

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

April / May 2008

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www.glenkensgazette.com



CRAYFISH CRAZY

"You may have seen on television recently or read in the Galloway News that some of our waters are infested with crayfish," says New Galloway Angling Association Chairman Cliff Winstanley. "This has been an ongoing problem over recent years and the Association has brought this to the attention of various authorities including local MPs but there will be no quick and easy solution. However, in the meantime fishing continues with some hindrance to bait fishing, particularly on Loch Ken during the summer months."

Due to the problems caused by the spread of the North American signal crayfish throughout local rivers and lochs, licences for the capture and sale of crayfish could be granted. Perhaps this troublesome pest could soon become a local delicacy, luring tourists to the area rather than chasing them off - here's hoping!

WINDFARM INQUIRY

Dalry Town Hall has been host for some weeks to an inquiry to decide whether the windfarm at Blackcraig will go ahead. Below is a statement from the Scottish Government about the inquiry:

Scottish & Southern Energy Generation applied in September 2005 for a 23 turbine wind farm. As Blackcraig wind farm is over 50 Megawatts, the application comes directly to Scottish Ministers.

The public inquiry began on 26 February 2008. The council, applicant and third parties have the opportunity to make their case.

The report of the public inquiry will be sent to Ministers, and Ministers will make the final decision on whether to grant or refuse permission. There is no timescale on when Ministers will make a decision.

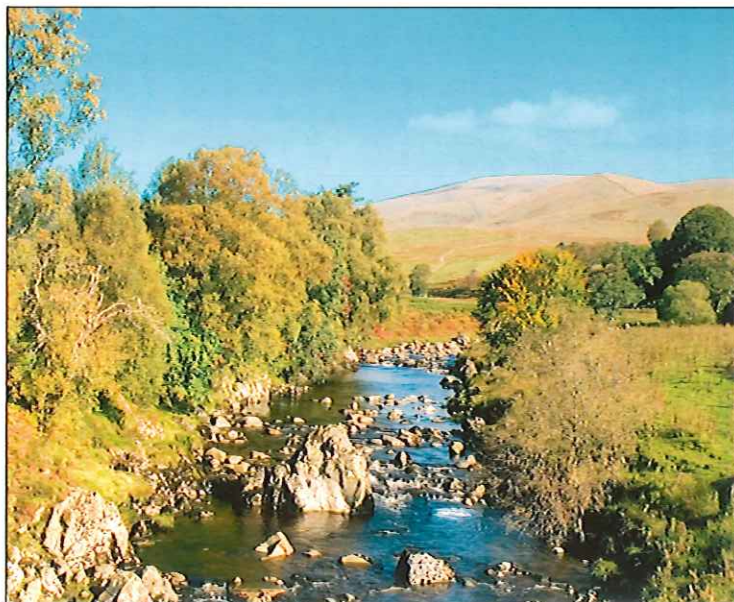
If you would like further information about the inquiry, the Scottish Government can be contacted in 08457 741 741



Teal.ceming.com

PICTURE THE GLENKENS

"The Glenkens is an area of outstanding landscape in the northern part of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. It comprises the valley of the Water of Ken with its tributaries and the uplands between. It is a lightly populated area abounding in wildlife, and has a rich human history with particular associations with the Covenanters of the 17th century."



A new book titled 'The Glenkens' has just been launched containing photographs of our lovely area. The book contains a collection of stunning images by John Curtis with text by David Devereux, and is available for purchase at outlets throughout the Glenkens priced at £3.50.

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Local Artist: Philippa Jones

Philippa was born and grew up in Galloway. After completing her education at Cambridge University, she travelled widely and lived overseas. Now based near Windsor, she often returns to Galloway to paint. Philippa's vision is to capture the essence of a scene and interpret this in a radical and innovative way through the use of colour and line.

Her fresh, vibrant and inspiring interpretations of well known buildings, seascapes, landscapes, still art and wildlife are widely admired. Most recently her attention has been drawn to the challenge of interpreting stonework and complex architectural features.

Philippa exhibits in specialist galleries and art centres. In 2007, her exhibitions included: Les Ecuries Cesseras, (Carcassonne); Tollbooth (Kirkcudbright); Belgravia Gallery, Albemarle St., and Restaurant Le Clos des Souquets. The CatStrand in New Galloway has an exhibition of her work running until the end of April. To find out more about Philippa's work visit www.philippajonesart.com



THE 116TH ANNUAL CARSPHAIRN SHOW SATURDAY 7TH JUNE

COMPETITION SECTIONS INCLUDE

Sheep, Dogs

Horticultural, Baking

Crafts, Childrens' Pet Classes

Sheep Dog Trials (start 8am)

Great Annual Hill Race

Childrens' Sports

Stock Judging Competition

Bar and Catering on the Showfield

Show Dance in Lagwyne Hall

For further details or Schedules

Contact the Secretary

Jean Gibbon

01644 460244 or 460647



Glenkens Business Association

The AGM took place on Wednesday 19th March 2008 at the Ken Bridge Hotel with almost a third of the Business Members represented.

The new committee for 2008/9 was elected and comprises Chairman Ros Hill, Treasurer Annette Williams, Secretary Alan Rumble, Committee Members Andrew Case, Mike Kay, Dave Paterson, Melissa Priddy, Gordon Hill and Ronnie Bradford.

The retiring Chairman, Bob Williams, reviewed the progress that the GBA had made during the past year building on the foundations of the past. He suggested that the GBA was now well placed to move further forward to make the Glenkens the number one place to live, work, do business, and for visitors to stay in the area.

The Keynote Speaker, Dr Phil Leigh, Director of the Crichton Carbon Centre, gave an interesting and fascinating presentation on the work and aims of the new Carbon Centre. The range covered by the centre is considerable, from an MSc in Carbon Management, to the Carbon Footprinting of individual business. Any business in the Glenkens may sign up for a **Free** Carbon Footprint Report. This free offer lasts until July. Interested? Phone Jess or Laura 01387 702041.

Alan Rumble, Secretary

www.glenkensbusinessassociation.com

Dalry Community Council

The Chairman expressed thanks and appreciation for all the hard work Mr Hamilton had carried out around the Summer Seats and within the community over many years.

A representative from UPM Forestry attended the meeting to give a speech on the proposed application for a commercial forestry plantation at Duchrae. There is to be a Scoping meeting on Tue 11 March at 10am in the Lochinvar Hotel, and it was agreed that a few members of the committee should attend this meeting. During the discussions concerns were raised about the increase in logging traffic through the village such a scheme would generate. The local timber liaison meetings are held each quarter, and Councillor Duncan will raise the community's concerns at the next meeting and will also suggest that a general meeting should be arranged between all local community councils within the area.

The open meeting arranged by the Housing Partnership held on 6 Feb was attended by only three people. A member of the community went along and expressed concerns about the type of people housed in property within our village. Nothing came of this. It was suggested that the only way forward is to keep monitoring the situation and to keep raising our views to the appropriate authority until such time that they take notice. Councillor Duncan agreed and suggested the committee should write to the Housing Association, setting out our concerns, particularly regarding the way the open meeting was handled and publicised and to forward a copy of that letter to the Galloway News.

It was confirmed that the sum of £1500 per year would be available to the Community if the windfarm project goes ahead. The award would be overseen by Solway Heritage. The next meeting is scheduled for April and it was agreed that a representative of the CC should attend. The committee was informed that a separate committee would be needed, consisting of local

villagers other than those on the community council, to make a decision on how the funds should be spent, subject to the approval of Solway Heritage.

All correspondence can be viewed and are currently held in a folder at the Top Shop in the Main Street.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 7 April at 7pm

Carsphairn Community Council

Discussion took place on whether it was appropriate to withdraw the Community Council's support of the bid for funding from the STTF for the Lorg road now that we had a copy of the final application. It was agreed not to withdraw support, although there appears to be a bias towards benefits for Montalve.

It was reported on progress towards establishing a youth club; letters have been sent to parents and households, meetings have been arranged, there have been donations of toys and equipment and Iain Howie has been contacted regarding application for Disclosure Scotland forms.

There was a report from a Community Council member who attended the Whiteside wind farm meeting. The windfarm has planning approval and under the D&G Scheme for Community Benefits from Windfarm Developers, Carsphairn will receive £1500. It will be administered by Solway Heritage under this scheme and we need to send a plan to access the money.

It was agreed to write in support of the campaign to save the Lookaround programme. Petition cards will be available in the shop for individuals to support the campaign.

Information is being sought as to whether the village's TV mast will be suitable for digital TV signals.

Regarding having a textile recycling point in the village, the primary school raises funds by participating in the Rag Bag scheme run by Nathan's Wastesavers and it was decided that having a textile recycling bin would undermine this scheme. Regarding recycling, it was noted

that anything can now be put in our bins, as sorting for recycling takes place at the new Eco-Deco plant at Dumfries.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 28 April in Lagwyne Hall at 7pm

The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Parish Community Council

Further to the Public Meetings held over the past few months regarding the future of New Galloway Town Hall, a further meeting was held recently which was attended by Kirsty Peden who is the council official responsible for community facilities in the Stewartry.

All members of the community who expressed an interest at previous meetings were invited to attend and were given the opportunity to discuss any concerns and ask any questions. The feeling of the meeting was very positive towards the future of the Town Hall and this resulted in a proposal to form a Steering Group to investigate ways of securing the future of the hall in cooperation with Dumfries & Galloway Council. Any public spirited local residents who have not already registered their interest in being part of the Steering Group or helping in any way are asked to contact the Chair of the Community Council, Margaret Sainsbury on 01644 430353 as soon as possible so that you can be invited to the next meeting.

The Scottish Alternative Games will be held this year on Sunday August 3rd. Due to the wet weather last year and the ever increasing costs of advertising, insurance etc. we were unfortunately not able to donate as much to our nominated charities as usual. However, we are hoping to attract more sponsorship and additional funding this year to cover all of the fixed costs and as a result are still able to give £500 to charity from last year's funds. £250 will go to Gordon Clendinning's "Maximum Attack" Appeal and £250 to the local branch of the MacMillan Cancer Relief Fund.

CLUB CORNER

NEW GALLOWAY ANGLING ASSOCIATION

New Galloway Angling Association has been in existence for over 50 years and was originally formed with the objectives of encouraging and promoting angling in the district and preventing illegal fishing.

Permanent residents of New Galloway and Balmaclellan qualify for full membership whilst permanent residents of Dalry qualify for membership but without rights to take office or attend meetings unless invited by the President. Membership subscriptions for 2008 are £10 for adults and £2 for juniors (under 16). The current President of the Association is Cliff Winstanley.

The Association controls a stretch of the River Ken, a stretch of Loch Ken, Clatteringshaws Reservoir, Mossdale Loch and a stretch of the Blackwater of Dee River. Brief details of the Association's waters are as follows:

River Ken - Brown trout are native to the river and also stocked; salmon occasionally run during the season; pike, roach and perch are also present. Spinning and bait fishing is allowed but not maggots.

Clatteringshaws Reservoir - fishing on the reservoir is shared by New Galloway and Newton Stewart Angling Associations. Brown trout and pike are native to this loch.

Loch Ken (west bank) - brown trout, pike and perch are native to this loch and salmon run through during the season. The loch is a favourite with roach anglers and many matches are held during the year.

Blackwater of Dee - brown trout and pike are native to the Association's stretch of the river.

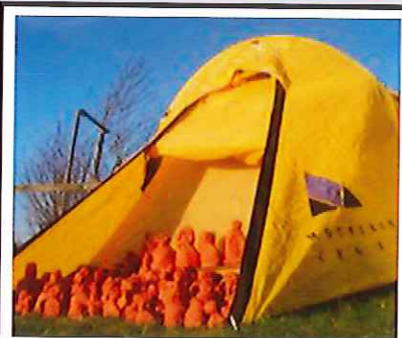


Mossdale Loch - fishing on this loch is from one of the two boats owned by the Association and is strictly fly-fishing only. The loch is regularly stocked with rainbows. Bookings are available from Mossdale Post Office.

During the fishing season the Association holds competitions for members in various forms of angling and also a specific competition for junior members. The current Juniors Trophy holder is Martin Wilson from New Galloway. Competitions for this year are as follows:

Bertram Cup - River Ken (fly only) - Saturday 10 May; Webster Cup - Mossdale Loch (fly only) - Sunday 8 June; Juniors Cup - River Ken (any legal method) - Sat 19 July; J McCubbing Trophy & Seniors Cup - River Ken (any legal method) Saturday 9 August; Jack Holland Trophy - Mossdale Loch (pike only) - Sunday 2 November

If you are interested in joining New Galloway Angling Association or would like more information please contact Cliff Winstanley (01644 420298) or apply for a membership at JR Hopkins' shop in New Galloway.



Local potter Hannah McAndrew has been doing ceramic classes with the cubs. The figures that they have made will be on display at The CatStrand for the first 2 weeks in April.

What is the Well Driven Scheme?

The Well Driven Scheme is something which was set up to monitor the driving of mainly goods vehicles, such as HGV's (including vans), when it became obvious that many people were being affected by the bad driving of such vehicles, and this was affecting the companies' reputations. This led to many contracts being issued to companies to haul goods only if they were in the scheme.

This affected our area when the forestry bodies took the scheme on board with regard to timber haulage. It was seen as a way to regulate hauliers and drivers who caused problems by bad driving and use of unauthorised roads.

The scheme allows anyone to dial the 0800 number and report incidents such as poor or discourteous driving, or lorries on routes which they shouldn't be.

When you phone, the operator takes details of when where and the incident happened, and asks for the registration number or name of operator - thereafter a letter is sent to the body concerned. This flags up to an employer any driver who is regularly being reported (and often leads to dismissal - so it is effective).

These complaints are also raised at regular meetings of the forestry bodies, where local councilors, police and other parties discuss non-recommended routes which are being used, or other problems regarding timber haulage which are being encountered in the locality. This may mean routes are changed and hauliers may be censured re their contracts if complaints continue.

Reporting incidents to the Well Driven Scheme will help our roads to be safer, and make sure that the larger vehicles using our roads are doing so responsibly - so make sure you report any near-misses, discourteous behaviour, or any other incident you feel is relevant. The Well Driven Scheme number is 0800 225533, and is also printed on the back page of the Gazette.

Ian Wilson

SPOTLIGHT: MUSIC

Bob Gibbon, formerly from Furrmiston but now living in Orkney, featured in the headlining acts in this year's Celtic Connections.

Bob plays the accordion in the band "The Chair" who were playing at Celtic Connections biggest gig in the main auditorium of the Concert Hall in Glasgow in January. The concert went down a storm and had a great review in The Scotsman.



The band, (previously Lazy Boy Chair) won a Danny Award at Celtic Connections last year, and are well booked on this year's festival circuit at events such as HebCelt, Shetland and Cambridge festivals.

To get a taste of some of their music visit www.myspace.com/lazyboychair



Get Prepared: Annual Flower & Vegetable Show, Dalry Town Hall, Sat 23 Aug

Section IV - Decorative:

- 68. Miniature arrangement in a container. Not to exceed 6" in any direction.
- 69. Floating arrangement.
- 70. Arrangement in a milk jug & sugar bowl
- 71. Arrangement using fruit, vegetables & flowers
- 72. Foliage arrangement
- 73. Three Flower arrangement (1 variety)
- 74. Flower girls posy (using fresh flowers)
- 75. Floral arrangement - name that tune
- 76. Floral arrangement in a wine glass (12-18 age group)

Section V - Handicrafts:

- 77. Wedding Card (no photographs)
- 78. Hand or machine sewn shopping bag
- 79. Dressed Doll (any craft)
- 80. Canvas work
- 81. Knitted Animal
- 82. Any other needlework
- 83. Pair of knitted bed socks
- 84. Decorated 6" plant pot

- 85. Article crafted in wood (not furniture)

- 86. Original painting or drawing
- 87. Any article using re-cycled medium

- 88. Any other craft article

Section VI - Photographic

- 89. Animal or Animals

Section VIII - Juniors

Age groups 4-7

- 107. Potato head sewn with Cress 'hair'
- 108. Junk model not exceeding 8"
- 109. Decorated 5" flower pot
- 110. A4 pasta picture card

Age groups 8 - 11

- 111. Wooden spoon puppet
- 112. Hand written verse (A4 size) - Mary Mary quite contrary
- 113. 5" pot of herbs (grown from seed)
- 114. A4 poster depicting 2009 flower show.



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Liz Cole on 01644 420374

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CLACHAN FAIR

SUN 8TH JUNE - SAT 14TH JUNE

Sun 8th June - Songs of Praise with Silver Band & Glenkens Choir

Mon 9th June - Whist Drive & Darts Tournament

Tue 10th June - Quiz Night

Wed 11th June - Pet Show & Barbecue

Thurs 12th June - Scottish Night

Fri 13th June - Domino Tournament and Junior & Senior Discos

Sat 14th June - Procession

Day: Stalls in Main Street, fun & games and family entertainment at the School field. GRAND PRIZE DRAW at the Town Hall, 6.30pm. Live entertainment or Dance Band

LOCAL HISTORY

GLENKENS OBJECT OF THE MONTH: A new historical feature has been introduced in The CatStrand with the exhibition of a 'Glenkens Object of the Month' in collaboration with The Stewartry Museum in Kirkcudbright.

From April, a single object relating to the history of the Glenkens will be placed on display in the centre. The April object is a medieval silver brooch dating to around 1300, which was found recently near Dalry. Future months will see engravings, archive photographs, books, medals, tools – in fact any historic material relating to the Glenkens. Many of the exhibits will come from the Stewartry Museum collection, but if any readers have historic items which they would be prepared to lend for a month, please contact David Devereux at the Stewartry museum on 01557-331643 or Rachel Thompson at The CatStrand 01644 420374.

APRIL 2008 - A Medieval Gilded, Silver Brooch, c.1300 - This is a near-complete medieval brooch which would have been used to pin up a cloak or outer-garment. The fastening pin is missing. It was found by the Rev. David Bartholomew using a metal detector near Boatknowe, south of Dalry. Stuart Campbell, National Museums of Scotland, prepared this report for the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel.

"This type of annular brooch with applied rosettes is a distinct type found throughout the British Isles but is particularly well represented in southern Scotland where the border warfare of the 13th and 14th centuries



caused a number to be deposited in hoards. Comparison of this material on the grounds of artisan techniques and stylistic quirks has suggested that the brooches can be grouped into categories representing the work of separate individuals and both in appearance and the materials and techniques used in construction this brooch is to all practical purposes identical to two from the Canonbie hoard, strongly suggesting that they must have come from the same workshop. The two find spots are c. 80km apart and might suggest local or regional production.

Judging by the quantity and quality of the material deposited in hoards – as well as the inherent quality of this piece – such brooches were most likely the possessions of relatively prosperous families and represented a form of stored and portable wealth as well as a badge of status."

The brooch has been allocated to The Stewartry Museum in Kirkcudbright through the Treasure Trove process. (The photo is David Bartholomew on the right and David Devereux on the left standing beside the new CatStrand display.)

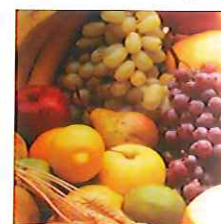


Carsphairn Heritage Centre

The 2008 exhibition is titled 'Kail, Cakes & Cures' and gives a unique insight into domestic life in the Glenkens. It includes old recipes, some of which have been handed down through several generations. Life in the kitchen was not just about cooking, however, and included an assortment of potions and cures for an intriguing variety of ailments. There are also many artifacts from the domestic kitchen on display which are sure to spark a few memories for all who visit!

The Heritage Centre will be open from 21 Mar to 26 May on bank holidays and weekends and from 27 May to 28 Sept daily except Wed.

Opening times are 10.30am - 5pm



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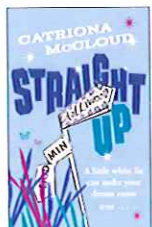
The CatStrand: News & Events

Philippa Jones Exhibition

Runs until the end of April

Philippa Jones, an artist brought up in Galloway who now lives in Windsor, will be exhibiting a collection of her landscape and still life paintings.

Meet the Author: Catriona McCloud



Sat 5 April, 4.30pm, £2.50

Glenkens author, Catriona McCloud, will be reading from her new novel, *Straight Up*. This black comedy with a big heart is Catriona McCloud's second modern novel, following the time-travel caper *Growing Up Again*. Signed copies of all books

will be on sale at promotional prices.

Glenkens Young Arts

Sat 12 Apr, 10 May & 14 June, £4

Two hour workshops run by professional artists and teachers, offering expert tuition and hands-on experience with arts and crafts activities. There will be two workshops: 10am-12 noon for 5-9 year olds and 1pm-3pm for 8-13 year olds. Advance booking advised.



Storytelling Café

Thurs 3 April, 1 May & 5 June, 7.30pm

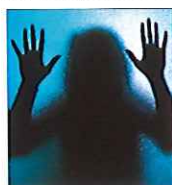
An evening of storytelling, music and poetry. Cakes and coffee will be available. Donations on the door.

Play it by Ear

Mon 14 April, 12 May & 9 June, 1.30pm-2.30pm, £2 per adult/child

Monthly song, music and storytelling workshop for pre-school children, run by the writer, storyteller and musician, Tony Bonning. No booking necessary – just turn up!

Shining City, by Rapture Theatre Company



Thurs 10 April, 7.30pm, £7.00 / £5.00 conc.

The Emerald Isle meets *The Sixth Sense* in this riveting and chilling urban ghost story from the multi-award winning author of *The Weir*, Dublin

Carol and The Seafarer.

Ed Coode : Fri 11 April, 7pm, £5

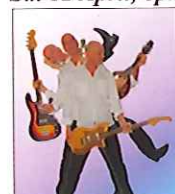


Ed Coode was part of the British Coxless Four Athens Olympics in 2004. Ed will be talking about about the race itself, the preparations that he and his crewmates Matthew

Pinsent, James Cracknell and Steve Williams had to go through and, with the Beijing Olympics now just 3 months away, the Olympics Games from the perspective of an athlete. Coffee and biscuits will be served.

John Coletta, Carol Anderson & Dave Martin Trio:

Sat 12 April, 8pm, £7 / £5conc.



This talented trio will be performing a range of favourite Humpff Family and John Coletta songs as well as some traditional tunes.

Children's Dance Classes with Margaret Morris Movement:

Mondays from 14 April to 30 June, 4pm-5pm, £3 per session

A series of classes designed to develop creativity and wellbeing. With dance teacher Sara Lockwood. Please wear loose clothing. (Age 8-12 yrs)

Johnson & Boswell: Late but Live

Sun 20 April, 7.30pm, £7 / £5conc.

This new comedy drama from Stewart Lee, author of Jerry Springer: The Opera stars stand-up Simon Munnery in the tale of two bilious bores attempting to relaunch their books about their famed tour of Scotland. A brilliantly funny double act.



Spring Fling Taster Exhibition

Thurs 1 – Thurs 22 May, CatStrand

Opening hours, Free of charge

An opportunity to preview a selection of work from participants of this years Spring Fling open studios event, which runs from 24 – 26 May 2008 in 73 artist and makers' studios across Dumfries and Galloway. For further information about Spring Fling visit www.spring-fling.co.uk



Threave Piano Quartet

Sat 3 May, 7.30pm, £6 / £5

The Threave Piano Quartet was formed from members, and

one of the patrons, of the Solway Sinfonia. They first played together in 2007 at the orchestra's annual social event in the Threave Gardens Visitor Centre.

Under The Skin by The Swallow Community Actors,

Mon 5 May, 7.30pm, £5
Things are not always what they seem. Dig below the surface in four short plays by new writers from Dumfries



and Galloway, commissioned and performed by The Swallow Community Actors.

VE Day Tea Dance

Dalry Town Hall, Thurs 8 May, 3pm - 5pm, Free

A lively, fun atmosphere teamed with fantastic food and superb music means a big crowd all keen to get their dancing shoes on or just sing along to old favourites!

Fiddle Rendezvous Tune Up tour

Wed 14 May, 8pm, £9 / £7conc.

This Scottish Arts Council Tune Up Tour brings together three duos consisting of three fiddle players with contrasting styles from America, Ireland and Scotland.

Fred MacAulay

Wed 28 May, 8pm, £12 / £10conc.

Due to popular demand, Scotland's favourite stand up comic and radio presenter returns to The CatStrand as part of a nation-wide tour. 'Rib-achingly funny, one of the funniest men alive' *Sunday Times*

The Lady Of Burma by Richard Shannon

Fri 30 May, 8pm, £7.50 / £5.50conc.

The inspirational true story of Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi is told in this compelling solo performance about the life of the only Nobel Peace Prize winner who is also a political prisoner. Please note, due to the nature of this play, latecomers will not be admitted. This is a Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival event. Tickets available on 01387 245566.



Gordon Giltrap

Sat 31 May, 8pm plus workshop for teenagers, 3pm £8 / £6 conc.

With over forty years in the music business, Ivor Novello nominated Gordon Giltrap is one of the UK's most respected guitarists.



"Gordon Giltrap is one of an elite few who truly have become legendary in their field in their own lifetime. I am proud to call him my friend." Brian May (Queen).

CatStrand website:

www.catstrand.com

Tickets for

performances online at

www.thebooth.co.uk

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

Dalry School High Fliers



Dalry School recently won the annual Stewartry Basketball finals. Dalry won all four of their matches beating Twynholm, Castledykes, Castle Douglas and Gatehouse schools. Captain Jack Priddy who played fantastically said "It is great being the champions, our whole team played really well."

Photograph left to right Calum Wilkie, Mackenzie Lawrie, Jamie Bartholomew, Jack Priddy (captain), Fraser Cameron, Martin Templeton, Elizabeth Tripptree and Drife Finlay.

Kells Burst into Song

On Friday 29th February Kells Primary School's children loaded onto a coach with hardly any trophies in their cabinet. Once they all shuffled through the doors of Dumfries



Academy they knew this year could be a great success if they put their heart and soul into all the choir songs. They sang against Sanquhar, Lochrutton, Lochmaben, Noblehill and Springholm. The children came home to New Galloway with big grins on their faces and carrying 8 trophies with them.

On the Saturday they competed in Scots solos, vocal solos, Singing Games and combined music activities and piano duets. With the piano duets Rachael Jamieson and Lowena Lindsay came 2nd equal with Darrel Wilson and Tessa Maxwell playing 'The Hong Kong Market'. In Scots solos the children got these places 1st Darrel Wilson with the 'Flower of Scotland', 3rd Ruairaidh Curran with the 'Dark Island and Chloe Case with 'Dream Angus'. Vocal Solos 1st Jordan Pears for P4 and P5 boys with the 'Super Supper March'. Singing games 1st Infants and juniors with 'John Kanaka' and 'Head and Shoulders Baby'. Combined Music 1st Kells P5 - 7 choir with 'Any Dream Will Do'. The P5-7 Boys Choir sang 'Never Smile at a Crocodile', and 'Toy Soldiers', bringing home a total of 12 trophies in only 2 days!

Rachael Jamieson & Chloe Case

From Carsphairn to Kabul

Pupils from Carsphairn Primary School have been raising money to support children in Afghanistan. They collected all the money in Smarties tubes given to them at the start of Lent by their teacher, and also in small pots and jars. Altogether the eight pupils collected nearly £60. Mrs Lowe, who gave out the Smarties tubes, was delighted at the response. The money will be going to support work of local charity Afghan Schools Trust which is building schools in Afghanistan. The charity have just completed a girls school and are currently building a student hostel in Kabul.



YOUTH UPDATE

Whenever the word University is mentioned, I'm sure the shenanigans that spring to mind are something along the lines of: sleeping late into the afternoon, excessive drinking, lengthy holidays, 'experimentation', trolley and sign stealing, messy kitchens, poor nutrition, un-ironed clothes, missed lectures, loud music, partying most nights of the week and very little study.

I would like to take this opportunity as a Fresher of Stirling University for six-and-a-bit months (four of which were term-time) to say that this stereotypical view is completely absurd; it's far too mild and unoriginal! I feel it necessary to alert you to the fact that water pistols, chewable vitamins, cook-offs, wax strips, mattress theft, herbal tea, 90's kids TV programmes, Schnapple, a white plastic dog from Marks & Spencers, stock cubes inserted into shower heads, countless fancy dress outfits, bookie slips and a stuffed monkey called Flash have been integral to my personal 'cultured' experience as a student.

On Sunday the 8th of September I moved into my wee room in AK Davidson Halls which would quickly become home (Sorry Mum! New Galloway will always be my real home!). Suffering from the mother of all hangovers as a result of the leaving celebrations the night before, I reluctantly unpacked my most cherished possessions and began my journey as a student. I say reluctantly as, up until the moment I left Elderson's warm milieu, I had (unknown to anyone!) round the world flights on hold! Nevertheless, this plan was promptly disassembled after Freshers Week provided me with enough excitement and challenges to put my itchy feet at bay for the time being.

Contrary to the sentiment of this article so far, Uni does involve a little work. The essay writing process has so far taken the shape of: Step 1: Moaning about the prospect of the essay itself. Step 2: Procrastinating over even contemplating sitting down and writing an essay. Step 3: Blatant denial of any essay whatsoever and consequently spending time in the kitchen (sometimes alcohol is involved however this is not mandatory.) Step 4: Panic when the realisation of the above steps has meant a countdown of approximately eight hours until the deadline turns into a late submission of the, so far, untouched essay. And finally, Step 5:

~ LIFE AT UNI ~

Attempting to complete the essay having drunk your body weight in Redbull and/or coffee accompanied by a Kit Kat (everyone needs a break!).

There are a few other negatives attached with life away from home - obviously washing is a hassle and to begin with, a complete mystery! Lights and darks? Tablets? Conditioner? Powder? After a few phone calls to Mrs T, and a denim shirt shrinking in the dryer, I can safely say I am now what you might describe as a 'whiz kid' at the task. However, I have still not mastered the art of making the chore a weekly occurrence which consequently means a constant lack of clean clothes - of course the only thing I can do to cope in this instance is resort to the shops of Stirling!

Continuing with the cliché's of life at Uni, cooking is also an art I have now conquered. I was grateful for my HE skills having witnessed friends use ingredients like a cuppa soup, rice and a tin of salmon to create one 'delicious and nutritious' meal. I tend to stick to toast and baked potatoes.

Stirling University has a beautiful campus not only inhabited by rowdy students but also by rabbits, squirrels, geese and my kitchen's personal favourite, ducks. Our ducks Donald and Jemima are given preferential treatment during the midnight feeding trips - their favourite is cheesy nan bread, although it does give Donald indigestion! We are also fortunate to have a stunning view of the Wallace monument from our kitchen which is a spectacular sight on a misty morning. I feel I should also mention our favourite porter Dougie, he has sorted out many a problem for us including lost keys and alcohol induced injuries along with randomly taking part in an in-depth debate we had about religion sparked by an article in the paper.

Out of everything Uni has offered me, I think what I am most grateful for are the wonderful friends I have managed to add to my collection. People from all over the world who each provide me with irreplaceable qualities, the most common being the ability to make me laugh and smile. This could also be considered a negative as the prospect of giggles with the Fifth Floor Crew makes work seem even less attractive!

Emma Thomson

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Sanctuary Gardens



Dairy-based charity the Sanctuary Gardens was drawn back to the Glenkens area due to family roots. Having spent several years taking in various waifs and strays, they are now running a fully fledged Bird and Small Animal Sanctuary. They are currently undergoing an exciting phase of planning and fund-raising for our future, including a move to a new site near Carsphairn.

At Sanctuary Gardens, permanent, loving homes are provided for unwanted, abused or homeless birds and small animals, both domestic and wild. Currently the roster includes rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, cockatiels, parrots, chipmunks, chinchillas and hamsters.

Their activities aren't just restricted to animals though, as the charity plan to create and manage several community gardens in the Glenkens area, and are currently looking for suitable sites. They also want to expand their environmental activities in the future.

If you are interested in helping with fund-raising you can find out more about them, or make donations on their website www.sanctuaryglenkens.blogspot.com. You can also contact them directly on 07875 285212. Any contributions are welcome.



ABBAS REST COFFEE MORNING

A coffee morning will be held in aid of funds to buy medicines and school equipment on Saturday 19th April from 10am - 12 midday in the Community Centre, Kirkland Street, Dalry. Entry prices are £1.50 for adults and 50p for children.

We do hope you will support us once again, as so many children depend upon the orphanages, not just for food and education but also for help and treatment of Malaria, Tuberculosis, Aids, coughs and earache, etc.

We would gratefully accept any donations towards the raffle and sales tables. If you need more information please contact Avril Brown on 01644 430526 or Barbara Colbenson on 01644 430090. *Thank you*

Glenkens Lions Club

During the Festive period, Glenkens Lions Club distributed more than one hundred and twenty Christmas parcels to those who are over 60 and living on their own throughout the Glenkens area. Many thanks for the letters received in appreciation of the gifts.

Most of the money raised for this venture is due to the annual Accordion and Fiddle Night and to many generous donations.

Pancake Lunch

The New Galloway Church Guild's 11th Pancake Lunch had over 100 people in attendance and made over £500 for Alzheimers Scotland.

The Guild would like to thank everyone who helped to make the day a success - we couldn't have done it without you!



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ON THE BEAT: Some Pointers for Spring

The beginning of the year has seen a significant rise in thefts of scrap metal. The problem with these thefts is that often the items such as cast iron roan pipes and copper items are not scrap to the owners, and many thousands of pounds worth of damage is caused when the thieves rip and tear out these items. If you see something suspicious phone the Police and let us check it out!

Remember all old Police station lines are now disconnected and everyone has to use the 0845 600 5701 number to contact the police. Other useful numbers are 0845 555111 for Crimestoppers, and 0800 225533 for the well driven scheme for troublesome HGV's (see article on page 4 for a bit of background about this).

There are still a number of scams going round by the mail, phone and internet promising millions from faraway lottery prizes, and persons promising pots of money to help them bring money into the country from various places on the globe. Don't be conned - if it sounds too good to be true then it usually is!

Motorists beware as many roads surfaces and verges are suffering after a long wet winter, slow down rather than take to the verge they are so soft just now they will drag you in very quickly and another phone number to remember (promise this is the last one!) is the Council Pot Hole Hotline 0845 276 0000. Don't leave it to someone else to report that hole, the next motorist who damages their car or worse might be a friend or relative.

And finally, at this time of year many of us venture out and about. The 'Right to Roam' legislation is there to allow us to do just that - but both ramblers and landowner must show each other mutual respect.

Walkers should keep dogs on leads please, and no fires or litter. Landowners, if you are carrying out agricultural or other sporting pursuits, please be aware of the need to politely ask persons to take another route and don't carry on with work or whatever you are doing until it is safe to do so. Just because you think they 'shouldn't have been there' is no excuse to compromise someone's safety. Hopefully we can all enjoy the spring safely!

P.C. Ian Wilson, Dalry

THE BUS : GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

User Groups: Why not form your own user group - the residents from Kendoon did that before Xmas, and following a New Year meal when the bus was used allowing everyone to relax, they are now planning trips of their own - it only costs a one off payment of £10 to register your own user group, so why not consider doing your own thing?

Drivers: A course was held in the New Year and we now have five new drivers - thanks to Rob, Ian, Valerie, Jon and Diana for making the effort to undergo the training and I hope you all enjoy your time driving the bus.

Swimming: The Wednesday trip to Newton Stewart for swimming is very popular - the bus leaves Dalry at 12noon and picks up in New Galloway - there is a charge of £2 per person - full details from Brian Tweedy (01644-430427) or The CatStrand.



Stuck in the Snow: During January the bus was used to transport some 'twitchers' to view wildlife on the Forrest Estate - they were a party from Gloucestershire and were very impressed with the wild terrain especially when the weather turned rather wintery and they all had to get out to push the bus in the snow!

May Trips: Tickets for May trips will be on sale from Tues 1 April

Sun 4th May - A full day trip to Castle Kennedy Gardens and Portpatrick .
 Tickets £ 6 each - Concessions £5

Mon 12 May - A Day out in the Machars ; Port William, The Isle of Whithorn and Galloway House Gardens at Garlleston. Tickets; £ 5 each - Concessions £ 4

Sun 25 May - The Falkirk Wheel. Tickets £6 each - Concessions £ 5

TICKETS FOR TRIPS: Tickets for trips can now be booked and purchased from The CatStrand during the month before the actual trip - See details in here and local posters for date from when bookings can be made but to avoid disappointment please book quickly - the trip to Peebles was fully booked within 4 hours of bookings being taken!
 (Tickets for June Trips will be available from Thurs 1 May)

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.

Community Fire Safety Message

New Galloway Station's crew have been out and about in the community carrying out Home Fire safety Checks, giving advice within their area on Fire Safety, and fitting a free smoke alarm with a 10 year battery into many homes within the Glenkens. They are in the process of reaching out to many more homes, so if you do not have a smoke detector or feel you want your detector tested and receive free advice, please contact Dumfries Fire HQ on 01387 252222 who will pass on your details to New Galloway Fire Station's crew. They will then carry out a professional inspection for you free of charge, and if found that you require a detector they will fit one in the most suitable place in your home.

Glenkens Fire Cadets

The Cadets have just completed another seven week module at New Galloway Fire Station. The eight young cadets completed a training session on the aerial ladder from Dumfries Fire Station as well as training on search and rescue, breathing apparatus use, dam building and pumping exercises. This was followed by a trip to the realistic Fire Training Unit at Dumfries where they experienced a fire situation training session, with crews tackling a live fire, and were able to observe at a safe distance "Roll Overs" and "Flash Overs" inside the unit. The Cadets are on a well earned rest before they start up again with a new seven week session. This will involve team building, motivation training, breathing apparatus use, pumping, ladder work, first aid and trauma input.

There is a proposed open day at New Galloway Fire Station in the Summer where the Cadets will be centre stage and will be able to display all the skills they have acquired in previous sessions.

Iain Campbell, Community Fire Safety

Glenkens Gazette : Advertising Rates 2008

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

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




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Dates for the Diary

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Glenkens Playgroup: Mon - Fri 9.15 - 11.45am

Julie Moore - 01644 460687

Glenkens Mother & Toddlers:

Wed 1.30 - 3pm

Sarah-Jane Mackenzie 01644 430429

Good Neighbours Club

Tues 2pm - Mabel Young -

01644 430472

Craft Class: Thurs 2.00 - 4pm, 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)

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays
Balmaclellan 12 noon 1st
Carsphairn 10.30 am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
Dalry (Apr) 12 noon 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th
Dalry (May) 9am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
Kells 10.30 am 2nd 3rd 4th

Special Services and Events

21st April 7.30pm
Fellowship Dinner with John Donnelly

Kenbridge Hotel
25th April 7.30pm
Quiz Night, Dalry Town Hall
Communion Service
4th May 12 noon Balmaclellan Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E)

St Margaret's, New Galloway;
10.30am Holy Communion Every Sun & Wed

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

St Ninian's Episcopal Church,
Castle Douglas; Mass - Sat 6.15pm & Wed 7pm

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

APRIL:

From 21 Mar to 26 May The Carsphairn Heritage Centre will be open on bank holidays and weekends from 10.30am-5pm
Until end Apr, Philippa Jones exhibition, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Wed 2, CCC Film - Ratatouille, 1.30pm, £4.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Thurs 3, Storytelling Café, 7.30pm, donations at the door, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 5, Meet the Author: Catriona McCloud, 4.30pm, £2.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Mon 7, Dalry CC Meeting, 7pm Dalry Town Hall
Thurs 10, Shining City by Rapture Theatre Co, 7.30pm, £7, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Fri 11, Ed Coode, 7pm, £5, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 12, Glenkens Young Arts, 10am, £4, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 12, John Coletta, Carol Anderson & Dave Martin Trio, 8pm, £7, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 12, Farmers Market, Dalry Town Hall
Mon 14, Play it by Ear, 1.30pm or 2.30pm, £2, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Mondays from 14 Apr to 30 June, Childrens' Dance Classes with Margaret Morris Movement, 4pm or 5pm, £3 per session (8-12 yrs)
Sun 20, Johnson & Boswell: Late but Live, 7.30pm, £7, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Thurs 24, CCC Film - The Lives of Others, 7.30pm, £4.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 26 Apr, Polish Day, 3pm, free, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Mon 28, Carsphairn CC Meeting, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall

MAY:

Thurs 1 May to Thurs 22 May, Spring Fling Taster Exhibition, free of charge, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Thurs 1, Storytelling Café, 7.30pm, donations at the door, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 3 May, Threave Piano Quartet, 7.30pm, £6, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sun 4, Bus Trip to Castle Kennedy Gardens & Portpatrick, £6, contact The CatStrand for details and to book.
Mon 5 May, Under the Skin by The Swallow Community Actors, 7.30pm, £5, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Thurs 8, VE Tea Dance, 5pm, free, Dalry Town Hall
Sat 10, NGAA Bertram Cup Fishing Comp, River Ken
Sat 10, Glenkens Young Arts, 10am, £4, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 10, Farmers Market, Dalry Town Hall
Mon 12, Play it by Ear, 1.30pm or 2.30pm, £2, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Mon, Bus Trip to Bus Trip - Day Out in the Machars, £5, contact The CatStrand for details and to book.
Wed 14, Fiddle Rendezvous Tune Up Tour, 8pm, £9, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sun 25, Bus Trip to The Falkirk Wheel, £6, contact The CatStrand for details and to book.
From 27 May to 28 Sept the Carsphairn Heritage Centre will be open daily except Wednesdays, from 10.30am-5pm
Wed 28, Fred MacAulay, 8pm, £12, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Wed 28, CCC Film - North by Northwest, 1.30pm, £4.50, The CatStrand
Thurs 29, CCC Film - No Country for Old Men, 7.30pm, £4.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 31, Gordon Giltrap, 8pm, £8, The CatStrand, New Galloway (Workshop, 3pm)

JUNE:

Thurs 5, Storytelling Café, 7.30pm, donations at the door, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 7 Jun, Carsphairn Show, Carsphairn
Sun 8 Jun, NGAA Webster Cup Fishing Comp, Mossdale Loch
Sun 8 Jun - Sat 14 Jun, Clachan Fair, Dalry
Mon 9, Play it by Ear, 1.30pm or 2.30pm, £2, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 14, Glenkens Young Arts, 10am, £4, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 14, Farmers Market, Dalry Town Hall

REGULAR EVENTS:

Mother & Toddlers Group: 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

The CatStrand, New Galloway

Tai Chi: Every Monday, 6pm - 7pm, Every Thursday, 10.15am-11.15am, £4
Exercise to Music: Every Monday, 10 am-11 am, £4
Fitness and Circuit Training classes: Every Monday, 7.30pm - 8.30pm, £4
Taking the First Step in Computing: Thursday Evenings, 5.30pm-7.30pm Courses run in six week blocks throughout the year. Please call for further details and course dates.
Taking the Next Step in Computing: Tuesday evenings, 5.30pm-7.30pm New Galloway. Courses run in six week blocks throughout the year. Please call for further details and course dates.
Healthy Eating-Healthy Living: Every Wednesday from 16 April, 4pm-5pm
CatStrand Playstation Tournaments: contact The CatStrand for info.

Dalry Community Centre: Kickback Martial Arts: Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm, £3 entry - adults welcome
Ballroom & Latin Dance: Mon - beginners 7.30-8.15pm, improvers 8.15-9.00pm, 9.00-9.45
Aerobic Classes: Every Wednesday, 7.30-8.30pm, £2.50 Contact Sam Hood on 01644 420631 Toning/conditioning:
Thurs 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

The CatStrand (GCAT) - 01644 420 374

USEFUL NUMBERS:

- Pot-hole Hotline: 0845 276 0000
- Local police: 0845 600 5701
- Crimestoppers: 0845 555 111
- Well Driven Scheme (to report HGV's): 0800 225533

WRITE FOR THE GAZETTE!

Submit events, activities, news stories, cartoons, reviews, tips and techniques, fiction, photos, ads or ideas...

Any contributions to the Gazette are always welcome by anyone and everyone, and all submissions will be considered for publication.

For more information contact Sarah on 01644 430138 or glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

NEXT GAZETTE DEADLINE

June/July, ISSUE 46:

Fri May 9th 2008



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