

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

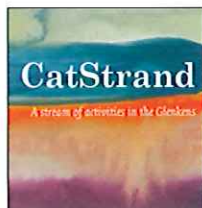
FREE IN : BALMACLELLAN ~ CARSPHAIRN ~ MOSSDALE ~ NEW GALLOWAY ~ ST. JOHN'S TOWN OF DALRY

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CATSTRAND OFFICIAL OPENING BY HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL



On Tuesday 2nd October 2007, HRH The Princess Royal officially opened The CatStrand in New Galloway. After six years of tireless fundraising and hard work, the former derelict school has now been transformed into a state of the art and fully accessible arts and community venue. It is equipped with the latest sound and lighting equipment, raked retractable seating, conference and training facilities, gallery and exhibition space and a local heritage resource called the Glenkens HistoryStop.

The theme of sustainability is central to the concept behind the CatStrand – it extends to the local, social, economic, environmental and regeneration of the area. It is the first public building in Southern Scotland to be heated by wood pellets, a fuel which reduces the total carbon emissions from the centre by two thirds. This makes it the greenest arts and community venue in Scotland.

The area is already home to some of Scotland's best artists and the CatStrand is a permanent showcase for some of their exhibits. These include:

- Silvy Weatherall's **Black Face Tup**, a wonderful sculpture made out of recycled corrugated iron from the old school shed
- Jim Gourlay's slate obelisk
- Kirkcudbright based artist Linda Mallett has been working with local schoolchildren to produce a ceramic panel at the entrance of the building
- Inside the building, Dalry based photographer, Ted Leeming, has produced a spectacular landscape triptych
- And finally, Will Levi Marshall has created a glass, ceramic and water feature within the venue itself.

The CatStrand is already winning awards. It scooped the Arts, Business and the Community Award at last week's Arts and Business Awards ceremony. This was in recognition of their partnership with Natural Power Consultants Ltd (NPC), a local renewable energy development and operations consultancy. (More photos on page 11)



RENAISSANCE LEARNING ANNOUNCES REEL SUCCESS VIDEO COMPETITION WINNER

Dalry Secondary School won £1000 worth of books, supplied by Scotia Books.

This school has demonstrated great enthusiasm and commitment to raising reading standards within their classroom, using Accelerated Reader. The competition rewards Paul Bannister (Principal Teacher Pupil Support) who has successfully implemented this software and involved students in creating living and breathing examples of reading practice with Accelerated Reader, on DVD. To take a look at the winners visit our website www.renaissance-learning.co.uk/reel_success

Mr Fraser Simpson, Headteacher at Dalry Secondary School says, "We were delighted to receive this prize which will be a major boost for our library and the Accelerated Reader Scheme. The film unit of Ben, Nicole and Mr Bannister along with our talented actors, Gemma, Jamie and Mr Brown have put together a super little movie."

Accelerated Reader is a learning management system that combines the benefits of computer technology with traditional reading strategies and a love of books and reading. In the first instance the students take a 10 minute online reading assessment test that adapts to the answers they give, getting progressively harder or easier until the correct level is established. This ranks the reading ability of each individual and sets a baseline against which to measure growth. It also indicates a range of books at the appropriate level for each student thus ensuring that all learners can read at their own ability level.

Having established the correct range of books for their ability the students then go to the library to choose a book from within that range – critically these books will need to be marked and easy to find within the library system. The students read the book and then, as soon as possible following completion, they sit a quick comprehension quiz on one of the school's computers. The quizzes are of different numbers of questions depending on the length of the book. There are also points awarded depending on the number of questions answered correctly. Where students are reading at the appropriate level, and regularly achieving in excess of 85% correct, sustained reading growth follows.



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LOCAL ARTISTS : Sheila Mackay

Balmaclellan resident Sheila Mackay is an art therapist. She has always had an interest in art and completed a post graduate degree in Art & Design from Glasgow School of Art, then worked for some years in textile design and illustration before deciding to study Art Therapy in 1999.

The Art Therapy course was quite a contrast to her previous studies of art and design, including lots of medical lectures, psychology and counselling skills, and trying to understand what a client might be feeling and seeing - very different from studying art in its own right.

Since 2002 Sheila has been a practicing art therapist, working around Dumfries and Galloway and also in Perthshire. Mainly she works through various charitable organisations, but she also takes private clients, and can work either with groups or one to one. The main range of her clients has been people with learning difficulties, mental health problems, head injuries and Alzheimers disease.

"Art therapy is the use of art for transformation and healing, self-expression and reflection, in a safe environment. It can treat issues as varied as severe and enduring illness, life crises, depression or those facing a new direction in life," says Sheila; "It can be quite simple, with a client feeling the need to work in colour or form rather than talk to people. It doesn't rely on words, which can be a huge relief to people as sometimes it is so hard to put things into words. During the course of treatment, it may become evident through their artwork what is going on for them, and then it's my job really to guide them through a therapeutic artistic process."

Sheila explained that there are different approaches to art therapy. She described the way she works in a bit more depth. For example, if somebody is very stressed and restricted/stuck, then she might use a medium like 'wet on wet' which is water colour on wet paper. The medium becomes therapeutic in itself, encouraging them to loosen up a bit. Alternatively if they're too loose, and 'all over the place', you could give them something more controlled, like clay or form drawing (a type of drawing using symmetry and set patterns which needs a lot of concentration) to bring them back into themselves through focusing on the task at hand.

"One of the tools is the actual medium," says Sheila, "and another is what you might suggest to somebody. If they don't come up with any ideas, I will introduce a theme that feels relevant for that person such as a natural process (like the times of day and night or the transformation of plants with the seasons), a fairytale, a famous artist's work or a poem. This allows them to work with a theme, getting them started."

This type of art therapy is a way of reconnecting the mind and soul with the body and the world around us, often using the seasons and the natural world to draw a person back into a more balanced frame of mind. It seems to me as if we could all benefit from a bit of that these days!

To learn more about art therapy, or to arrange a session, call Sheila on 01644 420666 or email sheila@clogandshoe.co.uk



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE BLACKCRAIG WINDFARM PUBLIC INQUIRY

Dates and location for the Inquiry have finally been agreed: Dalry Town Hall, Tuesdays to Fridays for up to 4 weeks starting on February 26th. Opponents of the windfarm proposals have been given 'Relevant person status' through Allison Chapman and GLARE. Those who essentially want the windfarm to go ahead, with or without modifications to the proposals, have obtained 'Relevant person status' for Roland Chaplain, Convenor of the Glenkens Sustainable Development Steering Group.

In the light of recent Council sponsored training sessions on the National Standards for Community Engagement, it has been realised that there is an onus on the Council to provide the necessary training for anyone who wants to take part in the Inquiry what ever their age or position. Kirsty Peden, Community Learning and Development Manager for the Stewartry, has offered to provide a couple of training sessions about the Standards for Community Engagement during November.

By the beginning of January the outcome of Jim Mather's Ministerial Seminar on 'Community Benefits from the Development of Onshore Wind' and the Scottish Government's new energy policies should be known. There should also have been further guidance and interpretation surrounding the existing Scottish Planning Advice Note (PAN 81). As a result it is planned that there should be a series of training sessions during January and February ahead of the Public Inquiry to ensure that everyone who wants to contribute, however young or however old, has had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with how to present what ever is deemed to be admissible evidence.

Finally a reminder that irrespective of the outcome of the Inquiry it is the intention afterwards to forge ahead with forming a local Community Trust to negotiate and potentially form 'partnerships' with Scottish and Southern Energy or any other major developer involved in potential renewable energy projects in the Glenkens and surrounding area.

The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Parish Community Council

The proposed new housing development at Carson's Knowe seems to be progressing at last, after several amendments to the original plans first aired by Loreburn Housing several years ago. They now intend to build all twenty houses at once instead of in two phases of eight and then twelve as previously planned.

The Community Council fully support the long awaited new housing development which will give the opportunity for young families to rent or buy in New Galloway which has become increasingly difficult in recent years due to the lack of property for rent and the increasing property prices. However, we will continue to campaign for urgent improvements to the Old Edinburgh Road which will be the main access road for the new houses and is already totally inadequate to serve the existing houses as well as being a bus route, the main access to the factory units and the main car park. The road should be widened and have a pavement and street lights added to ensure pedestrian safety.

At the time of the September Meeting, no decision had been made by the Stewartry Area Committee regarding the proposed closure of public toilets in the area. It was reported however, that it was likely that the recommendation in New Galloway's case would be to retain the toilets in the High Street and to close the toilets in the lower car park. As the portable style toilets in the lower car park had been placed there about twenty years ago as a 'temporary' measure until new toilets were built, it was felt that this decision, if it was ratified, would be reluctantly acceptable, particularly considering that some communities were going to be left with no public facilities at all.

The Community Facilities Review which Dumfries & Galloway Council had carried out prior to the election earlier this year had still not been brought before Stewartry Area Committee for any decision to be made on its recommendations.

The Review had recommended that New Galloway Town Hall should be run by a local management group and not directly by the Council as it is at present. Whether these recommendations are ever implemented or not, it is becoming increasingly obvious that urgent maintenance is required on the Town Hall to avoid even more expense in the future. Whilst some repairs had recently been carried out to the roof and the gable end to prevent water ingress to the neighbouring property, further urgent work was required to clean rhones, replace slates and repaint exterior. A letter has been sent to the council requesting that this work is carried out without further delay.

Other general maintenance issues around the Burgh would be pointed out to relevant council officials when they visit for a regular 'walkabout' on a date to be arranged by Councillor Prentice.

The October Meeting will be delayed until Monday 22nd due to school holidays.

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DALRY SCHOOL BOARD REPLACED BY NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL

Following new legislation from the Scottish Executive, the Dalry School Board was officially closed at the end of the summer term and the new School Council is now up and running. Similar in many ways to the old School Board, the new School Council has been designed to be more 'user-friendly' to parents.

All parents with a child in the Nursery, Primary or Secondary schools at Dalry are members of the new Parent Forum which is an umbrella group encompassing the School Council and Friends of Dalry School, the fundraising arm.

Any parent wishing to become more involved with their child's school, or who has a fundraising idea, a concern about their child or just wants some more information may contact any one of the following School Council members:

Jane Banner (janebanner@phonecoop.coop), Andrew Bielinski (andrewb@bielinski.fsnet.co.uk), Morag Paterson (morag@tedleeming.com), Margaret Sainsbury (sainsbury353@freeuk.com), Jane Trueman (jane-trueman36@hotmail.com), Nicolette Wise (nicolettewise@aol.com).

The next meeting of the School Council is on 19th November: items for the agenda should be given to the Chairman, Nicolette Wise, before then.

- PRIVATE ART GALLERY -

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AUTUMN



At this time of year we start to feel the evenings drawing in and the crispness of winter creeping up on us. Ok, this year it may have started a little early, but that doesn't mean we can't relish the start of autumn, a wonderful season in its own right. It might have been nice to see more of summer, but let's just hope next year is a double whammy to make up for it!

Autumn brings us back into ourselves, making us think of the winter celebrations to come - Halloween, Guy Fawkes and Christmas - when we stay indoors by the fire, enjoying time with family and friends. After the exuberance of summer, spending time outdoors long into the summer evenings, it's good to wind down a bit. And this is the time of year to catch the last of the summer and bottle or jar it to bring back a taste of warm sunshine during those long winter months.

Late September has seen the ripening of wild brambles, along with the enthusiastic brambblers parked haphazardly along roadsides, filling bags and buckets with tell-tale purple stains around their mouths... The blueberries too have been and gone, in late summer, as have the wild raspberries. But now is the time for apples, which hang huge and ripe on the trees - these have done wonderfully in our wet summer, soaking up the water and now ripening in the brisk autumn sunshine. Damsons are also now ripe for the picking, along with sloes and, if you can find them, bullaces (an old type of wild plum).

Below are two recipes, one for damson jam and also one for apple wine. You could also make the wine with pears if you happen to have a pear tree near by. It seems there are so many apples out there these days that go to waste as people don't know what to do with them, especially cooking apples. So I think wine is a good plan - you can never have too much country wine bubbling away for those cold winter evenings!

Damson Jam

Plums or damsons

To every 450g (1lb) of Plums, weighed before being stoned, allow 340g (12oz) Sugar.

Recipe:

- 1) Cut the plums or damsons in half, take out the stones, and put them on to large dishes, with sugar sprinkled over them in the above ratio and let them stand for one day.
- 2) Put them into a large pan, over a low heat, and simmer gently for about 30 minutes, then boil rapidly for another 15 minutes.
- 3) The scum must be carefully removed as it rises and the jam must be well stirred all the time or it will burn at the bottom of the pan and so spoil the colour and flavour of the preserve.
- 4) Some of the stones may be cracked and a few kernels added to the jam just before it is done, these impart a very delicious flavour to the plums.
- 5) Pour into sterilised jars (you can sterilise

old jam jars by putting them into a pan of cold water and gently bringing it up to the boil. Don't put cold jars straight into boiling water or they will crack! Put metal lids in to boil too, and put the jam into the jars whilst the jars are still hot, screwing the lid on then too. This means that the glass can stand the hot jam without cracking, and as the jam cools it pulls the lid down, creating an airtight seal.

Apple Wine

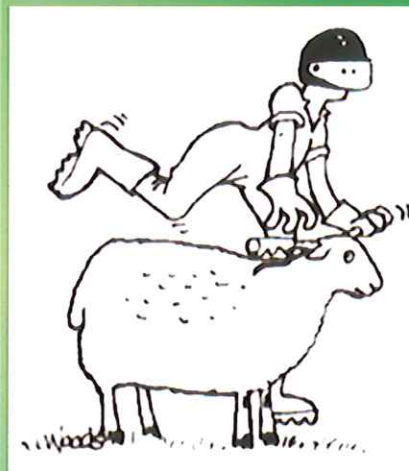
6 lb mixed apples
1 lb sultanas
1 1/2 lb sugar
1 teaspoon nutrient
1 vitamin B1 tablet
2 teaspoons pectolase
Gervin Varietal D yeast
Campden tablets
Water to 1 gallon

Recipe:

- 1) Dissolve 1 crushed campden tablet in 4 pints of cold water in a sterilised fermenting bucket.
- 2) Chop or slice the apples thinly and put them quickly into the sulphited water. Add the washed, minced sultanas, the pectolase, yeast nutrient and vitamin B1 tablet.
- 3) Stir, place an upturned plate on top of the fruit and cover the bucket. Leave for 24 hours.
- 4) Make sure the yeast starter is fully active before pouring it carefully into one side of the bucket. If the yeast starter is kept to a small area of the bucket an active yeast colony will quickly become established, and can then be stirred into the bulk must. When it is fully active a fruit cap will form on top of the must; this should be kept submerged with a plate to enable a quicker and better extraction rate and to exclude as much oxygen as possible. The cap should be broken up 2 or 3 times daily depending on the activity of the fermentation.
- 5) Ferment on the pulp for 4 days.
- 6) Strain off the liquid, pressing the pulp lightly and pour into the sterilised demijohn adding the dissolved sugar. (The demijohn should not be more than 7/8ths full to minimise waste from excess frothing.)
- 7) Fit an airlock and stand the demijohn in a warm place. Top the jar up after a few days with any surplus must or a little cold water.
- 8) When the fermentation ceases (usually 2-3 weeks) syphon the clearing wine from the sediment into a clean demijohn and move to a cool place.
- 9) After 1 or 2 days rack again, adding 2 campden tablets and topping up with a little cold water.
- 10) After 2 weeks rack again, adding 1 more campden tablet.
- 11) Replace the airlock with a cork bung. Rack again when a heavy deposit forms. If care is taken there should not be any need to add further sulphite for dry table wines but if in doubt another campden tablet may be added.

All the extras such as wine nutrient, vitamin B1, pectolase, wine yeast, campden tablets, demijohn, airlock, etc. can be bought from a health food shop or chemist usually - Sunrise in Castle Douglas definitely have them. The purpose of the campden tablets is only, as far as I know, to clear the wine, so I don't tend to use them as I feel they are an unnecessary chemical which I would rather not consume, and I don't really mind my wine a little cloudy - as long as it tastes good!

GLENKENS GRAND NATIONAL!



Come along and place your bets for the 2nd Glenkens Grand National!

Sheep hurdling, beer tent, stalls, bbq, the kiddie bop, the chicken run, terrier racing, Glenkens fillies, and much more!

Remember, Ladies think Ascot, Gents think toffs!

No idea? Then come along to New Galloway Park on the 13th October, 1pm prompt, and find out!

THE BUNNY JUMPER

I walk down
The old lonely road
With my friends laughing, having fun
Until we reach that house
Abandoned for years
A chicken pen behind it
Padlocked and missing hinges
I thought about dead chickens
Rotten eggs, spiders with a million eyes
Looking at the door waiting to pounce
Beside it was an old wooden shed
An axe through the phone book
Old bikes lie near
I ran down the old road leaving my friends behind.
I hid behind a bush
Looked behind me still standing there
Still behind the bush I looked again
Behind me I see a bunny hanging
on a washing line but it was only a jumper
I am now scared to go up that road
Without a pal at my side
Sarah Hilsley P5, Dalry Primary School

WRITER IN RESIDENCE

Since last summer Aonghas MacNeacail has been Writer in Residence for Dumfries and Galloway schools and for three weeks in March we have been delighted to welcome him to Dalry where he has worked with primary and secondary classes.

Aonghas, originally from the village of Uig on Skye is a native Gaelic speaker and much of his prize-winning poetry is in Gaelic, including the collection of poems published in 1997 which won him the Stakis Prize for Scottish Writer of the Year. He did read some of this work to the pupils but they were even more impressed when he translated the poem into English for us. He also read some of his more recent work in English, most interestingly a poem that he has written during his stay in the Glenkens based on local history and landscape.

Aonghas has been encouraging pupils to produce their own creative writing based in particular on their own environment, their experiences and their observations. An anthology of the best work produced by pupils across the region will be published later in the year and we hope to see some Dalry writers featured.

Some examples of Dalry pupils' writing are included for your entertainment - we thought that there were so many excellent poems that we have distributed them throughout the paper!

FORBIDDEN FOOTY

In the midst of the summer
It was a cooking hot day
My big cuz and I were playing footy
When we should nae hae been
All was grand
Until I hit the fitba tae hard
Up the ba' went
And doon came the satellite box
I blamed ma cuz
After all he threw the ba'
Tae far in front o me
What was I supposed tae dae
In we snuck
Tae see if Sky was still working
But no, the screen looked like a snowstorm
Mum was standing with a face like fizz
Ma cuz made it worse
As he said it'll clip back on
Aye right
Just as I thought things could nae get worse
In came ma pa
keep yer boots on,
you'll have tae fix the satellite dish
said ma mither
Dad stormed out the hoose
He was gone fir ages
Lucky fir us Dad could fix it
Guid ol duck tape
Next time ma shooting
Will have to be
More Ally McCoist than Chris Paterson
Kirsteen Currie, Dalry School

TOP SHOP !

Local Shop selected as regional finalist in Neighbourhood Shop of the Year Award. Proprietors Larry & Moira Jones are absolutely delighted to have been selected for the award. They have been in Dalry for 2



years now. When they first came to the village it was their intention to become active members of the community. This goal has been achieved with the help and support of the villagers. Larry and Moira would like to thank all their customers for the continued support and particularly for the nominations which led to them becoming finalists.

BEST RURAL RETAILER AWARD NOMINATIONS

BALMACLELLAN VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

Balmaclellan Village Shop & Post Office have been nominated for the Best Rural Retailer Award. Some of their satisfied customers have put them forward for this prestigious award. The village shop in Balmaclellan is the social hub of the village, providing a wide range of household goods and quality food, as well as housing the Post Office, and of course being a general meeting point for members of the local community. We seem to have the best shops around, here in the Glenkens, and they certainly deserve the recognition which being nominated for these awards has given them.

GALLOWAY FOOTWEAR

Galloway Footwear Ltd, at the Clog and Shoe Workshop in Balmaclellan, has been nominated for a Best Rural Retailer Award, in the category of Best Traditional Business. This category looks for how the retailer plays a role in preserving a rural skill or tradition, if they enhance the local community through the business, whether a traditional skill would be lost without the business, and what effect winning the competition would have, such as helping the retailer to highlight an important skill which is often taken for granted. It seems that Galloway Footwear fits this category perfectly - so lets keep our fingers crossed!



NEWTON'S OF DALRY

Newton's shop in Dalry has been nominated for the Best Rural Retailer Award, in the section 'Best Village Shop', run by the Countryside Alliance. Owners Matthew and Gill Newton were both surprised and pleased at being nominated.

"We have been in the village for 12 years and enjoyed seeing our children grow up in a safe and rural environment. It is nice to be nominated for the award by our customers who are very loyal and supportive" said Matthew.

The nomination phase of the annual competition closes shortly and the regional winners will be announced in December with the national winner announced in February next year. The Countryside Alliance said the Newton's had been nominated because they "went that extra mile, not only for their regulars, but the whole community".

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THE HAIRTH FESTIVAL KNOCKENGORROCH

At this September's The Hairth festival, the trademark personal, friendly atmosphere that people have come to expect from Knockengoroch, and travel so far to enjoy, created a smiling and happy crowd throughout the weekend. Even the weather, which brought some rather heavy showers at times, couldn't put a damper on things and people just carried on with some added waterproof layers.

Top performances were given by a variety of world class musicians, such as Scottish group Aberfeldy, Bakabeyond and Nucleus Roots (replacing Sheelanagig) on the Friday night, and on Saturday a more traditional note from Irish greats Altan, London-based outfit The Herbaliser and Nizlopi, whose 'JCB' song got to number one in 2005. The thing which struck me most about Nizlopi was the fact that it was just two people performing – the singer and double bassist who also does human beatboxing – but the sound was great and they really got the audience going.

Workshops in a variety of crafts and skills were held, from belly dance to stone carving, and enjoyed by both young and old. The array of foods on offer was great, making sure there was something for everyone. There was the usual multitude of clothing and goods stalls, ranging from local garage owner Willy Bone's ex-army stand to an international musical instrument stall and the Afghan Schools Trust charity stall.

The Knockengoroch Festivals are such a unique experience, each year only improving what is on offer for all the family, and the philosophy of keeping things small-scale and offering quality over quantity wins minds and hearts and keeps people coming back year after year.

Next May's World Ceilidh will be Knockengoroch's 20th festival, celebrating their 10th anniversary – confusing I know, but as there are two festivals each year it does make sense! Check out www.knockengoroch.org.uk for further info.

Local artist Ian Gascoyne is currently holding an exhibition at the Tolbooth Art Centre in Kirkcudbright. It will run from the 19th October to the 3rd November.

FARMING

When I go out in the fields
I feel right at home
When Anonymous looks at me
It sends chills down my spine
I say hello to Gwyneth and calf
Give Gunshot a pat on the back
Give Kitty a quick comb
Their recognition fills me with joy
Out here I don't hear my brother
The only interruption
Is my dad shouting and swearing
I take the quad round
Nothing calving not at all
I decide to go fishing now
When I go fishing I just relax
And say goodbye to my troubles

Andrew Hunter Blair, Dalry School

G.T.I. NEWS UPDATE

The REGISTERED ROUTE continues to be well used – please keep using it, as it's future depends on your use. However this service will NOT operate on either Wednesday 26th December 2007 or Wednesday 2nd January 2008.

We are very pleased that Roy Hooker will be able to continue to operate the school run every morning, but thank you to those people who had volunteered to fill this gap.

Why not consider using the mini bus during the festive season – enquiries about it's availability and conditions of hire, please contact Keith Cooper (01644 420374 or (h) 01644 450201)

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE FORTHCOMING TRIPS

TUESDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2007
HISTORY STOP BUS TOUR OF THE GLENKENS
10am - 1pm £2.50 per person

MONDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2007
KELVINGROVE MUSEUM, THE TRANSPORT MUSEUM OR XMAS SHOPPING IN GLASGOW
(The Mini Bus will be parked at the Museum, but it is only 10mins into the City Centre by Bus or the Metro)
Dept New Galloway 9.00am, Dalry 9.10am Return to Glenkens by 6pm
Fare £5 per person (Concessions £4)

SATURDAY 1st DECEMBER 2007
CARLISLE – XMAS SHOPPING OR VISIT THE CASTLE ETC.
Dept Dalry 9.10am, New Galloway 9.20am, Laurieston 9.40am
Return to Glenkens by 5.30pm
Fare £5 per person (Concessions £4)

MONDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2007
HETLAND HALL GARDEN CENTRE AND MOFFAT
Dept Dalry 9.50am, New Galloway 10am, Laurieston 10.20am
Return by 5.30pm - Lunch at the Garden Centre, then time in Moffat during the afternoon.
Fare £4 per person (Concessions £3)

SATURDAY 5TH JANUARY 2008
KELVINGROVE MUSEUM, TRANSPORT MUSEUM OR THE NEW YEAR SALES
(The Mini bus will be parked at the Museum, but it is only 10 mins into Glasgow City Centre by bus or the Metro)
Dept New Galloway 9.00am, Dalry 9.10am – Return by 6.00pm
Fare £5 per person (Concessions £4)

ALL TRIPS ARE SUBSIDISED BY 'HELP THE AGED' AND TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE CATSTRAND (IF POSSIBLE BETWEEN 10AM AND 12 NOON ON A TUESDAY) – THE COST COVERS ONLY TRANSPORT – ANY ADMITTANCE COSTS ETC ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

PLEASE NOTE: An extra trip will be arranged to Carlisle just before xmas for the evening of the carol parade, hog roast and late night shopping once the exact date of this event is known.

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE (GTI) WEDNESDAY BUS SERVICE (REGD. ROUTE):

Timings are as follows:
1900 Dept Dalry (Underhill)
1910 New Galloway
1925 Mossdale
1935 Laurieston
1940 Townhead of Greenlaw
1947 Castle Douglas (Market Street)
1950 Arrive Castle Douglas (Tesco)

The return journey :
2045 Departs Castle Douglas (Tesco)
2047 Castle Douglas (Market Street)
2052 Townhead of Greenlaw
2100 Laurieston
2110 Mossdale
2125 New Galloway
2135 Arrive Dalry

CONCESSIONARY BUS PASSES ARE ACCEPTED ON THIS ROUTE, SO PLEASE MAKE USE OF THIS EXTRA SERVICE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK THE COMMUNITY-BUS OR IF YOU WANT ANY MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KEITH COOPER, GTI ADMINISTRATOR ON 01644 420374.

CatStrand News

SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL PROJECT LAUNCHED AT THE CATSTRAND

Alongside the launch festival the last few weeks has also seen the launch of The CatStrand Friends and Volunteers schemes. Already fifty people have become Friends of CatStrand both from the local communities of New Galloway, Dalry, Balmaclellan and Carsphairn and from as far afield as London and Edinburgh. Meanwhile, the launch festival has been almost entirely staffed by volunteers. Carrying out a wide range of roles from box office to stewarding, working in the bar or welcoming people to the venue, volunteers have played a pivotal part in the success of the ten day festival.

Jon Nimmo and Teri O'Loughlin, two CatStrand volunteers during the launch festival, were quick to offer their support, "We knew that we were going to use The CatStrand so we felt it was important that we supported it actively rather than simply coming along to events. We have time available to offer, and volunteering at The CatStrand seemed like a good use of this time."

Ann Maxwell, another launch festival volunteer, is one of The CatStrand's many new converts. "Initially when I was asked to volunteer a few years ago I was slightly unsure. Yet as I saw the building emerge and take shape, I was very pleased to get involved and to help out."

Audience Development Project Co-ordinator Lucy Burnett has been delighted with this early response. "The public response has been incredible. To run a festival of this scope almost entirely by volunteers is an exceptional achievement. I have worked in the voluntary sector for over ten years, and never before have I seen this extent of willingness, nor such generosity of financial contribution. This project seems to have truly captured peoples' imagination."



The Friends and Volunteers schemes are part of a Scottish Arts Council supported audience development project which will soon also include an Ambassadors scheme which will identify and invite enthusiastic individuals to help raise awareness of The CatStrand in their local area. Abigail Carney, the audience development consultant who initiated the project believes it has the potential to be rolled out to other communities across Dumfries and Galloway. "The key to the success of The CatStrand's

development has been the commitment by staff to consult with the community, bringing on board people of all ages and interests. These schemes will enable Glenkens residents to respond to this amazing new venue: to develop their stake in The CatStrand's future success by getting involved and supporting events and activities."

Friends schemes for young people aged 5-11 and 12 + will also be launched in the coming months. Lucy Burnett aims to ensure that all three schemes will offer a rewarding experience for all those involved, "People have been, and always will be, central to the success of The CatStrand. My aims are twofold. Firstly we want to get as many people involved as possible and secondly we want to ensure that every involvement is a positive one."

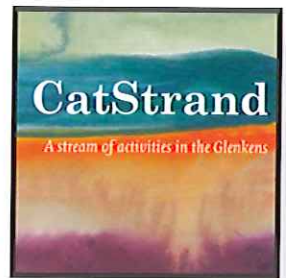
Early reactions from audiences and volunteers augur well. Jon Nimmo and Teri O'Loughlin were pleased with the friendly welcome they received as volunteers, and commented on how "it was good to feel useful." Ann Maxwell, coming out of her first concert at The CatStrand was struck by enjoying a first class event in New Galloway, "Usually I have to go to Edinburgh or Dumfries or somewhere like that, but here I was in New Galloway. The CatStrand has really added another dimension to the Glenkens."

Getting Involved

If you would you like to get involved or to offer further support to The CatStrand please fill out the leaflet enclosed with this Gazette. To offer your time as a volunteer or for more information on how to get involved please call Lucy on 01644 420374.

PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

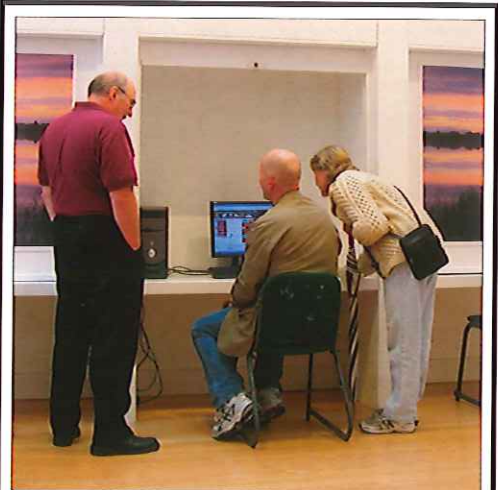
Natural Power Consultants, based in Dalry, and the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust won a prestigious award at an Arts & Business ceremony in Edinburgh in September. The award, presented in the category "Arts, Business and the Community" was in recognition of Natural Power and GCAT's sponsorship partnership. The award, made by Edinburgh artist and jeweller, Ruth Chalmers, can be seen on display in The CatStrand.



LAUNCH FESTIVAL OPENED BY ALEX FERGUSON MSP



On Friday 21st September Alex Ferguson, MSP for Galloway and Upper Nithsdale, opened the CatStrand Launch Festival. His speech was entertaining and had the audience of people who have been involved with GCAT and the creation of The CatStrand laughing out loud at times. His main theme was the drive and innovation it has taken to get this project on the road, and he praised GCAT chairman Cathy Agnew for her role in bringing it all together.



When I spoke to these people I discovered that we had our very first international internet customers. These charming Americans from Maine were enjoying a cycling holiday in the area (in spite of the weather), and were most impressed with the CatStrand - especially the internet facilities. It turned out that they were looking up the latest baseball scores at home. That's what it's there for!

CatStrand website:
www.catstrand.com



CatStrand Reviews



NICKY SPENCE & FRIENDS

Once again this area has produced a celebrity of world-class quality in the form of Nicky Spence. I first met Nicky when he was still at school and joined the Dalgarno Singers in Thornhill with his mother, Annabel. He was, needless to say a tremendous asset to the tenor section and it was only a short time before he began to enhance our concerts with his solos. It is obviously apparent from his superb command of the varied repertoire of tenor pieces which he sang at this concert why he has become such a success, and, after gaining a Masters with distinction at London's Guildhall School of Music, has recently signed a million-pound recording contract. A sparkling accompaniment was provided by Julia Cobby on piano.



Nicky's friends were Wendy Stewart who played a selection of beautiful harp music and songs to end the first half of the concert, and Glenkens Klezmer (John Higgs - clarinet, John Duncan - piano, and myself on double bass) who followed the interval with a short selection of Klezmer pieces before handing over again to Nicky.

Jonnie Dowswell

CYRANO AT CATSTRAND



On Friday 21st September the Dalry secondary students went to Catstrand in New Galloway to see the first performance of "Cyrano" there. Played by just two actors and one actress, it was amazing.

Cyrano is an intelligent, poetic man who is cursed with a long, ugly nose, ruining his chance of romance with his beautiful, beloved, poetry-loving cousin Roxanne. Comte de Guiche is a rich, powerful man but very selfish and cruel. He also longs desperately for Roxanne. But Roxanne's heart is won by Baron Christian de Neuvillette, a handsome, kind man who is not in the least poetic, though Roxanne believes him to be. Unfortunately he is forced to go to war but Roxanne demands a poetic letter once a week. To save her heart, Cyrano offers to write the letters for him so that it looks like he is all he seems to be. But sadly, Christian is killed in the war. Cyrano lives with his terrible secret but just as it is revealed and Roxanne declares love to him, he dies. The play is so touching and the fact that it is based on a real story only makes it more tragic.

Witty, funny and moving, the play had it all. It is definitely the best theatre performance I have ever seen. The poetry was excellent and the play was acted in such a way that you could really feel the tragedy of Cyrano de Bergerac's life. Hannah Blackett in S2 at Dalry School

INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT



On Friday 28th September a group of talented international guitar players came to The CatStrand. In the afternoon the four members held a workshop for people hoping

to pick up some guitar playing tips, and in the evening the International Guitar Night was held. This is the first time the group has performed in Europe, although they are already well known in the US and Canada. The four members, Brian Gore, Peppino D'Agostino, Antoine Du Four and Andrew White, are all incredibly talented musicians and wowed the audience for nearly three hours with their varied guitar styles. At the end of the performance they received a standing ovation, and were drawn back in for a final encore. Many young people attended the evening performance, bringing along their guitars to be signed by the musicians and being given helpful tips from the professionals. A great night was had by all, and the four guitarists were enthusiastic about The CatStrand venue and also about the Glenkens area. Audience members and staff were invited to join the guitar players at their hotel, The Cross Keys, in New Galloway where they celebrated their first European concert, and The CatStrand's first week of events.

DOORS OPEN DAYS: THE GALLOWAY CONSORT

Visitors to The CatStrand Open Day on Saturday 29th September were treated to the pleasantly soothing sounds of early musical instruments played by two members of the Galloway Consort. They demonstrated dances from the 15th to 18th Centuries on a collection of instruments



which included a set of three six-stringed viols, recorders, crumhorns, bells, a percussive stringed drum and an early guitar. Audience participation was encouraged and people were invited to try any of the instruments.

CATRIONA MCPHERSON LITERARY LUNCH

Popular local author Catriona McPherson introduced her latest murder mystery novel at The CatStrand Literary Lunch. At the event, Catriona signed copies of the book, *Bury Her Deep*. The picture shows Catriona with Moyra Martineau from Gatehouse of Fleet.

The Scotsman has described McPherson as an "exemplary crime-writer, effortlessly balancing the driest wit with melodramatic suspense."



CatStrand Coming Attractions



MAXWELL'S DEMON

**Saturday 20 – Tuesday 23 October, CatStrand
Opening hours**

Chris Helson and Sarah Jackets are presenting a video and sound installation 'Maxwell's Demon' in the auditorium from Saturday 20 to Tuesday 23 October. This is the result of their digital arts residency and research in the Glenkens over the past year. Maxwell's Demon is an imaginary creature at the centre of James Clerk Maxwell's 1867 thought experiment created to explore the possibility of contradicting the second law of thermodynamics. The structure and content of the thought experiment provided the artists with a basis to explore some of the complex subjects revealed through their research. For example; the relationships between people and place, allegory within storytelling or defining territory through dialogue.

The artists are working with local ska band Jam Squad to develop an experimental sound work based on data from the recently developed ZephIR laser anemometer. They are also working with a local magician exploring illusion and deception and developing a spatial 3d spinning holographic video work.

The event will be open for 4 days, although the Monday and Tuesday will focus on access by school groups.

ARCHIE FISHER IN CONCERT

**Saturday 27 October 2007, 8.00pm
£8.00 / £6.00**

Internationally renowned guitar and singer-songwriter Archie Fisher has enjoyed a parallel career as a broadcaster, presenting Radio Scotland's weekly Travelling Folk since 1983. One of the most influential folk artists of his time, Archie will be performing at The CatStrand as part of the Gaelforce season of events.



TOM STADE

**Friday 2 November, 8pm
£7.00/£5.00**

One of Canada's most popular comedians, Tom Stade will be stopping off at The CatStrand as part of his world-wide tour. Tom was a huge hit at this year's Edinburgh festival where he received five star rave reviews from every major newspaper and reviewer;

"Tom Stade is so cool he could well be the answer to global warming. ...Gloriously funny, silly and smart," Kate Copstick, Scotsman (5 stars); "one of the best practitioners of straight stand-up we've got, ... Stade is the sort of comic you could listen to all night," Chortle Chortle; You're in for a good night packed with laughs," Metro.



JEREMY CARLISLE EXHIBITION



**Thursday 1 November to
Sunday 6 January
CatStrand opening hours**

The landscape and weather of Galloway have been a continuing source of inspiration for Jeremy Carlisle in his landscape and abstract paintings. A deep interest in colour is a common thread to both areas of practice. Watercolours are the predominant medium for the

paintings. Jeremy has exhibited widely both within Galloway and beyond.

COLCANNON

**Friday 9 November, 8.00pm
£8.00/£6.00**

Colcannon, from Adelaide, is one of Australia's most popular and successful bands, receiving many awards including two "Firsts" in the National Folk Awards (2001) in Australia. They specialise in rich vocal harmonies with a wide range of traditional Scots, Irish and contemporary Australian material in their repertoire.

"... a contemporary Australian band ... with distinctly Celtic roots and songs which can be strongly Australian." "...simply stunning" (The Scotsman)

THE OUTLAW FULKE FITZ WARYN

**Strangeface
Theatre
Company
Thursday
15 November,
7.30pm, £5/£4**



Maestros of masked comedy, Strangeface present the true story of the real Robin Hood... Fulke Fitz Waryn is best mates with King John until a game of Australian rules chess goes horribly wrong. When the King steals his castle Fulke and his band of brothers declare themselves outlaws, and take to the forests. Join them in their quest to win back the family pile and good fair rule for all.... Well almost... In a style best described as Blackadder meets The Simpsons this is a comedy for adults and children (7+) alike using masks, puppets and trailing edge technology.

WINE TASTING

**Wednesday
21 November,
6-8pm, £5.00
Cheese,
wine,
music.**



PLAYSTATION TOURNAMENT

**Thursday
22 November
7.00pm – 9.30pm
£1.00**

CATSTRAND YOUNG MUSICIANS

**Serena Foyle and Flora Noble,
accompanied by Simon Coverdale
Saturday 24 November, 7.30pm,
£10.00 / £8.00 including a glass of wine**

Serena Foyle started learning piano at the age of six, studying by the Suzuki Method with Mary McCarthy and then Ann Turner. Serena also plays the Clarsach and the Harp and has a very broad musical interest. She is currently studying music at Edinburgh University.

Flora Noble has been studying the violin since she was 6. She studied by the Suzuki Method with Peggy Milne and Lynda Harkess. Flora is now in her second year at Edinburgh University where she leads the Calliope String Quartet.

Simon Coverdale undertook early intensive musical education at St Paul's Cathedral London, subsequently studying piano with Michael Gough Matthews and Lawrence Glover at the RSAMD and RCM. He now lives in Edinburgh where he teaches at the City of Edinburgh Music School, the Ian Tomlin School of Music at Napier University and Edinburgh University.



CatStrand Regular Features

CATSTRAND CINEMA CLUB

The CatStrand Cinema Club (CCC) aims to bring a varied and popular series of films to the Glenkens on a monthly basis. If you would like to get more involved, you can join the CCC, which will meet informally on a regular basis to discuss programme ideas for the coming season.

Silver Screen: Little Miss Sunshine (2006, Certificate 15)
Thursday 25 October, 2pm - £4.50 (£3.50 Members and concessions)

Take a hilarious ride with the Hoovers, one of the most endearingly fractured families in comedy history. Father Richard is desperately trying to sell his motivational success programme...with no success. Meanwhile, 'pro-honesty' mom Sheryl lends support to her eccentric family, including her depressed brother, fresh out of the hospital after being jilted by his lover. Directed by Jonathan Dayton, Valerie Faris, starring Abigail Breslin, Toni Collette, Steve Carell, Greg Kinnear.

Running Time 98 mins

Casino Royale (2006, Certificate 12)
Thursday 25 October, 7.30pm - £4.50 (£3.50 Members and concessions)

Casino Royale introduces James Bond before he holds his licence to kill. But Bond is no less dangerous, and with two professional assassinations in quick succession, he is elevated to '00' status. 'M' (Judi Dench), head of the British Secret Service, sends the newly promoted 007 on his first mission that takes him to Madagascar, the Bahamas and eventually leads him to Montenegro to face Le Chiffre, a ruthless financier under threat from his terrorist clientele, who is attempting to restore his funds in a high stakes poker game at the Casino Royale. Directed by Martin Campbell, starring Daniel Craig, Eva Green, Jeffrey Wright, Judi Dench.

Running Time 138 mins

Becoming Jane (Cert PG)

Wednesday 28 November, 1.30pm

£4.50 (£3.50 Members and concessions)

"Becoming Jane," is the story of the great, untold romance that inspired a young Jane Austen, played by Anne Hathaway. Willful and spirited, Jane is not ready to be tied down to anything but her writing. That is until she meets Tom Lefroy (James McAvoy) a charming rogue from London who spends more time drinking and socializing than on his law studies. The film also stars Maggie Smith, Julie Walters and James Cromwell and is directed by Julian Jarrold.

Running Time 120 mins

Hot Fuzz (Cert 15)

Thursday 29 November, 7.30pm £4.50 (£3.50 Members and concessions)

A top London cop is relocated to rural Sandford where he stumbles upon all manner of misdoings. "Hot Fuzz" is the smash hit British cop-spoof-comedy, starring Simon Pegg, Nick Frost and a veritable who's who of British comedy and character actors. An outrageously funny, high-paced action treat from the team that brought you Sean of the Dead!

Running Time 121 mins



STORYTELLING CAFÉ

First Thursday of every month, beginning 4 October, 7.30pm

A relaxed and informal storytelling, music and poetry evening in a comfortable café atmosphere for anyone interested in the live oral tradition. Audience participation will be encouraged. This will be a regular event on the first Thursday of every month. Cakes and coffee will be available. Eat, drink and let your imagination run away with you!

No booking necessary, donations on the door.

PLAY IT BY EAR

First Monday of every month 1.30pm - 2.30pm

£2 per adult/child, 50p per additional child

Play it by Ear is a monthly song, music and storytelling workshop for pre-school children and their carers, which GCAT has been running in the Glenkens since 2002. These workshops give young children an introduction to rhythm, instruments and singing and are run by the writer, storyteller and musician, Tony Bonning. Play it by ear is suitable for children from birth onwards and will take place on the second Monday of every month, from November.

No booking necessary - just turn up!

Tai Chi : One class for all ages

Classes start Thursday 1st November at The CatStrand, from 10.15-11.15, open to all ages, £4/£3 concession. For further info contact Liz on 01644 420374 or liz@catstrand.com

CatStrand Tea Dance, Cookery and IT

The CatStrand Launch Festival tea dance was a huge success with an attendance of over 100 people! Catherine Braid's cookery demonstration was also packed out with over 50 participants.

The next Cookery Demo will be on Thurs 3 December, 11-12.30am, £2 entry. Five festive dishes will be created, and raffled off at the end of the day. The community bus will be available to take people to and from the event.

The next Tea Dance will be on Mon 17 December, 3-5pm, £3 entry. There will be a Christmas raffle and festive food. After that the next Tea Dance will be for Valentine's day - stay tuned for the final date.

The IT classes are proving to be very popular, with the next two six week sessions already fully booked. If you would like to book onto the next IT session, or find out more call Liz on 01644 420374 or email liz@catstrand.com

WEEKLY DROP-IN SESSIONS

These will be held at the CatStrand to confidential advice and information, and a complementary cup of tea. These sessions are aimed at particular age groups:

For people aged 50+, sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 10-11am from 3rd October to 19th December. Come along to get advice on anything from grants and services for older people to when the next tea-dance is - a professional counsellor will be on hand for any other issues, and there will also be a regular clinic with Age Concern Scotland.

Weekly drop-in advice and information surgeries for teenagers and young people will be held on Thursdays at 4-5pm, from the 4th October to the 20th December. Pop in for a complimentary coffee and confidential advice on anything from benefits, grants, studying and stress to when the next band night is. There will be a professional counsellor on hand to help you with any issues you'd like to discuss.

Gentle EXERCISE CLASS
 at the CatStrand

Free Taster MONDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 11-12pm (CatStrand Launch)

INSTRUCTOR SAMANTHA BUSHTON

CLASSES: 4 WEEKS COMMENCING...
MONDAY 29th OCTOBER 10.30am-11.30am (£4/£3 Concessions)
 Contact: Liz Cole The CatStrand 01644 420374

THE ROYAL VISIT AND OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CATSTRAND

(continued from front page)



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Y O U T H U P D A T E

GLENKENS TRADITIONAL MUSIC PROJECT @ THE CATSTRAND

RSAMD YouthWorks Music Centres and The CatStrand will be launching the Glenkens Traditional Music Project @ The CatStrand in October. This is an unmissable opportunity within the Glenkens to receive top quality tuition in Traditional music and song. RSAMD YouthWorks music centres are currently working with over 600 children and adults on a weekly, long-term basis in 14 centres throughout Scotland. The traditional music project at The CatStrand will be the first of its kind in Dumfries and Galloway.

The project will be starting on Friday 5 October and classes in fiddle, whistle, accordion and guitar will be available to children from p4 upwards on one weekend each month on Saturdays and Sundays. These tutorials will be supplemented with classes in song, storytelling, dance and group-work. The RSAMD will also be running adult classes in these disciplines on a Friday evening. In addition they hope to organise an open session on Saturday nights which will give all musicians in the area a chance to join in the fun!

The tuition will be carried out by a combination of recent or past graduates of the RSAMD and current students on our BA (Scottish Music) course. Additional tutors will be renowned experts on their chosen instrument as well as being excellent teachers. There will also be training opportunities available for local musicians who feel that they may be interested in becoming tutors for the project themselves.

The RSAMD will be resident in the Glenkens every few weeks on the following dates:

Friday 5 to Sunday 7 October 07

Friday 26 to Sunday 28 October 07

Friday 23 to Sunday 25 November 07

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 December 07

Friday 18 to Sunday 20 January 08

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 February 08

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 March 08

Friday 18 to Sunday 20 April 08

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 May 08

Friday 6 to Sunday 8 June 08

Details about the timings and fees for each workshop can be obtained by calling the RSAMD YouthWorks Manager of the Music Centres, Sharon Hassan, on 01412 708316 or email her at s.hassan@rsamd.ac.uk

The CatStrand has a range of instruments, including accordions, guitars, whistles and fiddles, available to hire at a very low cost. Funding is available to help reduce fees for local people. To find out more please call CatStrand on 01644 420374.

Glenkens Gazette Advertising Rates 2006

Advert	Format	Size	Price per issue	Discount for Block of 3 ads
Basic Small	Black & white	6cm x 6cm	£15.00	10%
Basic Small	Colour	6cm x 6cm	£30.00	10%
Quarter page	Black & white	9cm x 13.5cm	£35.00	10%
Quarter page	Colour	9cm x 13.5cm	£65.00	25%
Half page	Colour	13cm x 18cm	£120.00	25%
Full page	Colour	18cm x 27cm	£200.00	25%

(Prices exclude VAT @ 17.5%)

To place an advert please contact the Glenkens Gazette on 01644 420374

ON THE BEAT :

Community Police News With Pc Ian Wilson

THIS AUTUMN DON'T FALL FOR THE CONMAN

Many of you will have read of people falling foul of various scams such as false wins on the Canadian, or Spanish Lottery to name but two. There are also letters which arrive out of the blue, offering you a share in millions if you send off your details to some person in a land far away. Even on the computer, you will receive e-mails saying you have won a wonderful prize and to claim it just click the link.

DON'T DO IT! YOU WILL ONLY END UP BEING A LOSER!

Never give anyone personal details, such as bank account details or pin numbers. Especially on the phone to someone who has rung you out of the blue. Banks won't do this, nor will any other reputable company. Do not click links on e-mails from unknown sources. Always use secure sites and do not give anyone your pin number or password.

IF YOU ARE SUSPICIOUS PHONE THE POLICE AND GET IT CHECKED OUT

Now to motorists out there - this is the time of year to check those tyres and lights and make sure there is some water in the washers. Slow down if the road is covered in water or leaves; it is so easy to lose control! As the nights draw in kids walking to school and dog walkers should wear something bright or reflective so that you can be seen in time! And finally if that outside light, or security light bulb needs changed do it now!

DALRY POLICE OFFICE : 0845 600 5701

YDANCE

Scottish Youth Dance's YDance project will be coming to The CatStrand in New Galloway, during the October school holidays to run a week of street dance and hip hop workshops for 10-16 year olds. The five day project, called "Alice in Urbanland" will begin on Monday 8 October and run until Friday 12, and will take place from 10.00am - 4.00pm each day. Fees for the whole week are £25.00.

The production involves weird happenings, strange creatures, magical potions and surreal landscapes which will all feature as the action of Lewis Carroll's infamous novel is updated to an urban setting. Alice in Urbanland explores street, break, creative and contemporary dance styles to a soundtrack featuring everything from classical to hip hop to the latest chart hits. The project finishes with a performance where the participants get to showcase their skills. All costumes will be provided. Invite all your friends and family to come and see you perform at the end of the residency at 4pm on Friday afternoon. Please bring a packed lunch, loose comfy clothes and a bottle of water.

PLAYSTATION TOURNAMENTS

The CatStrand has purchased a Playstation 3 console as well as a number of handsets and games, with the intention of running tournaments on the large cinema screen in the auditorium. The first tournament will take place on 22 November. If you would like to find out more, or get involved with helping organise the event, choosing the game or just want to sign up (places will be limited) then give us a call on 01644 420374 or email us at info@catstrand.com.

SILLY WEE NUMPTY

Silly wee numpty
sittin on the bench
Sookin at her lollipop
Look a the wench

Wander here wander there wander
everywhere

Step up step down step all around
Cha cha left and cha cha right
Tango forward tango back
A broken link, the weakened chain
A damaged one, the diluted mass
An injured flower, a burned forest
An unfit key, the bolted door

The apple of my eye,
Infected with conjunctivitis
The yin to my yang

All messed up and stuff
Paint in the sky, gives yellow, red and blue
Flowers in the grass is all I need for you

The pear to my apple
The tangerine to my orange

The raisin to my grape
The bacon to my sausage

Gary Thomson, Dalry School

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT



Kells Primary School would like to thank the community for donating all their water and juice bottles to help us build our greenhouse. It is now completed and about to go into operation.



Photos of Model Boat Club in action and Kells Fishing fleet at end of term. This club is run by Mr. Plummer for the Primary 7s and the children make the boats from scratch.

GOLD ENTERPRISE AWARD



Kells School have consistently earned the Gold Status over the years and they were also given a 'Life long' award in recognition of this.

Sophie Thomson, Primary 4, was asked to give her solo talk on Fossils at this prize-giving ceremony held at Easterbrook Hall. Sophie won the Regional Final and went on to be National Champion in Public Speaking.

DALRY FORMER PUPIL AWARDED OBE BY THE QUEEN

Joyce Thacker (nee Douglas) left Dalry in 1974, but had such fond memories of the school that she arranged to come and tell the pupils all about her visit to Buckingham Palace, where the Queen awarded her the OBE. Joyce explained that she was awarded the medal for services to children. She trained at Jordanhill College as a Youth Worker and has been working with young people ever since. Joyce now works in Yorkshire where she helps find jobs and homes for young people who have no families.



The children were shown a DVD of the whole ceremony; we were all very sad for the little boy who was asked to leave after he cried during the National Anthem. He was only 3, and was all dressed up, it was a real shame for his family; but nothing went wrong for Joyce and we are so glad she came to share her day with us. Joyce brought the OBE medal and the warrant signed by Queen Elizabeth and passed them round all the children.

KELLS PRIZEGIVING

Having had its most successful year ever, Kells held its final Assembly and Prizegiving on Friday, 6th July. The school hall was filled to capacity as Staff, Parents and pupils celebrated all the achievements of Session 2006-07. The afternoon got off to a lovely start with each group singing pieces from the class music experienced throughout the term. Mrs. Jean Young, who retired at Easter time after 25 years as school cook, presented the prizes. All pupils received their certificates for completion of a successful year.



Mr. Brian Edgar, Kells Football Manager for 15 +years, spoke of his pride in both the Junior and Senior Teams who have played exceptionally well this year. Both younger and older pupils retained the Gelston Football Trophies, the Juniors were in the Finals of the Fun Fours Tournament and the Seniors made it to the Final Round of the Paul Jones Tournament. Most importantly, there was consistent feedback on the excellent sportsmanship and teamwork displayed by all the boys - an essential if you are part of the Kells' Team! Mr. Edgar presented large framed photographs of the football team to 3 of our boys who have been the backbone of Kells Football since Primary 3 - George Edington, William McTurk and Henry Sainsbury.

A huge thank you must go to Mr. Edgar for all those 'sometimes very wet' training sessions and for all the encouragement he gives Kells' footballers, and to all the Parents who help with the transport. The school couldn't do it without the Parental support.

Those entering Primary 1 in August, 2007, were then presented with their special Gym Bags and their Book Shop cards, ready for their start of school. There was a new set of trophies to award this year in recognition of the importance in which Kells holds its School Board, now known as the Parent Board.

In the main, the Awards were given for Good Citizenship. Winning decisions were easier in the younger classes but was found to be too difficult in the senior classes as 'Citizenship' is embedded in the whole ethos of Kells School; thus, by the Seniors, it is very much part of their lives.

School Board Chairperson, Mrs. Sue Lindsay, also, made a presentation to Mrs. Sheila McHattie who is now retiring as the Teacher Representative to the Board. Mrs. McHattie has faithfully served as the representative since the establishment of the Board in 1988.

The photograph shows a very happy group with trophies and on the way to their 'workfree' holidays!

Nancy Plummer

If you have any ideas for the Youth Update in the Gazette or for youth related projects in the CatStrand please do contact us on
01644 420374

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays

Balmacellan 12 noon 1st
Carsphairn 10.30 am 1st 2nd 3rd (Oct) 4th
Dalry 12 noon 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
Kells 10.30 am 2nd (Oct) 3rd 4th

Special Services and Events

7th October 10.30 am
Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Carsphairn Church
followed by Harvest Lunch in Lagwyne Hall (12-2pm).

28th October, 12 noon and 4 pm
Dalry Church

4th November, 12 noon
Balmacellan Church

11th November 11 am
Ceremonies at Balmacellan and New Galloway War
Memorials followed by Remembrance Service in St
Margaret's Episcopal Church, New Galloway.

18th November, 10.15 am
Carsphairn Church

29th November 7.30 pm
Concert with Tony Collins, Dalry Town Hall
Communion Services

Communion Service

26th August 10.30 am Kells Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E) St Margaret's, New Galloway

10.30 am Holy Communion
Every Sunday and Wednesday

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES St John's, Castle Douglas

CLUB CORNER

GLENKENS GIRL GUIDES

The 1st Glenkens Guide Unit is pleased to announce that it is up and running once again! This small unit has been meeting weekly in Dalry since January of this year. We try to have a very varied programme, and each girl is encouraged to help in the planning of this. Some girls were able to enjoy the fun and adventure of County Camp during the summer, and we intend that there will be further opportunities to take part in outdoor and residential events.

If there are any girls out there, between 10 and 14 years of age, who would like to have lots of fun in a safe and friendly atmosphere, please get in touch with us. Details of times and meeting place can be obtained by phoning Mrs Kathryn Peace (01644430281) or Mrs Cate Murray (01644430521).

WHO COOKED THE LAST SUPPER?

Dalry Heritage Group is keen to encourage all those who may have an interest in the History and Heritage of St. John's Town of Dalry to join them at some of their future meetings. The heritage group in Dalry are entering a phase of revitalisation following their first meeting on October 5th. The group have been successful in the past, but recent years have seen their numbers dropping.

CatStrand local history co-ordinator Bob Martin gave a talk to the group entitled 'Who Cooked the Last Supper?' in which he told of how his interest in local history has grown over the years. He used the example of the biblical feast attended by Jesus and the disciples to illustrate the common human endeavor behind all major events.

Bob talked about the need to recognise that history is created by the actions in everyday life and that it is not only kings and queens that are important. He explained his passion for the common-place and how the big picture is composed of a multitude of smaller contributions.

The meeting was a resounding success and will hopefully be the first of many. Dalry Heritage Group has been responsible over the past few years for holding exhibitions on topics of local historical interest. They are very interested in the launch of The History Stop at The CatStrand, and see this as a good opportunity to encourage those people who are especially interested in the history of Dalry to join our small group of like-minded people.

For more information please contact Mrs Hilda McAdam (01644430383) or Mrs Kathryn Peace (01644430281).

THE IMPOSTER

I walked through the crowded shop,
The colours blurred past me,
I looked harder and harder,
But still I couldn't see her,
My pace quickened and my heart started to pound,
I could feel the cold, salty tears rolling down my face,
"Mummy, mummy!" I cried, but she couldn't hear me,
I kept running and finally through the hundreds of legs
I saw her!
Her long, brown coat dancing along the floor,
I ran and I ran,
I did not stop until I had her knees firmly locked in my arms,
"Hello dear, do I know you?" came the voice from above me,
I looked up, a woman looked down on me, but she wasn't mother,
Who is she? What has she done with my mum?
Why is she here and in my mother's clothes?
Who is this imposter?
I fell to my knees the tears rolled faster
My heart was beating so fast I thought it had stopped
Where is she? Will I ever see her again?
But then came the sound my ears longed to hear
"There you are!" my mother raised me high, held me tight,
She wiped my red blotchy face "there, there you're safe now"
And at last I did feel safe!

Rebecca Holden, Dalry School

GLENKENS 73 DRAMA CLUB

Glenkens 73 Drama Club will be performing the pantomime *Wind in the Willows* on 13th and 14th December at Dalry Town Hall. A family show with all the usual characters Rat, Mole, Badger and Toad with a dame, a prince and a pretty girl for a happy ending. We have cast most of the parts but can accommodate more villagers, animals etc. Also we would be glad to hear from anyone who would like to help as stagecrew or with sound and lighting (training given).

Contact
Shiela on 430257,
Kathy on 430058
or Christine on
430209

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THE CURTAIN TWITCHERS

When we first moved up here,
I was scared I was in a new place,
I didn't know anyone,
they were looking at me in a
Strange way looking
through the curtains.
When I turn round the curtains,
Would move as though there was
someone there,

As though there is a ghost
watching my every movement
Everywhere I turned they were there
Looking at me with their beady eyes
Even when they were in the street
They would be looking at me.

It got to one stage where I
Would be scared to go out at all,
When I moved on to a farm there
Was no one to look at me and
what I was doing,
I'm free at last I can do what ever
I want; there is no one to tell me that
I am wrong or push me down
I am free for ever.

But there is always some thing that
Is watching me and that is
The cows and the sheep, but
We have got a little deal going if I
Do anything wrong
I feed them fresh grass

Andrew Heard, Dalry School

FUNDRAISING NEWS

THANK YOU FROM FIONA AND IAN

Fiona and Ian Oliver of New Galloway Post Office would like to thank all those people in the Glenkens who have supported them over this year in their various sponsored events. Together they have raised nearly £1000 for charities.

It all started with the Kirkcudbright half marathon in May, and then Fiona did the Edinburgh Moonwalk in aid of breast cancer charities in June. Ian joined a team of people from the Glenkens to do the Edinburgh to Dalry cycle challenge in August in aid of Macmillan. Then they both ran the Great North Run on Sunday 30th September in aid of MIND, a charity supporting those with mental illnesses.

Fiona would particularly like to thank Jean Jones and Kate Maxwell, her partners in crime, who trained and completed all the events with her. "I definitely couldn't have done it without them. The Great North Run was a fantastic experience. Running with over 50,000 others through Newcastle was unforgettable. The weather conditions were near perfect and the route was lined with spectators and bands playing music. The number of people running for charities for a variety of personal reasons, and the tributes to loved ones was quite overwhelming. It made all the training worth while. Many thanks."

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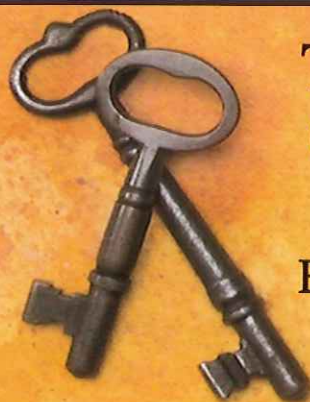
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REGULAR USER GROUPS AT DALRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Paint and Art

Monday 1.30 - 4.30pm
Bill Hines - 01644 430224

Glenkens Playgroup

Monday - Friday 9.15 - 11.45am
Julie Moore - 01644 460687

Glenkens Mother & Toddlers

Wednesday 1.30 - 3.00pm
Sarah-Jane Mackenzie 01644 430429

Good Neighbours Club

Tuesday 2.00pm -
Mabel Young - 01644 430472

Craft Class

Thursday 2.00 - 4.00pm
Jean Maltman - 01644 430497

Drama Club

Cathy Polkinghorn on 01644 430058

For further details on booking the Community Centre or any other information needed please contact Sarah McAdam 01644 430393 (Very reasonable rates for private hire)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GAZETTE

Any contributions to the Gazette are always welcome by anyone and everyone, and all articles, cartoons or photos are considered for publication. We are very keen to receive contributions from a wider area. Please remember that we try very hard to remain politically impartial. Although we encourage you to express your views on subjects of interest to the local community, sometimes an editorial decision is taken not to print an article because it might jeopardize that impartiality.

If you are submitting an article the preferred format is by e-mail to Jonnie Downswell at [sensys@glenkensbb.co.uk]. He prefers to receive your article as an attachment in text or rich text format (.txt or .rtf files). If you can't email it the next preferred method is on disc which you can post or drop in to the GCAT Shop. Again ideally it should be .txt or .rtf. If you want to submit a printed document then this is OK. Please keep fonts plain so that your text can be recognized by the scanner software. (Ideal fonts are Arial, Times New Roman, Courier. No bold or italic please.)

For those of you who have no idea of what we are talking about, we are still very happy to receive hand written articles which we will happily type up for you.

Sarah Ade is our chief co-ordinator so if you have a good story but aren't able to write it yourself please get in touch with her. She will be very happy to carry out interviews and undertake research to get your story written.

Telephone 01644 430138

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

YDance, Mon 8 Oct - Fri 12 Oct, 10am-4pm, fees for whole week are £25 - contact GCAT to book.

Glenkens Grand National, 13th October, 1pm, New Galloway Park

GBA Meeting - Tuesday 16th October 2007

Ian Gascoyne Art Exhibition, 19th Oct to 3rd November, Tolbooth Art Centre in Kirkcudbright.

Kells CC meeting - Monday 22 October

Maxwell's Demon, Sat 20 - Tue 23 October, CatStrand

Film - Little Miss Sunshine, Thurs 25 Oct, 2pm, £4.50/£3.50 conc/members, CatStrand

Film - Casino Royal, Thurs 25 Oct, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50 conc/members, CatStrand

Archie Fisher concert, Sat 27 Oct, 8pm, £8/£6 conc, CatStrand

GBA Meeting - Tuesday 13th November 2007

Jeremy Carlisle exhibition, Mon 1 November to Sun 6 January, CatStrand.

RSA Lecture, Sat 3 Nov, 11am, £4 (incl coffee), CatStrand

Colcannon, Fri 9 Nov, £8/£6 conc, 8pm, CatStrand.

Thursday 15th November 2007 a Glenkens Business Association Social & Networking Evening for members and non members. 7.30pm at the Ken Bridge Hotel.

The Outlaw Fulke Fitz Waryn, Thurs 15 Nov, 7.30pm, £5/£4 conc, CatStrand

Dalry School Council meeting, 19th November (see p3)

CatStrand Young Musicians, Sat 24 Nov, 7.30pm, £10/£8 conc (incl glass of wine), CatStrand.

REGULAR EVENTS

CatStrand Cinema Club, please contact CatStrand for further details (01644 420374)

Storytelling Cafe - first Thurs of every month starting 4th Oct, 7.30pm, CatStrand - booking not necessary, donations at the door.

Play it by Ear, first Mon of every month, 1.30pm-2.30pm, £2 per adult/child, 50p per additional child - no booking necessary.

Tai Chi classes, starts Thurs 1 Nov, 10.15am, CatStrand, £4/£2 conc.

Tea Dances - these will be held regularly, please contact Liz Cole for further info (01644 420374)

Gentle Exercise Classes at the CatStrand, start Mon 29 Oct, 10.30am-11.30, £4/£3 conc.

Weekly drop-in sessions:

50+ sessions every Wed from 10am-11am, 3rd Oct to 19 Dec.

Youth sessions every Thurs from 4pm-5pm, 4th Oct to 20th Dec.

RSAMD - Fri-Sun every weekend from 7 Oct 07 to 8 June 08 (call GCAT on 01644 420374 for further info).

Playstation tournaments of the CatStrand big screen - contact GCAT for info.

Aerobic Classes Dalry Community Centre, Every Wednesday, 7.30-8.30pm, £2.50 Contact Sam Hood on 01644 420631

Mother & Toddlers Group - New Session : New Galloway Town Hall, Tuesday 9.45 - 11.15 am - £1.50 per session

Scouts Mondays, 7.00pm - 8.30pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Beavers Tuesdays, 6.30pm - 7.45pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Cub Scouts Wednesdays, 6.45pm - 8.00pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Kickback Martial Arts - Karate Classes Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm, Dalry Community Centre. £3 entry - adults welcome



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