

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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www.glenkengazette.com

GLENKENS GRAND NATIONAL A DEFINITE WINNER!

Once again this year the Glenkens Grand National was a huge success. The rain managed to stay away until after the event and the crowds came out in all their glamour.

BBQ'd food was superbly cooked by our Glenkens Finest Cooks, in the form of Mrs Young and Mrs Mair, and the staff of the Thistle Inn at Crossmichael kept the crowds well supplied with beverages, with Stormin Norman supplying the music.

The Sheep gave a superb performance, the Hens did their best not to take part and the Terriers! - well let's just say that needs a bit of work! The Glenkens Fillies were out in force and dressed to thrill, and a steward's enquiry caused by Susan & Cairan Murdoch cheating, meant that the race had to be re-run but Bryher Pears romped home to a fast furious victory.

The surprise of the afternoon was the final race where the Glenkens Stallions were announced and mounted their steeds. Much to their surprise their steeds were adult sized space hoppers! Mr Andrew Wolfe started as he meant to finish, and left the rest of the field still trying to remember how to work them! With much hilarity they all performed with great gusto and provided the crowd with a side splitting race, which finished the day on a high.

The Glenkens Ball held in the Town Hall was well attended, and once again the Storminator gave a resounding performance with the crowd yelling for more at the end.

Cairan & Susan would like to thank everyone for all their support and to everyone that helped on the day, a huge thank you! Without it the event would not have happened.



GLENKENS PROJECTS WIN LEADER PLUS AWARDS

Hot on the heels from securing three-year lottery funding last week, the CatStrand has just been awarded a prestigious award under Dumfries and Galloway's Leader+ awards, which recognise excellence, celebrate creative thinking, and promote quality local services and products.

The winning award, under the category Champions of Culture - Art in Public Places, was in recognition of its contribution to the development of products and services that promote the crafts, art, music, history, dance, literary and theatrical resources and talents of the region. The venue won for its integration of different artworks within the general fabric of the building and the high quality of arts facilities provided at the venue.

The Galloway Red Kite Trail also scooped an award at the ceremony in the category "Interpretation, Access and Enjoyment of Rural Areas." The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' Chris Rollie picked up the award on behalf of the RSPB and thanked all those who had contributed towards the project.



Dumfries & Galloway Leader+ Awards 2007

Champions of Culture
Category Winner
"Art in Public Places - CatStrand"

Red Kite Trail
for "Interpretation, Access and Enjoyment of Rural Areas."

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



LOCAL ARTISTS : Jeremy Carlisle

The artist Jeremy Carlisle is currently holding an exhibition at new community and arts venue in New Galloway – The CatStrand. The exhibition runs from 1st November to 6th January.

Originally from Sussex, Jeremy often enjoyed holidays north to Galloway after meeting his wife Dierdre whose parents live in Kirkcudbright. When he and his wife decided to start a family, they moved up to Galloway where they now live in Gatehouse of Fleet. "I always loved art as a child, but started seriously painting after I left secondary school and went to art college, so when I was about 17 or 18," says Jeremy. A lot of Jeremy's paintings are inspired by nature and landscapes, and he paints these outside on location.

"The idea is to paint nature from the inside. I'm not so interested in the topography of the landscape. I'm more interested in the feel of a place. What is nature? Something incredibly powerful - yet we are also a part of nature..." says Jeremy, going on to say that he generally works in series' so that he builds up a real knowledge and feel of a location; "I get absorbed in a particular place".

A lot of the work in The CatStrand at the moment is based on the river, coast, hills and glens around Gatehouse. The Glenkens has not yet featured in any of his works, but he says that; "coming to the Glenkens again has reminded me how beautiful the valley is, along Loch Ken, and the landscapes around this area. I loved reading the book 'A Season in Galloway' by Robin Ade as it created for me an atmosphere of a wild, forgotten landscape. I think there is definitely the possibility of some work up here in the future!"

An excerpt from Jeremy's website explains his feelings for the landscapes of this area, and how he aims to portray them: "Living in Galloway, a remote part of South West Scotland, you are close to the land. Sheep and cattle have for generations defined the shape of the landscape. Very little land has been ploughed, so cup and ring marks, rock-carvings and chambered cairns have survived and speak of our ancestors. In more recent times dry-stone walls have drawn fine lines across the hills. These walls are, in a way, works of art. They are evidence of their maker's care, intelligence and labour. Now weathered, the stones are rich ecologies in their own right, shelter for farm animals, homes to insects, snakes and birds. Pale, cream-coloured and vivid yellow-orange lichens run across the stones creating their own archipelagos of pattern and shape... I believe art, by making the world apparent, can help explain our lives to us. Far from the perception that it is an escape or retreat into a private world, art has the potential to enlarge our understanding..."

Come along to The CatStrand to take a look at Jeremy's works and perhaps also some of the other events on over the festive season – visit www.catstrand.com for more info, and for more on Jeremy Carlisle visit www.jeremycarlisle.co.uk



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BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At the October meeting of Balmaclellan Community Council, the Children's Party to be held in December was discussed. Posters will be distributed with full information soon. The Village Hall is presently undergoing internal decoration.

There was also information relating to a new scam involving letters being delivered advising that a parcel had to be collected and a telephone number to contact - This telephone number cost £15 on connection and was a scam originating in Belize. This information was relayed via the Neighbourhood Watch service. Members of the Community Council attended a recent meeting organised by the NHS, and information given regarding the number of unnecessary repeat prescriptions that were ordered and then disposed of raised concerns as this involves a high cost to the NHS.

THE ROYAL BURGH OF NEW GALLOWAY & KELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party will take place on Sunday 16th December in The Cross Keys Hotel at 12.30 for 1.00 pm. All Senior Citizens, resident in Kells Parish, are cordially invited to attend. Please confirm your attendance by adding your name to one of the lists in the local shops - Hopkins Grocers, New Galloway Post Office, Mossdale Post Office, Glenkens Hair Studio. The Community Bus will again be available, please indicate on the list if you require transport.

Although the Community Facilities Review was carried out by Dumfries & Galloway Council in early 2006, no decisions have yet been made by the Area Committee regarding any of the council owned properties in the area including New Galloway Town Hall. In a recent meeting with council officials it was felt that there was nothing to be gained by waiting any longer for any decision and that it would be better to be proactive by pressing ahead to try to form a Management Group now. This approach has already proved to be successful in Wigtownshire, with several halls now under the control of Local Management Groups working in close partnership with Dumfries & Galloway Council. A Management Group can apply for funding which is not available whilst the Hall remains in total control of the Council.

A public meeting has been provisionally arranged for Monday 3rd December 2007 in New Galloway Town Hall at 7.30 pm, depending on the availability of council officials. Please look out for confirmation of the meeting date on posters which will be displayed in the usual places throughout the community. The main aim of this meeting will be to discuss the possibility of setting up a Town Hall Management Group and to identify volunteers willing to serve on it. If a group can be successfully formed, a proposal for the future management of the Town Hall could then go before the Stewartry Area Committee. As the local community would have demonstrated their willingness to progress the situation in a positive manner, it is more likely that the Area Committee would approve a partnership agreement and thus secure the future of our historic Town Hall.

Ongoing general maintenance of the Town Hall is still urgently needing attention. It was again reported that several slates need replaced and gutters need cleaned. The exterior is also urgently in need of redecoration. It was agreed to approve repairs to the Youth Shelter roof, to be carried out as soon as possible. The cost would be met from the Youth Shelter repair fund. Repairs to a broken water toby on Wylie's Brae had now been completed but the toby at the junction beside the Town Hall is still awaiting attention and would be reported again to Scottish Water. Additional street lighting for the top end of Duke Street was discussed again. Cllrs. Prentice and Duncan to investigate further. Repairs required to the playing surface in the Park would be investigated by Cllr. Prentice and relevant council officials. Some remedial work is required after recent events held in the park, mainly caused by the weather conditions on the days of the events but much of the damage is long standing, due to poor drainage, impacted molehills and wear and tear. An on site meeting would be arranged to discuss further.

The next regular Community Council meeting will be held on Monday 10th December 2007 in New Galloway Town Hall at 7.30 pm.

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The chairman reported on correspondence with Neil Dyson (Timber Transportation Group), and outlined proposals for the Council to make an application for funding to upgrade the Lorg road to facilitate extraction of timber. Whilst it was generally agreed that the current condition of the road is very poor and an upgrade would be desirable for the residents, there were too many concerns and unresolved issues involving the timber industry for the Community Council to come to any conclusions regarding the request from Neil Dyson to support the application for funding at this time. It was agreed that another meeting would be held on 12 November to consider the issues raised.

Community Garden: Drainage to start Mon 5 November. Planning: It was reported that supplementary planning guidance for the Smallholding Policy was approved on 2 October. Ronnie Irving, Area Planning Manager, Stewartry, will be at our next meeting. Correspondence - Items received: Copy of letter to Carsphairn School PTA confirming that 20mph scheme is



Glenkens Business Association

Tempus fugit - It seems no time at all since I was last invited to review and record the activities and aspirations of the GBA. On this occasion however, I would like to begin by extending, on behalf of the membership, hearty congratulations to the Catstrand Chair and management team on the hugely successful opening of the Catstrand and for the launch festival that followed. Now that the building is open to the public and its programme well underway there can be few who doubt the potential of the Community and Arts Centre to act as the catalyst for attracting increased numbers to the Glenkens. From a business perspective this is very good news.

Fifty-one individuals have registered their businesses with the GBA this year. This represents a vote of confidence in the potential of the GBA and the management committee has re-doubled its efforts to market the Glenkens throughout SW Scotland and further afield. The distribution of 50,000 promotional leaflets and Glenkens business cards is now complete and in this we received help and assistance from a number of local businesses that had reason to travel beyond our local area of interest. Since then the Committee has set to work writing a formal marketing plan that seeks to identify how best to secure funding to assist the Association to promote the interests of the Glenkens in a sustained manner whilst expanding our distribution area.

In parallel we have established contact with other Business Associations within the region and been in touch with the more local Chambers of Commerce. The purpose of this is to inform other organisations of our existence and where appropriate to exchange ideas and experiences on how best to help local businesses survive and prosper. What is clear from our discussions is the importance of the website, particularly if it is aimed at the potential visitors to the region. A new website has therefore been launched which we believe goes some way towards satisfying our marketing aspirations. The committee invites the readership of the Glenkens to visit the site, which is accessed using the address: www.glenkensbusinessassociation.com

Your comments on the site, positive or otherwise are welcome and should be passed directly to Alan Rumble, the GBA Secretary or directly to Ronnie Bradford at the office of Tourism Doctor, Dalry.

Members may be aware that throughout the year the committee has been able to obtain advice from Business Gateway in Dumfries and from a professional marketer to help develop the GBA's plans. This has been at no cost to the Association, for which we owe a debt of gratitude to our sponsors. Further, in an effort to increase the Association's profile locally, we have invited both Alex Fergusson and Peter Duncan, separately, to join the committee for an evening to learn of our aspirations. However, the Committee has been conspicuously unsuccessful in attracting individual GBA members to attend any of our monthly meetings even with the added attraction of guest speakers. GBA members are always welcome to join the monthly committee meetings, which when possible are scheduled for the first Tuesday in every month (but do check the website for confirmation), commencing at 7pm at the Ken Bridge Hotel. The committee has decided to try again.

Members, potential members or friends of the business association are therefore formally invited to attend a 'GBA Open Evening' on Thursday 29 November at the Ken Bridge Hotel commencing at 7pm. As an inducement, this will include a glass of wine or alternative on arrival and importantly, the opportunity for members to raise any matters with the committee or simply to network with each other. Do try and support this event and use the opportunity to influence the direction in which the GBA is attempting to proceed.

Bob Williams, Chairman

to go ahead, letter from SEPA re sewage issues.

Wreath: With agreement of minister, elders and visiting minister it has been decided that an Act of Remembrance will take place at the War Memorial after the church service. A poster will be displayed to publicise the event to the community.

Additional meeting 12 November - Lorg road upgrade application. The chairman gave a summary of the situation: Since the meeting of 29 October, the chairman had received many communications on the subject of the Council's bid for funding to upgrade the Lorg road. Many were against a letter of support being sent from the Community Council. The situation is: It is likely that the bid will be presented anyway but, without community support, it may not succeed. There is a strong indication from the community that we should not support the bid. There is a strong feeling from the community that a large majority do not want the C35 to be used by timber wagons at all. There are many unanswered questions to be investigated. Agreed: Send a letter asking the Council to postpone their application for funding until the next round of funding is available.

Proposal to set up a steering group - agreed: A steering group was formed to gather information and report back to the Community Council at the next meeting on 26 November.

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WHERE DID IT ALL GO?

The summer just didn't seem to happen, unless you count the glorious days in March and April, when we had our first ever barbeque without a swallow, (of the bird variety that is!) Nonetheless, early nesting birds like red kites and lapwings had a reasonable breeding season, and 13 chicks from 4-5 pairs of the latter put on a great show in front of the RSPB hides at Ken-Dee Marshes Reserve (Hensol), with 2 pairs of redshank and curlew also producing young. Black grouse had their best year for ages, too, with an average of 3 chicks per hen counted in the forest park, and adults at the display leks were also slightly up on recent years. There is some hope that current restructuring of the forests and targeted habitat work will help to maintain the population of these fantastic birds.

Then it all went wrong. The rains came and just kept coming, and small woodland and open country birds found it very difficult to find caterpillars and other insect food. I have never seen so many birds attending garden feeding stations in 'summer'. Each year, I spend a number of June and July evenings on the trail of the nightjar, a mysterious moth-eating summer migrant bird from Africa that has inhabited the Bannan and Laurieston areas in small numbers for generations. This year, however, their eerie churring song was virtually unheard, whilst moths were pretty well absent. Galloway has over 90% of Scotland's nightjars, and only a very few at that, so I do hope that next year brings better conditions for them – and us!

The lack of caterpillars knocked on to a dearth of butterflies, usually such a flittingly colourful attraction in late summer Glenkens. I felt cheated and only slightly compensated by the lack of wasps, which I just can't bring myself to like, despite their importance and obvious place in the world. It was a really odd time for plants, too. I've never known my garden so poor for beetroot and beans, but so good for potatoes and lettuce. Some fruit trees have been amazing, and an apple core, most probably thrown out of a steam train long ago, has now become a fruit-laden tree that is currently delighting redwings and fieldfares at the Mossdale end of Loch Stroan viaduct. These 'winter thrushes' from Scandinavia arrive in droves in October and quickly devour haws and rowan berries, as well as various fruits. Their large, chuckling and wheezing flocks are so characteristic at this time of year, adding to the wonderful autumn colours that, as ever, seem brighter than before; and nowhere better than on the River Dee downstream from Stroan, in Garroch Glen or from the high road to Carsphairn.

The seasonal hues of red kites also seem accentuated just now, and over fifty are being seen daily at Bellymack Hill Farm around feeding time (2.00pm). With the clocks turned back, shorter days, chasing gulls and flying leaves seemingly urge everyone to rush about ever faster to make most use of the ever lessening light. All the more reason perhaps to take time out to slow down a bit and look at nature. Garden birds are a great start, of course, while the geese and duck around places like Loch Ken, Moss Roddock and Lochinvar are there for the more adventurous. Watching rooks and other birds fly to their roosts is also very relaxing, and on the afternoon of 12 December, Calum Murray (Galloway Kite Trail Officer), is leading a guided walk to view red kites as they gather to roost near Parton. Anyone interested should phone Calum on 01556 670464 for details. *Chris Rollic*



RSPB Image



Doug Simpson

EXPLORING 'CARLYLE COUNTRY'

If you were going up (or down) the M74 and someone asked you why the brown sign near Ecclefechan reads 'Birthplace of Thomas Carlyle', could you explain who he was and why he is important enough to merit such a sign?

There are, perhaps surprisingly, quite a lot of local people who could, whose families have long connexions with Carlyle's family and that of his wife Jane Baillie Welsh.

Even more there are people who make the journey to this part of the world simply to experience the landscape that Carlyle knew and made famous at Craigenputtock, near Dunscore, to visit the scenes of his schooldays in Annan and his childhood home in Ecclefechan.

The mathematical, philosophical and historical writings of Thomas Carlyle and the brilliant letters of his clever wife are undergoing a renaissance now that most of the body of their output is available on the internet and the vast storehouse of information about mid nineteenth century Britain they contain is widely accessible and fascinating in its own right as a portrait of their life and times. The profound influence of Thomas' thought and writings even on modern language and thinking is only now being properly assessed.

Thomas and Jane's family roots ran deep here in Dumfries and Galloway and many local families can still trace links to them. The Carlyle Craigenputtock Circle would be delighted to hear from anyone who has knowledge of those links and who can give more information about 'Carlyle Country' which will be the theme of a major exhibition to be staged at the Catstrand in New Galloway in September next year. The Exhibition is timed to coincide with the major International Conference on Carlyle Connexions, September 3-6 2008, to be hosted by The University of Glasgow, Crichton Campus, under the direction of Carlyle specialist Dr Ralph Jessop. The Exhibition, 'Carlyle Country' will trace the links throughout Dumfries and Galloway (and beyond) of this remarkable partnership.

The Carlyle Craigenputtock Circle exists to promote interest in and research into the life, work and times of both Thomas and Jane while they lived at Craigenputtock. There is a lively programme of events; this autumn there will be a 'Georgian Evening' of songs and readings with an 'in period' supper. Anyone interested in joining the CCC or who has information about further local contacts with either Thomas or Jane, or members of their families, should contact the Chair of the CCC, Colin Carter-Campbell on 01644 440236.

Colin Carter-Campbell

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SCHOOL DAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Coming from the city to live in a rural area can be quite a traumatic experience for some people – like turning the pages of a book, you either like it, or you don't. Speaking personally, I took to it like a duck to water – it opened up a whole new world for me. I must confess I was too young then to have much say in the matter, anyway, and as for my mother, who had lived much longer in the city than I, it must have been a complete change of lifestyle. I'm not sure that she took to it right away – she was away from all her family and friends, and felt lonely when dad was at work, and me at school. However, she came to love it, as I did.

As a service bus didn't come our way, we had to walk either to Dalry or New Galloway (both were about three miles away), or hire a taxi which then cost 2/bd each way. It has often been said that 'school days are the best days of our lives', although a number of us didn't think so at the time, and couldn't get left quick enough to see what the big wide world had to offer. However, on looking back now, on the whole I found it was a happy time in my life. The only grumble I had was the fact that, as we got older, we seemed to get more and more homework. I thought lessons should have been confined to school hours, especially as living in a rural area – without transport and having three miles to walk to and from school each day, from an early age and onwards for several years before thoughts of a school bus were put forward. In the winter months, myself and a few other pupils had to get permission to leave school half an hour earlier than usual to reach home before dark. We were often tired come evening – after all, we were away from home at 7.45 in the morning – and it seemed a long day by the time we walked home at night, had our meal, then had to start doing homework. Oh, I'm not saying we didn't increase our knowledge by having to do homework – it was just that we were young and thought there was a time for work – and that there ought to be a time for play as well. Anyway, we got by, and were none the worse for it.

I was only six years old when I first started at Kells school, and coming from the city, I was not used to walking so far – all I wanted was my BED when I reached home! My mother had to get used to walking too, for she came to meet me. My sister, when she had saved enough money, bought herself a Raleigh bicycle to go to her work in New Galloway. Occasionally, she would take pity on me and give me a lift home on the back of it. Some other children from the power scheme houses walked to school too, and some from a farm (Old Glenlee), which was even farther away. One got used to it and thought nothing of it – unless the weather was bad. There were times we'd be lucky and get a lift in a car from someone we knew – even gentry folk from the Garroch Estate stopped sometimes – we thought this was great! The man in question (Arthur Young) was a large red-faced man, and often wore big fur gauntlets – real posh, he and his lady wife were, but very kind-hearted folk. They didn't seem to mind cramming a few youngsters into their big car, which was beautifully

kept. I remember one winter (1947 I think it was) – the snow was higher than the dykes and hedges, and this same good Samaritan must have got to know that the butcher's van couldn't get through, and he had a couple of sheep killed, and a portion of them delivered to each household. We couldn't get to school of course, for about six weeks, and we must have been about the only ones that thought that was wonderful! We got sledging, and making snowmen, etc, but had to do our share of shovelling some snow away too, from around the houses. It was altogether a winter wonderland – so picturesque.

In the long summer evenings, we children had more time to relax and do all sorts of things. My chums and self had to make our own amusements – taking into account there was a war on part of that period of time. There were no organizations in those days, such as the Brownies or Girl Guides for us to attend. There may have been in the village, but that was outwith our areas, and petrol was scarce. Getting back to school days, we weathered a few storms together, my chums and myself, to-ing and fro-ing between our two nearest villages – namely Dalry and New Galloway. Our primary years were spent at New Galloway at Kells school (our teacher was Miss McFarlane, and our headmaster Mr Wardlaw) – and in later years, we attended Dalry Secondary school. Sometimes when we set off to walk to school, the weather would be so terrible – wind and driving rain, and no lifts available – we would have to retrace our steps and return home, soaked to the skin.

Each season brought its own delights and misfortunes. At school, during play-time – we played 'hop-th-beds', 'peevee', 'marbles' and 'tig' to mention a few. At Easter-time, we climbed to the top of a hill, and we rolled our Easter eggs, which we had previously coloured, and drawn faces on. I recall one year in particular I ate five hard-boiled eggs and, yes, I sickened myself!

In summer, our imaginations ran riot! Sometimes wandering quite a bit away from home, hunting for four-leaved clovers, and other wild flowers. I believe it's what is known nowadays as a project which we got at school. We had to press them between blotting paper, then put them in our scrap-book very carefully moving each one. That was one of the things I was good at – 'nature study'. I won a special prize for my Wild Flower Collection. Other times, we would play Rounders when there was several of us, or go to our favourite spots for picnics – climb trees, and find it more difficult to get back down again, without doing ourselves an injury or tearing our clothes – and so the long summer days rolled by, and soon it was autumn. That was a time we loved to shuffle through fallen leaves, and look for pine-cones – occasionally seeing the odd red squirrel in the process – I don't know which of us would get the biggest fright! Probably the animals because we were invading their habitats.. Come the end of October – Halloween – we enjoyed dressing up and wearing false faces (none so evil looking as

ALEX FERGUSON MSP GALLOWAY AND UPPER NITHSDALE



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they are today, I might add!), and carrying a turnip lantern which my dad had made for us – and of course a bag to put our goodies in as we went from door to door and did our party piece. Even tho' we were a bit shy, we had to sing, recite or dance, and usually a good time was had by all. Most households were prepared for our visit, and kindly gave us nuts, apples, sweets – even money in those days, and to round off the evening, someone would suggest 'dooking for apples', which was fun. So it wasn't all work and no play after all! As we discovered! All too soon, winter was upon us again, and Christmas was a magical time – and there was peace on earth, in our little corner of the world.

Call me old-fashioned – perhaps I am one of these people who are always looking back at the 'sunset', and not so much at 'the dawn' – if you know what I mean!

I'll never regret coming to live in the country, nor the happy memories of my schooldays at Kells school, where I learned to appreciate the good life – even having to walk to school became a pleasure latterly! It was probably that that kept me fit!

From an ex-Kells pupil, Mrs E R Callender, Parton (nee Betty MacDermid of Glenlee)

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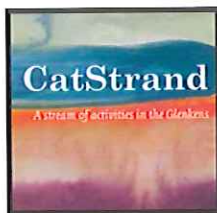
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CatStrand News & Events

The CatStrand has been awarded £331,829 from Scotland's biggest lottery distributor, The Big Lottery.

The award, spread over three years from its Supporting 21st Century Life programme, will enable the venue to offer the Glenkens community greater access to a wide range of services including free internet access, computer classes and activities that promote a more positive and healthy lifestyle leading to an improved quality of life. Internet access has proved popular in the area as many houses do not yet receive Broadband. Visitors to the area will also have the opportunity to log on and check their emails. Already the CatStrand has hosted visitors from New Zealand, Australia, U.S.A., France and Denmark including a special site visit by members of a New Zealand Rotary Club. The CatStrand is the only organisation in Dumfries and Galloway to have received an award in today's announcement.

Since the venue opened on the 21st September 2007, more than two and a half thousand people have come through its doors with many of its community and arts events proving to be a sell-out. The first-rate performance venue has attracted a host of artistic gems including John Hegley, Fred MacAulay, Archie Fisher and local favourite, tenor Nicky Spence. As an outreach Youthworks centre for the RSAMD, the centre has already started to be used on a regular basis. The number of pre-school children coming to its Play It By Ear programme has doubled and the Gentle Exercise and Tai Chi classes for the over 50s have proved to be very popular, as have the Tea Dances and Cookery Demonstrations.

As a potential Conference and Training venue, the CatStrand is already in demand and there is also the possibility of hiring the entire venue for private functions.

Latest News: Architects ARP Lorimer have just scooped another prestigious accolade in winning a Glasgow Institute of Architects Design Award for their innovative design of The CatStrand.

TOM STADE REVIEW

Canadian Comedian Tom Stade performed at The CatStrand at the beginning of November. The evening began with a support act by two Edinburgh based improvisation artists called Stu and Gary. They spent a daft and gentle first half creating spontaneous characters led by suggestions from the audience. Their quick witted innovations were most impressive and had everyone in stitches. They left the stage to rapturous applause and said afterwards that the audience was the best they had ever experienced. They thought that it was probably because we are a small local community where people know each other and explained that they had never experienced such great interaction with city audiences.

Whether or not Stu and Gary's enthusiasm inspired Tom Stade's set afterwards will remain a mystery, but Tom, in an unexpected new career move, went on to stretch the concept of audience participation to its limits. At first everything went according to plan and his well timed observations seemed to hit the mark. He began with his usual entertaining tales of a Canadian's experiences of Argos stores and beef sellers at Scottish market stalls, which went down well. But as the performance progressed he veered more and more from the script and instead went looking for jokes by way of the audience. On occasions he hit comedy gold and managed to wheedle some extraordinary information out of people which produced great material with plenty of potential. At times, however, his interrogations became accusations, and it appeared to be cringing embarrassment rather than the punch-lines prompting the laughs. Afterwards his stunned tour manager agreed that he might have gone too far and apologised for any offence caused. She asked what had come over him. Tom didn't seem to know, but appeared inspired, and thought that his new found confrontational confidence was a bold career development which would wow his regular audiences! Feedback from The CatStrand audience would suggest they're not so sure: reactions ranged from shocked and upset to, "That's the best show I've seen in ages, more of the same, please!"

GAS at The CatStrand

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 December, 12.00pm - 4.00pm, Free entry

This weekend is the first ever GAS (Great Art Swap) at the CatStrand! Do you have any paintings on your wall that you're bored looking at? Old framed drawings sitting in the loft? This is an opportunity to bring along an original piece of art that you no longer want or need and swap it for a new one. Or, for a small commission, we will sell it for you on your behalf. If you don't have a painting to swap or sell you can still come along and buy something new. You never know what treasures you might find! Art works can be dropped off at The CatStrand during the week beginning the 26 of November. This is a small scale pilot event, if successful there will be a much bigger one in the new year. For more information on this event please contact The CatStrand on 01644 420374.

Storytelling Café

Thursdays 6 December and 3 January, 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.

Glenkens Young Arts

Saturday 8 December and Saturday 12 January, 10am - 12noon, £4.00

A monthly arts-based workshops for young people aged 8 to 13 years. Held on the second Saturday in each month, each two-hour workshop will offer expert tuition and hands-on experience across a range of fun filled activities.

Play it by Ear

Monday, 10 December and 14 February 1.30pm - 2.30pm

£2 per adult/child, 50p per additional child
Monthly song, music and storytelling workshop for pre-school children, 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. No booking necessary - just turn up!

Christmas Crafts

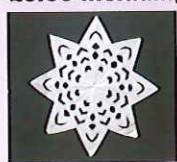
Wednesday 12 December

4.00pm - 6.00pm, 5-7 year olds

Thursday 13 December

4.00pm - 6.00pm, 8-11 year olds

£5.00 including all materials, juice



and biscuits

Creative craft classes with a special festive theme for primary school aged children. This will be a glittery occasion where you can come along and make Christmas decorations, presents and cards from all sorts of different materials. Please book in advance as places will be limited. It is advised to wear old clothes as things may get messy!

The Feral Choir

Forgotten Carols:

Saturday 15 December, 7.30pm

£7/£5 including hot wine and shortbread

Reader Tom Pow - Soloist Sam Lee

Researched & conducted by Ali Burns

This beautiful and atmospheric concert is fast becoming a must attend event. It features "forgotten" carols that originate from Britain's rich folk traditions. These winter songs and carols are woven together with readings of contemporary poetry and prose and this year's reader is Tom Pow, Dumfries based poet and writer who is making a welcome and popular return after last year's run of concerts. Singing with the choir as soloist for the first time is Sam Lee from London.



Battle of The Bands

Friday 21 December, 7.30pm, £3

This event aims to showcase the best of Dumfries and Galloway's young bands, with a chance to appear at the next Knockengoroch festival for the winners! Each band will perform up to 3 songs to our panel of judges. If you are in a band, think you have talent and would like to take part in this event please give us a call on 01644 420374 or email info@catstrand.com. The bar will be open for soft drinks only. No bottles, please.

Tales for the Turning Year

Saturday 22 December, 4.00pm, £4/£3

Stories and Music to celebrate the heart of Winter. Outside the cold wind blew, but close to the fire everyone was listening. There was music in the air, there were stories in the ear, there were songs that needed singing at the Turning of the Year.



Come and listen, sing and share our celebration of one year ending and another beginning. Includes an interval workshop where you can make paper snowflakes to decorate the stage.

For Family Audiences 5 years+

Modern Jive Night

Saturday 5 January, 8-10pm, £7.50

A fun end to the festive season where one dance fits all! Come along and enjoy a jive lesson with local dance teacher, Sam Hood, followed by a buffet dance. This is a fun evening for adults where you can learn all the skills you need to pass yourself off as an accomplished jive dancer in under 15 minutes! The steps are easy to pick up and can be used to dance to all types of music, from the 1940s to the present day. Price includes a light buffet and a glass of wine.

Charles Stuart-Menteth

Tuesday 15

January 7.30pm, £5.00

An entertaining talk by Charles Stuart-Menteth, about his fascinating and intriguing experiences driving the Paris-Beijing Rally in the spring of 2007, to raise money for the Chain of Hope Charity. The talk will be illustrated.



CatStrand website:
www.catstrand.com

NEW COMMUNITY PROJECTS FOR EARLY 2008 AT THE CATSTRAND

Fitness Training Class: Increase your strength, stamina and flexibility at our fitness/circuit training class. Circuits will include: press-ups; sit-ups; skipping; step-ups; lunges; star jumps and sprints, followed by a cool down and stretching session. Instructor: Harry Fenton.
Commencing Monday 11th February, 7.30 - 8.30pm, and running weekly. Price £4/£3 concessions.

Tai Chi: Six week class
Commencing Monday January 7th, 6 - 7pm. Instructor: Elaine Cameron. Price: £4/£3 concessions. Open to all

'Taking the first step in computing':

An elementary six week course in computing, starting from switching the computer on! The IT Centre can offer certified or an informal introduction to computing to learn to use the mouse, keyboard and the very basics in Word processing, Internet and email. It's the ideal course to get you started! This course is for people aged 18+.

Classes commence Thursday 17th January, 5.30 - 7.30pm.

'Taking the next step in computing':

Computer Literacy and Information Technology Level 1: If you have just the very basics in computing and wish to progress your skills further, the CLAIT course is just what you are looking for. It is made up of a range of units to choose from such as Word Processing or Databases. Approximately 12 hours of study will complete each unit. An exam can be taken in any of the units for which a certificate will be awarded. The units include: File Management and e-Document production; Creating Spreadsheets and Graphs; Database Manipulation; e-Publication Creation (PowerPoint) and Online Communication (Internet access is necessary). The tutor is from the IT Centre, Castle Douglas. This course is for people aged: 18+ and is ILA Scotland approved - £200 or £100 could open new doors to you!
Classes commence Tuesday 15th January, 5.30 - 7.30pm and run for 6 weeks.

'Brush up your skills': Do forms and letters confuse you? Do you want a new job, but afraid your writing isn't up to it? This is a free learning programme at the CatStrand delivered by the Stewartry Community Learning and Development Service. It is not an academic

course. It is simple, practical help and support from a qualified tutor to help with all the reading, writing and number skills that we need in today's world. The way the sessions are run is informal and friendly and every learner will have their own 'learning plan' made out by the tutor. Come along to one of our free sessions.
Weekly classes commence early 2008. Watch this space!

English for Speakers of Other Languages:

Improving your English can help you get more out of your life in the UK. It will also help if you want to study or improve your CV. Improving your English will make it easier to talk to doctors and teachers; understand the laws and customs of the UK; do a course and get a qualification; help your children with homework, and pass the Life in the UK test and become a British citizen. The ESOL course involved speaking and listening; reading and writing; vocabulary, punctuation and grammar. Courses delivered at the CatStrand by the Stewartry Community Learning and Development Service.

Weekly classes commence early 2008. Watch this space!

'Healthy Eating - Healthy Living':

Paula Cochrane, Community Worker, Age Concern Scotland, is in partnership with Liz Cole, Community Project Worker, The CatStrand, and together they are hoping to establish a working group of younger and older people to devise a simple cookery book of healthy recipes. There will be a nutritionist and an organic cook on the working group. This project will run weekly for six weeks from 4-5pm. Day and date to be decided, but we are hoping to start this project mid January 2008.

Anybody interested, please contact either Liz on: 01644 420374 or Paula on: 01556 505718.

WEEKLY DROP-IN SESSIONS

These will be held at the CatStrand for confidential advice and information.

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 adults will be held on Thursdays at 4-5pm, from the 4th October to the 20th December, with a professional counsellor on hand to help you with any issues you'd like to discuss.

YOUTH UPDATE

BATTLE OF THE BANDS NEWS

Due to the success of the last Battle of the Bands, there will be another battle on 21st December - see page opposite.

Fitness training classes will be available at The CatStrand for anyone wishing to tone up a bit, and there will also be 'Healthy Eating - Healthy Living' workshops with an organic cook and nutritionist - see CatStrand section to the left of this for further info on these.

YDANCE - 'ALICE IN URBANLAND'



'Weird happenings, strange creatures and surreal landscapes all feature as the action of Lewis Carroll's famous novel is updated to an urban setting. 'Alice in Urbanland' is a week of dance workshops which explore 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.'

Absolutely brilliant fun and tremendous tuition! My two sons, Josh and Brodie, thoroughly enjoyed participating in this five day course resulting in a fabulous show. Well done YDance! Looking forward to more!
Liz Cole

TRADITIONAL MUSIC TUITION



Around twenty youngsters and ten adults have been taking part in the traditional music tuition programme at The CatStrand, run by the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama's YouthWorks outreach department. Classes take place over the course of one weekend every month in fiddle, accordion, whistle and guitar and are taught by some of the best tutors in Scotland. There are still some places available on the courses and GCAT has managed to secure some funding to reduce the costs of tuition; please get in touch with The CatStrand on 01644 420374 if you are interested in taking part.

The students on the course will be presenting an informal Christmas Concert on Sunday 16 December at 3pm, to show what they have learned this term. Admission to the concert is free (donations on the door) and mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

COOKERY Demonstration
at the **CatStrand**
NEW GALLOWAY
11a.m.-12.30p.m.
MONDAY 3rd DECEMBER
£2.00 Entry
Hosted By
Catherine Braid
of THE GREEN TEA HOUSE, MONVAIE
BATTLE also shows
For more info contact
LIZ COLE - on 01644 420 374
COMMUNITY BUS AVAILABLE TO PICK PEOPLE UP AND TAKE THEM HOME

FREE! CHRISTMAS TEA DANCE
at The CatStrand
17th December, 3-5pm
DONATIONS ONLY.
The Saxachords Dance Band, Dairg
Catherine Braid, The Green Tea House
LIZ COLE IS OPERATING THE COMMUNITY BUS
FOR PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF IF REQUIRED...
FOR MORE INFO: CONTACT LIZ COLE TEL: 01644 420 374

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

KELLS PRIMARY NEWS

Christmas Concert: Wednesday, 12th & Thursday, 13th December, 2007.

Primaries 1-3 are entertaining with 'Fishing for Stars' and Primaries 4-7 will be performing the Musical 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. Since we can't exceed the hall



capacity, this will be a 'ticket' event. Tickets will be on sale in the week beginning 26th November from the school. Tel. 01644 420340

Badminton Coaching: As part of the prize for winning the National Badminton

Project Competition in June, the senior pupils have been having badminton lessons for 6 weeks from Mrs. Anne Robertson, Coach to the Scottish Badminton Team.



Kells Karate Champions:

At a recent competition, Dylan Blore, Hayley McGaw and Lewis Grieve all won 2 trophies each. A magnificent achievement and all at Kells are very proud of them.

The final picture is of Pupils from the P4-5 Class who have had an excellent season in our new Kells Garden which was established with the Lottery Funding received in Session 06-07. The children have worked so very hard to produce many different vegetables and we've all enjoyed tasting them. They even entered their potatoes, carrots and cabbage at the Glenkens Show in August.

N.B. Their strawberry plants will be some of the many plants on sale at our School Fayre on 6th December.



CARSPHAIRN PRIMARY



Children from Carsphairn Primary School have been collecting goods to send to people in need overseas as part of the Shoebox Appeal 2007. The pupils and their families collected essential items such as hats and gloves, socks and toiletries and added toys, stationery and other clothing. Their teacher, Mrs. Lowe, was amazed at how much the children gathered. "The school has just 8 pupils, but they were able to fill 11 boxes with the staff adding a further 3. Everyone has been very generous and I am very proud of the children."

The boxes were taken to the collection point at Kirkcudbright Parish Church which was a pick-up point for Blythswood Care. Children and adults in eastern Europe and Asia will receive the boxes.

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE FORTHCOMING TRIPS

TUESDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2007 until TUESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2007, there will be a trip every Tuesday to Newton Stewart. This will leave Dalry at 11.15am and will coincide with 'Senior Swimming' in Newton Stewart or time just to shop etc.

Fare £2 each (Concessions £1) Enquiries/bookings to Brian Tweedy 01644-430427

SATURDAY 1st & 8th DECEMBER 2007 (A FEW SPACES LEFT)
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)

SATURDAY 19TH JANUARY 2008 (JUST A FEW TICKETS LEFT)

SILVERBURN SHOPPING CENTRE, GLASGOW

(New shopping centre with large Marks & Spencers, Debenhams, biggest Tesco in Scotland and many other shops)

Depart New Galloway 9.00am, Dalry 9.10am - Fare £5 per person (Concessions £4)

ALL TRIPS ARE SUBSIDISED BY 'HELP THE AGED' AND TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE CATSTRAND - THE COST COVERS ONLY TRANSPORT - ANY ADMITTANCE COSTS ETC ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

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.

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.

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)

Provisional Dates for the main trips in 2008 will appear in the next issue. This will include trips to Dunoon, the Glasgow River Festival, The Thistle Car Rally in Moffat and a visit to Stirling and the Bridge of Allan Highland Games. Next year a date will be set after which tickets will be available for each trip - the trips get more and more popular and we have to give everyone an equal chance of getting a ticket!

GTI would like to thank all the volunteer drivers for all their help during the past year, and all those of you who have used the bus in one form or another - Best Wishes for a Happy Xmas and a healthy and enjoyable New Year.

Keith Cooper

CCC - CATSTRAND CINEMA CLUB

The CatStrand Cinema Club (CCC) aims to bring a varied and popular series of film 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. Membership benefits will also include reduced ticket prices and, most importantly, the opportunity to support your community cinema.

Ticket prices are £4.50 (non-members) and £3.50 (members and concessions). Annual membership costs £10. If you're a fan of film and would like to join CCC or to find out more about the programme, visit the website, www.catstrand.com or call 01644 420374.

Thursday December 20, 7.30pm

The Good German (2007, Cert 15. 105 mins.)

Who knows what American journalist Jake Geismer (George Clooney) expected to find in postwar Berlin? Peace, maybe. Or at least a story. But certainly not Lena (Cate Blanchett), his beautiful, embittered one-time love. And not the trail of secrecy and deception that leads from Lena to the scheming young corporal (Tobey Maguire) who's her new lover...and to a murder no one seems interested in solving. Except Jake. Steven Soderbergh directs three of today's top talents in this zigzag thriller that's both an atmospheric homage to 1940s filmmaking and a deft modern film noir.



Thursday December 27, Family Matinee 2.00pm

Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe (2005, Cert. PG. 140mins)

C.S.Lewis' timeless adventure follows the exploits of the four Pevensie siblings - Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter - in World War 2 England who enter the world of Narnia through a magical wardrobe while playing a game of "hide-and-seek" at the rural estate of a mysterious professor. Once there, the children discover a charming, once peaceful land inhabited by talking beasts, dwarfs, fauns, centaurs and giants that has become a world cursed to eternal winter by the evil White Witch, Jadis. Under the guidance of a noble and mystical ruler, the magnificent lion Aslan, the children fight to overcome Jadis' powerful hold over Narnia in a spectacular, climactic battle that will free Narnia from her icy spell forever.



Thursday January 3, Family Matinee 2pm

Meet The Robinsons (2007, Cert U 102mins)

Join a brilliant young inventor named Lewis as he sets off on a time-travelling journey to find the family he never knew. In the fantastical world of 2037, hip hoppin' frogs and dogs that wear glasses are as common as talking dinosaurs. In an amazing twist, Lewis discovers that the fate of the future rests in his hands, but he can't save it alone - he'll need every bit of help he can get from the wonderfully wacky Robinson family, who help him learn to keep moving forward and never stop believing in himself.



Wednesday 30 January, 1.30pm

The Philadelphia Story (1940, Cert U, 112 mins)

Sophisticated romantic comedy achieved its pinnacle in this timeless classic, voted one of the Top 100 American Films of all time by the American Film Institute. Katherine Hepburn, Cary Grant and Best Actor Academy Award winner James Stewart star in the masterful comedy about a faultfinding, bride-to-be socialite who gets her comeuppance.



Thursday 31 January, 7.30pm

CatStrand Cinema Club: The Bourne Ultimatum (2007, Cert. 12a, 112 mins)

Matt Damon returns as the trained assassin Jason Bourne for the latest showdown in The Bourne Ultimatum. In the follow-up to 2002's The Bourne Identity and 2004's The Bourne Supremacy, acclaimed director Paul Greengrass (United 93, The Bourne Supremacy) joins returning cast members Julia Stiles and Joan Allen and new additions David Strathairn, Paddy Considine and Edgar Ramirez. All he wanted was to disappear. Instead, Jason Bourne is now hunted by the people who made him what he is. Having lost his memory and the one person he loved, he is undeterred by the barrage of bullets and a new generation of highly-trained killers. Bourne has only one objective: to go back to the beginning and find out who he was.



ON THE BEAT :

Community Police News With Pc Ian Wilson

FESTIVE TIPS TO HELP YOU SAFELY ENJOY THIS TIME OF YEAR.....

As yet another year in the Glenkens draws to a close, I would like to thank you all for your help and assistance and I would wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

At this time of year we should try and make everyone's Festive season jolly... For instance many of you will know someone elderly who lives alone; if so please help us to look after them. Call in on them regularly especially if the weather is extreme, call the police if you think someone needs help, don't delay and please make sure someone has a key to get in without us having to make a mess by forcing an entry. (Thankfully often only to find they are away for the day with relatives!)

If you're away Xmas shopping do not take more cash than you need, and lock those presents in the boot! Report lost or stolen cards as soon as possible.

Motorists - at this time of year we are all constantly under pressure to make time please don't try to make up your time speeding on the dark, damp, and slippery roads!

Finally, every year it goes without saying DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE! The police step up patrols at this time of year - all drivers involved in accidents however minor are breathalysed!

And have a good new year when it comes.....

DALRY POLICE OFFICE : 0845 600 5701

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE

Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue Service wishes to remind all those who have a coal or wood burning fire to ensure that it is swept prior to recommencing use over the winter. Chimneys should be swept at least three times a year and even more depending upon the fuel that is burned there. In addition to preventing the possibility of chimney fires it also reduces the risk of Carbon Monoxide poisoning.

With the possibility of power cuts in the area over the winter I would like to ask everyone to have torches [wind-up or battery] and lanterns of the same variety in their home to provide a safe supply of light in case of emergencies. Candles are not an ideal solution and should be avoided in favour of safer light supplies.

Children in P6 at all the local schools have recently been given a 'Fire Safety In the Home' talk and video input by myself as to making sure they are as safe as possible in the home with regards to fire. If your child comes home wishing to discuss it with you please make the time to do it as the information they get could potentially save your families life if there were a fire. All those children involved received a Home Fire Safety Check request form in their 'goody bag' to pass onto their parents so please take the time to fill them in and get the FREE SMOKE ALARM from Dumfries and Galloway fire and Rescue Service. This is available to everyone - house owners and house occupiers and is a worthwhile and FREE service. Either fill out one of the forms or call 01387 252222 to arrange for one to be carried out. Make sure your home is safe in the run up to Christmas. Additional free alarms are available to be fitted into childrens bedrooms, so take advantage of this FREE service. It takes just a few minutes to make your home safer.

While mentioning Christmas please make sure that you have enough batteries for your children's new toys on Christmas Day. DO NOT REMOVE THE BATTERY FROM THE SMOKE ALARM! Without a battery a smoke alarm is a useless piece of plastic. The Fire Cadets are enjoying a well earned break and will recommence in the New Year. At the moment there are 10 in number but there are still two places available to children residing in the Glenkens area and ages between 11 and 16. Please enquire with Stewartry District staff for application details.

This is the last newsletter I will be writing as I am starting in Dumfries in December. The new Fire Officer in charge of Community Fire Safety will be Watch Manager Ian Campbell who will take over from me on December 3rd and any future requests for talks or general Fire Safety In The Home information should be directed towards him. He will take over running the Fire Cadets Scheme, and other Stewartry projects which I have enjoyed attending and organising. Thank you for taking the time to read this and have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Susan A Maxwell, Community Safety Officer, Stewartry, Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue Service

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays

Balmacellan 12 noon 1st
Carsphairn 10.30 am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
Dalry 12 noon 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th
Kells 10.30 am 2nd 3rd 4th

Special Services and Events

9th December 6.30 pm

Carols by Candlelight Service with
Glenkens Church Choir in Kells Church.

22nd December 5.00 pm

Carsphairn Community Christmas Service
in Carsphairn Church.

24th December 11.30 pm

Watchnight Service in Carsphairn Church.

25th December 10.30 pm

Christmas Day Family Service in
Balmacellan Church.

30th December 10.30 am

United Service with Choir in Dalry Church

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

10.30 am Holy Communion
Every Sunday and Wednesday

Christmas Services

Monday 24th December

11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day

10.30 am Holy Communion

Wednesday 26th December

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 30th December

10.30 am Carol Service

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

St John's, Castle Douglas

Mass on -

Saturday 6 pm & Thursday 7 pm

CLUB CORNER

KICKBACK MARTIAL ARTS: THORNHILL COMPETITION

Sunday, October the 7th saw the second of Kickback Martial Arts yearly inter-club competitions in Thornhill and as usual the Glenkens Club sent a healthy delegation (many thanks to Margaret Sainsbury for driving us in the GCAT bus once again!). The atmosphere at the competition was great as ever, with plenty of trophies being given out and plenty of categories to win them in. The GCAT bus returned 14 trophies heavier at the end of a great day out. Our winners were: Hannah Sainsbury with four 1st place trophies, Alasdair Drummond with two 2nd's, a 3rd and a 4th, Jim Banner with a 1st and a 3rd, Angela Miller with a 2nd and a 3rd, Nick Banner with a 2nd and a 4th for Mairi MacKay. A lot of fun was had by all.

Many thanks to our instructors, Brian and Nancy Hilton, for running the competition. Anybody interested in joining our club is welcome, young, old or in between. Classes run on Tuesday night from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, and on Thursday night from 7pm to 9pm at Dalry Community centre and cost £2 per hour.



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. Shows will start at 7.30 pm. Tickets can be bought ahead of time for a discounted rate of £5 adults and £2.50 for children – call Christine on 430 209. Tickets will also be available on the door at £6 for adults, £3 for children. With lots of wonderful 'special effects' including a car and a miniature gypsy wagon, this year's panto looks set to be a real hit!

GLENKENS WALKING GROUP

Gerry Cinderby and John McBeth raising the Saltire Flag on the top of Waterside Hill (below left). The Glenkens Walking Group celebrate the occasion (below right).



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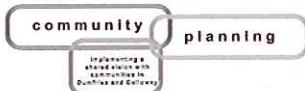
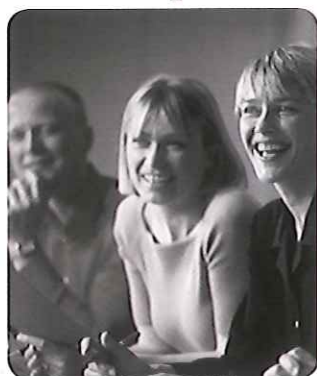
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Julie Moore - 01644 460687

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 Mallman - 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 Dowdsell at [ensys@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

DEADLINE

for February/March
ISSUE 44:

Fri 11th January 2007

glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

GBA Open Evening, Thurs 29 Nov, 7pm, Ken Bridge Hotel (meetings generally 1st Tue of the month)
GAS at The CatStrand, Sat 1 & Sun 2 Dec, 12-4pm, free entry, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Cookery Demonstration, Mon 3 Dec, 11am-12.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Kells School Fayre at the school on Thursday, 06 December at 1.15pm.

Storytelling Café, Thursdays 6 Dec and 3 Jan, 7.30pm, donations on the door, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Glenkens Young Arts, Sat 8 Dec & Sat 12 Jan, 10am-12noon, E4, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Bus trip to Carlisle, Sat 8 Dec, depart Dalry 9.10am, New Galloway 9.20am,

Laurieston 9.40am, E5/E4conc, (for further info see p 8)

Play it by Ear, Mon 10 Dec & 14 Feb, 1.30-2.30pm, E2, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Kells CC meeting, Mon 10 Dec, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Bus trip to Heliland Hall Garden Centre & Moffat, Mon 10 Dec, depart Dalry 9.50am,

New Galloway 10am, Laurieston, 10.20am, E4/E3conc, (for further info see p 8)

Guided Red Kite Walk with Calum Murray, Galloway Red Kite Trail Officer, 12 Dec,

near Parton, for further info call Calum on 01556 670 464

Christmas Crafts, Wed 12 Dec, 4-6pm - 5-7year olds, Thu 13 Dec, 4-6pm - 8-11year olds,

E5 incl all materials, juice & biscuits, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Kells Primary School Christmas Concert, Wed 12 & Thu 13 Dec, tickets on sale from end Nov on 01644 420340

The Feral Choir, Forgotten Carols, Sat 15 Dec, 7.30pm, E7/E5conc, incl hot wine & shortbread,

The CatStrand, New Galloway

Christmas Tea Dance, Mon 17 Dec, 3-5pm, free entry, The CatStrand, New Galloway

CatStrand Cinema Club screening, The Good German, Thu 20 Dec, 7.30pm, E4.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Battle of the Bands, Fri 21 Dec, 7.30pm, E3, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Tales for the Turning Year, Sat 22 Dec, 4pm, E4/E3conc, The CatStrand, New Galloway

CatStrand Cinema Club screening, Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe,

Thu 27 Dec, 2pm, E4.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

CatStrand Cinema Club screening, Meet the Robinsons, Thu 3 Jan, 2pm, E4.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Bus trip to Kelvingrove museum, Transport Museum or new year sales, Sat 5th Jan, depart New

Galloway 9am, Dalry 9.10am, E5/E4conc, (for further info see p 8)

Modern Jive Night, Sat 5 Jan, 8-10pm, E7.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Jeremy Carlisle exhibition, running until 6th Jan, free entry, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Charles Stuart-Menteth, Tue 15 Jan, 7.30pm, E5, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Bus trip to Silverburn shopping centre, Glasgow, Sat 19th Jan, depart New Galloway 9am,

Dalry 9.10am, E5/E4conc, (for further info see p 8)

Engaging Communities workshop, Thu 24 Jan, 10am-1pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway,

to book a space contact Wendy McLauchlan on 01557 330291 or wendy@dumgal.gov.uk by 8 Jan.

Kells Annual Burns Supper Friday, 25th January, 2008

CatStrand Cinema Club screening, The Philadelphia Story Thu 30 Jan, 1.30pm, E4.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

CatStrand Cinema Club screening, The Bourne Ultimatum, Thu 31 Jan, 7.30pm, E4.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

The Alba String Quartet, Sat. 9 February, 8pm, E7.50, Dalry Town Hall

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