an age of quackery that would

make the middle ages look scientific' a trip around the shire would confirm that – too many crystals wedged in too many chakras. Despite all the new age hocus pocus this is a progressive society.



A neighbour's pumpkin, about 400kgs of it, the fan is drying out the stem in preparation for a local show

The local council is currently proposing legislation to regulate holiday letting – the practice of buying property to rent out for inflated rates, imagine the council legislating against holiday homes in Glencairn! The state high school in Byron Bay is the leading academic high school from just north of Sydney to the Queensland border.

We are currently living in 14ks inland from Byron Bay in a village called Bangalow whose 1900s style high street is home to trendy shops, restaurants and the best coffee in Australia. Diversity is embraced here, this is Australia, at the local school, the kids stand and sing the national anthem at assemblies. The day after the recent bushfires in Victoria the children here decided they wanted to do something to help, they held a 'come to school dressed as something Australian day' and collected over \$2000 which the local Red Cross forwarded to the bushfire victims along with another \$20000 collected elsewhere in the village. Sometimes on the weekend after a meal in the local hotel, we walk home at dusk, after crossing the old railway line the raucous chatter of hundreds



of roosting parrots dies down to be replaced by the steady high din of innumerable crickets. Above us giant fruit bats entertain us with their lumpy flight in the warm night air, down by the creek unseen reptiles rustle the undergrowth...

(...sounds like an evening in Moniaive! – Ed.)

Nosy frog on the kitchen window

Cable Works on Dunreggan Brae

ScottishPower intends to lay a new electricity cable in Dunreggan Brae roadway. This cable will eventually replace the overhead line that presently oversails part of Dunreggan.

To complete the works, it will be necessary to close Dunreggan Brae to traffic for a period of time while excavations are carried out. The road closure will obviously be kept to minimum length of time. The dates of the road road closure are yet to be determined. Dumfries and Galloway Council have been consulted and will be issuing the appropriate notices. Meanwhile, if you have any concerns or questions, please contact Jim Harkness, Scottish Power Energy Networks 0845 270 0781 or 07753 62 5065. Email: Jim.Harkness@ScottishPower.com.

Robert J. Leighton Photography

Last year's Spring Fling was a great success for photographer Robert Leighton when his new studio in Kirkland had over 300 visitors. This year he is hoping the success will be repeated.

Robert was born in 1948, the youngest of a musical and artistic family. He was educated in Reigate, Surrey. After three years military service he studied photography at Brighton College of Art under the tuition of Bill Whittaker, where he obtained distinction and was later awarded Associate of the Royal Photographic Society.

For many years Robert worked in graphic design, social and fashion photography before going on to specialise in Industrial and Commercial, working for corporate clients such as Gulf Oil, Tarmacadam, BNFL and Nirex.

He later moved to the Lake District where he ran his own school of photography as well as lecturing at local art colleges. It was within the Lake District that he was able to pursue his real passion, that of black and white landscape photography and naturalistic studies, greatly influenced by the greats such as Ansel Adams and Edward Weston.

Robert moved to Dumfries and Galloway twelve years ago and here he has found inspiration to dedicate himself fully to working in this field. He travels throughout Scotland and to Europe and the USA.



Photo © Robert J. Leighton

Robert explains his motivation, "*We are all blessed with our destiny the day we were born. My destiny has no doubt been to relate to what I see through the camera lens, this is impossible without light. Great moments of our every day existence is the dawn light, observing this light, clean, clear and pure, not corrupted by atmospheric interludes of industrial and commercial pollution, and being able to capture these moments of special inspiration as a photographic record, yet by the same token at the end of the day, by the warm atmosphere of evening light, we are able to record the same scene in a completely different way.*

"Our lives are all governed by that truly magical moment in time (if we are lucky) of light and the perception of that light into a picturesque record (on film or other means) by the use of that 'Magic Box' called a camera! It is not what device you use to capture these moments but how you perceive the light and adapt it for that preconceptual image hanging on the gallery wall.



**Robert J. Leighton
Photography**



weddings, portraiture & social functions

Townhead of Glencairn, Kirkland,
Moniaive, Dumfries & Galloway DG3 4HD
Tel: 01848 200214 Fax: 01848 200729
Mob: 07770 417527
enquiries@leightonphotoart.co.uk
www.leightonphotoart.co.uk

What we see in this world is an abstraction of light, shade and perspective – for us to misconceive what we see is to break the cameras strongest point – it's authenticity."

The Gallery is situated at Townhead of Glencairn, Kirkland, Moniaive and will reopen in May for Spring Fling.

Robert is available for weddings, portraiture and social functions and can be contacted on 01848 200214 or 07770 417527. He can be reached by email at enquiries@leightonphotoart.co.uk or check out his website at www.leightonphotoart.co.uk.



Photo © Robert J. Leighton

Iain Howat

Electrical Contractor

Whitedyke Farm, Dunscore, Dumfries

Home: 01387 820330

Mobile: 07710 779994

Meeting with a Rogue Horse Dealer

My only son, Peter L. Black, died in July 2001. He was a motor engineer by trade and holder of C&G and H.N.C. craftsman certification.

His hobby was making horse-drawn rally carts, gigs and wedding carriages, and he produced some excellent models. He was also keen on horse driving and competed at Drumlanrig and qualified for Windsor. He kept good horses and equipment for these events.

Photo courtesy of Jim Black



On the day of my sons funeral, at the refreshments afterwards in a local hotel, I was approached by a man whom I had never met before, he said he wished to buy one of the horses, rally carts, carriages, harness, transport lorry and other equipment. He said he would pay in cash. No problem, thousands of pounds were involved. I told the man that, having just buried my son, I was not prepared to discuss business then but if he wished to contact me and come up a week later we might have a deal on the items mentioned.

He apparently knew my son quite well and was keen to buy one of the horses, a 15 hand Bay Gelding, home-bred and bomb proof. He wanted to take him on trial, therefore I gave him two weeks with the animal which was a common trial period in the horsey world, and, if he was suitable and proved sound I would expect payment soon after the trial period and one week was stipulated. But a month later I was still waiting for payment and so got in touch with him. He was very plausible and full of excuses about having to see the bank about withdrawing the money, as we had come to an agreement on the price the transaction was simple.

But another two weeks passed and still no sign of payment and so I telephoned his home in a Dumfries & Galloway Housing estate. He was never about and had his family trained to tell lies like himself.

Solicitors letters were sent but he paid no attention to them.

I started to track him down. I knew the vehicle he was driving and caught him at his rented stables near the Nunwood area. It was apparent he only wanted the horse as the rest of the carriages and equipment were never mentioned. After chasing him with no result I came to the conclusion he had no money and just talked about getting a bank loan and further lies that never came to anything. I was getting angry with this con merchant and tracked him down again to his house, he went in the back door, I followed soon afterwards, knocked on the door but there was no reply. I opened the door and shouted for him to come out, again, no reply (he was hiding). It had become obvious he wanted the animal but was not prepared to pay for him, I had met a Rogue Horse Dealer, therefore I would make plans to have him sorted out.

I knew where the horse was with other, probably stolen, animals near Maxwellton High School, in a field rented from D&G Council. I was curious to know the person who owned the fields on the other side and I was going to find out. I went to consult a farmer land owner friend near NewBridge and we took a run over to look at the gate which had heavy chains, padlocks and pins hammered over the hinges, there was no chance of entry – the Rogue had it well secured.

My friend said not to worry, as the fields on the other side belonged to him. My luck had changed and he took me along the Irongray road and down through two large fields to a thorn tree near the bottom. This was the spot where the repossession would take place at 6pm the following evening. With my friend's vehicle and horse trailer along with some brawny boys (should there be any trouble) and with a staple remover and claw hammer the fence was dismantled, the horse taken out and boxed ready to go, the fence replaced and all done in 20 minutes. Job well done and horse away to his new stabling at New Bridge.

Next day the Rogue Horse Dealer had the audacity to report the horse stolen to the Dumfries police. I received a phone call via the grapevine to say this had happened. I took swift action and telephoned the Police Headquarters. A female police officer was dealing with the matter, but she was on night duty but I obtained her full name and rank. I was in touch with her that night and explained the situation – that the horse had never been paid for and had been repossessed and if the officer wished to see the horse he was at New Bridge Stables. She seemed happy with my statement but to clear up the incident she went to see my land owner friend who could corroborate my story and so the matter was closed.

There are no names mentioned in this true story, only the name of the late Peter Black, the original owner of the horse. Only some reference to places in the story. I am a very trusting person but that evil scum gave me some sleepless nights trying to steal that animal.

The Rogue Horse Dealer was eventually sorted out and his name is mud in the Horsey world. Lucky for him he was not locked up.

Jim Black, Sawmill Green

POLICE MATTERS... DNA SWABS BEING ANALYSED

The last article I wrote covered the break in at Nethertack, Moniaive. The feedback from the local community, on who would be responsible for the damage and the intrusion to this lovely property, has been disappointing. I hope that, as a result of the DNA swabs taken and sent to the laboratory for comparison on the database, we do get a positive result. So I hope the person(s) responsible will be reading this article not knowing if the next time they see the police they will be standing on their doorstep with a warrant for their arrest. I really hope that person(s) who do know the identity of the offenders don't have their houses targeted next before the laboratory results come back.

Talking of anti social behaviour, a term now used to cover a multiple of sins, the Ramblers Association, Organised Hillwalkers and the Forestry Commission have all gone to great lengths to put in place paths surrounding our villages so people can enjoy the beautiful countryside we have. But still we get the minority that do stray off the paths onto other peoples property and destroy man made bridges and moats much to the annoyance of landowners. There are so many people in our areas that do enjoy the walks so if you do see someone straying from a path perhaps a friendly reminder to get back on the path would be great.

As you will have seen the double yellow lines in the centre of the village have been renewed for everybody's safety when parking, loading and unloading. If you have to stop your vehicle in this area, for any reason, instead of walking or using the large car park, just be aware that we do patrol the village regularly and the Community Council are very keen that we continue to issue tickets to inconsiderate parkers and vehicle users. Local businesses could perhaps advise delivery drivers and make them aware of the regulations.

The diesel thieves are still very active in our area so let's get our machinery and fuel tanks secured or locked away.

If there is something you feel the need to tell the police about here is a reminder how you can contact us, our telephone number is **0845 600 5701** or free to **Crimestoppers 0800 555 111** or send me an email in confidence to robert.mchenry@dg.pnn.police.uk.

Robert McHenry

Book Aid

"If education is the road out of poverty, books are the wheels needed for the journey" – Richard Crabbe.

As part of the centenary celebrations of Girlguiding UK a number of charities have been chosen for support. The Dumfriesshire Trefoil Guild has chosen two of these: one is Book Aid International which sends books which have been donated by publishers, to sub-Saharan Africa. Here they are distributed to libraries in villages, schools and refugee camps, to help stimulate education programmes.

A successful soup and pâté lunch was held by Jane Murray-Flutter and Rosalind Hall on 13th March. They would like to thank all who were able to attend, as well as those who sent donations.

A cheque for Book Aid is on its way via the Dumfriesshire Trefoil Guild. Other fundraising events are being held in the county by Trefoil Guild members.

As they say in some parts of Africa – Ubuntu.

Brotherston shows his True Colours

Moniaive artist Melville Brotherston has a new exhibition called **True Colour**, featuring oils, pastels and watercolours. The exhibition runs from 1st April-16th May at **Thomas Tosh in Thornhill**.

The exhibition celebrates Melville's fascination with colour and light and he captures the beauty of the Dumfriesshire landscape with work specially undertaken for this exhibition.

"There are various reasons why 'True Colour' is a good name for this exhibition," says Melville. "For me a picture needs to contain a certain amount of drama, to involve the viewer and hold their attention. It is something like a journey using light, tone and colour to express the mood of the picture."

True Colour is also a reference to the way Melville paints. He doesn't use the customary earth colours that come straight from a tube. Instead, Melville produces his own colours with his palette based on primary colours, which are darkened with secondary colours to obtain the clean colour he desires.

"I allow the colours in my paintings to achieve a maximum contrast, by juxtapositioning them. This sometimes means that the colour in the painting is not necessarily the colour that I see when the subject is in front of me. The whole painting is more important than a literal representation," he explains.



Nith Landscapes exhibition

Four local painters—Chris Davies, Mary Triffitt, Ed Slater and Fiona Allardyce-Lewis take their inspiration from the River Nith and the bewitching valley it cuts through.

Chris Davies uses mixed media in his portrayal of the river and its surroundings. Mary Triffitt hones down colour to create an atmospheric sense of the valley. Ed Slater's Nithsdale paintings need to be seen to experience the dramatic effect of light hitting his canvas and Moniaive's Fiona Allardyce-Lewis uses the inspiration of Homecoming and Nithsdale in the narrative and landscape paintings that adorn the keepsake boxes she has specially created for this exhibition.

The four artists will be present at various times to talk about their work and Fiona will be running a workshop during the exhibition.

The exhibition runs at Thomas Tosh, Thornhill from Monday 18th May-Sunday 14th June.

Please visit www.thomastosh.com for further details.

More Gallantry in the Great War

In the foreword to a book about the D.C.M.s won in the 1914-18 war, Major Sir Torquill Matheson wrote: “The Distinguished Conduct Medal for an action in The Great War is a highly prized medal to possess, for there is usually a fine story to go with it – the citation.” He goes on to bemoan that some citations, if not lost, have been mislaid and are not to be found in the expected publications.

Sometimes, as with **James Wood**, the local newspaper gives the best account of what took place. In October 1915, James, a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps, wrote home to his parents, Mr and Mrs Walter Wood in Dunreggan – “Well, father and mother, here is a bit of news that you may be proud of. Out on the field of battle I have been recognised for bravery under open fire, by exposing myself for the purpose of rendering aid to my comrades. Much to my surprise yesterday the Brigade-General sent for me, and told me that he had been instructed to decorate me with the D.C.M. for bravery in the field – that is next to the V.C. I never knew anything about it, and could not understand what he wanted me for, so you may guess my surprise. I only thought I had done my duty to my comrades, but it is nice to think that the matter had been noticed by my superior officers on the field. So it is some reward for all my suffering.”

Private Wood, who had travelled from Canada to enlist, was severely wounded in the hip and had to return to Britain where he worked in the stores in Shorncliffe in Kent.

James Reid, whose father Mr Charles Reid lived in Chapel Street, Moniaive, was serving in the grenade company of the 6th Battalion The King’s Own Scottish Borderers, when he was wounded in the thigh in September 1915. By 1917 Private Reid had transferred to the 9th Battalion The York and Lancaster regiment and won not one but two Military Medals. His commanding officer’s recommendation for the bar to his medal was: “Whilst holding the line Private Reid carried messages from company to battalion headquarters. The enemy’s shelling was never heavier, and often under a very severe bombardment this



*Private James Wood,
Royal Army Medical Corp*

private brought important information to headquarters in record time. He distinguished himself on one occasion when it seemed impossible for anyone to come through the enemy’s barrage, and this man appeared with important information. Although told that he had better wait at headquarters and return later to his company, he promptly volunteered and went straight back to his company



*Private James Reid,
York and Lancaster Regiment*

commander and was of the greatest help to him. His disregard for his own personal danger and his general conduct was an excellent example to all ranks.”

An inquiry to the museum where the records of the York and Lancaster regiment are held was disappointing. “Unfortunately, we do not appear to have any information on him. He is not in the medal lists, the histories, the databases or the magazines. This appears to be an oversight in the 1920’s when they were written.

“The dates of the awards seem to suggest that the original MM was for actions at the battle of Messines in June 1917, and the bar for the battle of Menin Road in September 1917.”

Sergeant **William Brown**, “rushed a German machine gun position and managed to capture it along with a few of his men, and had been recommended in consequence for the Military Medal.” As he was fatally wounded and Military Medals are not awarded posthumously, his gallantry was not recognised.

An exception to this rule seems to have been Private **James Laidlaw** who “met his death on the 24th August, 1916, whilst he was engaged bringing in wounded comrades somewhere in France. In recognition of this act of bravery, a Military Medal has been awarded.” Although he was a Durisdeer man, his mother, Mrs Agnes Laidlaw, had come to live in Dunreggan.

Prior to being commissioned into the Royal Engineers, **John McNaught**, the third son of the Moniaive shoe maker, Mr Peter McNaught, “who has already been twice mentioned in despatches, has now been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for valuable services rendered with the troops in France.” This was in June 1917.

A.B. Hall

Sources:

Dumfries and Galloway Standard; Letters of a Durisdeer Soldier edited by John B. Boyle, second edition; *Recipients of the Distinguished Conduct Medal 1914-1920*, R.W. Walker 1981; *Letter – Clifton Park Museum, Rotherham 11-6-2001.*

Note: The photographs have kindly been provided by Dumfries Library.

Around Loch Ossian from the West Highland Line

Photos © Dave McFadzean



This walk involves a trip to the highest point on the West Highland Railway to get to the start. Cars can be left at Bridge of Orchy Station or Rannoch Station in the south or at Tulloch in the north. The start point is at Corroul Station highest point of the West Highland Line.

It is quite culture shock to step out into the desolate wilds of Rannoch Moor for the first time but no worries this route is all on land rover tracks with no real navigational difficulties. At 1340 feet above sea level it is pretty high up here and almost at the same height as Wanlockhead, Scotland's highest village. This is deer stalking country and it advisable to check with the estate before walking on any hills during the shooting season. This walk though is low level and doesn't present any problem.

As the track leads away from the station you climb over a rise and the view down Loch Ossian opens up. After the junction where you keep to the right fork you will see Loch Ossian youth hostel nestling on the edge of the loch. This eco hostel was in olden times the boat house for the big house at the other end of the loch. Passengers were picked up from the station by horse drawn carriage and brought here to await the steam yacht that took them up to Corroul in style. Nowadays the hostel is a haven for hikers and outdoor folks. Black throated divers can be seen on the loch and red deer stags have been known to come right down to the hostel.

The view from here up Loch Ossian to the Bealach Dubh of Ben Alder is truly magnificent. There is a role of honour in the

Photos © Dave McFadzean



hostel for those that run round the 7.5 mile of rough track in under an hour. I did it once in 58 minutes. I couldn't do it nowadays but it is far better anyway to take your time and just enjoy the view.

Follow the road up the south side of the loch that gets more wooded as you approach the new Corroul Lodge. This whole estate once belonged to Colonel Walker of Crawfordton House, Moniaive, until he sold it on to Sir John Stirling Maxwell. Sir John built a new lodge here and pioneered high-level forestry in peat. His experiments eventually led to the afforestation of much of upland Britain including much of Dumfriesshire and



Galloway. Work was also carried out here planting rare forms of rhododendron and some of these can still be seen along the trackside. The estate has seen many recent lavish improvements by the latest owners including a second new lodge (the first new lodge being burnt down during World War 11 by a careless plumber with a blowtorch).

The view down Loch Ossian on the way back along the north shore is framed by the great ridge of Leum Uilleim (William's Leap). Who this William was or why or where he leapt is not now known. At the western end of the loch there a grand views towards Ben Nevis on a clear day. Rejoin track going west to the station from here to finish an excellent introduction to the Central Highlands. If you are lucky the station restaurant will be open and you can have refreshments while you wait for your train back out to your car.

Distance: 9 miles Ascent: 500 feet Map: OS Explorer 385

Dave McFadzean



Start of Youth Project

A new youth group for 14 to 18 year olds started with a launch event on Thursday 26th February in the Glenriddell Hall, Dunscore. The group is supported by the Churches in Mid Nithsdale.

Nineteen young people came along to the first evening, with nine youngsters travelling on the community bus from Moniaive and Penpont. Corrie Telfer from the Council's Leisure and Sport Department organised sport activities for the first half the evening and later, everyone sat together, to enjoy some excellent food which was provided by a small team of volunteers.

The young people decided that, because 'Sesame Street' is already taken, they are going to call the group 'Skitter Lane'; this will evolve as 'SLYC' (pronounced slick) taking letters from Skitter Lane Youth Club. They also agreed to set up an organising committee to put together a programme for the group. It is already being planned that regular Club meetings will be supplemented by occasional trips, suggestions for which have been wide and varied.

To begin with SLYC will meet from 7.30 to 9.30pm on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in Dunscore and it is planned that the group will also meet on the first and third Thursdays in Moniaive. The community bus will be used to ferry youngsters to and fro.

The club is open to all young people between 14 - 18 years old who live in the Dunscore, Penpont and Moniaive areas. The meeting dates for Dunscore are: March 12th and 26th, April 9th - Easter Holiday, no meeting, April 23rd, May 14th and 28th, June 11th and 25th.

Moniaive dates will be announced as soon as they are confirmed.

The support of the Church and communities in Dunscore and Moniaive has been excellent with a strong team of volunteers coming forward to help lead the group. The local Community Police and Council Youth Work Staff have also been very supportive. Many thanks to all who have helped - it's taken a while to get there but we're up and running at last!

To find out more about the youth group or to volunteer to help provide food or to drive the community bus please contact Rona Gunnell (Dunscore) 01387 740326 or Dean Goddard (Moniaive) 01848 200322.

Dean Goddard

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

We live in interesting times! So many say they are bored, nothing to do but in Moniaive it seems there are always plans afoot; music, drama, walks, always something new. That means there are folk planning and plotting way ahead of time to make sure everything is in place. And that means it is easier for all others to gather round and take part – organisation.

As church folk will know, especially office bearers, organists, readers, and most especially, as all magazine editors will know very well, I am not good at planning ahead. I work to deadlines. Any ideas that do come tend to be at the 11th hour, meaning a concentrated effort to make them happen. And since it is Lent, I feel I should apologise to one and all.

However! We do have future plans for the church and planning is in hand (just about). We have a week retreat to Iona in September with 23 signed up, and booked in. And we have plans for Easter – a wee bit closer now.

On Palm Sunday we some of our young folk from JaM with us at the morning service (though some are away on holiday); and we have the Bells of St Ninian's. Music is chosen, and we will have a great service. During that week we have services for Holy Week at 1pm Wed - Fri in St Ninian's; and the church will be open 12 - 4pm and that is really where some forward thought has been placed this year.

You are welcome to come and simply sit with your own thoughts. There will also be three areas within the church where you will be able to sit/stand, read some thoughts on the week, listen to meditation/music; ponder some symbols. All designed, I hope, to help us remember what God has given to us, what Jesus has done for us, and what perhaps we might consider would be an appropriate response. The first response, of course, to give him some of our precious time within that special week.

When I think of my method of working (or not!) I give special thanks for the God who believes my life is too important for haphazard thinking from him. He made plans for my future. At the time of Jesus' death others were also making future plans - of death and destruction, spurred on by fear and hatred.

But God's future planning means my

future is secure with him. His thoughtfulness lets me know his love for me is absolute. And through this I believe that I have choices to make, that there is another way, that we can make the world more hopeful.

And we all have that decision to make, whether we have a faith or not. Do we plan to cut others down, to break them? Or do we decide to live well and treat other with dignity and respect.

For me, in faith, I also know that no matter what this world holds, his future plans for me are to know his total peace.

I hope you will come and join us for one/some/all our services this year and I pray you will discover the plans he has for you. They will only happen if we allow them to.

And will I ever be better organised? Well, miracles DO happen - but I wouldn't hold your breath on this one! Editors please check your emails on deadline dates!

And finally...

Football Commentators: Did they really say that? Oh had they but thought ahead!

"Forest have now lost six matches without winning." David Coleman

"Never go for a 50-50 ball unless you are sure 80-20 of winning it." Ian Darke

"Football today would certainly not be the same had it never been invented." Elton Welsby

"For those watching in black and white, Spurs are in the all yellow strip." John Motson.

"He dribbles a lot, and the opposition don't like it - you can see it all over their faces." Ron Atkinson.

...and really finally...

The diligent tourist spotted the inscription over the Sate Archives Building which reads:

'What is past is prologue.'

Turning to the young tour guide, he asked, "What does that mean?"

She replied brightly, "It means: You ain't seen nothing yet!"

Happy Easter – the day when 'all heaven' was let loose.

COUNCILLOR GILL DYKES

Glencairn Churchyard

Over the last few months I have been approached by a number of families raising concerns about flooding in the churchyard. In December, I went to see for myself and was shocked to see the amount of water cascading down the hillside and through the churchyard. I contacted the Council Parks and Burials section and one of their foremen came and took pictures, this was particularly useful as he could explain to the hierarchy what the problem was. We now have a new drainage system in place to reroute the water into a main drain and I hope that this will alleviate the problem.

Three Glens Restaurant - Burns Supper

At the end of February I was asked to speak at this event, which was being run to raise money for Judith's Memorial Fund in aid of Moffat Mountain Rescue.

Well that's not strictly true, Bobby Jess, who was arranging the speakers, said to Trev (my husband) that he was stuck for someone to do the reply to the lassies and did he think I would do it? Can you imagine the shock when Trevor told me that he had said "oh, I'm sure she'll manage" - Don't you just love it! I have never done any Burns in my life and was completely outwith my comfort zone. Anyway after a steep learning curve, where I spent a week reading all sorts of Burns books I managed to write my reply.

I was very nervous on the night, so much so that I didn't manage to eat my dinner, but it did look fabulous, and the other Speakers said that it was the best food they had had at a Burns Supper all year - well done to Jason the chef (who believe it or not is Maltese, but can still cook a haggis)

The night went well and everybody seemed to have a good time. There were lots of local people there which gave me plenty of content for my jokes - thankfully all taken in the spirit they were meant, and now that it is all over I have forgiven Trevor for dropping me in it. It is hoped that this will be an annual event and I for one am looking forward to being part of the audience next year.

Thornhill Station

The STAG report which the Minister for Transport requested at our meeting in Edinburgh last year is now complete and due back to the SWESTRANS Board this week, so by the time you read this we will know whether or not the consultants report supports the reopening of Thornhill Station.

I am delighted that there has been so much support from the Mid Nithsdale area for this proposal, both Glencairn and Tynron Community Councils along with Penpont, Thornhill, Carronbridge, Dunscore and Closeburn have sent letters of support. With the huge support from our local area it is disappointing to find that Councillor Wood no longer backs this proposal. However, I met with the Consultants in Glasgow last week along with fellow Councillors Jim Dempster and John Syme to put forward our views along with those of the communities we represent. I felt the meeting was very positive and they were extremely pleased with the feedback they had received from the Community Council.

I have campaigned for the re-opening of this station since I became elected in 2007 and will continue to do so, as I do believe that the reopening of Thornhill Station will have both transport and economic benefits for our area. I am very pleased to have received



Councillor Gill Dykes

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

Representing the Mid & Upper Nithsdale ward

many letters and emails of support from the Mid & Upper Nithsdale Ward.

I am grateful that the SWESTRANS Board supported by Council officials followed up on the possible reopening by appointing consultants to carry out this STAG report. I am fairly confident, that if the public opinion is anything to go by, the results of that report will be favourable..... but you should never count your chickens, so time will tell.

And finally.....

It is nice to see the start of spring, the daffodils and the lambs and at last some sunshine, even if it is still chilly. Hopefully by the time we see the next edition of the Glencairn Gazette we will see some of the long awaited improvements around the village being completed..... Like, for instance the painting of the bus shelter, the upgrading of the area surrounding the cherry tree and maybe even the new parking area in North Street as well as the filling in of some potholes in and around Moniaive and Tynron. On the pot holes please continue to report them to the Council and if you get no joy let me know.

Gill Dykes

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COUNCILLOR ANDREW WOODS

Andrew can be contacted on 01387820233 or 07736541676 or by email at Andrew.wood@dumgal.gov.uk



In the last edition of the Glencairn Gazette, I wrote about the consultation, on the leasing of Scotland's forests, to raise £200million pounds towards tackling climate change, while also increasing the planting of further ground per annum, to meet our required targets.

Many people responded with very legitimate concerns over the proposals and their views were extremely important within the consultation process, with this being clearly reflected by the minister's recent decision to review the climate change policy.

This adds credence to the genuine consultation that is now being undertaken by the Scottish Government on this and many other such policies, building a whole new kind of politics that has been lacking, in the past.

Moniaive Community must be congratulated on the completion of the new foot path that runs along the water, past the Scottish Water installation. Not only does this connect the east with the west of the village away from traffic, while creating a safer route for school children, but it also gives good access for both prams and disabled users.

Hugh Taylor continues to bring forward excellent music to our village, with the Paul McKenna Band playing at the Craighdarroch Arms on the 14th March and for those that missed this and looking to attend future events, please check out www.moniaive.org.uk. It's all up there, with new information continually being added.

Dunscore has recently been awarded the first village, "Fair Trade Award" in Scotland and has also just opened its new coffee shop, come local gossip centre, where you can relax with a good cuppa and enjoy the local chat of the day.

Auldgirth community is up in arms about the recent arrival of a fast food van, which is having a serious effect on the viability of the local shop and Post Office. This is due to Transport Scotland giving permission of lay-by use, without consultation with the community. This decision has caused a marked increase of use by HGV vehicles now accessing the lay-by, heading south, with others crossing the road heading north, to use the fast food service. This is a very fast part of the A76 and should now be treated with much more care, as these new dangers have been created through lack of risk assessment by Transport Scotland on change of lay-by use.

Next steps in the Core Paths Survey

The response to the core paths survey undertaken a few years ago was enthusiastic with around 60 people completing maps.

Local authorities in Scotland had to carry out a survey for the development of core paths under the new Access Legislation.

1. Summary Maps The initial maps produced by the survey have been summarised by the Council's Access Officer, David Clyne (01387 260 342). He has identified the key routes which are shown on a draft plan.

2. Informal Consultation Re-drafted maps showing the routes for Moniaive were on view at local libraries and in Moniaive Post Office windows. This consultation ran from 23rd February to 23rd March. Comment forms were available.

3. Formal Consultation The final plan will be developed from comments from the informal stage. From 29th June to 18th Sept there will be a statutory public consultation. The maps will be displayed for comment in libraries and on the Dumfries and Galloway Council website.

4. After the Consultation Once the formal consultation is complete Dumfries and Galloway Council will be work to address outstanding problems. Then the core paths will be agreed. A path designated as a core path will have a greater chance of accessing funding to improve it or to manage problems between land owners and those using the path. For example, a route identified as a core path will mean it is easier to get grants to replace normal field gates with self closing gates or to repair erosion or a worn out bridge.

Glencairn Community Council

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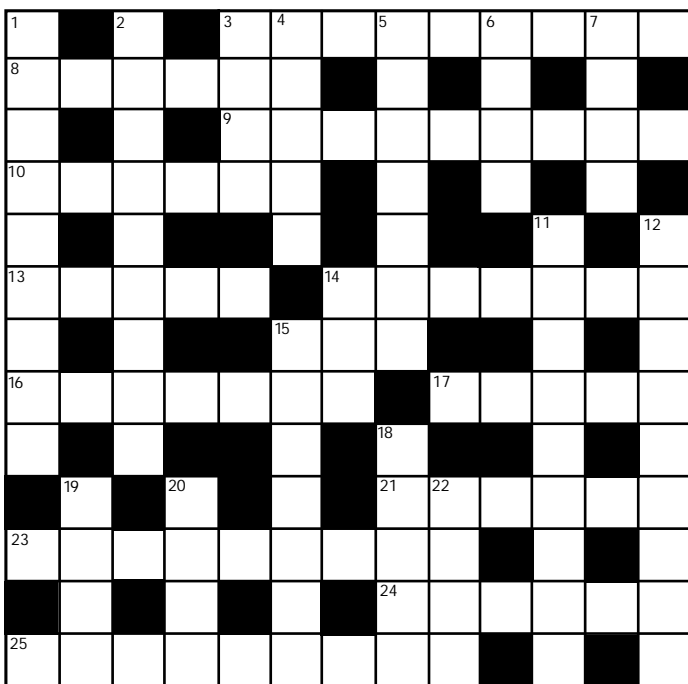
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Across

- 3. Work together (9)
- 8. Realm (6)
- 9. Move to and fro (9)
- 10. Taste (6)
- 13. Starry flower (5)
- 14. Mythological Greek heaven (7)
- 15. Cooker (3)
- 16. ___ off. Beginning (7)
- 17. Sacred plant inducing forgetfulness (5)
- 21. Loftier (6)
- 23. Tillers of the soil (9)
- 24. Submarine (1-4)
- 25. Road warning (5,4)

Down

- 1. Hikers' baggage carriers (9)
- 2. Field sports events (9)
- 3. Bald duck (4)
- 4. Beginning (5)
- 5. Cowslip family (7)
- 6. Depend upon (4)
- 7. Famous gallery (4)
- 11. Very lowly priced (4,5)
- 12. Fragrant kind of thorny flower (1, 4-4)
- 14. Ovum (3)
- 15. Oils (7)
- 18. Show indifference (5)
- 19. Comforting ointment (4)
- 20. Lazy (4)
- 22. International standard book number (1,1,1,1)

Last issues Crossword

Unfortunately two clues were missing from last issues Crossword. They are reproduced below. Because of this the deadline has been extended to May 20th. Next issue both this, and the current crossword, will be judged. Please leave entries in Gazette box in Watson's Stores by May 20th.

Missing Clues: 14 down: Be made up of (7)

18 down: Dishonesty (5)

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Caption Competition

No 41

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"Secret drinkers"

Can you come up with a funnier caption? If so,

please leave it in the 'Gazette' box in Watson's Stores by May 20th. The prize is a box of chocolates from the shop courtesy of Julie's Hair and Beauty Salon.



Photo: Sue Grant

Caption Competition No 40 No winner

Sculptor looking for temporary studio space. Barn or shed with light, electric and access to water call Lucianne on 01387 820472

Community Calendar – diary dates

With so much going on in Glencairn it's easy for events to double book. With no community calendar I am trying to get as many events as possible listed on the diary pages of the website, this will act as an aid for all of us planning events. If you have something planned, even if it's still in the planning stage please use the contact form on the website to let me know and I'll get your event listed. If you're planning an event a quick look at the website diary pages should show you what else is happening at that time. Remember if you have a business, are part of a group, want to sell something, have a house to rent or some news you want to share with the village please send details via the contact form on www.moniaive.org.uk.

Sue Grant

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GLENCAIRN & TYNRON DIARY DATES

APRIL

Wednesday 1st Life model in clay classes Wallaceton Village Hall 10am-4pm, Lucianne 01387 820472.

Wednesday 1st-16th May True Colours exhibition by Melville Brotherstone at Thomas Tosh, Thornhill.

Thursday 2nd Glencairn History Group Talk Sheila Crossthwaite from the Dumfries Family History Centre 'Researching Family History 2'. Moniaive Memorial Institute at 7.30pm. Members £1/Non-members £3. Refreshments. Bob Martin 07772 877443.

Thursday 2nd Cairn Valley community bus trip to Carlisle Shopping. Moniaive 9.15am. £5. 01387 820877.

Sunday 5th Service in St Ninian's 11.45am, with the Bells. of St Ninian's and JaM.

Wednesday 8th-Friday 10th Services 1pm short service in St Ninian's. St Ninian's Church open 12 noon - 4pm.

Wednesday 8th Life model in clay classes Wallaceton Village Hall 10am-4pm. Lucianne 01387 820472.

Sunday 12th Stage 3 of the Girvan Cycle Race passing through Moniaive around 12.45pm enroute from Girvan to Minnigaff. Over 100 of the UK's best road racing cyclists competing, part of British Cycling's 'Premier Calendar Elite Road Racing Series'. See www.girvanrace.info.

Sunday 12th Craigdarroch Fishing Club Annan Challenge Trophy Held at Annan.

Sunday 12th Service 8am service at Wallaceton Mast - meet at Manse 7am for a walk up. Bacon rolls back at The Manse after the service. 11.45am - Family service in St Ninian's; 7pm quiet service in Dunscore.

Thursday 16th Cairnhead Community Forest Trust Management Meeting: from 3:30pm at Forestry Office, Dunreggan.

Friday 17th Cairn Valley community bus trip to Carlisle area Houghton Hall garden centre and Gretna Outlet village. Moniaive 9.15am. £5. 01387 820877.

Friday 17th - Sunday 19th Book, DVD, CD and Tape Sale Tynron Parish Hall. Friday 5pm - 7pm, Saturday and Sunday 11am - 4pm Refreshments including traybakes, soup and rolls. Donations welcome, please contact Linda 200469.

Friday 17th Dave Burland and Jim Byrne at the Marquee Club.

Sunday 19th Tynron Walk at 11.30am. Linda 200469.

Sunday 19th Service in St Ninian's 11.45.

Sunday 19th Good Friday service in Dunscore 7pm.

Friday 24th Moniaive Primary School Quiz/Ceillidh from 7pm. Teams of no more than 8 but more than 4 but must include 2 primary children. Open to non parents (who can 'borrow' children for their team) and secondary kids. All welcome.

Saturday 25th Dalgarno Singers & Orchestra Spring Concert Thornhill Parish Church 7.45 pm. John Cowdery 200441.

Sunday 26th Service in St Ninian's 11.45.

Wednesday 29th Craigdarroch Fishing Club meeting Craigdarroch Arms Hotel 7.30pm.

Thursday 30th Moniaive Flower Show Committee Meeting 7.30pm Institute.

MAY

Saturday 2nd Cairn Valley community bus trip to Helensburgh Hill House Centre, historic house and gardens (NT). Moniaive 8.30am. £7. 01387 820877.

Sunday 3rd Service in St Ninian's 11.45.

Friday 8th-Sunday 10th 8th Moniaive Folk Festival. See flyers for details or check out www.monaiave.org.

Saturday 9th Moniaive Primary School May

Fundraiser. Macara Park 1-2pm. Games for children and adults, competitions. Fun for all the family. Organised by the Reporters of Moniaive Primary School.

Sunday 10th Service in St Ninian's 11.45.

Wednesday 13th Cairn Valley community bus trip to Peebles and Moffat Dawyck Botanic Gardens and Moffat town. Moniaive 9am. £7. 01387 820877.

Thursday 14th Cairnhead Community Forest Trust Trustees Meeting from 7:30pm at Forestry Office, Dunreggan.

Sunday 17th Service in St Ninian's 11.45.

Monday 18th-Sunday 14th June Exhibition Nith Landscapes at Thomas Tosh, Thornhill.

Saturday 23rd Gala Barn Dance Memorial Institute 8pm-1am. Live band - Bandidos and full bar. Tickets £3. Please support your Gala. Sue 200331.

Saturday 23rd Cairn Valley community bus trip to Penrith Open air market and Rheged visitor centre. Moniaive 9am. £7. 01387 820877.

Saturday 23rd Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning at St Ninian's.

Saturday 23rd The Banana Sessions D&G Arts Festival production. Marquee, Craigdarroch Arms Hotel Tickets £7.50.

Sunday 24th Craigdarroch Fishing Club Annan Challenge Trophy Held at Loch Skay.

Sunday 26th Service in Glencairn 11.45.

Wednesday 27th Craigdarroch Fishing Club meeting Craigdarroch Arms Hotel 7.30pm.

Thursday 28th Cairn Valley community bus trip to Wanlockhead Lead Mining Museum and Leadhills. Moniaive 11am. £5. 01387 820877.

Friday 29th Summer Gala Concert Glencairn Church & Arts Association present a Violin & Piano concert in Glencairn Church 8pm. Wine and buffet in marquee. Tickets £10.

Friday 29th-Sunday 31st Burns n Bogle Festival See website for details. Hugh 200474.

MONIAIVE REGULAR EVENTS

Cairn Valley Community bus regular service to Castle Douglas. 9 & 23 April, 7 & 21 May, 4 & 18 June, 2, 16 & 20 July. Moniaive 11.15am. Departs CD 3.05pm. £3 return. Bus passes accepted. Under 16 half price. 01387 820877.

Health Walk Meet every Thursday at 2.00pm, Memorial Institute and afterwards for a cuppa. Free. Duncan Saunderson 01848 200327 or Max McKenzie 01848 200068 for details.

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.

Skitter Lane Youth Club 7.30 to 9.30pm 2nd and 4th Thurs each month - Dunscore. 1st and 3rd Thurs - Moniaive. Open to 14-18 years olds in Dunscore, Penpont, Moniaive. Dunscore: April 9th, April 23rd, May 14th and 28th, June 11th and 25th. Moniaive dates tbc. Rona Gunnell 01387 740326 or Dean Goddard 01848 200322.

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.

Ceillidh Dancing Classes Every Tuesday 8.00 - 10.00 pm. £3. Mary Newbold on 200379.

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.

Masonic Hall, Moniaive John Cowdery 200441.

COMING AND GOING

• **Christine and Harold Rostel** from Twomerkland to Neiss Place • **Chris, Sara, Poppy, Tilly and Joe Machin** from Dunscore to Chapel Street, Moniaive.

DISTRIBUTION

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

EDITORIAL CONTACTS/ADVERTISING

We depend on you for news to fill the Gazette. Please help by supplying dates, advertisements, articles and letters. These can be handed in at the Watson's Grocers.

• Annie Shnapp 01848 200421.

• Sue Grant, Glenluiart, Moniaive 01848

200331/401 sue@badpress.demon.co.uk

• Sandy Hall, Craighleagan, Moniaive 200292.

DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY ISSUE IS 20TH MAY. 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.