

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

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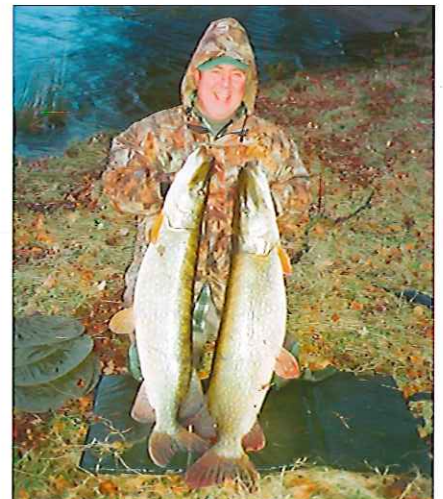
www.glenkensgazette.com



WHAT CRAYFISH?

Following the recent news coverage of crayfish in Loch Ken, and in response to the article in the last issue of the Gazette, a regular visitor to the area sent in the story of their monster catch. This whopper (pictured left) weighed in at 29lb 8oz, just shy of the magic 30lb mark, and was caught shortly after another weighing 25lb 8oz. Who ate all the crayfish then...?

(See page 4 for the full story.)



FROM SICHUAN TO THE GLENKENS

The CatStrand was recently host to a prestigious exhibition of woodcut artworks by the acclaimed Chinese artist Xiang Silou. Xiang exhibited his work at the Burrell Collection in Glasgow earlier this year where he was also completing a teaching residency during April.

His main works are detailed prints of human faces where he captures the intricate contours and expressions of people from his native Sichuan on large sheets of rice paper. Xiang says it can take up to 40 days to create one of his stunning works which he cuts and prints by hand. Landscapes are another of his specialities – these are filled with as much character and expression as his faces, depicting beautiful and dramatic traditional oriental landscapes.

Xiang is from the Sichuan province of China – the area which was devastated by the recent earthquakes. Donations are still sorely needed for this cause and you can contact the British Red Cross on 0845 054 7201 or visit them at www.redcross.org.uk if you would like to support the China Earthquake Appeal.

The charity which Xiang supports is an organisation helping orphans affected by the earthquakes, and Xiang has donated prints for auction to raise money for this cause. The charity is called Mother Bridge of Love (MBL) and you can find out more at www.motherbridge.org.

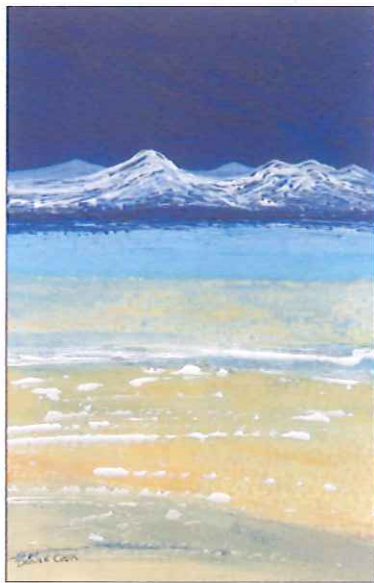
To donate please make cheques payable to 'MBL' and send them to their head office, with the back of the cheque marked 'China Earthquake', at MBL London, Head Office, 9 Orme Court, London, W2 4RL. Freddy May, Xiang's Exhibition Manager, says: "Many sincere thanks for supporting MBL's charitable work for Chinese children!"



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Local Art: FREEDOM AND EXPRESSION



Castle Douglas Art Gallery will be host to a new exhibition 'Freedom and Expression' by local artists Isobel Ellis, Denise Cook and Andrew Madeley.

Isobel, who lives in Mossdale, is known for her paintings of the local area. She paints mostly in watercolour but has been known to do the occasional oil. She enjoys the effect of the light on the local landscape but her subjects vary according to what 'takes her eye'.

Denise is based in the Oakleaf Studio near Kirkcudbright and is well known for her photography. She also paints highly colourful landscapes and sunsets, many of which depict the local scenery and sunsets.

Andrew lives in Castle Douglas and is probably best known for his stunning abstracts, using a variety of mediums and drawing upon a variety of sources and ideas.

All in all, with the variety of styles and subjects this should prove to be an interesting and enjoyable Exhibition.

'Freedom and Expression' will run from Wednesday 2nd July till Saturday 12th July 2008.



THE SPRING FLING

This took place over the weekend of 24-26 May and was another huge success. The event gives artists and craftspeople the chance to open their studios to the public – they are added to the Spring Fling Map which people from far and wide follow to view these often hidden gems of creativity.

Around the Glenkens there were four open studios this year – Ted Leeming, who produces excellent abstract and Scottish fine art photography, based in Dalry; Godfrey Smith of Galloway Footwear, master shoe maker producing traditional and modern clogs and shoes handmade on the premises, based in Balmaclellan; Jennie Ashmore, an artist creating striking works with pressed leaves and flowers, based near Corsock; and Amanda Simmons of Corsock Glass, a maker of kiln-formed glass creations varying from delicate jewellery to giant sculptures, also based near Corsock.

The Spring Fling has become known far and wide, and is Scotland's premier annual art and craft open studio event. A huge number of visitors and locals alike follow the routes marked in the Spring Fling brochure so they can have the opportunity to view the abundance of creativity on offer in the region.



Godfrey Smith



Amanda Simmons



Amanda Simmons



Jennie Ashmore



Ted Leeming



Godfrey Smith

Carsphairn Community Council

Discussion took place on the proposed review of the Smallholdings Policy. We have been assured that we will be consulted, but have not heard what form the consultation will take.

It was agreed that a letter will be sent to the Planning Department reiterating our strong desire to be involved in this review.

20mph signs and road markings are in place now and awaiting connection by Scottish Power and the rumble strips will be done when the firm is next in the area.

Members of the Community Council reported on the Whiteside Windfarm meeting which was held in Thornhill. A draft agreement with Airtricity, the developers, was presented for our consideration - the next meeting will be on Thursday 19 June and any issues in the draft are to be e-mailed to Damien Wilson prior to the meeting.

Thefts of heating oil have taken place in the Glenkens. The police recommend that householders check their tanks regularly and report any suspicious activities. Farmers should beware of individuals who are looking for scrap metal and old batteries - they may be assessing the level of security of items of value.

Recent accidents on the A713 have highlighted the unsuitability of the High Bridge of Ken for HGVs. A request was made for signs to be erected at Dalry and the Milton Park road end stating that the road is unsuitable for lorries.

The Chairman has been told that Council has been successful in obtaining a proportion of the money requested for the bid to the Strategic Timber Transport Fund to upgrade the Lorg Road in order to make it suitable for timber haulage. They are now making efforts to obtain the remainder from other sources.

The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Parish Community Council

The members were pleased to note that at long last, after many letters and meetings with council officials, some maintenance work has been carried out on the Town Hall. The gutters have been cleared and repairs carried out to the roof. The Community Council will keep up the campaign to continue with a programme of maintenance, particularly urgent is painting the outside of the building and it is hoped that this can be carried out as soon as possible.

Various other maintenance jobs had been completed since the previous meeting including replacing the electricity pole near Packwood End which had been ongoing for several years. There are still several other items outstanding with Scottish Water and they would be contacted again as a matter of urgency.

New items of play equipment had been installed in the park through an arrangement with Loreburn Housing who agreed to install the equipment in the existing play area rather than develop another area

within the new housing development currently under construction. The committee of the Mothers & Toddlers Group had been approached to help with the choice of play equipment and they had consulted with their members and others before reporting back. The work had been carried out very soon afterwards and the play equipment is now in place although it was reported that the standard of installation was rather poor and this was to be investigated further. It was also to be confirmed whether there would be any further amount available for play equipment under the agreement between Loreburn Housing and D & G Council.

In a very generous gesture Mr Derk Pelly from Dalry has donated to the Community Council a beautiful framed montage of various views of New Galloway landmarks, drawn in his own very well known and distinctive style. It was agreed that this should be hung permanently in the Town Hall and a Cheese & Wine evening would be arranged to perform the 'unveiling' at which copy prints would be available for sale.

Plans for the Alternative Games are well underway again and they will be held on Sunday 3rd August in the Park at 2pm with a 'Taste of Burns' Ceilidh on Friday 1st August in the Town Hall at 8pm. Any local organisations who would like to have a fundraising stall at the Games should book in as soon as possible by contacting any Community Councillor or phoning Brian Edgar on 420288.



Glenkens Business Association

The Glenkens Business Association is now entering its 5th year. The underlying purpose of the Association is to identify, create and develop opportunities and initiatives within the Glenkens that will assist local business and enterprises as well as the community to thrive and prosper.

Considering that the total population of the area is only around 2,000, the Glenkens is home to a surprisingly large number of small businesses. Originally around 200 businesses were identified within the Glenkens and 75 of these featured in the first edition of the Directory of Local Businesses. An updated version of the Directory is now being prepared.

To ensure an entry businesses should contact Secretary Alan Rumble (01644 420250) or complete the online application form at www.glenkensbusinessassociation.com. Membership of the Association includes an entry into the Directory. The Directory features the wide variety of businesses and services within the area and provides an opportunity for residents, visitors and other enterprises to source and buy locally. 15,000 copies will be distributed throughout the local area.

The Association is looking at various ways to promote the Glenkens. The 2009 World Conference of Mountain Biking is to take place in Dumfries and the Business Association is liaising with the organisers to investigate ways in which the Glenkens can be promoted to those attending the conference and their guests. This is a unique opportunity to raise the profile of the Glenkens on an international scale.

Initial contact has been made with Dumfries, Galloway and Borders Life with a view to featuring the businesses and community of the Glenkens.

The Association has written in support of retention of the Post Offices within the area recognising their importance to both business and the community especially now with only one bank available.

The possibility of a collaborative venture for businesses which need to undertake Portable Appliance Testing is being looked at. If your business is subject to this legislation and would like to know more please contact us.

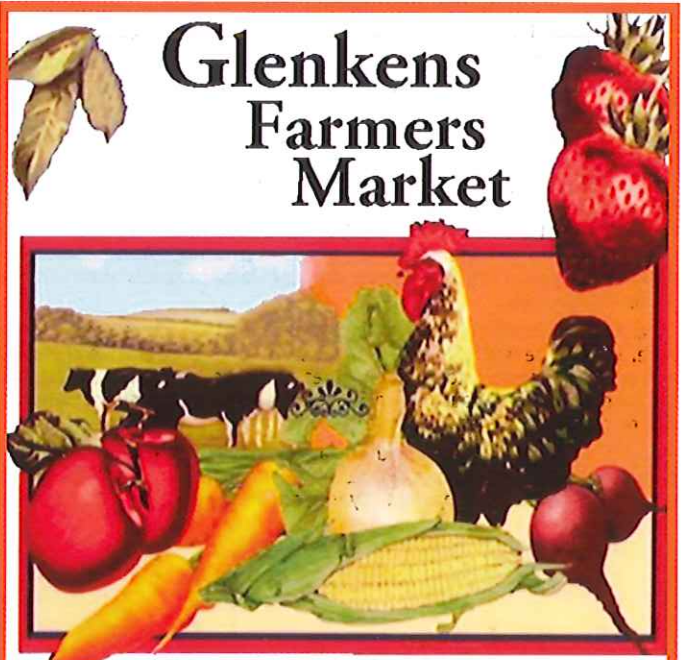
The Association is investigating ways in which it can take advantage of any funding which may become available for future projects. The Committee would like to hear from any local businesses, groups or individuals who have any ideas for projects or initiatives.

The Committee meets regularly at the Ken Bridge Hotel, a convenient, comfortable and convivial venue - see website for dates. All members and prospective members are welcome to attend. Individuals who would like to attend are also welcome but should contact the secretary, especially if they have ideas to put forward. This ensures that there is space on the agenda.

Rosalind Hill (Chairman)

UPDATE ON THE BLACKCRAIG WINDFARM INQUIRY

The inquiry has been postponed for six months as the applicant, Scottish and Southern Energy Generation, has requested time to allow both the applicant and National Air Traffic Services to address aviation radar issues.



Dalry Town Hall June 14th 2008

10am - 1pm

See the website for booking details;

www.st-johns-town-of-dalry-town-hall.co.uk

Entrance Fee 50p - Proceeds towards Dalry Town Hall Refurbishment Fund

North of Castle Douglas A713 Ayr Road

WHAT CRAYFISH? NEVER SAY NEVER

(continued from front cover)

As the eagerly awaited long weekend in Scotland approached, my attention was drawn to the weather forecast. The frosty nights and lovely blue sky days that we had enjoyed were about to give way to a band of low pressure from the West. Rising temperature, with rain and gale force winds, did not bode well for a family holiday. I knew however that the dropping barometer, after a sustained period of high pressure, would see the Pike switch on.

The journey north of the border was unpleasant as we battled through the elements. Overturned vehicles and limbs torn from trees confirmed the strength of the wind. We arrived safely at the cottage in New Galloway and I quickly unloaded the luggage, except the fishing tackle as I intended to fish at first light. After supper, I retired to bed in anticipation of an early start.

I was still in bed when dawn broke. I had not slept well, being disturbed by howling gales and torrential rain. I was nudged by my wife Lynne who murmured "thought you were going fishing". I responded by telling her I was in no hurry to go out as I pulled up the duvet and snuggled in. I dozed quite happily and enjoyed the comfort of the bed until almost lunchtime. After brunch I donned my fishing gear and awaited a lift to the Loch. Lynne dropped me off at the chosen swim and headed into town to enjoy the local craft shops and all the usual touristy things.

I arrived on the gale lashed banks of Loch Ken and wondered if I should bother fishing, as white horses rolled down the Loch and a peaty stain coloured the main river course. These were difficult conditions, but we all know you do not catch twenties in front of log fires! I sought shelter in a wooded area, but had to wade clear of the tree line to cast. The old Pike master creaked under load as I attempted to punch a half herring through the strengthening gale. With all the aero dynamics of a barn door, the bait stalled in the wind and landed about thirty yards out - well short of my target area. I retrieved and reviewed my tactics.... small bait big lead was the order of the day. I changed to a smaller gape trace and threaded on a Smelt with a baiting needle. I then tied the 3oz running lead to the trace swivel with PVA to keep everything in line and gain a few extra yards. I waded as far as I dared into the waves and this time used a flat cast - level with the water to beat the wind. Result.... bait on the sweet spot and me taking refuge in the trees.

Two minutes later and the rod pod was wiped out by wind and waves. The rods and reels are in the drink and the buzzers choke as they ingest water. I question my sanity once again and decide to sacrifice the broly to utilise the storm poles as bank sticks. Job sorted, everything low to the ground, and all ready for action. Within a few minutes a bobbin dropped and the buzzer sounded. I lifted the rod half heartedly, expecting a false alarm.

I was quite taken aback when the rod looped over and the reel yielded line. I had hooked a good fish against the run of play. After a dogged battle the fish broke the surface and was almost ready for the net. That is, the landing net that is still packed away heatly in the rod holdall! No panic, get in the water and chin her out.

Success! Out she comes, onto the mat, into the bag, 25lb 8ozs. I reach for the Sony digital to capture the moment when.... disaster! No image (suspect water ingress) I take out the back up camera - low battery. AARGH! I ring Lynne and ask where she is and how quickly she can buy a battery and get back to the Loch? Fortunately she is able to help and expects to be with me within half an hour.

I marvel at the beauty of the stunning specimen as I slip her into the ET pike tube. I knew she would be safe for that time, given the water temperature and oxygen content. I took five minutes, reflected on events and enjoyed the moment, prior to launching a Snake Launce into the same area. After a few more minutes I was away again, and it was another good fish!

Another epic battle ensued and it was not until the fish surfaced that I remembered that the landing net was still in my holdall. Back into the water, ready for another hand landing. My legs turned to jelly as the fish rolled in

front of me. With a head like a crocodile and a back that would take a saddle it had to be pushing 30lbs.

I chinned her at the second attempt and strained as I lifted her clear of the water. She was a beautiful example of a pre historic predator. Unfortunately the scales did not reach the magical 30 and settled at 29lb 8ozs.

What a result, a 55lb brace from a wild Scottish Loch - life doesn't get any better than this. Lynne arrived on schedule and the photos are only possible due to the kind of support my wife has given me for the last thirty years.

John Barker, Tyneside PAC

'SUMMER'S A PLEASANT TIME, FLOWERS OF EVERY COLOUR'

Although this is a summer issue, I write in spring and try as I might to project forward to the sultry days of leafy woods, buzzing insects and biting midgies, it just wouldn't be honest. Aristotle said only write what you know, and it's a long while back to last summer, the one that never came. So spring it is and how wonderful - now!

After one of the coldest and dreichest early springs I remember, everything is now happening at last.

On Sunday 11 May we sat on top of Drumglass Hill, south of Mossdale, looking north towards New Galloway, but with everything in view from Barwhillanty in the east, round past the distinctive Carsphairn Hills of Cairnmore, Beninner and Moorbrock, to the rough moorland of Airie and Shaw Hill in the west. Most of the Glenkens, in fact, though the huge upland part of Kells was obscured by Bennan Hill in the middle ground. The mosaic of native woodland habitats, rolling farmland, moorland and glimpses of Loch Ken before us made for a compelling tapestry. Again it made me feel so privileged to live here. Of course, this was all made possible by the endless blue sky and warm sun eating into our backs.

We were scanning for new pairs of kites, which is fun enough in itself, but what collateral riches it provides at a time like this. Redstarts recently arrived from Africa were shaking their delicate little songs, while at least four skylarks all around us were competing in an intense cacophony. Lapwings clearly had chicks to the left and right of us, and their rolling peewit calls came forth now and then. A whaup was more skulking and I suspected they still had eggs in a wet flat a couple of hundred yards away. House martins and swallows came round our heads at times and a wheatear sang intermittently. Wheatears spend the winter in the scrubby arid zone south of the Sahara, and it is thought that they and other birds are suffering badly from the prolonged droughts there in recent years. Certainly, I haven't seen so many of late, which is a shame as they are so attractive and dapper in their fine spring plumage, with black wings and eye stripes contrasting with the otherwise warm grey and fawn plumage of the male and female respectively. And then that flash of white at the rump, which gave rise to their original and very similar name, but which so offended prudish mid-Victorians that they changed it to wheatear. I'll let you work it out if you don't know already! We didn't find the kites we were looking for, but we didn't much care with everything else that was going on, and just soaking in the view.

Back down in an oak strip the bluebells were bursting and will be at their best in a week or so, but the scent of wild garlic was the perfect incentive for dinner as we made our way back to the car. Summer's coming, but I can wait!

Chris Rollie



RSPB Images

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LOCAL HISTORY

NEW GALLOWAY *Our Historic Burgh*

by Helen Bolton - PART XXXVII
The Second World War

In the years immediately before the second world war there were a number of changes in the New Galloway area. Mr John Maitland Gordon, grandson of Mrs Louisa Maitland Gordon of "Kenmure", had inherited the castle and estate on the death of his father in 1915. Between 1935 and 1959 Mr Maitland Gordon sold most of the remaining parts of the estate, including Kenmure Castle. Much of the hill ground between the A762 New Galloway to Mossdale road and the Black Water of Dee was bought by the Forestry Commission, and during the following years was blanket-planted with vast quantities of conifers. In doing so, a number of interesting historical sites were completely hidden. The most significant of these was the medieval settlement of some thirty or more dwellings at Clachrum, to the north of the Stroan Loch.

The four Forestry Commission houses near Burnfoot Bridge date from this period, and a water supply was brought from the wood above the houses. Later an improved supply was run from the Pultarson Burn just below the farm of "Knocknairling". The remains of the dam can still be seen below the bridge on the farm road.

The new owners of "Kenmure Castle" leased the building to General MacEwan, retired, when he became Commanding Officer of the local Home Guard during the war.

One of the last parts of the Kenmure Estate to be sold was the house of "Overton", on the Kirk Road, which Mr Maitland Gordon put up for sale in 1942. "Overton" had belonged to the family since Mrs Louisa Bellamy Gordon died in 1886, and her daughter, Mrs Louisa Maitland Gordon decided to let the castle and move to a more comfortable house, since when no member of the family had lived at the castle.

In 1940 the smithy in New Galloway, which had been a vital part of village life since the middle of the 18th century, closed for ever. The building was bought by local plumber, Mr James Holmes, for his workshop. He is said to have paid £8 for it!

Our fire brigade, prior to 1941 was equipped with a stirrup pump, a torch, and a Klaxon hooter which was used as a fire alarm, and the firemen were supplied with rubber boots! However, in 1941 an old Austin 22hp van was bought and converted into a fire engine. The fire station and garage was down the Duke Street Brae at the back of the Kenmure Arms Hotel, and the building is now used by Jim McKenna, local joiner and a member of the present day Fire Brigade.

At the outbreak of war in September 1939 New Galloway and the surrounding area once again sent its sons to fight for our country. During their absence a number of local girls took over some of the jobs which the young men had left, working in shops, driving delivery vans and so on. The older men, many of whom had served in the 1914-18 war, joined the Home Guard.

Perhaps the most exciting connection with the war in this area was the arrival in the village of a number of Commandos, sent up for part of their training in the wild Galloway hills and moors. The men were billeted in houses in New Galloway, and vanished into the remote areas for days on end during their training exercises. Some of them, from the towns and cities of southern England, must have been amazed at the quietness and the vast areas of wilderness in Galloway! However, later their training was to continue in the Highlands around Spean Bridge and the wild hills and lochs of Lochaber. This would be even more remote, and the training was extremely tough.

Some of our older residents will have happy memories of those keen young men during their stay in New Galloway, and sad memories of those who did not survive the hostilities. The beautiful Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge is a fitting tribute to those brave lads.

KAIL, CAKES AND CURES



On Friday 2nd May the Carsphairn Heritage Group held a private view to their annual exhibition which this year is entitled 'Kail, Cakes and Cures - Our Kitchen Heritage'.

The intriguing title refers to the role of the domestic kitchen not only as a source of food but also as the provider

of an assortment of potions and cures for a variety of ailments. The exhibition includes recipes handed down over several generations, reminiscences of domestic life in the Glenkens, suggestions for home made remedies and many artefacts that will undoubtedly spark memories from visitors.

The opening was very well attended by the group and interested members of the community and in keeping with the theme of the exhibition refreshments were provided. The highlight of the fare was undoubtedly a magnificent Cloutie Dumpling provided by Mrs Mary Thirtle of Carsphairn and made traditionally according to her recipe that is included in the exhibition itself. Shortly before the private view, the dumpling had been quietly resting in front of her open fire in order to keep warm and develop a "lovely skin".

The event provided an opportunity to invite new people to come forward as volunteer members and stewards. From Easter to September The Carsphairn Heritage Centre is open and staffed entirely by volunteers. The centre itself not only houses an annual exhibition but also holds information on local family history that is made available to everybody and is often accessed by people tracing their family history from as far a field as America and Australia. The Group needs more stewards to assist those who already give their time, some travelling to help from Ayrshire and the Solway Coast. As a community project we would like to attract more local people. All stewards find the experience rewarding and fun as it provides opportunities to meet both locals and visitors to the area.

Anyone who is interested in finding out more about helping can contact Agnes Holden on 01644 460651 or Joyce Hunter Blair on 01644 430329.

THE HISTORY STOP - CASTLES (CARD 23)

Over the next few issue of the Gazette we will be featuring areas of historical interest around the Glenkens as highlighted on the Glenkens HistoryStop cards. These cards focus on a particular local area or feature which you can then choose to visit if you like - the full set of History Stop cards is available for purchase at The CatStrand, New Galloway (you can also purchase them individually). The first card we will include is on castles.

CASTLES: In its relatively small area the Glenkens has a diverse heritage of castles bearing witness to the troubled history of Galloway.

Kenmure Castle is the largest castle in the Glenkens. It is a mix of architectural styles and it is not easy to distinguish the phases of construction. Mary Queen of Scots stayed at Kenmure Castle in 1563. The castle was refurbished in 1633 by Sir John Gordon and was defended by Royalists against Cromwell's forces in 1650. Conversely, the 6th Viscount was executed for his part in the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion. The castle was said to be almost in ruins when inherited in 1737. Estate lands were sold to finance a programme of works in 1817 and another phase was begun in 1879. The final amendments were done in 1908. The castle passed out of Gordon family ownership from 1936 until the 1960s, during which time it fell derelict. It was re-purchased by the family but there seems little prospect for any recovery of the building, which is dangerous and should not be entered.

Unfortunately, the ruins of Lochinvar Castle were submerged beneath the waters of the loch when the loch was dammed during the construction of the Galloway Hydro-electric Scheme.

The fortified house of Shirmers stood at the north end of Loch Ken but only a fragment survives beside the farmhouse which replaced it. Tradition has it that the original castle was burned in 1568, as punishment for the owner's support of Mary Queen of Scots, although the disused building evidently still stood in the 1870s.

Earlstoun Castle is an example of the tower houses which evolved during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, with construction dating from the second half of the sixteenth. It is a three-storey L-tower, with a lack of defensive features that suggest that Earlstoun was built more as a home than as a fortification.

Dundeugh Castle was an L-tower, probably built in the sixteenth century. The remains of the castle are situated on the east bank of the western branch of the Water of Ken, close to where it is joined by Polmaddy Burn.

Barscobe Castle was built by William Maclellan in 1648, using stone from the Douglas stronghold at Threave Castle. It is L-shaped, built on two storeys with a garret floor in the roof space and is still occupied as a private family home.



The CatStrand: News & Events

Exhibition: Eleanora Hope Henderson

Runs until the end of June
CatStrand opening hours

An exhibition of paintings by the late New Galloway artist Eleanora Hope Henderson.

Teatret Fairplay/Gruppe38 (Denmark) Next Door

Wednesday 4 June, 4.00pm, £3.00

A comic chamber-opera about an ageing spinster and an old seaman. She enjoys looking after him and he wants to be left in peace. Or does he? Both dream of better days in grand arias and bitter duets. Two sad, lonely neighbours who share the same toilet!

This production is part of the Bank of Scotland International Children's Festival On Tour programme.

Duration: 45 minutes, suitable for ages 8+



Storytelling Café

Thursday 5 June, 7.30pm

This month's café will be hosted by Tony Bonning, and the theme will be "The Back of Beyond"! No booking necessary, donations on the door.



The Art of Ballads and Bards

Saturday 7 June, 7.00pm, £6.00 / £4.00

A visual performance-reading of the Crichton Writers' work inspired by the art of Sheila Mullen. The artist will also give a short talk about the Border themes that inspire her. The ticket price includes a glass of wine and copy of the anthology 'The Art of Ballads and Bards'.

Play it by Ear

Monday 9 June, 1.30pm – 2.30pm

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

The 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. No booking necessary – just turn up! (There will be no Play it by Ear sessions during the school holidays in July and August.)

Glenkens Young Arts

Saturday 14 June and Saturday 12 July, £4.00

10.00am – 12.00noon (5-9 years)

1.00pm – 3.00pm (8-12 years)

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. Advance booking is recommended to avoid disappointment and do wear old clothes as things can get messy.

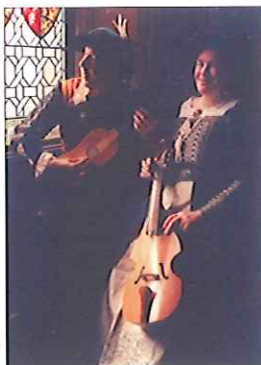
The Galloway Consort present 'Doulce Memoire'

Renaissance music to entertain a young Queen

Saturday 28 June, 7pm, £6 / £5

In 1563 the twenty year old Mary, Queen of Scots, was only just getting to know her new kingdom.

In this year she went on pilgrimage to Whithorn, probably riding along the pilgrim route by the Rhinns of Galloway, accompanied by her musicians. Fresh from the wealth and vitality of the French court her musical tastes were for the sweet chansons and lively dances of her youth. The Galloway Consort present an evening of 16th century music on recorders, viols, lute and renaissance guitar - sounds to stir sweet memories.



RSAMD Youth Works programme, Glenkens Traditional Music Project at The CatStrand

Friday 6 – Sunday 8 June
Classes in fiddle, whistle, accordion and guitar are available to children from p4 upwards from. The tutorials are supplemented with classes in song, storytelling, dance and group-work. The tuition is carried out by a combination of recent or past graduates of the RSAMD and current students on the BA (Scottish Music) course.

Storytelling café

Thursday 3 July, 7.30pm

This month's host will be Strikey-Dog and the theme will be "East of the Sun, West of the Moon." No booking necessary, donations on the door.



RSAMD Drama Residency

A week long drama workshop in July for 12-18 year olds, dates to be confirmed, look out for more details nearer the time.

That's Rubbish Dragonfly Dreaming

Wednesday 16 July, 2pm, £3.50

An original new puppet based play by Graham Moffat looking at the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle. Skiprat is looking for his lunch, but all he can find is rubbish and it's talking to him! This is a litter strewn journey from polystyrene to potato skins via the supermarket, a compost bin and the local dump.

Suitable for ages 6 yrs upwards.

Exhibition: Hazel Campbell

From Saturday 19 July
CatStrand opening hours

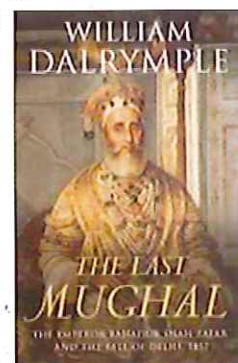
Hazel Campbell has lived and worked in Galloway most of her adult life. She has a loose, bold approach to both watercolour and oil, and has developed a vigorous style of painting landscape and still life. She regularly exhibits with the RGI, RSW and PAI, and her work can be seen anytime at the High St. Gallery, Kirkcudbright. Private and public collections include Gracefield Permanent Collection, Stewartry Museum Collection, Kirkcudbright, and The Permanent Collection of the House of Lords.



William Dalrymple Lecture – The Last Mughal

Saturday 19 July, 3.00pm, £5.00

The critically acclaimed and award winning writer and historian, William Dalrymple will be presenting a talk on his latest book – The Last Mughal: The Eclipse of a Dynasty, Delhi 1857, which won the prestigious Duff Cooper Prize for History and Biography 2007. The book tells the story of the poet-emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar II, who found himself caught up in the anti-colonial, Indian Rebellion of 1857, which resulted in the end of his dynasty. Signed copies of "The Last Mughal" will be available to purchase.



CatStrand website:

www.catstrand.com

Tickets for performances

online at

www.thebooth.co.uk

At the end of May Linda Fabiani, MSP and Scottish Government Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture, visited The CatStrand as guest speaker at a DGAA organised conference. The event covered issues such as gaining an understanding of how culture is viewed by the people of our region, understanding what motivates people to participate in cultural activity, sharing the experiences of the participating community group, acquiring an insight into the barriers to participation in cultural activities and investigating the linkages between culture and sense of community.

The CatStrand: News & Events

TIGHTEN YOUR BELTIE!

**'Healthy Eating - Healthy Living':
Cookery Demonstration & Book Launch
Tue 1st July, 7pm - 9pm, £2**



At The CatStrand, a working group of young and old have, over the course of six weeks, devised a healthy eating cookbook with Liz Cole, Community Project Worker, Paula Cochrane, Community Worker, Age Concern, Catherine Braid from The Green Tea House, Moniaive, and Irene Johnston, Nutritional Support Worker, The NHS. At the demonstration, Catherine will demonstrate how to make five delicious recipes from the cookbook

using local produce. The dishes will then be raffled. The cook book, 'Tighten Your Beltie', will be launched this evening and available for sale. Tea/coffee and delights from the cookbook will be provided. Please book tickets for the cookery demonstration in advance. 'Tighten Your Beltie' will be available to buy for £4.95.

The V.E. Tea Dance organised by Liz Cole, Community Project Worker at the CatStrand, was a huge success. There was a lively, fun atmosphere teamed with superb, sweet - sounding war-time music provided by Tommy Edgar's band, 'The Saxachords', and a delicious high tea provided by Catherine Braid from the Green Tea House, Moniaive.

The CatStrand was recently the proud recipient of Carsphairn Primary School's traditional handheld school bell. This now has an elegant brass plaque attached and is looking forward to a life of renewed vigour and regular use as the bell which will signal the interval during performances as well as other worthy causes!



Tai Chi: Every Monday, 6pm - 7pm (runs till end of June) and every Thursday, 10.15am - 11.15am (runs till end Aug), £4/£3 conc. Classes are run by Tai Chi and Pilates instructor Elaine Cameron. Open to all ages. Wear loose, comfortable clothing.

Exercise to Music: Every Monday, 10 am - 11am, £4/£3 conc. Classes are run by local Exercise and Dance Instructor Sam Hood and are open to all ages. Wear loose, comfortable clothing that does not restrict movement and comfortable walking shoes.

Fitness and Circuit Training classes: Every Monday, 7.30pm - 8.30pm (runs till end June), £4/£3 conc. Classes are run by local Fitness Instructor, Harry Fenton and are open to all ages.

Taking the First Step in Computing: Wednesday Evenings, 5.30pm - 7.30pm. Courses are run by Lynsey Shaw from the IT Centre in Castle Douglas and run in six week blocks throughout the year. Please call for further details and course dates. Ages 18+.

Taking the Next Step in Computing: Tuesday evenings, 5.30pm - 7.30pm. This course is for people aged: 18+ and is ILA Scotland approved - £200 or £100 could open new doors to you! Tutor: Lynsey Shaw, The IT Centre, Castle Douglas.

POLISH DAY SUCCESS! A free community event with a Polish flavour, organised at the CatStrand on Saturday 26th April, was a 'great success.'

The event provided an opportunity for Polish people to learn about facilities and support available to newcomers to the area, and to enjoy a fun, sociable day. It also gave the local community an opportunity to meet and mix, sample Polish food, listen to Polish music and watch a Polish comedy at the CatStrand cinema.

Liz Cole, Community Project Worker at the CatStrand, was delighted with the success of the day. She said: "It was a great success and extremely busy. PC Iain Howie organised free transport around the Stewartry and was expecting approximately 20 Polish guests, when in fact there were 60, with a similar number of local people. There was a very relaxed, social atmosphere."

There was a Polish buffet and bar. The CatStrand Polish Band played traditional Polish music to an appreciative audience, some of whom provided interesting information about the pronunciation and meaning of the names of the Polish dance tunes.

A highlight of the event was a superb performance of Chopin played from memory by Polish pianist Aleksander Kudajczyk, who lives in Glasgow, to a packed out audience.

TUESDAYS 6PM - 7PM FROM 2ND SEPTEMBER FOR 6 WEEKS

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6 sessions
must be paid for
in full at the start




The CatStrand is an operating name of Glenkens Community & Arts Trust Ltd, a Registered Scottish Charity, No. SC032059



CATSTRAND CINEMA CLUB

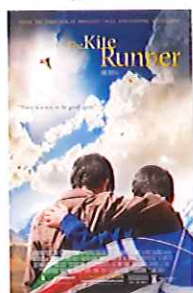
The CatStrand Cinema Club (CCC) aims to bring a varied and popular series of film to the Glenkens on a monthly basis. If you would like to get more involved, you can join the CCC, which will meet informally on a regular basis to discuss programme ideas for the coming season. Membership benefits will also include reduced ticket prices and, most importantly, the opportunity to support your community cinema.

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

The Counterfeiters (Die Fälscher) (2007)

Wednesday 25 June, 1.30pm

The Counterfeiters is the true story of the largest counterfeiting operation in history, set up by the Nazis in 1936. In German, with English subtitles. Cert 15, 99 minutes



The Kite Runner (2007)

Thursday 26 June, 7.30pm

Based on the most acclaimed novel by Khaled Hosseini, The Kite Runner is a profoundly emotional tale of friendship, family, devastating mistakes and redeeming love. Cert 12A, 128 minutes.



Bridge to Terabithia (2007)

Date to be confirmed

Bridge to Terabithia is a fantasy adventure story of friendship, family and the power of imagination from the producers of 'The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. Cert PG, 95 minutes.



Tibet : Cry of the Snow Lion (2002)

Wednesday 30 July, 7.30pm

Ten years in the making, this award-winning documentary was filmed during a remarkable nine journeys throughout Tibet, India and Nepal.

Cert PG, 104 minutes.

PHOTO COMPETITION

Rural Gateway, 'Gateway for Information and Services to Rural Communities in Scotland', are holding their annual photo competition and have asked if the Gazette would encourage members of the Glenkens (and further a field if they are reading this!) to submit entries for the competition. The competition has seasonal themes and the deadlines are staggered so you can submit material for future themes but they will not be judged until that season is reached.

Themes and deadlines:

May – June 2008 : Going wild in rural Scotland

Have you captured a great wildlife shot? We'd love to see what animals, birds, trees and plants you've come across – whether in the wilderness or in your back garden.

Closing date 29th June 2008

July – August 2008 : Action and adventure in rural Scotland

Mountain climbing, snowboarding, team sports, windsurfing – there are loads of activities going on in rural Scotland. And an adventure doesn't have to be climbing a munro, it could be something more unusual or on a smaller scale. Be creative – and send us your dynamic photos.

Closing date 28th August 2008

September – October 2008 : Gatherings and happenings in rural Scotland

Send us your photos from Highland Games, agricultural shows, music festivals, food festivals, book festivals, school fetes, any kind of interesting gathering or happening you like!

Closing date 30th October 2008

November – December 2008 : Characters and craic in rural Scotland

People are one of the best things about rural Scotland, and we want to see your photos of interesting individuals, colourful characters and folk getting the craic*. *Craic is fun, enjoyment, gossip, light-hearted mischief.

Closing date 15th December 2008

Prizes : The winner of each competition theme will receive a £15 Amazon voucher to spend online. The runners up will receive a £5 Amazon voucher. The overall prize will be decided by an online poll at the end of the year and the winner of Rural Gateway Photo of the Year 2008 will win a luxury hamper full of great Scottish produce.

Calling all young photographers : This year Rural Gateway are also running a competition for young people. 1st prize is a £50 Amazon voucher, 2nd prize is a £25 Amazon voucher and 3rd prize is a £10 Amazon voucher. The closing date for this competition is 15th December 2008 (photographers must be 18 or under on 15th December 2008). Remember to put your age on your submission to be considered for the special young photographer prize.

How to enter : Please refer to the terms and conditions on the Rural Gateway website (www.ruralgateway.org.uk/cgi-bin/Item.cgi?id=2122) before entering the competition. By submitting to the competition you accept these Terms and Conditions.

Submit your photos by email to editor@ruralgateway.org.uk with the following information: theme you are entering the photo under, title of photo, brief description of photo(subject, location etc), your name, contact telephone number, age (if entering our competition for young photographers).

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FUNDRAISING NEWS

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ABBAS REST ORPHANS

The coffee morning held at Dalry Community Centre on 19th April was a great success. It raised £627 to buy medicines for the children in the remote villages of Chiringa, Muona, Ngabu and the surrounding settlements, which is an area of Malawi where other aid does not reach.

This wonderful amount would not have been raised without the team effort of the generous people, too many to mention by name, who donated so much time and effort, whether with baking, raffle prizes, books, bric a brac, etc, and help on the day. There were also many kind donations of money given on the day to help with our funds. Thank you all once again, your help was very much appreciated.

Avril

More examples of woodcut artworks by the acclaimed Chinese artist Xiang Silou (see front page). To donate to his charity please make cheques payable to 'MBL' and send them to their head office, with the back of the cheque marked 'China Earthquake', at MBL London, Head Office, 9 Orme Court, London, W2 4RL.

KATE'S SNACK BAR

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this June!

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& more...



3rd anniversary
this June!

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Kate says: "More and more people were asking for sandwiches when they stopped in for fuel at the garage so I decided to make rolls to sell - and here I am, three years on! I have loads of regular customers - both individuals and local businesses - and everyone seems really happy with the food, often commenting on the well-filled rolls."

Customers say Kate's are "the best sandwiches in Scotland!"

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GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

DALRY STARS IN THEIR EYES 2008

The school hall was packed, every seat full. The tension was building; a buzz of excited conversation created an atmosphere of anticipation. "Stars in Their Eyes" was back at Dalry School. Who would be the winners, the star performers, tonight?

English teacher, David Brown, welcomed the audience and explained the voting system: there would be two trophy winners, one chosen by the audience, the popular vote, and one by the judges, the experts, who were then introduced to the audience. The Blues Brothers strolled into the hall, their true identity well disguised!

In a break with tradition, the first act was a dancing group, performing as H2O to the song "What's it gonna be?" This group of girls, Rhea Currie, Carina Smith, Hannah Sainsbury, Katie Warburton, Hannah McKenna and Lara Currie had started life as cheerleaders in rehearsal for "High School Musical" but had developed their routine into an energetic and entertaining dance number with a dramatic conclusion.

Jamie Jordan was the first solo singer of the night and very bravely he had opted to perform without a backing track, simply accompanying himself on the guitar. Jamie sang "The Same Jeans", a brilliant song, which was a great success for the group, The View. This was a really talented display, the guitar work particularly impressive. And the audience was impressed! It was clear already that choosing a winner was not going to be an easy task.

In the tradition of the television version of "Stars in Their Eyes", each performer gave details of the singer they were going to be; "Tonight Mr Brown, I am going to be...." and this time it was Jojo, a young American singer, and her song, "Leave, Get out!"

Rhiannon Curran was excellent, giving a clever version of the song and looking the part of a teenage rock star.

Calum Gilligan was another who looked like a rock star – and he hadn't changed his appearance! He explained with meaningful looks that he would sing "Hate - I really don't like you." This had been a hit for the group, The Plain White Ts and Calum's professional attitude paid off in a perfect reproduction of the group's sound.

Most of the acts were solo performances of solo songs but Hannah McKenna and Rhea Currie chose the unusual technique of a duet version of Vanessa Carlton's beautiful song, "A Thousand Miles". Another musical success! Hayley Norris had chosen the very demanding song, "What You're Made of", a hit for Lucie Silvas and her emotional performance really moved the audience.

Leona Lewis has been hitting the headlines recently and Gemma Fisher threatened to do the same when she sang "Bleeding Love". Gemma displayed power and control in her vocals; real stage presence in her movements; a great combination. All the performances so far had been upbeat but Ryan McCall changed the mood with a soulful rendition of Michael Buble's ballad, "Lost". The audience loved it but there was more to come!

Nicole Templeton has become an experienced and polished performer since her last "Stars" act, with appearances in panto, and she was probably the bookies' favourite for victory tonight. She sang the hip-hop version of the Bryan Adams' monster hit "Heaven" and she was, in fact, polished and professional. But there was one more act to come. Kelly Wilson and Hannah Sainsbury produced a beautifully tuneful version of the duet from "High School Musical" called "When There Was Me and You". Again the audience cheered their approval.

The audience - and the judges - now had to vote for a winner. Mr Brown declared that all the performers were winners tonight as they had all excelled themselves and shown real talent in their performances. While the votes were being counted, last year's winner, Harry Warburton, entertained in style, the style of Razorlight with their song, "In the Morning" and Maths teacher, Paul Bannister was on stage again, this time as Dean Martin, crooning "On an Evening in Roma". At least he was not wearing a grass skirt this time!

The votes were counted, the results were in. The audience vote went to the duo, Kelly Wilson and Hannah Sainsbury and the judges' choice, for an outstanding performance, was Gemma Fisher. The trophies were presented gallantly by Harry Warburton; thanks were given to music teacher, Ros Henry, and sound engineers, Callum Murray and Paul Bannister. It had been a great night. We all went home with stars in our eyes.

David W. Brown, Dalry School.



SCHOOLS GO BIRD FRIENDLY

An RSPB schools initiative piloted in Dumfries & Galloway has been a great success, and Dalry and Kells Primary Schools are among the 36 schools throughout the region now officially designated as Bird Friendly.



Lapwing (RSPB Images)

The Birds Friendly Schools (BFS) programme is a free community-based project that aims to provide first-hand experience of nature through both classroom activities and outdoor learning. Almost 1000 children have taken part this year, having fun and learning about birds and wildlife in their school grounds and at home.

The initiative is delivered by trained volunteers, who visit their schools several times over the course of an academic year. They provide the schools with a nest box, birdfeeders and food and help the children to learn about birds in their local area, as well as participating in the RSPB's annual Big Schools Birdwatch in January.

Ella McLellan, the local project manager, said: "The aim of the initiative has been first and foremost to inspire children about the wildlife around them. Our volunteers provide the children and their teachers with lots of information about the birds, but they also try to make things fun by doing games and other activities."

"Schools can also link the project in to the curriculum and the whole thing also works nicely within the Eco Schools scheme, and could help towards an Eco Schools award."

Any teachers who would like to take part in the project in the 2008 - 2009 school year should get in touch with Ella on 01556 620668, 07748 920326 or email ella.mclellan@rspb.org.uk

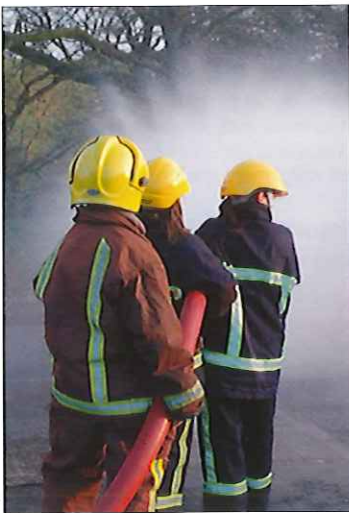
YOUTH UPDATE

Glenkens Fire Cadets

They have started again after a short break - this seven week session will see the Fire Cadets covering fire fighting, and will include understanding fire and its effects, using the fire pumps and delivery hose, high pressure hose and fire fighting techniques. Other skills which will be covered are using ladders to gain entry to a high building, tackling fires in a building, using the ladders and hose and on the ground they will tackle a developing fire and will need to work as a team to advance the hose towards a fire.

They will have a break mid term where they will attend a session at Loch Ken Activity Centre and use the new Laser Quest; this will also develop team building skills, and give the Cadets a well earned reward for all the hard work they put in on the Wednesday nights at the Fire Station. On their return to New Galloway Fire Station to continue training they will enter the breathing apparatus phase - using equipment to enter smoke filled environments, using special guide lines and search and rescue techniques to locate casualties and fires.

As we near the end of this module we will have a guest speaker visiting to talk with the Cadets, and on completion of this phase, the last session will be a display night for parents and friends during which the Cadets will display all the things they have covered in a large multi-activity event. *Iain Campbell*



FUN AT GALLOWAY ACTIVITY CENTRE



The Centre has been busy busy busy over the last few months as summer comes our way.

Our annual Open Day led the way, with people of all ages taking part in kayaking, sailing, archery, climbing and laser quest followed by the best home made cakes to warm the toes and give that extra burst of energy! Since then we've had our local school sailors in and out perfecting their skills as well as a primary school from Glasgow visiting to sample the delights of Loch Ken and its wet and wild activities.

Saturday Youth Group has really kicked off now, with more and more local people joining in on the fun and games. Its such an excellent opportunity to make new friends and be active in these fun outdoor sports. Back to school Monday morning stories will never be the same again! The centre is running a weekend programme (every weekend) over the summer (in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council). The programme will qualify local children as aspiring sailors, windsurfers or kayakers. The first weekend will run on 5/6 July - please contact 01644 420626 for more details.

As well as young people, every month we are training adults to be fully qualified instructors - so they too can have as much fun as our team in teaching people how to sail and windsurf!

Galloway Activity Centre welcomes all. Our fully qualified and friendly staff are here for all your needs - whether it's to give you the chance to try something new or to help you improve, we cant wait! There is so much going on at GAC check out www.lochken.co.uk. Get outdoors and get active!

Carol-Ann Brown, Galloway Activity Centre

GINGERSNAPS!

Local children's author Cathy Cassidy launches her 7th book for 9-13 year olds on July 3rd. Gingersnaps! is a book about friendship, fitting in and falling for the wrong boy - are best friends really forever? Ginger is about to find out!

The launch will take place at The Ultimate Friendship festival in London, where 300 lucky readers will get to meet Cathy, have their books signed and take part in all kinds of festival fun - everything from workshops in journalism to helter skelter rides!

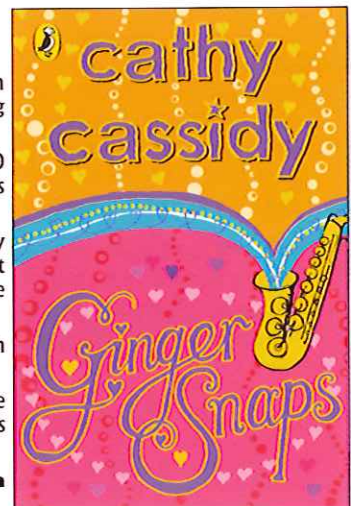
Find out more about Gingersnaps! at Cathy's website: www.cathycassidy.com Cathy has also just finished the first in her Daisy Starr series, a new set of books aimed at a younger audience - the 7-10 age group. The first in the Daisy Starr series will be published in spring 2009.



At the end of last year, Cathy's 4th book, Scarlett, won the Royal Mail Scottish Children's Book Award 2007 for it's age category in an award voted for by Scottish schoolchildren.

"Scotland has always made me very welcome," says Cathy, "and much of my inspiration comes from the Galloway countryside and the fab kids I've been lucky enough to teach in local schools over the years. That's why this book award is so special to me... thank you, Scotland!"

Cathy Cassidy will be hosting a Friendship Festival at The CatStrand on Saturday 16 August, look out for more details nearer the time.





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ON THE BEAT: Summer Safety

Hello Glenkens Gazette Readers, in PC Wilson's short term absence I have been enlisted to try and fill his shoes – this is unlikely but I'll give it a go!

As recent good weather spells have shown summer is definitely here. This means a lot more gardening being done and so gardening equipment and tools will be used and on display. I would ask that you secure your tools and equipment once they have been used and not to leave them out for opportunist thieves to help themselves.

Also as summer is here I know you will be aware that just as many road traffic crashes happen in good spells of weather as in winter. Please consider other drivers who are visiting and are perhaps unsure of the road or directions, and have a wee bit more patience when it is clear they are struggling and holding you up. I know that the speed of vehicles through your villages and towns is a concern for you and with that in mind we have planned some visits from the Road Safety Speed Camera in the Glenkens area over the next few weeks. I am not going to say exactly when but just be conscious of your speed as it is surprising how it can creep up when you are not particularly concentrating on it.

And finally - for all those keen walkers and climbers out there – have you heard of E-route? This is a service run by both Moffat and Galloway Mountain Rescue teams whereby information about your party, journey, expected time of arrival etc can be forwarded onto Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary just on the off chance you may be in a situation where you require help. You can reach the form on the internet via www.moffatmrt.org.uk or www.gallowaymrt.org.uk. Information on the form includes the following: estimated time of departure, vehicle location, vehicle registration number (including any second vehicle), mobile phone number, start date, time and grid reference, intended route, end date, time and grid reference, emergency contact details. If you do not have access to the Internet I would advise informing a responsible person of the above list of details in any case so that a search for you may be instigated if you fail to make contact.

Recently there have been some cases of the theft of heating oil in the Glenkens. If you are concerned about your oil, contact the local police (no. on back of Gazette) and you will receive specific security and crime prevention advice for the circumstances regarding the site of your heating fuel, or you can arrange a visit by a Crime Reduction Officer who will survey the premise/site and give advice free of charge.

The local police non-emergency contact number is 0845 600 5701

Thank you, Sergeant Donna Inglis, Castle Douglas.

THE BUS : GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

I hope by the time you read this those few weeks of beautiful sunshine in May will not be a memory of the summer that nearly was.

GTI trips during May varied from a cold clear day to Peebles with snow covered hills and the roads lined with daffodils, to a wet soggy day in Portpatrick (nothing much to report from Brian Edgar except it was wet !) and finally a day out to Port William and the Isle of Whithorn. The Machars peninsular looked at its stunning best under clear blue skies as did the rhododendrons in Galloway House Gardens near Garlieston. A brief stop in Garlieston to see the Mulberry Harbours simply meant the local shop ran out of choc-ices ! These trips continue to be popular and allow people to visit places they might otherwise not get to. New friends are also made and the humour on the bus is an experience in itself!

Whilst in Innerleithen near Peebles some of us visited Robert Smalls Printing Works which was established in 1857. This is a family-run business still using old fashioned methods. We were shown a compositor using blocks similar to the 'John Bull sets' and it was explained it could take 1 hour to set 30 lines of print – from these early days the phrases 'upper and lower cases' originated as did the phrase 'out of sorts' which meant the blocks had been put back in the wrong place by the junior employee! Watching old printers at work (one powered by a foot pedal) does remind you how wonderful some inventions were and how far we have come since those early days of printing.

Tickets for the July trips will go on sale on TUESDAY 3rd JUNE, as there is a trip to Edinburgh on that Monday. During July we shall be visiting Ullswater in the Lake District (Mon 7th), Hutton in the Forest Stately Home and Gardens (Mon 13th), The Glasgow River Festival (Sun 20th) and Drumlanrig Castle (Mon 28th). Full details are available from the CatStrand and advertised in your local shops. The trips are varied in their destinations and it would be nice to see some younger passengers and children possibly visiting an event such as the River Festival.

WEDNESDAY BUS SERVICE (REGD. ROUTE):

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

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 :

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2047 Castle Douglas (Market Street)

2052 Townhead of Greenlaw

2100 Laurieston

2110 Mossdale

2125 New Galloway

2135 Arrive Dalry

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 : New Galloway Station's crew have been out and about in the Community carrying out Free Home Fire Safety Checks and giving advice within their area on Fire Safety issues. They have also been fitting free smoke alarms with a 10 year battery in many homes within the Glenkens, and are in the process of reaching out to many more homes. If you do not have a smoke detector or feel you want your detector tested or would like to receive free advice please contact Dumfries Fire HQ on 01387 252222. Your details will then be passed on to the New Galloway Fire Station's crew who will carry out a professional inspection for you free of charge, and if it is found that you require a detector, they will fit one for free in the most suitable place in your home. *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 13cm	£35.00	10%
Quarter page	Colour	9cm x 13cm	£65.00	25%
Half page	Colour	13cm x 18cm	£120.00	25%
Full page	Colour	18cm x 27cm	£200.00	25%

(Prices exclude VAT @ 17.5%)

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

KNOCKENGORROCH'S 20TH FESTIVAL

This May boasted Knockengoroch's 20th festival – a World Ceilidh to remember! With four days instead of three, revellers enjoyed more music, workshops, food and fun than ever. The next festival will be The Hairth festival from 19-21 September.

Knockengoroch festivals are increasing in popularity every year, and are now renowned both nationally and internationally as a small, friendly festival with a unique atmosphere and some of the highest quality world music around. Another feather in the increasingly colourful Glenkens cap!



GLENKENS FARMERS MARKET - 18 MONTHS ON & STILL GOING STRONG

The Glenkens Farmers Market, held every second Saturday of the month at Dalry Town Hall, is one of the most successful in the region. The next market will be on Saturday June 14th, which is also the day of the Clachan Fair procession and street market.

Markets run from 10am – 1pm and there are tables where people can sit and have some home-made soup or a cup of tea or coffee and a cake while they decide what they'd like from the market. Since it first started in January '07, the market has established itself with a range of farmers and organic produce, with everything from locally produced lamb, beef, pork, chicken and veal, smoked cheeses, free range eggs, fresh vegetables, home baked cakes, honey, jams and chutneys.

Chairman of the Town Hall Committee, Mark Stoves comments: "Our next Market will be our 17th, which is a fabulous achievement... I would like to remind readers that the Glenkens Farmers Market is a fully licensed market, which protects both traders and buyers."

Any local producers who wish to take part are urged to get in touch with Jonathon Dawson, on either 01644 430 461 or e mail suzanne166@btinternet.com. All proceeds from the Markets go towards the Town Hall Refurbishment Fund.

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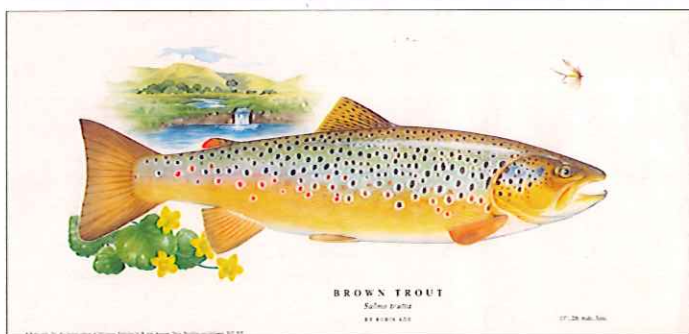
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CLUB CORNER



DALRY ANGLING ASSOCIATION

On Thursday 8th May, 1930, a meeting was called in Dalry Town Hall to consider a letter from the Hon. Henry Mountjoy Updon of the Holm, Balmacellan, offering Mossroddick and the River Ken from Dalry to Boatknowe (Grennan march fence), as fishing grounds to the people of Dalry and Balmacellan. He also recommended that an Association be formed and rules drawn up and the same be submitted to him for approval. Mr George Penman became the first Chairman and Dalry Angling Association was inaugurated.

Mr Upton had generously offered a boat for the use of members on Mossroddick, and also donated enough timber to erect a boathouse to accommodate two boats. The Association paid for the timber to be sawn and transported to the loch which was stocked with 250 two year old brown trout costing £12 10s.

Today the objectives remain the same – to provide for and encourage the sport of angling for the residents of Dalry, Balmacellan and Carsphairn, and to enhance the game fishing potential for members and visitors alike. Besides full membership, which costs £10 p.a. this year, Associate Membership is open to members of New Galloway Angling Association and other applicants acceptable to the Association who for the same annual subscription will enjoy the benefits of full membership but will not be able to vote at an AGM or hold office. Qualification for Junior Membership is attendance at Dalry, Kells or Carsphairn Schools, regardless of where you live, and the annual subscription is £1 for primary and £2 for secondary school pupils. A day ticket for visitors is £7 for adults and half price for juniors.

The season for salmon begins on 11th February and ends 31st October, and for trout the season runs from 15th March to 6th October. There are indigenous fish and Carsfad is stocked. The waters available are:

1) The left bank of the River Ken from the suspension bridge to the march fence beyond Boatknowe – excluding Boatknowe frontage – and right bank from the Allan Gibbon bridge to Coom burn. Fly only until 1st May, then spinning and worm.

2) Carsfad dam – west bank only. Fly only. The cost of using a boat and equipment is £1.50 for members (£7 for visitors) and the latter can be obtained from Mr Newton's shop in Dalry. Ground baiting is forbidden. There are exchange tickets with Dalbeattie and Newton Stewart for members, also available at Newton's shop.

President of the Dalry Angling Association is Mr Ray Cotterill, Secretary is Mrs Barbara Johnson and the Treasurer is Mr Andrew Ruddock at Dalry Post Office, who will be glad to give you any further information if you drop in. There is also a website you can visit at <http://uk.geocities.com/dalryanglingclub/constitution.html>



To all fishers everywhere – tight lines and a fruitful season in 2008, and a big welcome to Dalry Angling Association if you wish to join us!

GLENKENS KICKBACK MARTIAL ARTS



The Glenkens has had a Martial Arts Club for 4 years now, having been founded in April 2004 by Brian and Nancy Hilton. Brian is our chief instructor and has black belts in Shotokan Karate, Lau Gar Kung Fu and Jiu Jitsu. He is 7th Dan in Shotokan Karate. His wife Nancy is a 2nd Dan in Shotokan Karate and Freestyle Martial Arts. Brian teaches Martial Arts

based on a blend of the styles he has trained in and with an emphasis on Self Defence.

Before opening clubs across the region Brian and Nancy lived in Runcorn where they also ran several clubs. The Runcorn clubs are now being run by Ann Brindley (2nd Dan), who is this year's WUMA woman's British Champion and a still a student of Brian's. We get together regularly with Ann and her clubs for competitions and courses. The Club has been enjoying growing success over the past couple of years, as our group of Martial Artists begin to mature. At our regular Inter-Club competitions in Thornhill, where all of the clubs under the Kickback Martial Arts banner meet and compete, we have picked up a large number of trophies over the past few years, many of which are firsts and seconds.

We've also had success at various National competitions, most notably at the Welsh open where last year one of our members, Hannah Sainsbury, picked up a couple of Second place trophies.

Earlier this year we sent a larger delegation to the Welsh Open. Hayley McGaw and Rebbecca Holden both picked up a fourth place, while Callum Gilligan picked up a third.

A recent development has also seen the establishment of the Glenkens Martial Arts Association, a body set up to acquire funding for equipment for the club and to help the club members attend competitions and other important functions. It has been set up and is run by students and all students and parents of students are welcome to become members. We're all quite excited about the advantages this should bring to our club!

Anybody of any age or ability has always been welcome to come along and train with us, and Brian and Nancy have always tried to keep the costs of training low to help this. Currently it costs £2 per hour, which works out at £4 per lesson. There is a £15 licence fee, payable after the first few weeks, which covers insurance and registration with NAKMAS for the purposes of grading etc. We train two nights a week, Tuesday (6.30pm-8.30pm) and Thursday (7.00pm-9.00pm) at the Community Centre in Dalry.

We work pretty hard on Thursdays, so if you'd prefer a more gentle introduction to Martial Arts we'd recommend giving Tuesday night a go first! You can also train just for one hour if you prefer.



GLENKENS '73 CLUB

The '73 Club's first ever performance at the West of Scotland Finals of the Scottish Community Drama Association One Act Play Festival took to the stage at The Ryan Centre in Stranraer on 27th March. Our production of 'Murphy's Law' by Harry Glass opened the festival on the Thursday evening and was very well received by an appreciative audience. This was the third public performance of the play having previously staged it at the District Festival in Lochside Theatre in February and at The CatStrand in March. We finished just outside the top three and did not qualify for the Scottish Finals but everyone was delighted with the achievement of getting this far for the first time and we were not to leave empty handed, winning the Scottish National Players Trophy for the best play depicting Scottish Life & Character. The adjudicator said "the company had clearly shown a great affection for the play and the central human story had come across with warmth and a fair degree of truth". He particularly praised the outstanding acting performance of Ewan McIntyre, who played the part of the Young Man, singling him out as one of the best actors in the festival. The play scored above average marks in all of the four marking categories of Acting, Direction, Stage Presentation & General Achievement. The other parts were played by Brian Edgar and Rosslyn Corrie, Producer was Marie Davie and Stage Manager was Andrew Metcalf.

Murphy's Law took us on a great journey and we were even a bit sad when we came to the end of the road as everybody involved felt that it became part of our lives for three months. Now we have to follow that next year!

The club will now be having a break for the summer and plan to commence rehearsals in September with the aim of producing 2 or 3 One Act Plays to be staged before Christmas.

It is also hoped to revive the Youth Section of the club again and involve some of the younger members in one of the Christmas productions and also in the One Act Festival in February. Please look out for information in due course. All new members are welcome. Contact Club Chairman, Marie Davie for any enquiries 420293.

GEOFF MONK'S MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

(www.mwis.org.uk)

It's already a 'brand' and it all started here in Galloway, Laurieston to be precise, with BBC Scotland launching the Weather Watchers Network in 1984. Many of the early 'weather watchers' were members of mountain rescue teams or, at least, keen outdoor enthusiasts. Initially the main demand was for better information about conditions on high level roads but increasingly this changed to one which had more of a focus on mountain safety and enjoyment.

Eight years ago Geoff Monk, with a mass of relevant weather forecasting experience, came to work full time with what by then had come to be called 'onlineweather.com'. His passion for mountain weather soon became widely known. An experimental service was started with thousands of users emailing back suggestions about what they needed. Extra money for mountain rescue teams was provided two years ago. The decision of who was to provide the associated weather services was given to the Mountaineering Council of Scotland - MCofS and many others in the mountaineering community had already been working closely with Geoff Monk to develop a more user friendly mountain weather forecasting and information service.

After 23 years, last Autumn the Scottish Government finally provided core funding for 'mwis' through Sportscotland. This allowed Geoff to be joined by Neil Hicking, a one time expedition leader and ex-forecaster who provided weather information from the Met Office in Prestwick for mountain rescue operations.

A new, improved version of the original website www.mwis.org.uk has now been launched and is attracting sponsorship funding which will be used to extend the range of information, mountain weather education and training provided throughout Scotland.

Locally, Roland Chaplain who originally launched 'weather watchers' now has a weekly slot on Tommy Jardine's afternoon show on Southwest Sound Radio at 2.45pm each Friday. This includes a look ahead at the coming week's weather and its possible impact on outdoor activities including, of course, what hill walkers and users of the Southern Upland Way need to look out for. The need for such a service was highlighted during the recent Newton Stewart Walking Festival when Geoff and Roland warned of the spectacular thunderstorms which affected one of the high level walks during an otherwise glorious week's weather – part of the warmest first half of May ever recorded!

Contacts: Geoff Monk 01644 450601 or Roland Chaplain 01644 420361





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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

Balmacellan 12 noon 1st

Carsphairn 10.30 am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Dalry 9.00 am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Kells 10.30 am 2nd 3rd 4th

Special Services and Events

8th June, 6.30 pm

Clachan Fair Songs of Praise with Sanguhar & District Silver Band, Newfield Green, Dalry

29th June, 10.30 am

United Service with Choir, Balmacellan Church

Communion Service

6th July 10.15 am

Carsphairn 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

JUNE:

Runs until the end of June, Exhibition - Eleanora Hope Henderson, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Tues 3rd, Talk & Wine Reception - Dr Malcolm Ingram: 'The Carlyles, Dr Gully and the Water Cure', 6.30pm, £3, The CatStrand, New Galloway (call to reserve a place)

Wed 4th, Next Door - theatre performance suitable for ages 8+, 4pm, £3, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 5th, Storytelling Café, 7.30pm, no booking necessary - donations at the door, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 6th - Sun 8th, RSAMD Youth Works programme - Glenkens Traditional Music Project, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 7th, Carsphairn Show, Carsphairn

Sat 7th, The Art of Ballads and Bards - visual performance-reading, 7pm, £6, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 8th, NGAA Webster Cup Fishing Comp, Mossdale Loch

Sun 8th - Sat 14th, Clachan Fair, Dalry

Mon 9th, Bus trip, Edinburgh, call The CatStrand to book

Mon 9th, Play it by Ear - music & storytelling for children, 1.30pm - 2.30pm, £2 per adult/child, 50p per additional child, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 14th, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am - 1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 14th, Glenkens Young Arts, 10am - 12noon (5-9 years) & 1pm - 3pm (8-12 years), £4, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 25th, CCC film, The Counterfeiters, 1.30pm, £4.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 26th, CCC film, The Kite Runner, 7.30pm, £4.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 28th, The Galloway Consort present 'Douce Memoire' Renaissance music to entertain a young Queen, 7pm, £6, The CatStrand, New Galloway

JULY:

Wed 2nd - Sat 12th, Freedom & Expression Exhibition, Castle Douglas Art Gallery, Castle Douglas

Tue 1st, 'Tighten Your Beltie': Healthy Eating - Healthy Living Cookery Demo & Book Launch, 7pm-9pm, £2, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 3rd, Storytelling café, 7.30pm, no booking necessary - donations at the door, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 5th & Sun 6th, Youth Weekend Programme - outdoor pursuits, Galloway Sailing Centre (call 01644 420 626 for more info)

Mon 7th, Bus trip, Ullswater - Lake District, call The CatStrand to book

Sat 12th, Glenkens Young Arts, 10am - 12noon (5-9 years) & 1pm - 3pm (8-12 years), £4, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 12th, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am - 1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Mon 13th, Bus trip, Hutton in the Forest Stately Home & Gardens, call The CatStrand to book

Wed 16th, That's Rubbish - puppet show for ages 6+, 2pm, £3.50, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 19th, Exhibition: Hazel Campbell, from The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 19th, William Dalrymple - lecture: The Lost Mughal, 3pm, £5, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 20th, Bus trip, Glasgow River Festival, call The CatStrand to book

Mon 28th, Bus trip, Drumlanrig Castle, call The CatStrand to book

Wed 30th, CCC film, Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

AUGUST:

Fri 1st, 'Taste of Burns' Ceilidh, New Galloway Town Hall, 8pm

Sun 3rd, Alternative Games, 2pm, New Galloway Park (any local organisations who would like to have a fundraising stall should book as soon as possible - phone Brian Edgar on 420 288.)

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

Dancercise - pilates style body conditioning: Tuesdays 6pm-7pm, £4

Tai Chi: Every Monday, 6pm - 7pm (runs till end June), Every Thursday, 10.15am-11.15am (runs till end Aug), £4

Exercise to Music: Every Monday, 10 am-11 am, £4

Fitness and Circuit Training classes: Every Monday (runs till end June), 7.30pm - 8.30pm, £4

Taking the First Step in Computing: Wednesday 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. Courses run in six week blocks throughout the year. Please call for further details and course dates.

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, Improvers 9.00-9.45

Aerobic Classes - toning & conditioning: Wed 7.30-8.30pm, £2.50

Preschool Dance: Thurs 3.30-4.00

Under 8's Ballroom, Latin & Modern Dance: Thurs 4.00-4.45

9yrs+ Ballroom, Latin & Modern Dance: Thurs 4.45-5.30

For further info on dance classes contact Sam Hood on 01644 420631

The CatStrand (GCAT) - 01644 420 374



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

NEXT GAZETTE DEADLINE

August/September, ISSUE 47: Fri July 8th 2008

USEFUL NUMBERS:

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