

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

August / September 2008

ISSUE 47

www.glenkensgazette.com

JUMPING FOR JOY

The Glenkens Agricultural Show this year has its own set of horse jumps for the beginners' class. Stuart Jamieson, local plumbing and heating engineer, has generously donated these jumps and is also sponsoring the class. "With the Show looming we have realised that every year the horse section has to borrow jumps from the Stewartry Pony Club," says Mrs Jamieson. "It would cost a few thousand pounds for the show to buy their own jumps, so my husband Stuart decided to sponsor a set of jumps in the hope that other businesses may follow suit – it would only take another eight or nine sets to have the full set, which would be fantastic!" The Glenkens Agricultural Show is on the 16th of August in the standing stone field between Dalry and New Galloway.



END OF AN ERA

Glenkens schools are fast losing some of their best with the retirement of Nancy Plummer, Head Teacher at Kells Primary for 27 years, David Brown, Principal Teacher of English at Dalry Secondary for 30 years and Sandra Brown, Depute Head at Dalry Primary for 16 years. Below are a few words put together by friends and colleagues.

46 Years at Dalry School Celebrated: On Friday 7 June a farewell ceilidh was held to mark the retirements of David and Sandra Brown from their posts at Dalry School.

Former Head Teacher, Bill Hall, speaking on behalf of the many former colleagues in the company, reflected on the immense contribution made by David and Sandra over a sustained period of time. Fraser Simpson paid tribute to the work of the Browns and particularly emphasised how popular they were with generations of youngsters at the school; both contributed so much to the ethos of the school in the classroom, the concert hall and the sports field. They would be a big loss to the school as first rate teachers, warm, helpful colleagues and members of the management team.

Mrs Plummer's Surprise Retirement Party: On the 24th June a surprise party had been meticulously put together in true Kells style, for it was Mrs Plummer's retirement celebration. Mrs Plummer has been head teacher at Kells for over quarter of a century. Pupils past and present and their families and friends turned up, special guests were smuggled into the back classroom, and finally Mrs P was piped in to the school through a procession of children and streamers. Familiar faces were brought out of hiding, then the children proceeded to give



Mrs P a wonderful showcase of their talents.

The whole school had been scheming for weeks at every opportunity, rehearsing behind Mrs P's back... the art of skulduggery is not dead!

All in all it was a splendid afternoon and a fantastic tribute to such a well revered member of the community. Mrs P, you will be missed, and you will be a hard act to follow!

GOLDEN OLDIE

New Galloway resident Alan Sidaway was recently awarded a gold medal for his work with pensioners. Alan has been a member of the Transport and General Workers Union for 42 years and received the 'Gold Standard' medal from Unite Scotland for outstanding service "over and above" his responsibilities. During his work in the trade union movement, Alan has consistently visited sick members and pensioners, offering his help and services wherever possible.



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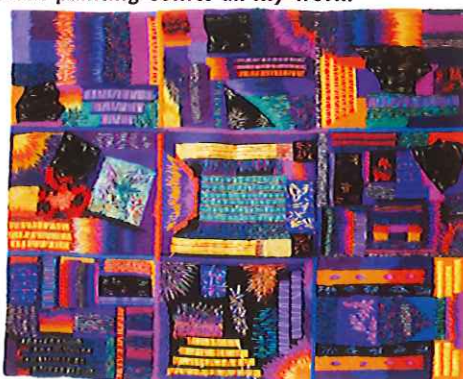
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Local Artist: MARY PUGH



"Really, my work is about just experimenting and having fun!" Mary Pugh's house is full of the most beautiful collages – brightly coloured wools and threads come together in a wonderful combination of colour and texture. Mary says; "I studied art for three years when I lived in Barcelona – it was mostly oil painting and life drawing. The teacher encouraged us to use bright colours. I started making collages outside of class – there were fantastic wools there, with very different textures, beautiful materials. Then, in Paris, I took a year's class on collage, and started to develop my own techniques by adding different materials. I love working with handmade paper."

Mary, having studied painting and collage, also sculpts. She says: "Painting is my first skill, but not really my main joy. I enjoy collage and sculpting, and really just use my painting to design pieces – so you could say from painting comes all my work."



VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITIONS IN THE GLENKENS

Over the coming months there is a wide range of artwork on display at the CatStrand Gallery. Running until 4 September will be a display of paintings by Hazel Campbell, who 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. From 21 August -3 Sept will be an exhibition of sculptures by Brian Ellery and Caroline Stanley. Both sculptors work in bronze, with Ellery specialising in portraiture. He is fascinated by the human face and its infinite variety and has travelled the world undertaking many commissions, including sculptures of the writer Ben Okri and the actress Julie Christie. Stanley is known for her sculptures of angels which she produces in both pewter and bronze. From 6 - 25 September there will be a photographic exhibition by local photographers Ted Leeming and Morag Paterson. This collaborative work will be a series of 'Impressionist' style images captured exclusively in the Glenkens. To see more of Ted and Morag's work visit www.tedleeming.com



The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Parish Community Council

We were sorry to note that our community policeman, PC Wilson, is retiring in August and as the July meeting would be his last, the chairman and all the councillors wished him all the best for his retirement and thanked him for working so closely with the community council during his time in the Glenkens and for his diligent attendance at our meetings.

It was noted that the new houses at Carson's Knowe were progressing well and that the first phase should be ready for occupancy in September.

Grass cutting around the burgh was still not being done as frequently as in previous years although a letter had been received stating that all grass areas within the town boundary were being cut. The Burgh signs on the approaches from Newton Stewart and Laurieston, however, were almost entirely obscured by long grass.

No further correspondence has been received regarding the siting of the Red Kite Trail Information Boards.

Quotations have been received to install electricity to the Burgh sign at the junction of Kirk Road and Newton Stewart Road. This would allow the sign to be lit and also would provide a power point for the Christmas Tree. It was decided to go ahead with the installation provided that funding could successfully be obtained from the appropriate council source. An application would be submitted.

It was decided that the beautiful framed montage of New Galloway landmarks which was kindly donated to the Community Council by Mr. Derk Pelly would be unveiled at the Alternative Ceilidh in the Town Hall on August 1st. Prints would thereafter be on general sale. A specially inscribed framed print was presented by Provost Margaret Sainsbury on behalf of the Community Council to Mrs. Plummer on the occasion of her retirement from Kells School after 27 years of outstanding service as Head Teacher.

Corsock Village Market

Anyone who ventures into the wonderful world of Village Markets will understand when I say there are times that you think "why am I doing this?" I'm sure that the answer is the same each time; it is because we believe we should all be thinking about supporting good local food producers and we need to be aware of the environmental issues e.g. the carbon footprint in delivery of produce and wholesome and organic food versus fast mass produced food. We also believe in offering a choice of shopping experiences and want it to be a fun family experience.

One of the exciting things about coming to the market is not only the range and choice of food but the buzz. The stallholders believe in their product and can help with cooking instruction and recipe ideas. It's the personal touch that makes a difference. There is also the sense of fun. Doreen Smith from Sunnyside Farm sells Gloucester Old Spot Pork and ethically produced Scottish veal. At the last market she arrived with a billboard proclaiming: "As seen on TV in Gordon Ramsey's F Word". Sunnyside did appear on the programme in June and she thought it would be fun to bring the sign along.

There is also the commitment to provide the best produce - eggs collected the day before the market, jam, pies and cake all freshly made and, of course, you can't get better than Wigwam artisan bread and pies made at 2.30am on the day of the market arriving still warm! The range of foods is wonderful to see, from free-range chicken, organic lamb and Galloway beef, fresh flowers, salads and smoked fish and game.

The smells of cooked samples tempt you as you walk through the door. Meeting friends and catching up over a cup of tea and slice of cake or a bowl of soup all add to the experience.

So yes, it is well worth the sleepless night before the market and the hard work and preparation, all done by willing volunteers. Come and see for yourself! You will be given a warm welcome. The Corsock Market is the 2nd Saturday each month from 9.30am - 1.30pm and the next market will be on Saturday 9th August.

Judi Shaw



Glenkens Business Association

Post Office Closures: MP Russell Brown has agreed to attend the next meeting to discuss the proposals for the future of the Post Offices. The GBA Committee are concerned that whilst discussions with Postmasters and Postmistresses are taking place, there are no arrangements for public consultations. The meeting will take place at The Kenbridge Hotel at 7pm on 5th August, open to all.

New Business Directory: The first directory of GBA members has been really useful in encouraging local trade. To ensure your business is featured in the next issue due out soon join up or renew your GBA membership now. Membership also provides a listing on the GBA website and an opportunity to advertise. Contact: Secretary Alan Rumble Tel: 01644 420250 email: alanrubble@gmail.com

Loch Ken Alien Crayfish: Members of the Committee have been talking to Cameron Stewart of Dumfries & Galloway Council. Cameron is anxious to hear from local businesses which are experiencing reduced income because of the effect of the crayfish particularly on fishing (Tel: 01387 260145). The GBA Committee have expressed the view that notwithstanding difficulties in ascertaining actual financial effects, the crayfish are an alien species and ought to be removed. Failing that, the regulations should be changed to allow them to be caught for the table.

Forestry Information Boards: Next time you are visiting Loch Stroan picnic site look out for Visit Glenkens information on the forestry board. VisitGlenkens is the GBA website promoting tourism within the area. Another reason for membership of the Glenkens Business Association.

Rosalind Hill

KATE'S SNACK BAR

**wide
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fillings all
freshly
made,
fresh salad
bowls, hot
filled rolls,
tea, coffee
& more...**



**The
Garage,
Dalry
Open
8.30am
to
2.30pm**

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!"

Come & see for yourself - stop in for great food, friendly service & cheerful banter.

Enchanted Sounds Heard in the Forest

If you were walking in the forest north of Dalry recently and thought you heard enchanted sounds of singing and harp playing, don't worry – you weren't hearing things! And it wasn't the fairies! It was probably Fiona Shirra practicing her music. Local professional harpist/singer songwriter Fiona moved to the forest 3 years ago, and when not away touring, spends as much time as possible by the river in a small woodland at the end of her garden which adjoins the forest.

"It's such a peaceful and beautiful place, it's just perfect for practising my music," Fiona told us. "Hours just disappear when I get down there, and it's hard not to be creative when surrounded by such stunning scenery. I get so used to the luxury of being miles from anywhere, with only the birds and red squirrels to sing to, that I often forget that people walk in the adjacent forest or fish by the river. I think I've startled quite a few people with my singing!"

Although she grew up in Cheshire, Fiona is, in a way, returning to

her roots by moving here, as her father's family came from Glasgow and Great Cumbrae and her mother's family from just up the road in Alloway, where they had a connection with Robert Burns' family. The name 'Shirra' is Scottish and means 'Sheriff' whilst 'Fiona' has Gaelic roots relating to fairness and justice. So if you go down to the woods today, you'd better behave! And perhaps you'll hear a little enchanted music in the forest!

Fiona will be giving a solo concert at The CatStrand, New Galloway, on Friday 19th September. Please ring 01644 420374 or visit www.catstrand.com for more details.



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and Stewartry Flower Clubs Present

'September Song'

An Autumn Floral Extravaganza

in Threave House, The National Trust for
Scotland, Castle Douglas

Tuesday 16th September, Wednesday 17th
September and Thursday 18th September
from 10am until 4pm

Tickets for members of the NTS and the NT £6

Tickets for non-members £10 to include
admission to Threave Garden

An Evening Reception in Threave House,
Wednesday 17th September, 6pm to 8pm:
Flowers, Music and Wine!

Tickets £8

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LOCAL HISTORY

Barscobe and the Holy Linn by Helen Bolton

Barscobe Castle, to the north of Balmaclellan, was built in 1648 by William McClellan and his wife Margaret Gordon, as the date-stone above the door tells us. In 1664 their son Robert inherited the estate and as an ardent Presbyterian found himself deeply involved in the covenanting movement, being eventually forced to flee his home and hide in the Galloway hills to escape the predations of Sir James Turner and his dragoons who had been sent to Galloway to crush the covenanters.

On 13th. November 1666 a party of dragoons from the Dalry garrison were out searching for those who had failed to attend church. One old farmer by the name of Grier was unable to pay his fine, and the four dragoons claimed his corn crop instead. The old man fled his farm but was caught and brought back into Dalry with his feet and hands bound. The dragoons intended to strip him of his clothing and place him on a hot grid iron.

However, Robert McClellan of Barscobe and three friends had left the sanctuary of the hills, driven out by cold and rain, and had risked a visit to Dalry where they had a hearty breakfast at a local inn. During their meal some local people burst in and told them of the dragoon's intended torture of Grier. Barscobe and his friends challenged the dragoons and heated words were exchanged. The soldiers drew their swords and Barscobe and his friends drew pistols, and fired. One pistol was loaded with bits of a clay pipe and several of these penetrated the legs of Corporal Deanes who fell to the ground wounded. The rest surrendered.

Realising they had overstepped the mark, Barscobe and his friends decided to throw caution to the winds and, gathering a group of sympathisers, they marched to Dumfries where they took Sir James Turner by surprise in the middle of getting dressed, and took him prisoner!

They then marched north, gathering more supporters on the way, until, less than a fortnight later, they met the Government forces at the battle of Rullion Green and were defeated. The Pentland Rising had ended.

Many years later, in 1682, after many more adventures, Barscobe was captured, and being worn down by imprisonment and ill-health, he was persuaded to abandon the Covenanting cause. Sadly, he was murdered just over a year later by a covenanting extremist who felt he had betrayed the cause. During these cruel times, Rev. Thomas Vernor, who had been the minister at Balmaclellan Church since 1657, was replaced by a curate. Many local people refused to attend church, preferring instead to worship in secret at open-air services or conventicles, conducted by Rev. Vernor in hidden places in the wild moors surrounding the village. Services were held by the fast-flowing waters of the Garpol Burn, close to Barscobe Castle. Baptismal water was contained in a hollow basin at the edge of the burn, and people would bring their children to be baptised by the Rev. Vernor. It is on record that Rev. Vernor, at one of his conventicles here, baptised thirty-six children at one time. This place became known as the Holy Linn, a name which it retains to this day.

In 1690 Rev. Vernor was returned to his beloved church of Balmaclellan and remained there as its faithful minister until 1717.



THE 2008 CONVENTICLE

Sunday 25th May 2008 dawned fine and dry but with a chilly wind and jackets were donned as people parked their cars near Barscobe Farm in the afternoon and made their way up the track past the castle. Through the lush, green woods the track led to a beautiful clearing among big, old trees not far from the Holy Linn. This place had been the venue for a conventicle in 1985 when a baptism also took place at the Holy Linn, and more recently, in 2000, Rev. Dr. David Bartholomew held a conventicle in this idyllic spot.



Dr. Bartholomew welcomed the gathering of some forty people to this year's open-air service to commemorate those brave souls of the area who, despite persecution, remained true to their faith during the cruel years of the Killing Times of the 17th century. Dr. Bartholomew also thanked Mr. Alastair Emery, the owner of Barscobe, for his co-operation in allowing the service to be held on his land.

As usual, only psalms were sung during the service, in keeping with the traditions of the conventicles of old, and with Mr. Andrew Blackley's fine covenanter flag flying proudly at the side of the clearing, the service opened with the psalm "Oh! Come and Let Us to the Lord" to the tune "Kilmarnock". Dr. Bartholomew then read of Robert McClellan of Barscobe and his part in the Pentland Rising. We also learned of Rev. Thomas Vernor, minister of Balmaclellan parish during those troubled times, and his popular conventicles held close to the Holy Linn, and his baptising of thirty-six children at one service.

More psalms were sung including the always popular "The Lord's My Shepherd" to the tune "Crimond", and "As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams" to "Martyrdom". Prayers and passages from the Holy Bible were read and then the collection was gathered in the time-honoured way in a blanket. The service closed with psalm 46, "God is Our Refuge and Our Strength".

Tea, coffee, fruit juice and biscuits were then served to refresh everyone and give the energetic members of the gathering the strength to walk through the woods down the steep path to the side of the Garpol Burn below the lovely waterfall. A more idyllic place for baptism is hard to imagine, although during the covenanting times the occasions would be fraught with anxiety lest the dragoons should suddenly come upon the people at the burn side. Several small pools were found along by the Holy Linn, and it was interesting to speculate as to which one was used by the Rev. Thomas Vernor as a wonderful, natural font for the baptisms.

We thank Dr. David Bartholomew for finding another beautiful and evocative setting in which to hold the Conventicle, and we look forward to next year's service, where ever it may be held.

© Helen Bolton July 2008

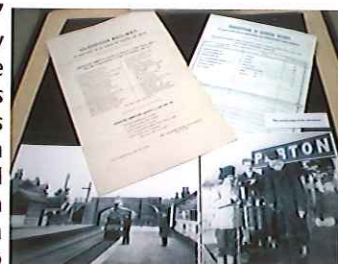
GLENKENS OBJECT OF THE MONTH

What might have been!

GLENKENS RAILWAY SUBSCRIPTION LIST

The 'Railway Age' reached Galloway in 1859, when the line from Dumfries to Castle Douglas was built. This main line was extended to Portpatrick in 1861, and a branch line added to Kirkcudbright in 1864. Further lines into the Wigtownshire Machars, and to Portpatrick and Girvan followed in 1877.

The Victorian railway system was a vital economic asset providing a fast and convenient means of transporting agricultural produce, raw materials and manufactured goods throughout Britain, and the landowners and businessmen of the Glenkens were anxious to link into the developing network. The Portpatrick railway ran through the lower part of the Glenkens with stations at Mossdale (New Galloway Station) and Parton, but in 1858 there was strong backing from Mr William Forbes of Callendar (and Earlston) in particular for a scheme to build a branch line from Parton to Dalry. Despite receiving extensive public support - as can be seen from the names of the Subscription Committee - the proposal did not come to fruition, nor did a further proposal two years later to link Dalry with the nearer New Galloway Station at Mossdale.



Each month a different 'Object' from The Stewartry Museum, Kirkcudbright, is on display at The CatStrand, New Galloway

The CatStrand: News & Events

Exhibition: Hazel Campbell
from Sat 19 July, CatStrand opening hours (see p2 for further info)

The Singing Sous' Chefs – Alive Again

Comedy, a capella soul and time travel

Sat 2 Aug, 7.30pm, £8.00 / £6.00

A comical, musical, interactive, historical future adventure.

Storytelling Café

Thurs 7 Aug, 7.30pm, donations on the door

This month's guest host is Anne Errington with the theme, "Gory and Gruesome Tales."

Glenkens Young Arts

Sat 9 Aug, 10am – 12noon (5-9 years)

1pm – 3pm (8-12 years), £4

Two-hour monthly workshops are run by professional artists and teachers - expert tuition and hands-on experience.

Painting Summer School with Hazel Campbell

Mon 11- Fri 15 Aug, 10am – 4pm

Five day watercolour painting summer school.

Friendship Festival with Cathy Cassidy

Sat 16 Aug, 2pm to 4pm, free admission

Glenkens children's author, Cathy Cassidy, will be bringing her famous festival VW camper van to the gardens of The CatStrand for an afternoon of friendship and fun.

Animate!

Every Tues afternoon from 19 Aug until 7 Oct, 4pm – 5pm, 8-12 year olds, 5pm – 6pm, 13-18 year olds, £3 per session

8 weeks of animation workshops run by the artist and film maker Jo Hodges.

Exhibition: Brian Ellery and Caroline Stanley

From Sat 23 Aug, CatStrand opening hours (see p2 for further info)

Is that a Cello?

Richard & Vivien Jones of The Galloway Consort

Sat 23 Aug, 3pm, £3 (£5.00 Family ticket)

A family-friendly lecture-recital with illustrations on the music and instruments of the renaissance, placed in their cultural context in Scotland.



Play it by Ear

Every Mon from 25 Aug, 1.30pm – 2.30pm, £2 per adult/child

Popular song and storytelling session for pre-school children - every Monday during term time.

Childrens' Dance Classes with Margaret Morris Movement

Every Mon from 25 Aug, 4pm-5pm, £3 per session

A series of classes designed to develop creativity and wellbeing. With dance teacher Sara Lockwood (age 8-12 years).

Storytelling Café

Thurs 4 Sept, 7.30pm, donations on the door

This month's guest host is John Wheeler with the theme "September Songs."

Exhibition: "Impressions of the Glenkens" by Ted Leeming and Morag Paterson

From Sat 6 Sept, CatStrand opening hours

(see p2 for further info)

Land or Sea

Sat 6 Sept, 8pm, £7 / £6

Well-known local musician Michael Haywood and his folk/jazz band of award winning musicians.



Creative Writing Classes with Rab Wilson

10 Sept from 7.30pm till 9.30pm (see p7 for further info)

Fiona Shirra, Celtic Harpist and Singer

Fri 19 Sept, 7.30pm, £7 / £6 (see p4 for further info)

Wigtown Festival @10

Sat 20 Sept, Preview, 7pm, £7 / £5

The Stena Wigtown Book Festival (26 Sept - 5 Oct) is 10 this year, and has a jam-packed programme. To mark the occasion, we're holding a preview evening at The CatStrand.



CatStrand 1st Birthday Weekend

Fri 26 to Sun 28 Sept

This weekend is The CatStrand's first birthday! To celebrate we have the following jam packed programme including visual arts, opera and potatoes! Come along and help us eat cake!

Lecture: James Faed Junior

Fri 26 Sept, 6.30pm, £5

Stuart Faed will give a short lecture on the life and work of the artist James Faed - his great grandfather.

Exhibition: James Faed Junior: A Glimpse of Faed

From Sat 27 Sept, CatStrand opening hours

Of all the Faeds, James 'Junior' was the best known in New Galloway. An opportunity to see his paintings.

War, Peace, Justice and Potatoes 2008

Open Day, Sat 27 Sept, 10am to 4.30pm, admission free

In this, The United Nations International Year Of The Potato, the CatStrand holds a day to honour world peace and to celebrate the work being done in 2008 by a great number of local school children on the War, Peace, Justice and Potatoes project that John Wheeler started three years ago.

Opera on a Shoestring: A Viennese Whirl

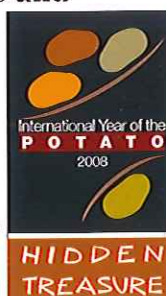
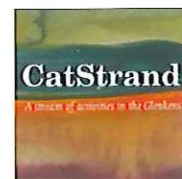
Sat 27 Sept, 7.30pm, £20 (ticket price includes a champagne reception and light refreshments)

Glasgow based company, Opera on a Shoestring, make their CatStrand debut with A Viennese Whirl. Four singers present a gala performance of arias and ensembles with a Viennese connection.

Doors Open Day

Sun 28 Sept, 12 noon to 4pm, free admission

The theme of this year's Doors Open Day will be water. Come along and see behind the scenes, take part in some taster events, sign up as a volunteer, find out more about what we do or just help us eat birthday cake!



The CatStrand: News & Events

COMMUNITY PROJECT WORKER

At a farewell event on Thursday 10 July The CatStrand said goodbye to Community Project Worker Liz Cole, who has been with GCAT since 2005.

Liz made a great contribution to both the organisation and the local community, and had become a well known, friendly face around the Glenkens. Everyone wishes to thank her for her hard work and we wish her all the best for future projects.

Liz will be replaced by the new Community Project Worker, Catherine Phillips of New Galloway, who will take up her post at the beginning of August. Anyone wishing to get in touch with Catherine can do so at The CatStrand on 420 374.

Creative Writing Classes

Rab Wilson, the new Robert Burns Writing Fellow with Dumfries & Galloway Arts Association, is hoping to start a creative writing course at The CatStrand in the autumn. In the meantime he will be holding a one-off taster introductory evening in September to gauge potential interest and where anyone interested in taking part on the course can come along and meet him and see what's on offer. If you are a writer, or an aspiring writer, and want to learn new things, share your writing, get new inspiration or find out how to get published then come along and meet Rab.

Rab Wilson's writing event will be on Wednesday 10 September from 7.30pm till 9.30pm. Places are limited so please book in advance on 01644 420374.

TIGHTEN YOUR BELTIE!

"Tighten Your Beltie" is a new healthy eating-healthy living cook book which has been devised by a working group of young and old over the course of six weeks. The fabulous new cook book has many recipes from Dumfries and Galloway using local produce, every one equally delicious.

The launch of the cook book proved immensely popular with a demonstration of a few dishes displaying just how easy it can be to cook tasty, healthy food. The "Tighten Your Beltie" project was established at The CatStrand to bring together individuals from the community, together with a nutrition support worker and an organic cook. The book is a culmination of a lot of hard work and also a lot of fun – a true 'intergenerational' project which has given much pleasure to all members of the group.

It includes a varied range of healthy recipes from main courses to sweets and treats. "Tighten Your Beltie" is an essential for any household kitchen, the dishes included by talented organic cook Catherine Braid from the Green Tea House, can be used daily as part of a balanced family diet as well as for special occasions when there are guests to impress! The cook book is priced at £5.50 and is available to buy at The CatStrand and at numerous locations around the Glenkens.



RSAMD DRAMA RESIDENCY

Monday 21 July saw the start of a week long drama residency at The CatStrand by the prestigious Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. With ten eager participants hungry for a challenge, the experienced tutors provided them with just that.

They asked: *What are you waiting for? Who are you waiting for? Why do you wait?* The group creatively looked for the answers to these questions, using their findings to create and perform an original and new piece of theatre for friends and family.

The workshop concentrated on character development and storytelling, using stories both real and imagined, characters both shy and daring, activities both challenging and inspirational - culminating in a great performance.



COMMUNITY EVENTS/CLASSES

Tai Chi: Every Thursday, 10.15am - 11.15am (until 14 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 - 11 am, £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.

'Danceexercise' - Pilates Class: Every Tuesday from 2 September, 6pm - 7pm, £24 / £18 for a six week course. Classically based Pilates Style Body Conditioning FOR FUN! Six week course run by Dance Instructor Elizabeth Richardson. Sessions must be paid in full at the start.

'Let's Talk': Thursday 11 September 7pm - 9pm, free. Practise speaking English and improve your grammar in an informal group with Dumfries and Galloway Council tutor, Cate Murray. All nationalities welcome! Light refreshments available.

'Do it better!': Brush Up Your Skills with D&G Council Community Learning & Development: Every Wednesday, starts 20 August, 1.30pm - 3.30pm. Reading, writing, Numbers, Basic Computing. Drop in for free, friendly help. Do you want to improve your English and Maths? Do you want to get a better job or go back to education or training? Do you want to get an SQA certificate? Do you want to get to grips with all the forms and paperwork that life throws at you, or to help your children with their

homework? Then come along to these informal drop-in sessions for help. If this time is not convenient, contact the CatStrand Community Project Worker who will try to arrange a different time with the tutor.

'Silver Surfers': An Introduction to the Internet: Get in touch with the world through computer technology! Friday 5 September 10am-12noon, Monday 8 September 10am-12noon. Free training sessions on using the Internet aimed at giving those new to computing the chance to 'go online' and 'surf the net' in a tutor-led friendly, relaxed environment. The sessions are open to anyone of 50 years and above who wants to get a feel for what it's all about. Free copies of 'PCs, Just the Steps for Dummies' will be available. Advance booking is recommended.

These classes are held at The CatStrand and run in partnership with Castle Douglas IT Centre and Age Concern Scotland and in conjunction with Silver Surfers Week (8th-12th September).

Taking the First Step in Computing: Wednesday Evenings, 5.30pm - 7.30pm. An informal introduction to computing. Courses are run by tutors from the IT Centre in Castle Douglas 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 - grants of up to £200 could open new doors to you! Tutor: Lynsey Shaw from the IT Centre, Castle Douglas.

For further info & to buy tickets visit
www.catstrand.com

CLUB CORNER

CATSTRAND CINEMA CLUB

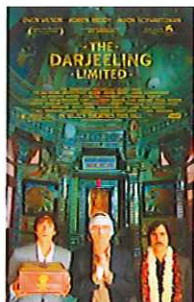
The CatStrand Cinema Club (CCC) aims to bring a varied and popular series of film to the Glenkens on a monthly basis. If you would like to get more involved, you can join the CCC, which will meet informally on a regular basis to discuss programme ideas for the coming season. Membership benefits will 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 www.catstrand.com or call 01644 420374.

Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007)

Wednesday 6 August, 1.30pm

Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium is the strangest, most fantastic, most wonderful toy store in the world, but a dark and ominous change begins to take over the once remarkable Emporium. Cert U, 93 minutes.



The Darjeeling Ltd (2007)

Wednesday 27 August, 7.30pm

A year after the accidental death of their father, three brothers - each suffering from depression - meet for a train trip across India. Cert 15, 91 minutes.

The Diving Bell and The Butterfly (2007)

Wednesday 24 September, 7.30pm

The story of Jean-Dominique Bauby, who, in 1995 at the age of 43, suffered a paralysing stroke. Using only his left eye to blink out his memoir, Bauby eloquently described aspects of his interior world, from the psychological torment of being trapped inside his body to his imagined stories from lands he'd only visited in his mind. Cert 12a, 112 minutes.



Glenkens 73 Club

The club are pleased to report that following a successful meeting held in early July, the youth section of the drama club will be reformed and will meet from early September to commence rehearsals for their first production. It is also intended to run various workshops during the year to cover all aspects of theatre. Confirmation of details will be circulated directly to those who have already registered their interest and will also be advertised again in the local schools.

The adult section of the club will also be meeting again from early September with a view to producing two One Act Plays to stage before Christmas.

New members of all ages are always welcome, whether you want to act or help behind the scenes. For further information please contact the club chairperson Marie Davie (01644 430293).



The Cross Keys Hotel - New Galloway Dates for the Diary

Cross Keys Quiz Nights

Held every other Wednesday; next quiz night is

Wed August 6th - General Knowledge and Music

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www.thecrosskeys-newgalloway.co.uk

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01644 430225 OR EMAIL

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YOUTH UPDATE

Glenkens Fire Cadets

The Fire Cadets at New Galloway Fire Station are enjoying a well earned break and will recommence after school returns at the end of August. They have just completed a session on fire fighting and breathing apparatus use, ladder climbing and hose work, with an activity mid session at the laser quest at Loch Ken.

The next session on the Cadets return will cover road traffic incidents, causes and effects and use of the many specialist tools available to the crews. They will also have a visit from the Police Traffic Unit.

At the moment there are 10 cadets and there are still two places available to young people residing in the Glenkens aged between 11 and 16. Please enquire with Stewartry District staff at Kirkcudbright District Office 01557 332028 or the Crew at New Galloway Fire Station for application details.

The Fire Cadets meet on Wednesday nights at New Galloway Fire Station, 18.45 – 20.15, starting again at the end of August. *Iain Campbell*

GLENKENS AGRICULTURAL SHOW

SAT 16 AUGUST

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Care Charge

Refund team seek claims

Free Personal Care for older people

Charges for assistance with food preparation

Between 1 July 2002 and 6 January 2006, Social Work service users receiving services and support from the Older People teams were charged for assistance with food preparation. The Council has decided that these charges should be refunded.

Refunds to current service users have already been made and the Council is now inviting relatives and executors of service users who also paid the charge between 1 July 2002 and 6 January 2006 to make a claim in writing for a refund of charges.

For a relative or an executor of a service user's estate to receive a refund, the Council will require sight of one of the following documents:

- Appointment of Executor of Estate as detailed in the service user's Will
- Certificate of Confirmation from the Sheriff Clerk of Court
- Evidence that the person is acting on behalf of the Executor

Before a refund is made, the Council will need to be satisfied that claimants are entitled to receive refunds. Accordingly, claimants will have to sign a form to that effect.

Original documentation (not photocopies) will be needed to make a claim and claims need to be lodged, in writing, with the appropriate documentation attached by Friday, 22 August 2008.

For claims for service users who lived in Annandale & Eskdale and Nithsdale please contact: Jan Nye, Adult Services, Social Work, Dumfries & Galloway Council, 8 Gordon Street, Dumfries, DG1 1EG. Tel: 01387 260 810 e-mail JanetN@dmgal.gov.uk

For claims for service users who lived in Stewartry and Wigtown please contact: Sheila McKie, Adult Services, Social Work, Dumfries & Galloway Council, Sun Street, Stranraer, DG9 7JJ. Tel: 01776 888 450 e-mail SheilaMc@dmgal.gov.uk

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Glenkens Farmers Market



2nd Saturday Monthly

August 9th 2008

September 13th 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

Glenkens Playgroup News

Sponsored Cycle: on Sunday May 18th, parents and friends of Glenkens Playgroup cycled 50 miles in order to raise funds for the group. Thank you to all who supported this event - cyclists, support cars and sponsors. A sum in excess of £800 was raised.

Clachan Fayre: The Clachan Fayre was a success for Glenkens Playgroup. Not only did they win 1st prize for their 'circus' trailer, they also made £97 on the tombola stall. Many thanks to all parents involved with this day.

Open Days: Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th August will be open for children aged from 2½ years to come along, meet the Playleaders and have a play. Any questions from parents can be answered for parents by staff at this time.



THE BUS : GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

G.T.I. PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

To celebrate the success of GTI and also to show to those people who are missing out on some wonderful times we have decided to hold a photographic competition featuring all GTI Trips and activities.

The competition will be divided into a number of different classes including landscapes, personalities and humour etc and all entries will be on display in the CatStrand between the 1st and 8th of November 2008.

We are delighted that Phil McMenemy, who has recently opened a gallery in Laurieston and whose cards are on sale in the CatStrand, has agreed to judge the entries. Full details of classes etc will be given in the next issue of the Gazette in September 2008.

Recent trips to the Falkirk Wheel, the Mull of Galloway and to an excellent production of Oklahoma at Annan Academy have all been very popular and show what a good range of places we get to. In the future we plan to visit Ayr and Ayr Flower Show (Sat 9th Aug), the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow (Sat 16th Aug), Kirkcudbright Tattoo (Mon 25th Aug) and Windermere Plastics (Monday 6th October) - other trips will be arranged and advertised locally, and we are already receiving ideas for next year!

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 :

2045 Departs Castle Douglas (Tesco)
 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.**

The Scottish Alternative Games Weekend

The clank of the gird n' cleek will soon be heard around New Galloway again as the annual world championship approaches. Hopefully the weather will be a bit kinder this time around although the addition of some natural water hazards certainly presented a new challenge to last year's runners. The tricky conditions didn't deter local girl Hannah McKenna who took the world title for the first time. Hannah also holds the distinction of being the first female ever to win the title and on last year's form it looks as if she will start as the bookies favourite. However, challengers will be descending on New Galloway from all over the world on the 3rd August to try to take the world title away from Hannah. One year we had competitors from 21 different countries taking part but the title has only ever been taken out of Scotland once, in 1987.

The Tossin' the Sheaf competitors will be vying to win the stylish new trophy which has been presented in memory of the founder of the Games, Mr. Mungo Bryson. Mungo originally had the idea for the Alternative Games over 30 years ago when they were first held in Parton to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. They have been held almost every year since and moved to New Galloway in 2001. We hope that they continue to fulfil Mungo's original aim of providing "a good old fashioned family day out" for many years to come.



Other events include Hurlin' the Curlin Stane, Balmacellan Skittles, Tractor Pull, Tug o'War and of course the famous Snail Racing. Musical entertainment to fit the occasion will be provided by The Buccleuch & Queensberry Caledonia Pipe Band and there will also be the popular Classic Car and Vintage Tractor Shows, Stalls, Teas, Barbecue and Beer Tent. The profits this year will again be supporting Macmillan Cancer Support and the Maximum Attack Leukaemia Appeal.

The weekend kicks off on the Friday evening with the Alternative Ceilidh in the Town Hall. Dancing starts at 8.00pm to the five piece ceilidh band "Whigmaleerie" and a Burns Supper will be served at 9.00pm. Prior to the supper the haggis will be piped into the hall and addressed in traditional fashion. Dancing will then continue after supper until "Auld Lang Syne" is heard at 12.30am.

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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%

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

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Community Fire Safety

Chimney Fires: 'Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue Service wishes to remind all those who have a coal or wood burning fire to ensure that it is swept prior to use.

With an increase in fuel bills we have found an increase in the use of open fires and log burners, with more fire places being opened up for use, and as a result an increase in chimney fires. Chimneys should be swept at least three times a year and even more depending upon the fuel that is burned. In addition to preventing the possibility of chimney fires it also reduces the risk of Carbon Monoxide poisoning.

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays

Balmacellellan 12 noon 1st
Carsphairn 10.30 am 1st 2nd
(Sept) 3rd 4th 5th
Dalry 9.00 am 1st 2nd (Sept) 3rd 4th (Aug)
Dalry 12 noon 4th (Sept)
Kells 10.30 am 2nd 3rd 4th

Special Services and Events

4th - 8th Aug 10.30-12.20
Champion's Challenge Holiday Club at Scout Hut, New Galloway
10th Aug 10.30am
United Family Service in Kells Church

31st Aug 10.30am
United Service with Glenkens Church Choir in Carsphairn Church

28th September

Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Dalry Church at 12 noon, Harvest Lunch in Dalry Town Hall at 1pm

Communion Service

24th Aug 10.30am Kells 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

AUGUST:

From Sat 19 July, Exhibition: Hazel Campbell, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Fri 1, 'Taste of Burns' Ceilidh, New Galloway Town Hall, 8pm
Sat 2, The Singing Sous' Chefs - Alive Again, 7.30pm, £8/£6, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sun 3, Alternative Games, 2pm, New Galloway Park
Tue 5, GBA Meeting - discussions of the future of our Post Offices - MP Russell Brown & Gordon Mann, will attend, 7pm, Ken Bridge Hotel, open to all
Thurs 7, Storytelling Café, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 9, Corsock Village Market, 9.30am-1.30pm, Corsock Village Hall
Sat 9, Glenkens Young Arts, 10am-12 noon (5-9 years), 1pm-3pm (8-12 years), £4, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 9, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am-12 noon, Dalry Town Hall
Sat 16, Friendship Festival with Cathy Cassidy, 2pm-4pm, free admission, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 16, Glenkens Agricultural Show, from 9am, Standing Stone Field on A713 between Dalry & New Galloway
Every Tues afternoon from 19 Aug-7 Oct, Animatel, 4-5pm for 8-12 year olds & 5-6pm for 13-18 year olds, £3 per session, The CatStrand, New Galloway
From Sat 23, Exhibition: Brian Ellery and Caroline Stanley, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Thurs 21, 2-5.30pm, re-creation of famous 1833 walk by Emerson and Carlyle, followed at 6.30pm with a wine reception at the CatStrand followed by David Howdle's talk, £3
Sat 23, Annual Flower and Vegetable Show, Dalry Town Hall
Sat 23, Is that a Cello? - The Galloway Consort, 3pm, £3 (£5.00 Family ticket), The CatStrand, New Galloway
Every Mon from 25 Aug, Play it by Ear, 1.30pm-2.30pm, £2, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Every Mon from 25 Aug, Children's Dance Classes with Margaret Morris Movement, 4pm-5pm, £3, The CatStrand, New Galloway
From Tues 26 Aug - Tue 9 Sept, Exhibition: Carlyle Connections, The CatStrand, New Galloway
SEPTEMBER:
Tue 2, GBA Meeting, guest speaker Howard Wilkinson from Business Mentoring Scotland, 7pm, Ken Bridge Hotel
Thurs 4, Storytelling Café, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway
From Fri 5, Exhibition: 'Impressions of the Glenkens' by Ted Leeming & Morag Paterson, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Fri 5, 'Silver Surfers': An Introduction to the Internet, 10am-12noon, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 6, Land or Sea, 8pm, £7/£6, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Mon 8, 'Silver Surfers': An Introduction to the Internet, 10am-12noon, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Thurs 11, 'Let's Talk', 7pm - 9pm, free admission, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 13, Glenkens Young Arts, 10am-12 noon (5-9 years), 1pm-3pm (8-12 years), £4, The CatStrand, New Galloway
Sat 13, Corsock Village Market, 9.30am-1.30pm, Corsock Village Hall
Sat 13, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am-12 noon, Dalry Town Hall
16, 17 & 18, 'September Song' - An Autumn Floral

Extravaganza, Threave House, £6 NT members, £10 non-members, see p4 for info

Wed 17, An Evening Reception in Threave House - Flowers, Music & Wine, 6-8pm, £8, Threave House, see p4 for info
Fri 19, Fiona Shirra - Celtic Harpist and Singer, 7.30pm, £7/£6, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 20, Wigtown Festival @ 10 Preview, 7pm, £7/£5, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 26-28, CatStrand 1st Birthday Weekend, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 26, Lecture: James Faed Junior, 6.30pm, £5.00, The CatStrand, New Galloway

From Sat 27, Exhibition: James Faed Junior - A Glimpse of Faed, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 27, War, Peace, Justice and Potatoes 2008 Open Day, 10am-4.30pm, admission free, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 27, Opera on a Shoestring - A Viennese Whirl, 7.30pm, £20 (ticket price includes a champagne reception and light refreshments), The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 28, Doors Open Day, 12noon-4pm, free admission, The CatStrand, New Galloway

REGULAR EVENTS:

Mother & Toddlers Group: New Galloway Town Hall, Tues 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

Glenkens Farmers Market, 2nd Sat each month, 10am-1pm, Dalry Town Hall

Corsock Village Market, 2nd Sat each month, 9.30am-1.30pm, Corsock Village Hall

Cross Keys Quiz Night, every other Wed, The Cross Keys, New Galloway

The CatStrand, New Galloway (for more info see p7)

Tai Chi: Every Thurs, 10.15am - 11.15am (until 14 Aug), £4/£3

Exercise to Music: Every Mon, 10 am - 11 am, £4/£3

'Danceexercise' - Pilates Class: Every Tues from 2

Sept, 6pm - 7pm, £24 / £18 for a six week course

'Do it better!': Brush Up Your Skills: Every Wed, starts 20

Aug, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Taking the First Step in Computing: Wed Evenings, 5.30pm

- 7.30pm

Taking the Next Step in Computing: Tues evenings, 5.30pm

- 7.30pm

CatStrand Playstation Tournaments: contact The CatStrand

for info.

Dalry Community Centre (for more info or to book

contact Sarah McAdam on 01644 430393)

Paint and Art: Mon 1.30-4.30pm

Glenkens Playgroup: Mon-Fri, 9.15-11.45am

Glenkens Mother & Toddlers: Wed 1.30-3pm

Good Neighbours Club: Tues 2pm

Craft Class: Thurs 2-4pm

Drama Club: for info call Cathy Polkinghorn on

01644430393

Kickback Martial Arts: Tues & Thurs 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 3.30-4pm

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



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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

Oct/Nov, ISSUE 48: Fri Sept 12th 2008

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