

# GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

February / March 2008

ISSUE 44

www.glenkensgazette.com

## LET'S JIVE !

The first Modern Jive (LeRoc) night at The CatStrand was a great success. The event was a sell-out with 50

people being given expert tuition by local dance teacher Sam Hood. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who came. Sam taught for 45 minutes and then a well deserved break was had by all. There was need to bring a partner with you. Throughout the class you changed partners every few minutes. This style of teaching and rotation of partners is a great way to get to meet loads of people in the class and actually helps you improve your dancing.

During the break The CatStrand bar was open and a fantastic buffet was available, which was supplied by the Cross Keys Hotel. Dancing then resumed with a short teaching session followed by an opportunity to practice the steps taught until midnight. Many people had never attempted LeRoc before or professed to having no rhythm and two left feet! By the end of the evening everyone was mastering enough steps to pass themselves off as a modern jiver!

Le Roc is French for rock'n'roll. Combined as one word and brought into the English language. It is the name given to a stylish, modern jive which can be danced to virtually any music. LeRoc is so flexible musically that you can dance it to your own favourite music, from big band swing through rock 'n' roll and right up to date with tracks from the current charts.

Sam intends to set up regular classes in Leroc within the area. For more information telephone 01644 420631. There will be another jive night on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March. It is suitable for completed beginners but be quick to secure your place. Contact The CatStrand or see the brochure for more information.



## CARSPHAIRN BURNS SUPPER

This was the 39th Annual Burns Supper at Carsphairn, and as you can see from the photos the Piper, Andy McCartney, had trouble weaving through the busy hall to pipe in the haggis! The hall was packed out to hear the top table, where the speakers and artists were many. Mr Gordon Johnston from Dumfries proposed the Immortal Memory and also gave a recitation and Rev David Bartholomew gave the Address to the Haggis and the Selkirk Grace. The Toast to the Lassies was proposed by Brian Edgar and ably replied to by Irene McCreath. Dave McFadzean entertained the audience with two songs, and Margaret Sloan played for the Community singing. Anna Campbell was Chairman for the evening and David Gibbon gave the vote of thanks. A great evening was had by all!

## DALRY PRIMARY SCHOOL HAGGIS BASH

The pupils of P6/7 at Dalry Primary School held a unique and innovative Burns Supper on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Calum Wilkie of P6 was Chairman for the night and welcomed the 120 guests with an entertaining rhyme and introduced all the acts with great expertise. Former secondary pupil Aaron Edgar piped in the haggis with gusto! Kirsten Wallace and Kirsty McMath addressed the haggis and Hazel Banner recited the Selkirk Grace. The supper itself, cooked by teachers Erica Porteous and David Brown, was clearly enjoyed by all. A team of secondary pupils were efficient waiting staff and a real team effort from teachers, admin staff, classroom assistants and parents made the whole evening run very smoothly.

The Boys' Toast to the Lassies (written by Fraser Simpson, HT) was witty, dramatic and musical, while the Lassies' reply was a tongue in cheek attack on masculine attitudes (assisted by Catriona McCall and Erica Porteous). Jessica Lawrie and Amelia Trueman sang 'My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose' and Kirstin Stalker was a very confident fiddler. There was more singing from P5/6/7 and dancing from P4/5 (accompanied by Ros Henry). The whole evening was going with a swing.

Then with a fanfare of music came the main event of the night: 'This is Your Life, Robert Burns'.

Fraser Cameron was a polished Michael Aspel with the big, red book as he 'surprised' Rabbie in a tavern. Jamie Bartholomew looked and sounded just like Rabbie Burns as he welcomed a series of surprise guests. Jack Priddy and Kirstin Stalker were Rabbie's proud parents; Hazel Banner was a well disguised brother Gilbert. Elizabeth Trippree was Rabbie's, wife Jean; Jessica Lawrie was Handsome Nell; Toby Wise was the authoritative teacher John Murdoch, and Martin Templeton was the enthusiastic publisher. Amelia Trueman was a convincing Moose! They had been well rehearsed by producer and script writer Sandra Brown and her production team of Margaret Heuchan and Kate Maxwell.

And that was not all! A ceilidh followed with Tommy Edgar MBE on the accordion and lots of enthusiastic dancing. It was a wonderful Burns Supper: musical and dramatic; traditional and modern; respectful and funny. With such innovation and entertainment the works of Robert Burns will be enjoyed and remembered for generations to come.



## IN THIS ISSUE...

2. Local Artist : Michael Dowswell
3. Community Council News  
Glenkens Business Association
4. Nature & Wildlife
5. Our Historic Burgh  
The Glencairn Memorial Book
6. CatStrand News & Events
7. New Community Projects
8. Glenkens Schools Report  
Glenkens Transport Initiative
9. CatStrand Cinema Club  
Become a CatStrand Ambassador  
Fire Safety Message
10. Greeks and Romans  
Times of Worship  
Club Corner
11. Youth Update  
Pub Rescue Needed
12. Glenkens Diary

## LOCAL ARTISTS : Michael Dowswell

### Independent Animator/Director/Cinematographer

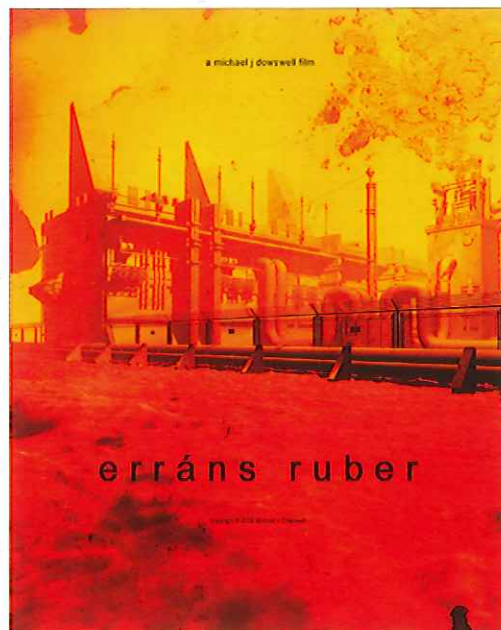
Michael had an interest in working with 3D art from an early age, and directed his first animation in 2003. He says; "that was the turning point in my life regarding animation and filmmaking. You tend to go along in a fog for a while and then suddenly I was out of the fog, and things were very clear. When I directed my first short animation I knew that this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

Michael is currently creating his seventh animation and enjoys taking breaks for photography as he finds this an enjoyable and much-needed distraction during the intense animation process. He finds photography relaxing and therapeutic as it's a fast process, so quite the opposite of producing an animation. You also have the fact that you "go out into the landscape, walk the hills and take in the healthy country air which wakes up your brain as well as your body. You take some photos, come back, drink some tea, look at the photos, then sometimes artistically enhance the images (that part's a lot of fun), then upload them." Michael goes on to say

that one of the reasons he finds this process so satisfying is that you feel an immediate sense of achievement. When the day finishes, with a photograph, you have something 100% complete, ready for people to see; whereas with an animation, a day's work will only complete a tiny little bit of something which will take a long time before it can be appreciated by others.

"Close up photography I got into very recently - it was new to me and it's really quite an amazing thing. When you go up so near to something, you suddenly find yourself in another world. (The image below-left shows this well. This is actually a close-up of a tear in the corner of a cardboard box. If you look closely you can see the head and arm of a little figure emerging from the hole.) You think; "there's an awful lot of new photo opportunities here." I want to do a short film with the powerful magnifying lens that I've been using for taking photographs, but I want movement in the shots, and movement at that magnification is going to be tricky..." Recently Michael has been working locally taking photographs at events in The CatStrand, New Galloway. To find out more about his work visit:

[www.studiotacitus.co.uk/about.html](http://www.studiotacitus.co.uk/about.html)



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## THE ROYAL BURGH OF NEW GALLOWAY & KELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A very enjoyable Christmas Lunch was held in the Cross Keys Hotel on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December when Provost Margaret Sainsbury welcomed over 40 of our Senior Citizens to the popular annual event. Festive entertainment was kindly provided by Jonnie Dowsell on his five row button key accordion. A free raffle was also held with most of the excellent prizes once again provided from the proceeds of a collecting tin held in Jim Hopkins Shop throughout the year. Thanks to Jim for organising the collection and for purchasing the prizes, to Jonnie for the musical entertainment and to Kevin, Susan and staff at the Cross Keys for their hospitality.

A Public Meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December to discuss the future of the Town Hall. Over forty people attended and the mood was very positive towards forming a management group to prove to Dumfries and Galloway Council that the community have the desire and the drive to manage the hall effectively and secure its future. It was agreed to meet again in January together with the appropriate council officials to discuss further and aim to put a formal structure in place to allow some progress to be made with making the hall 'fit for purpose' before any formal handover of control from the council to a local management group. The management group would then be able to apply for funding from various sources that would not be available if the hall remained in the control of the council. It is unfortunate that this action is necessary to enable the hall to be properly maintained and developed but it was agreed by everyone at the meeting that action should be taken as soon as possible to safeguard the hall's future. Several halls in Wigtownshire had already achieved successful handovers and were now actively pursuing further funding options and looking forward to much more hopeful futures. The next meeting has now been arranged for Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

Joe and Joan Rose celebrated their Diamond Wedding in December and the Community Council marked the auspicious occasion with a gift of garden vouchers and wine. Much to Joe and Joan's surprise, the Community Council's congratulations and the gifts were presented by Brian Edgar and Joan Berkley when they 'gate-crashed' the Thursday Club Christmas Party.

The building of the long awaited new houses at Carson's Knowe is due to start in January. There will be twenty houses built, some for rent and some for purchase.

It is unlikely that we will know the future of our local Post Offices until the summer. The review is being carried out on a region by region basis and it is understood that the results of the review of Post Office provision in Dumfries and Galloway will not be announced until June or July.

The installation of the traffic calming measures around Kells School under the Scottish Executive's 'Safer Routes to School' scheme has still not happened. It is understood that all funding available for the current financial year has now been used up but if more funding is made available next year, the proposed work at Kells would still be carried out.

Notice was received and placed in the Town Hall Notice Board of the application procedure for funding under the Lorimer Bequest. This is a long standing bequest fund which provides an annual amount of interest which is available on application to help male students from Kells Parish who are going on to further education or to serve an apprenticeship. Forms are distributed through the schools to eligible students and the applications are considered by the Stewartry Educational Trust at the end of March every year. As the old Town Council previously administered this process, the Community Council have asked to be more closely involved in the future.

## CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Changes to the Carsphairn Smallholding Policy were discussed and questions answered by Carolyn Howarth, Senior Planner in the region. Caroline Howarth explained that the new Local Plan was adopted last year. There was concern that new developments were not as envisaged when the Smallholding Policy was set up and to prevent further inappropriate developments, the Supplementary Planning Guidance was approved by the Council on 2 October. She acknowledged that there should have been some consultation with the Community Council and apologised for the omission. Following discussion and questions, it was emphasised that the Policy has not changed. A review of the development plan will begin in November 2008. The Community Council will be involved in the consultation process.

A report was given on the issues regarding timber transport researched by the steering group. Many of the agreements with forestry groups and timber haulage companies are voluntary and cannot be enforced by the Council. It was noted that road safety issues are greater on the B729 than on the C35, and this needs to be addressed. Further discussion followed and George Prentice informed the group that there would be a meeting of the Timber Transport Group West on Wed 12 Dec. A resident of the Lorg Glen had been invited as well as a member of the community council.

The police report covered complaints about timber lorries using the B7000 - offenders should be reported to the Well Driven Scheme, including the registration number (if possible) and/or other details - colour, operator, time - especially the operator. Objections are taken into consideration at Timber Transport Group meetings. It was recommended that the CC push for improved safety measures on B 729 eg improved visibility; increased passing places; warning signs.

Several members of the community have met with the intention of starting a youth club in Carsphairn. It is hoped that it will begin early in 2008.

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## Glenkens Business Association



With the Festive Season and New Year celebrations behind us the choice for the GBA is to look back to the summer that has passed or resolutely to look ahead to Spring. The Association's committee is considering what is required to implement the marketing plans and other initiatives that comprise the GBAs agenda for the first few months of 2008.

Our priorities will be to continue to build upon what has been achieved during the last 12 months in laying down the foundations upon which to develop a thriving rural and business community. The GBA's mission for 2008 is therefore to support and develop the key industries that are already in place and conduct a sustained campaign to promote the Glenkens as a unique visitor destination for this and successive years. The fundamentals for this were set in hand during 2007, these included:

- 1 Marketing the 'Visit Glenkens' logo;
- 2 Launching its website, [www.glenkensbusinessassociation.com](http://www.glenkensbusinessassociation.com);
- 3 Distributing 20,000 brochures to promote the Glenkens as the tourist destination for SW Scotland;
- 4 Distributing 5000 point of sale promotional business cards.

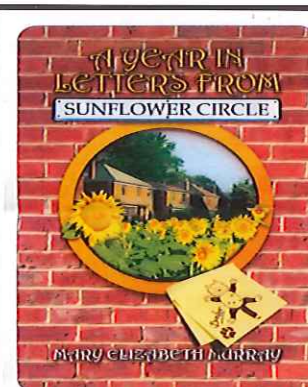
To assist the GBA to achieve these priorities we have re-launched our website which seeks to raise the profile and increase the influence of the Business Association by linking it to other sites that promote the Glenkens to the residents of SW Scotland and tourists.

This year will also see the publication of the second edition of our highly successful Business Directory. It is planned to distribute over 1500 copies throughout the local area to emphasise the broad spectrum of businesses and services that are available. In this way the GBA hopes to continue to assist local business to develop new and innovative ways of marketing their enterprises with the purpose of improving the local economic climate. This is the primary purpose of the Association. If you are not already a member then why not contact us by logging on to our website or join us as an observer at our Annual General Meeting. This is scheduled for Wednesday 19 March, in the Ken Bridge Hotel, commencing at 7p.m. The agenda will include an update from the committee on the achievements of 2007 and the Associations aspirations for the year to come.

The CatStrand will be hosting an Open Day for members of the Glenkens Business Community on Saturday 1 March, from 12.00-4.00pm. This will be an opportunity to find out more about the facilities and services on offer at the venue.

The committee is keen to embrace 2008 as the year of unrivalled opportunity for the Glenkens business and enterprise community. You may wish to benefit by continuing to support the Association through your membership or by joining us to pursue our ambitious agenda. Contact the GBA Secretary, Alan Rumble on 01644 420250. Alternatively we would welcome you at this year's AGM.

Bob Williams, Chairman



This book, 'A Year in Letters from Sunflower Circle', has been recommended by 'Nan', who says "It's a great cheery read for a lovely long weekend." The book is written by an Ayrshire author and features Gretna in its pages.

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## Nature & Wildlife

December saw friend George and I climb up the steep west side of the Rhinns of Kells from Craigeazle on a dim and windy Sunday morning in search of snow buntings, scarce winter visitors from Iceland and Fennoscandia. We'd seen a few on the flanks of Straverron Hill the previous year, feeding on the short fruiting heads of heath rush *Juncus squarrosus*. These magical little birds, with their rippling flight calls, are so evocative of cold winter days when snow on the tops can bring them to much lower altitudes. I've seen them before on the Rig of Glenrie and even as low as Lochinvar. However, this time we were out of luck and indeed the only living creatures we heard or saw in over two hours in the area were a pair of hardy ravens. Not even a lonely blue hare!

In the dearth of wildlife, we concentrated more on the physical features of the Rhinns ridge, impressive at any time but especially so on this wild day. Every blade of grass, deer sedge and rush was gilded in a thin yet rigid film of ice – probably locking up any seeds from prospective snow buntings and hence their absence. The Lochans of Auchniebut, between Milldown and Millyea, were mostly iced over, too, with the wind struggling to keep a few corners open with mini waves and flying icy foam. At this height the dimness had thickened into a fairly heavy mist, and yet a hint of brightness lured us on over the rig towards Loch Dungeon, and then 'O what a glorious sight!' The strong westerly wind, on finding the gap in the hills, was rushing over the top and scooping away the gloom, allowing the sun to descend into the corrie and bathe Loch Dungeon and its immediate surroundings in an eerie but wonderful diffused light, whilst all else remained impenetrable. Hardly 'warm-reakin', but nonetheless rich on sight an otherwise dreich day. It was magnetic really, and only the biting cold and strengthening wind reminded one of the necessity of turning to face it and of seeking lower ground.

There must be a reason for the name Auchiebut, but it is unknown to me. Rhinns, as in Kells, or Rhins of Galloway/Islay, derives from the old Scots/Irish Gaelic for narrow strip or promontory, and is therefore most appropriate for the linear Kells range. As we descended Straverron, the Silver Flow eventually struggled into view – no mystery there regarding the name, with its bog pools evident even from this distance in the poor light. I have just finished reading the late Derek Ratcliffe's excellent New Naturalist book on Galloway and the Borders, wherein he writes of dunlin formerly breeding on this internationally important bogland. These small wading birds were always scarce in Galloway, but many of their former strongholds were enveloped in forestry since the 1940s, or became unsuitable as vegetation became rank in the unplanted, unstocked areas. Derek, former Chief Scientist of the Nature Conservancy Council, lived in Cambridge but visited the region virtually every year from 1946 until his death in 2005, and he had amazing first-hand knowledge of its flora and fauna. His book contains a wealth of information and commentary on factors affecting wildlife, and includes many excellent photographs, including some of the Glenkens.

One fairly new bird to the Glenkens for most people is the nuthatch, a very handsome, chunky little bird with slate blue back, warm fawn front, menacing black eye-stripe and piercing black bill. Not long ago one had to cross the national border to see these beauties, but now they are on the move, edging steadily northwards through Scotland, though never far from deciduous trees, especially oak. They come to peanuts in gardens, though not yet mine (I don't think). A great place to see them is on the feeders from the hides at the RSPB's Ken-Dee reserve. On Xmas day I saw my first for Dalry, and my brother's first for Scotland, on the big oak tree by the swinging bridge on the Ken at the foot of the 'boat well'. I've known them in the Garroch Glen for a few years now, but apparently a small colony nearby has been kept secret since the 1980s!

By some quirk of the earth's speed as it turns the corner in its passage around the sun, whilst the shortest day is the winter solstice on 21 December, the earliest sunsets occur around the 10<sup>th</sup> of that month. The differences in day lengths are almost imperceptible to us at first, during those days – formerly the 'daft days' in Scotland – between Xmas and the new year, but many of our birds notice the difference alright. Even before the old year is out, rooks, ravens, buzzards and kites, amongst others, begin to visibly fly in a slightly different way, with a wee kennin more urgency and interest in their own kind than before. On the burns, of course, white-throated dippers may have been singing since October, whilst indomitable wrens and robins sing half songs throughout the winter, whatever the weather. Come the New Year, however, they are soon joined in song by skittery felties (mistle thrushes), and not so long after by early blackies and, of course, mavis, for me the stars of the show.

By the time February arrives, much of nature is on standby and almost ready to get going, unless a cold snap intervenes for a while, whereupon matters are put on the back burner, so to speak. Progress is inevitable, though, and all of life has this wonderful way of dealing with situations and making the best of the prevailing conditions, consciously or otherwise. In recent months we have been following the fortunes of two red kites down near Port Logan in Wigtownshire, which are using precisely the same area as a kite from north Scotland did last winter. From the radio and wing tags, we know that one of them is an immature bird from a release area in Aberdeen; the other is also immature, but untagged. They migrated down to the shire in the autumn and have spent the winter in that mild seaside locality, just as their forebears did in bygone days, as recorded in the Second Statistical Account for Portpatrick (1838), which stated that they 'were sometimes seen in winter, but not common'. It is most likely that they will return whence they came as spring returns, just as some others will hopefully find their own ways back to the Glenkens and the new spring; we'll see, but spring awaits in any case.

Chris Rollie



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## NEW GALLOWAY *Our Historic Burgh*

by Helen Bolton - PART XXXVI

### Entertainment and Sport in New Galloway

In this age of television and computer games and all manner of sedentary pastimes, where no-one needs to venture further than the armchair for an evening's entertainment, there will no doubt be those who wonder how folk employed their leisure hours in days gone by. "What did people do in the evenings?" is a question often asked by the younger, and not so young, generation!

New Galloway had plenty to offer in the way of entertainment in the evenings and at weekends. Dances were held regularly in the Town Hall with music provided by various talented local musicians, and people thought nothing of walking several miles to attend these very popular gatherings. Refreshments were available, of a non-alcoholic nature, and everyone enjoyed meeting friends in a happy atmosphere. Little or no trouble was experienced, but on the odd occasion when a difference of opinion flared up, the "Village Bobby" was not too far away and order was soon restored.

Football matches between the villages were always well supported and during the mid-1930s teams from the Hydro Scheme's workforce would sometimes arrange a game with one of the local teams. There was great rivalry between the local villages, and after the annual Cattle Show a football match was played between the boys of Dalry and New Galloway. Two well-known "ladies" who ran a laundry in Dalry would station themselves behind the New Galloway goal and belabour the goal-keeper with their umbrellas, thus ensuring a win for their team! All good fun, provided you were not the unfortunate "goalie"!

Golf was a popular game all over Scotland, and New Galloway "boasts a picturesque, if arduous, course, which has been a great attraction for visitors and residents alike for over a hundred years. The original plan of the course has been somewhat altered over the years, and the club house facilities are vastly improved since the early days. New Galloway is justifiably proud of its Golf Club, and long may it continue to delight those who play on the attractive and well-kept course. The wonderful views of the surrounding hills are an added bonus!

During the cold, frosty winters which were a regular occurrence in days gone by, curling was a favourite pastime. The earliest matches were played on the old mill dam up

the Newton Stewart road, but as the dam became weeded over, due to the demise of the village mill, a new curling pond was dug nearby. Skating, also, was popular with the young and not so young, and many happy hours were spent on the curling pond, provided a match was not in progress. Mossroddick, that attractive wee lochan near Dalry, was also a venue for both skating and curling. Some hardy folk would happily walk or cycle from New Galloway to Dalry to enjoy the fun of skating with friends from the neighbouring village. Milder, wet winters have spoiled the pleasure of many folk, and "global warming" had never been heard of in those days!

Indoor entertainment included the very well attended whist drives at the Town Hall, when again, people from neighbouring villages would come to take part. Badminton was enjoyed by many of the more energetic young people, and concerts were often given in the Town Hall.

Drama in the form of a local amateur dramatic club was enjoyed for a short time. Started by Rev Cameron, the Minister who came to Kells from Edinburgh, and who was very keen on drama, the venture proved popular with both audiences and the number of talented local actors and actresses who were discovered in the village. Sadly, the Rev Cameron died very suddenly at an early age and was deeply mourned by all who knew him. No one had the heart to continue with the dramatic club following this sad event and it ceased to exist.

The Reading Room was very well patronised by the local people. Mrs Charters, the caretaker, had everywhere tidy and polished to perfection. There was a huge fire burning in the grate on colder days, and all the newspapers were laid out on the table. Many folk would spend a happy hour or two catching up with the news and having a good warm. Whispered discussions took place concerning news items of interest, and views were exchanged in quiet tones so as not to disturb fellow readers.

In the same building carpet bowls were played, in a long room next to the reading room. Another huge fire warmed that room, and teams came from all around the local area, from Carsphairn in the north to Crossmichael in the south, to play against the New Galloway team.

It is no wonder we of the older generation were never bored. There was so much to do and so many interesting pastimes in which to take part there was no time for boredom! Perhaps some of the youngsters of today should try "taking a leaf from our book" - just for a change? I think we were very fit, and happy, too!

## THE GLENCAIRN MEMORIAL BOOK

During the American Civil War, General Robert E. Lee, commander of the Confederate forces, opined that "It is good that war is terrible, or else we might enjoy it too much." Whilst that may be the 19<sup>th</sup> century equivalent of a modern politician's sound-bite, it is well to be reminded of the human loss and suffering caused by war. Every nation erects memorials to those who did not return from armed conflict, but we in the United Kingdom have a long tradition of commemorating our war dead locally, as well as nationally. This personalises a memorial, making it specific to its geographical location and giving it an increased resonance in the community.

It is this personal aspect to war commemoration that inspired local historians Sandy Hall and (the late) Anthony Murray Flutter to consider a memorial book, listing those from this part of Scotland who had fallen in the two global conflicts. Their efforts have culminated in the forthcoming launch of The Glencairn Memorial Book, to be held in Moniaive Memorial Institute from 5.00-8.00pm on Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome.

Although the Glencairn Memorial Book deals mainly with the parish of Glencairn, it also includes the names of fallen servicemen and women who hailed from the Glenkens and who are listed on memorials in this area. Carsphairn memorial contains three of the names in the book, two of the names are from Balmaclellan and there are two on the St. John's Town of Dalry memorial. This serves to remind us of the encompassing nature of war and that loss and grief pay no heed to boundaries.

The research for this book has taken several years and this is evident in the detailed information contained within it. In A4 hardback, the memorial book is handsomely bound and has a gold leaf cover title. There are 205 pages of information about the men and women listed within, including illustrations, photographs and service details. Profits from the sale of the book will be divided between Erskine Homes (an organisation set up to care for ex-service personnel with a branch in Dumfries) and Moniaive Memorial Institute (a community facility commemorating the very individuals contained in this book).

The Glencairn Memorial Book is priced at £15 and is available from Jane Murray Flutter, Treasurer, Glencairn History Group, Ardnacloch, Moniaive, Thornhill DG3 4HZ Telephone 01848-200388

Bob Martin, HistoryStop Co-ordinator

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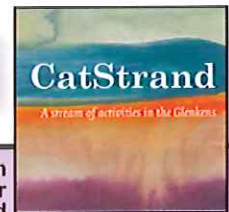
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# CatStrand News & Events



## Exhibition : The Contemporary Scottish Artists' Print Collection

Running until 12 March  
CatStrand opening hours, Free of charge  
The current exhibition on view at The CatStrand is The Contemporary Scottish Artists' Print Collection on loan from Gracefield Arts Centre in Dumfries. The collection features a diverse range of work by a number of well known and distinguished Scottish artists, including prints by Peter Howson and Adrian Wiszniewski who both came to prominence in the 1980s as part of the New Glasgow Boys movement. Other artists whose works are on display in the exhibition include Edward Summerton, Jim Pattison, Jane Hyslop, Charlie McQueen, Paul Furneaux and Nicola Murray.

## The Dalgarno Singers

Monday 4 February, 7.30pm, £6.00/£4.00



Formed early in 1975 from a group of enthusiastic singers meeting initially in their own homes, the Dalgarno Singers has grown over the years to a choir of between forty and fifty voices. They have also progressed musically to become one of the premier choirs in Dumfries and Galloway.

They have continued to enjoy a wide repertoire of four-part choral music ranging across the musical spectrum - Scots, Light Musical, Part Songs, Sacred, Christmas, Masses and Oratorios. Under their present Conductor, Andy Thorne, they have also added selections from popular Musicals such as 'Les Miserables', 'Guys and Dolls', and 'My Fair Lady'.

## Storytelling Café

Thursday 7 February and Thursday 6 March 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 9 February & Saturday 1 March, 10.00am - 12noon, £4.00

These two-hour workshops are run by professional artists and teachers, and offer expert tuition and hands-on experience across a range of fun filled visual arts and crafts activities. Due to overwhelming demand there will now be two workshops taking place each month, beginning in April. Participants can take part in the morning or afternoon sessions, but not both. Please note, these workshops usually take place on the second Saturday of every month, except in March when it has been moved to the first Saturday.

## Play it by Ear

Monday 11 February and Monday 10 March 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, run by the writer, storyteller and musician, Tony Bonning. Play it by Ear aims to give young children an introduction to rhythm, instruments and singing. Sessions are suitable for children from birth onwards and will take place on the second Monday of every month. No booking necessary - just turn up!

## Company Chordelia : 73½ Minutes to Make a Good Impression

Tuesday 12 February, 7.30pm, £5.00 / £4.00

A dance theatre show by Kally Lloyd-Jones & Michael Popper. Performed by Peter Baldwin, Matt Foster & Kally Lloyd-Jones. Personal branding gurus Company Chordelia will show you how to make the most of your appearance and self-presentation. Packed with their expert advice, this handy portable show will give you the confidence you need. Find out how to package yourself appropriately and boost your chances of success.

Company Chordelia's Artistic Director Kally Lloyd-Jones teams up again with Michael Popper to create a new piece of idiosyncratic and raucous dance theatre. "Company Chordelia are not scared to make dance funny" Scotland on Sunday



## TAG Theatre Company presents Wee Fairy Tales

Wednesday 20 February, 4.00pm, £3.00  
By Matthew Fitt & James Robertson  
Directed by Jeremy Raison

Join us for fun and frolics, as three performers and a magical trunk full of props and surprises tell the stories of The Three Wee Pigs, Cinderella and other traditional fairytales in rich Scots language - classic tales for bairns o' aw ages. Suitable for 3 years +  
TAG is part of the Citizens' Theatre



## The John Fenner Mike Daly All Stars

Saturday 23 February, 8.00pm, £8.00 / £6.00

An evening of Swinging Dixieland with an All Star line up headed by acclaimed local musician and professional jazz guitarist, John Fenner, alongside cornet player, Mike Daly. John and Mike have got together an outstanding seven piece band which also includes Duncan Nairn, Tom Finlay, Tommy Evans, Jackie Murray and Bobby Orr.



## Modern Jive Night

Saturday 1st March, 8pm, £8.00

Thought you couldn't dance? Well by the end of this evening, you will know enough steps to enjoy dancing the night away. This event is suitable for a complete beginner (even those who say that they have two left feet!). Modern Jive can be danced to music from any decade and so is suitable for all ages.

Enjoy a lesson with local dance teacher Sam Hood, followed by a buffet dance. Price includes a light buffet and a glass of wine.

## Philippa Jones Exhibition, and John Curtis Book Launch

Opening 22 March, running until end of April 11.00am - 2.00pm, Free of charge  
Philippa Jones is an artist who was brought up in Galloway and who now lives in Windsor. She will be exhibiting a collection of her landscape and still life paintings. The opening will be accompanied by the launch of a new book of photographs by John Curtis, with text by David Devereux.

## Shona Reppe Puppets: Olga Volt The Electric Fairy

Monday 24 March, 3.00pm, £3.00

ROLL UP! ROLL UP! For the first time in your town. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, welcome to the magical and glowing world of Olga Volt - The Electric Fairy. Step inside, take a seat, and brace yourself for the brightest sideshow on Earth. PLUS admission to the Olga Volt Spanish Doll Museum FREE with every ticket. In the setting of a traditional circus sideshow Olga Volt prepares to dazzle yet another audience, but something is wrong. Olga is tired and her magic powers are fading. Can it be true, what will become of her? Does anyone have a torch? An original and extraordinary story co-created with Charlot Lemoine (Velo Theatre, France) and told imaginatively with puppets, storytelling, light and shadow. This event is part of the Scotland wide Puppet Animation Festival  
Duration 50 minutes, suitable for ages 6+.

## Not Guilty

Saturday 29 March, 8.00pm, £8.00 / £6.00

The hugely popular band Not Guilty, from Castle Douglas, make their first ever appearance at The CatStrand. Featuring favourites from the 1960s and 70's, this band promise an energetic evening with a great party atmosphere.



## Watercolour Painting Summer School

Galloway artist, Hazel Campbell, will be running a five day watercolour painting summer school at The CatStrand from



Monday 11 to Friday 15 August. The course will run from 10.00am till 4.00pm with an hour break for a light lunch which will be provided. Coffee and tea are also available. If the weather is good some of the classes will take place out and about the beautiful Glenkens. The cost for five days is £200 which includes all food. Students will be sent a list of materials nearer the time. Hazel has been running similar classes from a converted stable near Castle Douglas for a number of years and they have proven to be very successful. For more information on the course please contact The CatStrand on 01644 420374.

**CatStrand website:**  
[www.catstrand.com](http://www.catstrand.com)

## NEW COMMUNITY PROJECTS FOR EARLY 2008 AT THE CATSTRAND

**TAI CHI:** Evening class: open to all - starts Mondays, 6-7pm, £4/£3 concessions. Day class: open to all - starts Thursdays, 10.15-11.15am, £4/£3 concessions. Classes run throughout the year and it's OK to miss one!

**GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS:** Open to all ages: starts Mondays, 10-11am, £4/£3 concessions. Classes run throughout the year and it's OK to miss one!

**IT CLASSES:** Advanced classes: 6 week courses, classes held on Tuesdays 5.30-7.30pm - Basic IT class: 6 week courses, classes held on Thursdays 5.30-7.30pm. The tutor is from the IT Centre in Castle Douglas and classes will be held at The CatStrand. If you are over 18 years of age you can apply for an ILA grant to fund a course. If you earn under £18,000 a year you can receive £200, if you earn over £18,000 a year, you can receive £100.

**ITALIAN CLASSES:** start Wednesday 6th Feb, 6.30-8.30pm at the CatStrand, 10 sessions, priced £150 with an extra free session. The tutor is from The Galloway School of English, Dumfries. Anyone interested in learning another language, such as Spanish, please let Liz Cole know and we can organise tuition.

**'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.

**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 involves 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.

**'HEALTHY EATING - HEALTHY LIVING':** Paula Cochrane, Community Worker, Age Concern Scotland, is in partnership with Liz Cole, Community Project Worker at 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 Wednesday April 16th, 4-5pm. Anybody interested, please contact either Liz on: 01644 420374 or Paula on 01556 505718.

### POLISH DAY

Saturday 26 April at The CatStrand  
New Galloway: 3.00 - 9.00pm

Polish food, live music,  
information and advice stalls, and films

(open to all, admission free, donations welcome)

**The Community Bus will be available for free transport to and from the event.**

**Contact Liz Cole for details on 01644 420374**



### SEE POSTERS FOR LOTS MORE!

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Stewartry Community Health Action Partnership (CHAP) will be celebrating International Women's Day 2008 on 8th March, in Castle Douglas Town Hall, 10am - 3pm. The event will allow local women to showcase their expertise and talents to our local community. There will be workshops throughout the day on Dance, Tai Chi and Creative Writing. There will be alternative therapies on show as well as information on nutrition, exercise and domestic abuse. CatStrand will be attending with information on the latest happenings in the Glenkens. There will be something for all ages and all are welcome.

### MONTHLY DROP-IN SESSIONS

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

For people aged 50+, sessions will be held on the first Wednesday of each month from 10-11am. 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 the first Thursday of each month at 4-5pm. There will be a professional counsellor on hand to help you with any issues you'd like to discuss.

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Commencing... **MON 11th FEB** **Weekly AT THE CatStrand** **PRICE £4/£3**  
7.30-8.30pm  
NEW GALLOWAY  
TO BOOK CONTACT LIZ COLE, TEL 01644 420374  
**INSTRUCTOR: HARRY FENTON**  
\*\*\* Circuits Will Include \*\*\*  
**PRESS-UPS** **STAR JUMPS** **FOLLOWED BY A COOL DOWN & STRETCHING SESSION**  
**SKIPPING** **Lunges & Sprites**  
**STEP-UPS** **\*\*\***

**FREE!**  
**VALENTINE'S TEA DANCE**  
at The CatStrand  
14th February, 3-5pm  
DONATIONS ONLY.  
**The Saxachords Dance Band, Dalry**  
**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

**COOKERY Demonstration**  
at the  
**CatStrand**  
**NEW GALLOWAY**  
11a.m.-12.30p.m.  
**MONDAY 17th MARCH**  
**OPEN TO ALL**  
£2.00 Entry  
Hosted By  
**Catherine Braid**  
of THE GREEN TEA HOUSE, MONVANE  
For more info contact  
**LIZ COLE - on 01644 420 374**  
COMMUNITY BUS AVAILABLE TO PICK PEOPLE UP AND TAKE THEM HOME

**STEPPING OUT!**  
**LEARN TO Tap Dance & Have Fun!**  
**WEEKLY CLASSES:**  
Tuesdays 7-8pm  
at the CatStrand,  
NEW GALLOWAY  
**START DATE: 19th FEB**  
**L4/L3 CONCESSIONS**  
**DANCE TEACHER: WENDY LEACH**  
To book, contact Liz Cole:  
**01644 420374**

**TAI CHI CLASSES**  
Monday 7th January  
6 p.m.-7 p.m.  
**The CatStrand**  
New Galloway  
6 weeks of classes  
Price: £4/£3 concessions  
Open to All  
Instructor: Elaine Cameron Contact Liz Cole: 01644 420 374  
**太極拳**  
...the key... to a balanced healthy lifestyle!

## GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

### KELLS PRIMARY NEWS

Thanks to all who supported our Christmas shows and the Fayre which raised the fantastic sum of £982! As a special festive treat Primary 4-7 went to Edinburgh Playhouse to see Joseph, and they then performed this show themselves on two evenings for the Christmas production. Primary 1-3 told and sang the story of the Nativity in 'Fishing for Stars'. Thanks again to all the parents who helped with costumes, make-up, refreshments, etc. - teamwork at its best!

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT DALRY SCHOOL

As usual, Dalry parents and friends filled the school hall to capacity to see pupils from both primary and secondary departments plus the staff perform various Christmas items. First up were classes P1-5 who gave a wonderful and joyful performance of The Shiniest Star. Every child there was a star that night! The first half concluded with three contrasting and fun pieces which showcased the talent we have in Dalry.

The second half of the evening featured mainly secondary pupils. There were some super



performances - in particular Santa Baby by S2 and In Dulci Jubilo by S3/4. Then came the staff choir who were Spending Christmas on the beach at Waikiki in the company of a very fine Hula girl. Enough said. The concert concluded with a Christmas medley and a final item Dream Catch Me featuring all the stars of the show. A fitting and fun start to the Christmas holidays.

Secondary pupils enjoyed their end of term dance on Wednesday 19 December, an event organised by a very hard working Student Council aide and abetted by Mr Bannister and his top hat.

As the photographs show, the pupils looked fantastic with some super outfits and hairstyles; the girls were even more glamorous! Traditional music was provided by Tommy Edgar who had

the entire company on the floor from the word go dancing all the country dance favourites. The superb buffet provided by Mrs Austin's team was thoroughly appreciated by all the dancers at the interval as they enjoyed a refuel stop.

Games and a disco session followed, music chosen by the pupils, with a few staff favourites thrown in and all too soon it was time for Auld Lang Syne. A great night to celebrate the end of term.



On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> it was the turn of the primary pupils to don the glad rags enjoy their party. It is a joy to see pupils as young as five and six continuing Scottish tradition by dancing the St Bernard's Waltz and the Canadian Barn Dance. In addition there were lots of party games, cakes and a visit from Santa Claus - all the ingredients to send the youngsters away for an exciting holiday and their teachers for some much needed rest and recuperation!

### GLASGOW SCIENTISTS AT DALRY



Scientists from Glasgow Science Centre have made two visits to Dalry School recently as part of a campaign to encourage children to take an interest in careers in science.

On the first visit they presented "Pixel This" to secondary pupils; this was an interactive show looking at electronic imaging and the most recent developments in this field. One of the points the scientists were keen to put across was that many of the pupils would be employed in jobs that currently do not exist ... food for thought there!

In the final week of term P7 joined S1 and S2 for a follow up show, the highlights including a demonstration of "the bed of nails" - It's science not magic - and the launching of a hydrogen rocket. Fortunately the hall still has its roof intact.

### GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE FORTHCOMING TRIPS

**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. PROVISIONAL DATES FOR TRIPS RUN BY GTI DURING APRIL, MAY, JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST ARE GIVEN BELOW. THESE TRIPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, AND EXTRA TRIPS MAY BE ADDED AS A RESULT OF PUBLIC DEMAND.**

**SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 2008 - Botanic Gardens, Glasgow**  
which includes Kibble Palace (23,000sq foot greenhouse!)

**MONDAY 14th APRIL 2008 - Peebles and Innerleithen.**  
**MONDAY 28th APRIL 2008**

**Houghton Hall Garden Centre, Carlisle and Talkin Tarn.**

**SUNDAY 4th MAY 2008 - Portpatrick and Port Logan**

**MONDAY 12TH MAY 2008 - Isle of Whithorn, Garlieston and Galloway House Gardens.**

**SUNDAY 25TH MAY 2008 - The Falkirk Wheel**

**MONDAY 2nd JUNE 2008 - Newhailes House and Inveresk Lodge Garden (both Nat Trust Properties in Musselburgh) but with good access to Edinburgh.**

**MONDAY 16th JUNE 2008 - Logan Botanical Gardens and The Mull of Galloway**

**SUNDAY 22ND JUNE 2008 - Vintage Car Rally in Moffat.**

**MONDAY 7TH JULY 2008 - Lake District - Ullswater**

**SUNDAY 13TH JULY 2008 - Hutton-in-the-Forest stately home, Nr. Penrith.**

**Historic House with gardens - This is a charity 'Open Day' for the Red Cross.**

**SUNDAY 20th JULY 2008 - Glasgow River Festival**

**MONDAY 28TH JULY 2008 - Drumlanrig Castle.**

**WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST 2008 - Ayr Flower Show**

**SUNDAY 10TH AUGUST 2008 - Stirling or Bridge of Allan Highland Games**

**SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST 2008 - World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow**

Please note - bookings and payment will not be accepted until nearer the time, when exact details of these trips will be advertised.

### 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.**

### WORKSHOP/ STUDIO SPACE

needed in the  
Glenkens for  
producing small  
scale art works.

**Contact Joanna Gisby  
on 01644 430436**

## 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](http://www.catstrand.com) or call 01644 420374.

### **The African Queen (1951, Cert U, 100 min)**

**Wednesday 27 February, 1.30pm**

Take two legendary co-stars, a rip-roaring boys own story, a fearless director and an eventful location shoot in Zaire and Uganda and you get *The African Queen* – the best loved of all adventure movies. During World War One, a hard drinking river trader (Bogart) and a prim missionary (Hepburn) are forced to take a hazardous river expedition together, encountering tropical hazards, nefarious German officers and a surprising romance. Bogart's role won him his only Oscar. Hepburn puts in a characteristically sharp performance. With masterful direction from John Huston and a wonderful script from the classic C.S. Forester novel, *The African Queen* is a rare treat.



### **Atonement (2007, Cert 15, 130 min)**

**Thursday 28 February, 7.30pm**

Fledgling writer Briony Tallis, as a 13-year-old, irrevocably changes the course of several lives when she accuses her older sister's lover of a crime he did not commit. In the summer of 1935, Tallis observes a flirtation between a servant's son, Robbie, and her older sister, Cecilia, that she childishly misconstrues. Briony's misunderstanding leads to a terrible crime whose consequences follow them through World War II. Based on the novel by Ian McEwan, and starring Keira Knightley and James McAvoy. This film has recently been nominated for 14 BAFTA awards!



### **And When Did You Last See Your Father? (2007, Cert PG-13, 92 min)**

**Wednesday 26 March, 1.30pm**

*And When Did You Last See Your Father?* is an exploration of a father/son relationship, as Blake Morrison deals with his father Arthur's terminal illness. Blake's memories of everything funny, embarrassing and upsetting about his childhood and teens are interspersed with tender and heart-rending scenes in the present, as he struggles to come to terms with his father, and their history of conflict, and learns to accept that one's parents are not always accountable to their children. Directed by Anand Tucker (Hilary and Jackie), from a screenplay by David Nicholls, adapted from Blake Morrison's novel of the same name, the film stars Colin Firth, Jim Broadbent, Juliet Stevenson, Gina McKee, Claire Skinner, and Matthew Beard.

### **Into The Wild (2007, Cert 15, 140 min)**

**Thursday 27 March, 7.30pm**

Freshly graduated from college with a promising future, 22 year-old Christopher McCandless walked out of his privileged life and into the Alaskan wilderness in search of adventure.

What happened to him on the way transformed this young wanderer into an enduring symbol for countless people. Was Christopher McCandless a heroic adventurer or a naive idealist, a fearless risk-taker or a tragic figure who wrestled with the precarious balance between man and nature? McCandless' quest took him from the wheat fields of South Dakota to a renegade trip down the Colorado River to the non-conformists' refuge of Slab City, California, and beyond. Along the way, he encountered a series of colorful characters at the very edges of American society who shaped his understanding of life and whose lives he, in turn, changed. In the end, he tested himself by heading alone into the wilds of the great North, where everything he had seen and learned and felt came to a head in ways he never could have expected.



## BECOME A CATSTRAND AMBASSADOR!

Enthusiastic about CatStrand and like to support it?

Know lots of people in your local area?

Got a few hours to spare a month?

Like to be more involved?

Want to benefit from a range of offers and promotions?



If so, being a CatStrand Ambassador might be just for you. In recognition that the most effective type of promotion in rural areas is through personal recommendation via word of mouth we are setting up a network of Ambassadors across the region and further afield to help us to promote CatStrand activities. Similar schemes have proved highly successful for many other venues across the UK in developing both audiences and participation.

As an Ambassador you will help to spread the word about CatStrand in your local area, distribute event brochures and other publicity materials, and act as a local point of contact for information and feedback. Full training will be provided in addition to a programme of promotions and social events to thank you for your support.

If you would like to be an Ambassador or would like more information, please call Lucy Burnett, Audience Development Project Co-ordinator on 01644 420374 or email [lucy@catstrand.com](mailto:lucy@catstrand.com).

The Community Engagement workshop held on the 24th of January at The CatStrand was a big success with 24 people in attendance. The Council department organising the event had been unsure whether to hold the workshop in the Glenkens, as they were worried about the attendance in such a rural location, but the turnout will certainly have proved their decision to try it out right!

## COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE

### HFSC (Home Fire safety checks)

Home fire safety checks are continuing within the Glenkens area, this involves Firefighters from New Galloway Fire Station fitting smoke alarms with a 10 year battery, and giving advice on fire safety in the home. If you do not have a smoke alarm at present or are concerned at the condition of your existing unit, no matter your age please contact Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue Service on 01387 252222 and leave your details, and Firefighters will contact you to arrange a mutually suitable time and date to attend and check your home and fit a smoke alarm.

### Checking your Smoke Alarm

- Once a week, press the test button, to check that the alarm sounds.
- If the alarm does not work, try fitting a new battery.
- If the alarm still does not work, check the batteries are fitted correctly and, if still not working, replace the smoke alarm with a new one.
- Change the battery once a year or sooner if required. Some alarms are now mains powered or fitted with long life or sealed battery units (refer to the manufacturer's instructions in these cases). If the alarm is sounding a single regular beep this means the battery is low and needs replacing.
- Clean the alarm. The outer and inner casings of the battery operated alarms should be lightly vacuumed at least once a year, preferably when you change the battery.

### REMEMBER THESE 10 KEY POINTS

- **PLAN** your escape route now.
- PRACTISE** your escape route as a family.
- You only have seconds. **DON'T STOP** for valuables.
- **SHOUT** to alert your family.
- **KEEP LOW** if the house is full of smoke. • Remember the air is clearer and cooler near the floor.
- **DON'T INVESTIGATE** – keep doors closed.
- If there's no safe way out, get everyone into a **SAFE ROOM**.
- Never jump straight out of a window. **LOWER** yourself onto cushions, etc.
- If necessary **BREAK** a window and make safe all jagged edges, before climbing out.
- **WHEN YOU'RE OUT – STAY OUT – DIAL 999.**

### GLENKENS FIRE CADETS

The Glenkens Cadets have recently recommenced their training at New Galloway Fire Station. Following on with their Module input, covering many aspects of the Fire Service, such skills as Firefighting, Road Traffic Collisions, Breathing Apparatus, Urban Search and Rescue, Decontamination. They will also receive input on Home Fire Safety and First Aid, instruction on Manual Handling and how to avoid injuring themselves. On the practical side of things they will have received training in pump operation, hose running, hydrant use and branch techniques (how to control the volume and pattern of water onto a fire). Based in New Galloway Fire Station the modules span 4 sessions of 7 weeks.

Iain Campbell, Community Fire Safety

## 'WHAT THE GREEKS AND ROMANS HAVE DONE - AND MIGHT STILL DO - FOR US'

The ancient Greeks invented democracy, but our version of it bears no relation to theirs at all. Even the republican Romans, with their all-powerful Senate and consuls, were more democratic than we are. Is there something we can learn from them?

The Romans were the ancient world's great architects and builders: how did they do it? What was their great secret? Is it still relevant to today?

Dr Peter Jones, author and co-author of thirty books on the ancient world, is a regular contributor to the

*Sunday Telegraph*, a columnist for *The Spectator*, and is often heard on the radio. He also founded the charity *Friends of Classics*. His *Learn Latin and Learn Ancient Greek*, based on series in the *Daily Telegraph*, are best sellers. In this special lecture to inaugurate a Classical strand at The CatStrand, he ranges widely (with illustrations) over the achievements and influence of the ancient Greeks and Romans, and ends with a call to draw inspiration from the Castle Douglas Greek and Latin classes, to whom he speaks each term, and reacquaint ourselves with their magnificent languages.

### CATSTRAND CLASSICS CLASSES

Calling Latin lovers old and new! Come to The Catstrand and learn Latin from scratch, or dust off ancient cobwebs. 'Reading Latin', a course specially written for adult beginners, will soon get you reading the language of the ancient authors via its initially adapted, then original texts and built

in grammar. The course is fun, comprehensive and contains topical illustrations and background material. 'Reading Latin' is the set textbook for the Open University Latin Course.

All Greek? It doesn't have to be. Learn Classical Greek from the alphabet to original texts, picking up insight into the history, literature and philosophy of the ancient Greeks along the way. 'Reading Greek' is the set textbook for the Open University course in Classical Greek.

At the end of term a guest speaker will speak on a topic pertinent to both the Latin and Greek classes.

Re. Latin and Greek classes, these are the times I would prefer to offer for the 10 week summer term, beginning 15th April and ending 19th June:

**Tuesday 1000-1200 Latin**

**Thursday 1430-1630 Classical Greek**

Cate Murray

## TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

### Sundays

Balmaclellan 12 noon 1<sup>st</sup>  
Carsphairn 10.30 am 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>  
Dalry 12 noon 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>  
Kells 10.30 am 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>

### Special Services and Events

22nd February 7 pm

Beetle Drive, Dalry Town Hall

7th March 7 pm

World Day of Prayer Service, St Margaret's Church, New Galloway

21st March 7.30 pm

Good Friday Service, Kells Church

23rd March 7 am

Easter Dawn Service, Balmaclellan War Memorial

30th March 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

### CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

St John's, Castle Douglas

Mass on -

Saturday 6 pm & Thursday 7 pm

## C L U B C O R N E R

**GLENKENS '73 CLUB :** The Stewartry One Act Play Festival will take place in the Lochside Theatre from Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, curtain up at 7.30pm each evening. The Glenkens '73 Club have entered two plays, 'Taut Canvas' by Jim Sperinck which will be on stage on the Thursday evening and 'Murphy's Law' by Harry Glass which will close the festival as the final play on the Saturday evening.

'Taut Canvas' is a comedy two-hander following the inept attempts of two women to stage a camping trip in the remote countryside, or maybe it's not as remote as they would like you to think! 'Murphy's Law' is a well known Scottish comedy drama set in a provincial football ground where a young man recalls various life changing moments which happened there. The play offers an intoxicating mixture of humour, pathos and a deeply moving conclusion.

The other plays entered are from Birchvale Players, Lochside Theatre, Crossmichael Drama Club, Creetown Drama Club and Kirkcudbright Academy Drama Club. There are ten entries altogether and the play placed first overall in the Open Section will go forward to represent the Stewartry District at the Western Divisional Finals which will be held in The Ryan Centre, Stranraer at the end of March.

After the club's success last year when they won two trophies for the Best Scottish Play and for the Best Stage Presentation with a much enjoyed performance of 'Wha's Laird', the members are hopeful of further silverware this year. Rehearsals have been underway since early January with the aim of reaching peak performance by the end of February!

Unfortunately last year it was not possible to stage the plays after the festival in the Glenkens due to some of the cast members having other commitments. However, this year the plays will be performed again on March 21<sup>st</sup> in The CatStrand, New Galloway. Please look out for full details nearer the time.

If you would like to support the club at the Festival, tickets will be available at Lochside Theatre from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Tickets cost £6 per night or £20 for all four nights. It is advisable to book early as the tickets always sell out quickly.

## IN THE HOLY LAND - A PERSONAL ODDITY

An illustrated talk by John Repath at St Margaret's Church, New Galloway at 7.30pm on Monday 17th March. Admission free. Donations to the BibleLands Society.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Hosted this year at

**St Margaret's Church  
7th March, 7pm**

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# YOUTH UPDATE

## BATTLE OF THE BANDS



**The CatStrand, Friday 21 December 2007.** Five bands competed at this December's Battle of the Bands - two from the Glenkens, a Thornhill based group, another from Castle Douglas and also one from as far afield as Ayr. The winners were Standing Motion from Ayr, who will feature at the next Knockengoroch Festival, which will be their 'World Ceilidh' in May. The band night was a huge success with an attendance of over 80 people! The competing bands were Standing Motion from Ayr, Crazy Paving from the Glenkens, Yell Hounds from Thornhill, Rock-tagon from Castle Douglas and The MIX from the Glenkens.

### TEA DANCE WITH THE COTTON STREET BIG BAND

**WED 27 FEB, 7.30pm**

**CASTLE DOUGLAS  
TOWN HALL**

**Bring your dancing shoes!  
Light refreshments  
available,**

**the proceeds from which  
will go to charity.**

### PUB RESCUE OPERATION NEEDED!

Greystone's pub in Carsphairn closed on Saturday 12 January. Around 50 people turned up for the closing night where they had karaoke and a free buffet. The pub is now up for sale and the owner is looking to sell it on as a going concern. Greystone's is a vital part of Carsphairn village and has built up a name among locals and visitors for good food and a nice, cosy drink. Situated on the main A713 road, this pub has the potential to be a great little business for its new owner. The pub is already sorely missed so please, if you are interested in buying Greystone's, contact Fred Coulthard at Gillespie, Gifford & Brown on 01556 503744. Help us resuscitate the heart of our wee village!

## OUT OF THE BOX

**BREAKING FREE OF  
GALLERY-BASED  
PRACTICE**

**FRIDAY 7-  
SATURDAY 8  
MARCH 2008**

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Visit [www.outofthebox2008.blogspot.com](http://www.outofthebox2008.blogspot.com)  
Contact Elinor.Gallant@dumgal.gov.uk

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## The Cross Keys Hotel - New Galloway

### Dates for the Diary

**Cross Keys Quiz Night : February 6<sup>th</sup>**

Held every other Wednesday - General Knowledge and Music  
Get a team together and give the grey matter a bit of fun

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February : Valentines Day**

Romance Rules!! - Ladies it's Leap Year - take the initiative.  
Booking essential. Let us know if you are going to propose.....

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March : Mothers Day**

Give your mum a day off from the cooking - spoil her - It's her day  
..... and we will add a nice little surprise for her when she arrives.

Book your table as soon as possible.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March : Easter Sunday Lunch**

Lots of chocolate desserts.....mmmmm

Bar lunches 12noon to 2pm Wed to Sat

Restaurant 6.00pm to 9.00pm Wed to Sat

Open every Sunday for Lunch from 2nd March

Telephone 01644 420494

[enquiries@thecrosskeys-newgalloway.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thecrosskeys-newgalloway.co.uk)  
[www.thecrosskeys-newgalloway.co.uk](http://www.thecrosskeys-newgalloway.co.uk)

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## REGULAR USER GROUPS AT DALRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

### Paint and Art

Monday 1.30 - 4.30pm

### 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 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 April/May  
ISSUE 45:

**Fri 14th March 2008**

[glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk)

## GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

Mon 4 Feb, The Dalgarno Singers, 7.30pm, £6/£4 conc, The CatStrand  
Tue 5 Feb, GBA meeting  
Thu 7 Feb, Storytelling Cafe, 7.30pm, The CatStrand  
Sat 9 Feb, Glenkens Young Arts, 10am-12noon, ages 5-9, £4, The CatStrand  
Mon 11 Feb, Play it by Ear, 1.30-2.30pm, £2 per adult, 50p per child, The CatStrand  
Tue 12 Feb, Company Cordelia: 731/2 Minutes to Make a Good Impression, 7.30pm, £5/£4 conc, The CatStrand  
Thu 14 Feb, Valentine's Tea Dance, 3-5pm, The CatStrand  
Wed 20 Feb, TAG Theatre Company presents Wee Fairy Tales, 4pm, £3, The CatStrand  
Fri 22 Feb, Beetle Drive, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall  
Sat 23 Feb, The John Fenner Mike Daly All Stars, 8pm, £8/£6 conc, The CatStrand  
Wed 27 Feb, The African Queen, 1.30pm, £4.50, CatStrand Cinema Club, The CatStrand  
Thu 28 Feb, Atonement, 7.30pm, £4.50, CatStrand Cinema Club, The CatStrand  
Sat 1 Mar, Glenkens Young Arts, 10am-12noon, £4, The CatStrand  
Sat 1 March, Jive Night, CatStrand, New Galloway  
Tue 4 Mar, GBA meeting  
Thu 6 Mar, Storytelling Cafe, 7.30pm, The CatStrand  
Fri 7 Mar, Wold Day of Prayer Service, 7pm, St Margaret's Church, New Galloway  
Wed 20 Feb, TAG Theatre Company presents Wee Fairy Tales, 4pm, £3, The CatStrand  
Sat 8 Mar, International Womens' Day, 10am-3pm, Castle Douglas Town Hall  
Mon 10 Mar, Play it by Ear, 1.30-2.30pm, £2 per adult, 50p per child, The CatStrand  
Sun 16 Mar, The Glencairn Memorial Book Launch, Moniaive Memorial Institute, 5-8pm  
Mon 17 Mar, Cookery Demonstration, 11am-12.30pm, £2, The CatStrand  
Mon 17 Mar, Talk by John Repath on his trip to Jerusalem, 7.30pm, St Margaret's Church  
Wed 19 Mar, GBA Annual General Meeting, Ken Bridge Hotel, 7pm  
Fri 21 Mar, Good Friday Service, 7.30pm, Kells Church  
Sun 23 Mar, Easter Dawn Service, 7am, Balmaclellan War Memorial  
Mon 24 Mar, Shona Reppe Puppets: Olga Volt The Electric Fairy, 3pm, £3, The CatStrand  
Wed 26 Mar, And When Did You Last See Your Father?, 1.30pm, £4.50, CatStrand Cinema Club, The CatStrand  
Thu 27 Mar, Into The Wild, 7.30pm, £4.50, CatStrand Cinema Club, The CatStrand  
Sat 29 Mar, Not Guilty, 8pm, £8/£6 conc, The CatStrand  
Sun 30 Mar, United Service with Choir, 10.30am, Dalry Church  
Tue 4 Apr, GBA meeting  
running until 12 Mar, CatStrand exhibition The Contemporary Scottish Artists' Print Collection  
opening 22 Mar, exhibition of Philippa Jones, 11am-2pm  
1st Wed of each month, Drop-in Sessions, 10-11am, 50+  
1st Thu of each month, teenagers & young adults Drop-in Sessions, 4-5pm  
Events running weekly at The CatStrand  
from Mon 7 Jan, Tai Chi evening class, 6-7pm, £4/£3 conc  
from Mon 7 Jan, Gentle Exercise Class, 10-11am, £4/£3 conc  
from 10 Jan, Tai Chi day class, 10.15-11.15, £4/£3 conc  
from Wed 6 Feb, Italian Classes, 6.30-8.30pm, £150  
from Mon 11 Feb, Fitness & Circuit Training, 7.30-8.30pm, £4/£3 conc  
from Tues 19 Feb, 8pm, £4/£3 conc  
from Wed 16 Apr, 'Healthy Eating - Healthy Living', 4-5pm  
from Tues 5.30-7.30pm, IT Advanced Classes  
from Thurs 5.30-7.30, IT Beginners Classes  
'Brush Up Your Skills' - weekly classes in general writing/filling out forms/job applications, etc.  
English for Speakers of Other Languages, weekly classes

## REGULAR EVENTS

**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  
**Farmers Market** Feb 8th and March 8th, Dalry Town Hall

## DALRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mon 7.30-8.15pm Beginners Ballroom and Latin  
8.15-9.00pm Improvers Ballroom and Latin  
9.00-9.45 Improvers+ Ballroom and Latin  
Wed 7.30-8.15pm Aerobics, 8.15-9.00pm Toning/conditioning  
Thur 3.30-4.00 Preschool dance, 4.00-4.45 Under 8's Ballroom, latin, modern dance, 4.45-5.30 9yrs+ Ballroom, latin, modern dance

**GCAT - 01644 420 374**

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