

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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Curling Again After 24 Years!

Mossroddick is a small loch just above Dalry which used to be used regularly for curling, the last time being in 1986. This year, on the 9th and 10th of January, the loch once again had a curling rink polished onto its surface and for the two days locals ventured up to try their hand at the sport.

John Peacock, who owns the land where the loch is situated, says: "There used to be eight Dalry ice rinks in the mid 1800's, and each village in the Glenkens had a curling pond. My grandfather used to curl, and I started curling before I left the school. When I

was at the school, on any weekend in winter there could be 20 or 30 of us playing ice hockey up at Mossroddick."

The ice was measured at 10 inches; a good thickness as six inches is apparently considered thick enough to walk on. People brought along curling stones, some of which had been handed down from father to son for generations. Everyone had a go, from young to old, with the youngsters being encouraged to try as this might be their only opportunity. John said: "It's not very often it happens so we thought we'd make the most of it!"



Stranded in the Snow

The snow was really fun at first but after a while it began to get a bit worrying. Me and my parents have been stuck at home for over 2 weeks. The last time we were able to get out as a family was the 21st December. The snow looks really magical and if I forget we are stranded I can enjoy myself. Sadly I missed spending Christmas with my Grandparents but we had a great Christmas at home instead. We are having some coal delivered and my Dad and our horse will have to go and collect it with a sleigh from the main road. Every morning a female Roe deer comes and eats our blackberry leaves. We are putting hay out for her and hoping she will eat it because she must be hungry. I have been having a great time sledding because the track we use is almost a sheet of ice! My dad made me a sledge out of a car bonnet and got one of our ponies to pull it along. If I can't get out for a while I would like to wish all my friends a Happy New Year.

By Daisy Hickman P6



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Local Artist: Dianne Chopping



In 2003 Dianne and her husband Barry moved from the Peak District in Derbyshire, where she had taught mathematics for many years, to their present home in Dumfries & Galloway. Now living in St John's Town of Dalry, Dianne has found time to develop her interest in jewellery. This was inspired by a visit to friends in America in 2000, and has led to the work she now produces. All the pieces of jewellery are produced by Dianne herself, ensuring individuality and a consistent standard of work.

Specialising in pieces which incorporate Sterling silver with semi-precious beads, such as garnet, amethyst, lapis lazuli, together with fresh water pearls, her necklaces, bracelets and earrings often have a delicate appearance with colours reflecting the hues of the Scottish countryside. Dianne sources her materials from all over the world and, for some of her work, she uses more dramatic and eye-catching stones whose texture is a delight to touch. All the jewellery can be made in a variety of styles to meet the individual requirements of customers. Dianne has been a member of the Galloway Craft Guild since 2004 and was Chairman of the Guild for two years. Her work is available in the Guild Shop in Castle Douglas. Other outlets in the Galloway area include The CatStrand, New Galloway, Gracefield Arts Centre and Tarff Town & Country in Dumfries, and the Post Office in Dalry. Her work is also proving popular in several well known tourist attractions throughout Scotland. At present, a web site, www.larochwear.co.uk, is being developed in conjunction with another local crafter and friend, Angela Smith of Castle Douglas, who specialises in capes, hats and bags.

If you would like to contact Dianne, her email address is dianne@moidart.org



NOTICEBOARD

Due to lack of support it has been decided to postpone this year's Clachan Fair so that energy can be devoted to a 2011 Fair. A Public Meeting will take place in Dalry Town Hall at 7 pm on 15th March 2010 to discuss the 2011 Fair.

The winner of The CatStrand hamper on the Christmas shopping night was Cliff Bartlett.



Many thanks to Gazette reader Louise McClure from Dalmellington for the above photo, Reflections at Loch Ken. Louise regularly passes through the Glenkens and enjoys the beautiful scenery - we look forward to seeing more of her pictures. If you have a picture you think Gazette readers would enjoy, please get in touch (see back page for contact details).

Carsphairn Burns Supper

Concern over holding the 41st Annual Carsphairn Burns Supper - with regards to the weather - seemed to be over, as the welcome thaw set in. However the Lagwyne Village Hall Committee were dealt a completely different blow when the power supply went off just over an hour before the Supper was due to commence. Fortunately the food was already prepared by that time and the oven held its temperature. Candles were sent for and in true village hall spirit, the meal commenced on time - by candle light.

"The Haggis" was ceremoniously piped in by Andy McCartney and the Chairman, David Gibbon, then introduced Darrel Wilson from New Galloway to 'Address the Haggis' which he did with enthusiasm and amazing competence for such a young man. After Rev. D Bartholomew had given the Selkirk Grace, the meal of haggis, neeps and tatties was served, and, power was restored in time to supply an after supper cup of tea.

An audience of about 85 people enjoyed listening to Councillor Peter Duncan propose the toast to 'The Immortal Memory' of Robert Burns. His speech was both informative and humorous. This was followed by Brian Edgar proposing an entertaining 'Toast to the Lassies', with several relevant examples quoted of men's non-understanding of the female species. However, he had his come-uppance when the Toast was replied to, on behalf of 'The Lassies', by Maybelle Thomson. Maybelle's reply was given with style and wit and was much appreciated by all present.

Truly performing in the spirit of the night was Donald Shamash from Kirkcudbright, who gave the audience an enthralling rendition of a lesser known Burns Poem, 'Dr Hornbook' - a story of the Schoolmaster of Tarbolton School which Burns attended. The addition of some scary props all added to the creation of the atmosphere of the poem.

Further excellent entertainment was provided with two Burns Songs sung by a group from the Glenkens Churches Choir, and community singing led by Margaret Sloan. David Finlay rounded off the evening with an excellent Vote of Thanks to all concerned.

Thanks must go to electrician, Mr McCrone who rushed to Carsphairn during the evening to solve the electrical problem (and wouldn't stay for his supper!) and to Carricks Stores of Carsphairn for supplying candles after hours.....



The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Community Council

The annual Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner was held in New Galloway Town Hall on Sunday 13th December. Forty people attended and enjoyed an excellent three course Christmas Dinner prepared by Dave and Marion from The Smithy and served by the Community Council members. Entertainment after dinner was by the new Glenkens Youth Choir under the able leadership of Nancy Plummer. This was the choir's debut public performance and was very well received with many of the audience joining in with the well known seasonal repertoire.

The Community Council's regular meetings are held in New Galloway Town Hall on the second Monday of every month at 7.30pm.

Balmaclellan Community Council

General discussion was held regarding the impact of recent reforms to planning legislation. Councillor Prentice advised that CC's do have influence and that planning can be refused if local support through the CC is not evident. A suggestion was made that the CC might arrange an information session on planning, either with input from 'Planning Aid' or from the Council's own planning department in 2010. No date has yet been set for this.

Bonfire Night raised £277, with all acknowledging it to have been a "good evening". Assistance in a variety of forms was very much appreciated and thanks expressed to all concerned with marshalling, refreshments, firewood, fireworks, etc. Meetings are usually the last Monday of the month.

Next meeting - Tuesday 2 Feb, 7pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Carsphairn Community Council

Minute of first meeting following the Community Council Elections of 8 October 2009 in Lagwyne Hall.

Elected members: Anne Rutherford, Margaret Richmond, Matt Hickman, Liz Holmes, Maggie Phillips

Stuart Marshall, Returning Officer, welcomed all to the meeting. Matt Hickman was elected as Chairperson. Appointment of Vice Chair was deferred to the next meeting. Anne Rutherford was appointed as Treasurer. Regarding the appointment of a Secretary, discussion took place on how to find a suitable candidate for this post. The workload on a voluntary basis has become extremely

onerous for both Chairperson and Secretary. Delegation could be difficult as there are few people to delegate to. Members need to be prepared to volunteer to ease the workload. The job of Secretary could be divided into two posts - minutes and administrative secretary. There are a range of skills required to do the job of Secretary competently. It was agreed that the Secretary should be paid. He/she does not need to be a Community Councillor. It was confirmed that there will be ten meetings per year as previously, on the last Monday of every month save July and December. The start time will remain at 7pm with the aim of finishing meetings by 9.30pm at the latest.

A letter will be sent to every organisation in the Community Council area inviting them to send someone to represent their views on the Community Council and, although there are currently two 'vacancies' regarding co-opted voting members, it is not essential to fill them.

Concerns were expressed at possible health issues regarding magnetic fields related to the location of pylons. The Community Council will need to be aware of the routes of new pylons.

A reply has been received from letting agent for the Salutation flats, who is also the owner, reporting that currently flats 1, 2 and 4 are empty and that 3, 5 and 6 are tenanted.

Consideration of person to lay wreath on Remembrance Sunday was taken forward - a volunteer has been found to play 'The Last Post' on his cornet at the service. A parent of someone currently serving in the armed forces in Afghanistan could lay the wreath.

Graham Cartner of the mobile library reported that this facility is being little used. A poster will be produced providing the dates the library will be in Carsphairn. The library could also stop at the school as it used to.

A draft of the Community Council welcome/useful info leaflet for Carsphairn has been produced. A copy is to be shown to the Community Council for approval, suggestions etc.

The power has been switched off to the TV relay mast. The shed housing the equipment needs to be dismantled and taken away.

Concerns have been expressed about the unsightliness of waste ground sites either end of the village. As both are privately owned there is little the Community Council can do.

Next meeting - Monday 22 February, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall

Full minutes of local Community Council meetings are available to view at Dalry Library.

Kells Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner



Glenkens Gazette : Advertising Rates 2010

Advert	Format	Size	Price per issue	Discount for Block of 3 ads
Basic Small	Colour	6cm x 6cm	£31.50	10%
Quarter page	Colour	9cm x 13cm	£68.25	25%
Half page	Colour	13cm x 18cm	£126.00	25%
Full page	Colour	18cm x 27cm	£210.00	25%

(Prices exclude VAT @ 17.5%)

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



GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

Dalry School News

Christmas Concert: On Tuesday 15th December Dalry School held their annual Christmas concert. P1-3 presented the Nativity and all the other classes, from Primary through to Secondary, did various Christmas songs. A good night was had by all!

Good Neighbours Concert: On Tuesday 8th December the Primary children at Dalry entertained the local Good Neighbours group. The pupils sang various Christmas songs accompanied by different percussion. The Good Neighbours group then provided refreshments and treats to thank the children for all of their hard work.

Sikh Amrit Ceremony: On Thursday 17th December P6/7 at Dalry school took part in a role play and held an Amrit ceremony to mark the end of their Sikhism topic. They wore four of the Five Ks they had previously prepared, stated the rules they would follow and drank sugared water called amrit. One group also sang a chant they had created at the beginning and end of the ceremony. It was a fun way of learning about Sikhism!

Photos: right; Christmas Concert, below left; Good Neighbours Concert, below right; Sikh Amrit Ceremony.



Writer Lari Don Visits Carsphairn School

I really enjoyed it when Lari Don came to visit the school twice in November. The first time Lari came, she told us some stories. The one I liked the best was about a wolf. It didn't pay attention in school so he didn't get any lunch!

She talked to us about writing stories and brought a bag of surprises to help us think of ideas for stories. She helped us make up first lines of stories and when she left she left the bag for ideas and we had to make up a story before she came back. The second time she helped us to edit our stories and to improve them. She also helped us to make our stories more interesting.

I chose a glass salt shaker and a shell from her bag of surprises. This is the beginning of my story: *One day I was in the attic sorting it out when I found a salt shaker. The salt shaker had some beads in it. I decided to give them to my granddaughter, Helen. Before I had the chance to give it to her, my friend came round for dinner and then she saw it sitting on the shelf. She said "Do you know what, when I was little my granny had one of those and we used to pretend that every time you took a blue bead out it took you wherever you wanted and when you took a green bead out it took you back where you came from..."* Can you guess how my story continues?

by Lucy Blackett



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SNOW & ICE IN THE GLENKENS

Thank you to readers for submitting these lovely pictures - we are always thrilled to receive photographs, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you think you have a picture that people would like to see (see back page for contact details).



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The CatStrand: News & Events

Exhibition: Dalry School, from Mon 1 to Fri 12 Feb, CatStrand opening hours. This is the first exhibition of artwork from Dalry School and it is a celebration of the wealth of talent within our school community. The exhibition will include art, fabric, 3D and photography.



Session A9, Tues 2 Feb, 7.30pm, £10/£8. Folk band, Session A9, have been described as a "Scottish super group", "The best band to have come out of Scotland in 100 years", "Tighter than James Brown" and an "Amazing Festival band."

Storytelling Café, Thursdays 4 Feb and 4 Mar, 7.30–9.30pm, free, but donations for tea and coffee welcome. The CatStrand Storytelling Café is run by a team of professional storytellers and is an informal and relaxing evening where you can sit back with a coffee and cake and listen to stories or take part and tell some stories of your own if you want to.



Duo X, Fri 12 Feb, 7.30pm, £8/£6. Duo X is a flute and marimba duo with two of Scotland's leading chamber musicians, Ruth Morley and Rhian Macleod. Their programme will feature works by Makoto Shimohara, Michael Colquhoun, Geir Rafnsson, Ian Clarke and Ricardo Lorenz.

*Pre-event fixed menu supper available. Please book in advance.

Saturday Art Club, Saturdays 13 Feb and 13 Mar, 10am–12noon, £4. 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. Please wear old clothes as things can get messy (ages 5-12).



Gilmore Productions presents One Up One Down, Sat 20 Feb, 7.30pm, £5/£4. From the same company who brought The Blank Album; One Up One Down features comic dance theatre, poetry and song.

Film: The Soloist, Wed 24 Feb, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50. From the Director of the Academy Award nominated Atonement, Joe Wright, and starring Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr, comes this poignant tale about the redemptive power of music. Cert 12.

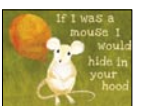


Exhibition: Celebrating the Watsons, Sat 27 Feb – Thurs 25 March, CatStrand opening hours. An exhibition to celebrate the work of local bird artist Donald Watson and photographer Jeff Watson.



Michael Marra, Fri 5 Mar, 8pm, £10/£8. Michael Marra is one of Scotland's most prolific singer-songwriters, and a much loved and respected figure in the entertainment business.

Celebrating the Watsons: The Glenkens Star Bird Men, Sat 6 Mar. Highlighting the extraordinary contribution of Donald and Jeff Watson to bird study, art and literature to accompany the exhibition of Donald's paintings and Jeff's photographs. The project team will set out the proposals for a Watson Bird Centre in Dalry and annual celebration events in the Glenkens.



Reeling & Writhing Theatre Company presents If I Were A Mouse, Tues 9 Mar, 1.30pm, £3.50. If I was a Mouse is an intimate adventure made of tricks and tales, puppets

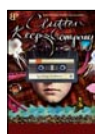
and people, music, mice and friends. Mouse's world is brought to life with more than a whisker of fairy tale magic. Suitable for 3–6 year olds and their families.

The Glenkens '73 Club presents 'Chips With Vinegar' by Harry Glass and The CatStrand Youth Players present 'The Willow and the Pomegranate' by Derrick Brown, Fri 12 Mar, 7.30pm, £5/£3. The Glenkens '73 Club adult group is presenting their latest entry to the Stewartry Drama Festival. The youth division will be presenting a light-hearted short play by Derrick Brown.

Lorna Reid, Sat 13 Mar, 8pm, £8/£6. Described as "cool and classy" by The List magazine, Edinburgh-born jazz vocalist Lorna Reid will be presenting a collection of jazz and blues standards with influences from Anita O'Day to Peggy Lee.



Birds of Paradise Theatre Company presents Clutter Keeps Company by Davey Anderson, Fri 19 Mar, 7.30pm, £7/£5. Birds of Paradise return with a bittersweet comedy thriller about running away from an unholy mess and plunging into utter chaos!



Exhibition: Lisa Hooper, Sun 28 Mar – Thurs 22 Apr, CatStrand opening hours. Lisa is first and foremost a printmaker, using a wide variety of print techniques including lino and woodcut, collagraph and etching to produce images inspired by the natural world.



Film: Up, Wed 31 Mar, 2pm, £4.50/£3.50. Disney and Pixar's latest animated feature film, Up features a feisty septuagenarian who teams with a fearless wilderness ranger to do battle with a vicious band of beasts and villains on a once-in-a-lifetime journey.



Film: Nowhere Boy, Wed 31 Mar, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50. The movie chronicles the adolescent years of John Lennon. Cert 15.

Regular events:

CatStrand Youth Players, every Sunday during term time, 2pm. The Youth division of the Glenkens '73 Club. If you are interested in acting, directing, costumes, sound, lighting, stage management or any other aspect of drama or theatre, then come along and have some fun. All welcome (Age 10-18).

Play it by Ear, every Monday during term time, 1.30–2.30pm, £2 per adult/child + 50p for each additional child. A weekly song, music and storytelling session for pre-school children and their parents or carers which now takes place every Monday afternoon. Juice and biscuits included in the price.

*** Children's Dance Classes with Margaret Morris Movement, every Monday during term time, 4-5pm, free.** Dance exercises are created to develop agility, balance, co-ordination, elevation, flexibility and posture. Explore your creative dance and improvisation skills and develop an understanding of rhythm. With dance teacher Sara Lockwood. Please wear loose clothing (age 8-12 years).

The Reading Cure, monthly meeting, please call to confirm dates, 11.15am – 1.15pm, free. Come and connect with yourself and others through the shared reading of some of the best books and poems ever written.

*** Thanks to funding support from D&G Council, Margaret Morris dance classes are now free of charge. This is every Monday for primary aged children (see above).**

The CatStrand: News & Events

COMMUNITY EVENTS / CLASSES

The Benefit Maximisation Team will be at The CatStrand on Tuesday 9 February from 9am - 1pm. Please call 01644 420374 for a confidential appointment; transport available if required.

Arthritis Care will be delivering a course on Challenging Pain on Tuesdays 16 and 23 February from 1.30-3.30pm

Big Screen Gaming, Wii Olympics, Rock Guitar Hero. Come along and try your gaming skills against others in your area. Prizes to be won and the winners will go through to the Stewartry Final. Date to be confirmed.

'A Wii Night in the Glenkens';

Stewartry Wii Championships, February - Date to be confirmed, age 11-17 years, Individuals and team competitions.

Carers Coffee and Chat, Tues 2 Mar, 10-12noon, free

Web Builder 1, Mon 1 Mar, 9.30am - 12.30noon, free

Web Builder 2, Mon 8 Mar, 9.30am - 4.30pm, free

Rag Rug Making Workshop, Mons 15, 22 & 29 Mar, 2 - 4pm, £33

Bike Maintenance Workshop, Sun 21 Mar, 9.30am - 12.00noon, free

Regular Classes:

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

Teen Spirit, Tues during term time, 7.30-9.30pm.

Gentle Yoga & Relaxation, Thurs, 10-11.15am, £30 per 6 week block.

Taking the First Step in Computing, Wed 5.30pm-7.30pm.

Taking the Next Step in Computing, Mon, 5.30-7.30pm.

Afternoon Tea Club, 2nd Fri each month, 2pm, annual membership £2. Minibus pick up from Balmaclellan & Dalry by prior arrangement - call 01644 420374.

REIKI TRAINING

If your New Year's Resolutions include healthier living, learning a new skill and bringing calm into your life then this course is for you!

Anyone can learn Reiki. One of the benefits of Reiki as a therapy is that you are able to treat yourself as well as others.

It is helpful in situations of stress, depression, ME and breaking cycles of addiction.

Courses run on 6 & 7 Feb from 10am-4pm, with a charge of £65/£50 (concession) for the course.

Get Involved at The CatStrand

Volunteering - Learn new skills, meet new people and have fun!

Now well into its third year the CatStrand continues to be a successful, exciting venue, delivering fantastic events, activities and facilities to our communities. In order to continue this success we are hugely reliant on the time and support of our enthusiastic team of volunteers, and we are always on the look out for new people to get involved. There are many opportunities available, from stewarding at events to welcoming visitors at weekends, from bar work to distributing brochures and leaflets. *For more information about volunteering please get in touch; call us on 01644 420374, email info@catstrand.com or visit our website www.catstrand.com. Thank you!*



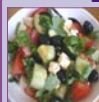
FUTURE JOBS FUND

The CatStrand has a job opportunity for an 18-24 year old. This will be a six month post for an admin and events assistant. The post is 25 hours per week, at a rate of pay of £6 per hour. Applicants must have been unemployed and in receipt of job seekers allowance for at least six months.

If you are interested, please contact the Job Centre in Dumfries on 01387 223 200.

Eat @ CatStrand

LUNCHES - Mon to Fri, 11am-2pm



NEW! - 'Soup & Sweet' lunches only £4.95, Wednesday & Friday (includes a cup of tea or coffee)



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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.

Forthcoming GTI trips will be from Easter onwards. Please keep an eye out in your local shops from March onwards.

Keith Cooper

For further info & to buy tickets visit www.catstrand.com or call 01644 420 374

LOCAL HISTORY

The Glenkens Society

Twenty years ago Carsphairn residents Jean Gibson and Anna Campbell researched the history of the remarkable Glenkens Society, publishing their findings in the Carsphairn Heritage Group Newsletters. Founded in 1830 by William Grierson of Garroch the organisation's full title was 'The Glenkens Society For Improving The Condition of the Working Classes'. Grierson Yorstoun, as he was known following his marriage, would, in time, hold the joint offices of Perpetual Honorary Director and Perpetual Honorary Secretary. In 2006 the society's papers were deposited in the Stewartry Museum, Kirkcudbright, where they were kindly brought to my attention by the curator, David Devereux.

The society was at first concerned only with Dalry and Kells, Balmaclellan being added in 1832 and Carsphairn a year later. Grierson described Glenkens as "a retired district of the Stewartry... neither among the best cultivated, nor the most neglected portions of the kingdom". His aim was to encourage the locals to cultivate the necessary skills for maximising both work and the enjoyment of leisure, rendering them more industrious and productive, not only of and for themselves but as an example to other parts of the country. Ayrshire and the Isle of Lewis were both mentioned as places that might benefit from the Glenkens model. Grierson's big idea was competition. Improvement and efficiency were to be fostered by encouraging men (and later women) to compete "with others of their own standing at any kind of work whatever".

The idea was not exactly original since premiums had previously been awarded for various activities, such as the cultivation of various crops, but the overall ambition was breathtaking since all sorts of folk from schoolchildren to apprentices, tradesmen and farmers, were targeted. Such activities were unusual for a rural community and were more often associated with such institutions as Mechanics' Institutes in cities and towns. Very little is known about Grierson but it is tempting to speculate that he was influenced in some way by his neighbour John Kennedy who grew up as a poor boy at Knocknalling and returned from Manchester to buy the whole estate

when he made his pile as one Britain's biggest cotton magnates.

Key to all was education, schooling in winter and the acquisition of practical, on-the-job skills in summer. Reading writing and arithmetic were essential and might hopefully benefit parents by educating the children though most Glenkens adults at this period were in fact literate. Accounting and book-keeping were also desirable, as was a knowledge of drawing, mathematics and Scripture History. In some schools grammar, geography, Latin and Greek, as well as, bizarrely, English History, were also offered with prizes established to encourage excellence in same. Competitive awards were also made available for apprentice joiners and blacksmiths. An annual ploughing match attracted over thirty entries. Dyking was similarly promoted but a spadework competition had to be dropped, allegedly due to Irish (competitively!) undercutting thus making it uneconomic.

Prizes were offered for the best kept dunghills, one parish (sadly unnamed) producing eleven entries, so promoting hygiene as well as the efficient management of manure. So too for the most attractive cottage exteriors and the best kept gardens. From gardens it was an obvious step to a Vegetables Show mounted in 1848, with flowers added in 1863. Shows of poultry and dairy produce followed. The Glenkens Cattle Association was mainly concerned with the prevention of disease.

Today the last remnant of Glenkens Society activity is the annual Horticultural Show. Can it still be said as it was in 1908 that "perhaps in no district is there greater skill shown in growing vegetables in cottage gardens than in the Glenkens"?

Grierson was not the most modest of individuals. He drew upon ideas developed in Prussia and the Netherlands but he saw his own efforts offering models of other parts of Scotland and the UK, not to mention beyond. His fascinating schemes were not to be restricted to the Glenkens, "nor do we see reason to apprehend that it will be found inapplicable to any other portion of the human race"!

Ted Cowan

CARSPHAIRN'S REALLY GOT CHRISTMAS TALENT!

A Christmas concert for the villagers of Carsphairn, staged by the residents themselves, raised over £300 towards the set-up costs for a Community First Responders group for the village.

Entitled 'Carsphairn's Got Talent', the show featured a variety of acts ranging from solo and group vocal and instrumental items to humorous sketches, monologues and recitals. The event played to a packed village hall and ended with a karaoke that went on into the early hours of the next morning.

The concert was organised by the Carsphairn Church Social Committee and members laid on tea, coffee and mince pies during the interval. As the event was purely for the enjoyment of the villagers, donations were requested instead of an admission charge. Added to the proceeds of a raffle, these amounted to more than £300 in aid of the First Responders.

"We are grateful to everyone who supported our show, especially those who donated raffle prizes and made a donation towards a very worthwhile cause," commented Nigel Martin, one of the organisers.



NATURE & WILDLIFE

Wolves, Foxes and Fireworks

Photograph by Malene Thysson



On Guy Fawkes' night a friend and I flew to Madrid and next day met up with other friends near Salamanca on the Spanish border with Portugal. This was my first visit to northwest Spain and our main purpose was to look for wolves. Until recently, I thought they were restricted to the Pyrenees, but in fact they are also found in the Picos uplands and indeed well south of there. Luckily, we saw one in the gloaming of our first full day! What a sight it was, scraping up earth and pouncing on something small before sloping off as only wolves can. Another was seen in full daylight later in the week, as were hundreds of great bustards and cranes on the dry plains to the east, with golden eagles, griffon and black vultures too in various places. Naturally, such wildlife riches are very important to the local tourism economy.

Wolves have been extinct in Britain since the end of the 17th century, though there is an oft-repeated tale of the last one being killed in 1743 by one MacQueen in Morayshire. They were killed by a variety of methods,

but all of these made easier by the progressive clearance of our native woodlands, which was virtually complete in many areas by that time. In the Galloway and Carrick Hills there are several references to wolves, including the wolf stone on the Eglin Lane near Loch Doon, and the nearby wolf slock on Hoodens Hill. The former is a large glacial erratic and tradition says that it was near this 'stone' that the last wolf in southern Scotland was killed. Slock is the old Scots word for hole and is very apt for the wolf slock, which is an impressive cavity set in a neuk of the Hoodens just south of Gordon's Loup. Some years ago I stood in the slock and gazed up at the remnants of vain attempts by ravens to fix their nests in its highest recesses, whilst also imagining the place to have once been a refuge for native Scottish wolves.

I must say the wild border terrain north of Salamanca has many similarities with that of the wilder places of Galloway, and indeed even with some less wild places. We saw very many deer, both red and roe, and a single wild boar; all of them wolf prey presumably. However, we didn't see any foxes, which would have been in abundance on any similar dawn/dusk vigils here. They must have been there, of course, but perhaps their numbers and habits are suppressed by the presence of their more powerful cousins. Deer stalking was apparent, and licences are issued to shoot a certain number of wolves each year, with some Germans reportedly paying large sums of money for the 'privilege' of killing a wolf. This suggests to me that more will be killed than are accounted for, but that's another story.

Animal husbandry must be affected to some extent by the presence of wolves, though the animals we saw were in heavily wooded areas and stock were mostly close to habitation. In Spain, there hasn't been a reported wolf attack on humans in living memory, whilst numbers of wolves are now increasing elsewhere in Europe as human resistance to them wanes. They have been reintroduced to various places in the USA, including Yellowstone National Park, in an effort to restore a more natural balance to the ecosystem, and various high profile people have called for their reintroduction to Scotland. One suspects that current attitudes, prejudices and the practicalities and economics of stock rearing will combine to thwart this in many areas, but who knows what the future may hold? *Chris Rollie*

YOUTH UPDATE

The Battle of the Bands

Due to adverse weather only four of the nine bands were able to make it. However, the bands who did turn up were of a very high standard with winners Super Colour Play (pictured) being a huge hit with the audience.



CatStrand Youth Players

The Youth Players are staging 'The Willow & The Pomegranate' by Derrick Brown at the Stewartry Drama Festival. The play will close the Festival as the last performance on Saturday 27th February and will also be presented at The CatStrand along with 'Chips with Vinegar' by the '73 Club on 12th March. The play is adapted from a traditional Chinese Folk Tale and the cast are hoping that they can follow up last year's success when their production of 'We'll be Home Tomorrow' by Wayne Denfhy won the Audience Choice Trophy.

The Christmas presentation of 'Cinderella, the Sequel' was also a great success with the young cast providing great entertainment to the appreciative audience.

As the entire membership are involved in the festival production, the planned production of 'Spud Ferret and the Case of the Stolen Diamonds' by Jeff Gallacher will now be staged at The CatStrand on Friday 30th April at 7.30pm.

The Glenken's Youth Skateboard Project will be having a Public Consultation on Tuesday 9th February from 6-7pm at The CatStrand to discuss proposals for the skateboard ramps to be situated in the New Galloway Park.

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or contact him by e-mail at

alex.fergusson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

A PUBLIC CONSULTATION

is to be held at Lagwyne Hall (The Village Hall)
Carsphairn, Castle Douglas DG7 3TQ on Saturday,
13th February 2010 between, 10.00am & 4.00pm.

Observations are invited on the proposal to apply
for Planning Permission in Principle to construct
four new detached dwellings on land at Cumnock
Knowes, Carsphairn, Castle Douglas DG7 3TG.

Outline details will be available to view and there
will be an opportunity to make representations
to the prospective applicant. Any comments
made will not be representations to the Planning
Authority. If the prospective applicant submits an
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representations to the Planning Authority.

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If you feel that a nutritional consultation could help you, please contact Lorna to discuss your issues on 01644 470218 or lorna@foods4life.co.uk To find out more visit www.foods4life.co.uk

Health Tips:

by Nutritionist & Dietician Lorna Willock

NUTRITIONAL TIPS FOR WEIGHT LOSS

Another year – back to the dieting after many of us put on weight over Christmas and New Year. All those lovely mince pies, Christmas pudding and cake...need I say more? Well here are a few tips to help you get back into shape:

- Drink water before every meal (approx ½ an hour) as it helps fill us up.
- Eat lots of fibre – fruits, veggies and plenty of whole grains. Build up slowly; these quality foods fill us up.
- Don't skip meals as this can mean you end up grabbing something less nutritious
- Try protein at breakfast as this keeps us fuller for longer e.g. free-range eggs.
- Bake fish or lean meat in tasty tomato sauces.
- Cut back on carbohydrates (bread, potatoes, cake, etc) unless you're doing something energetic.
- Keep an emergency supply of fruit in the car, office, etc.
- When you really want something 'naughty', e.g. chocolate, have a little; cravings need to be reduced gradually, unless you have the willpower to go 'cold-turkey'!

For further information visit
www.foods4life.co.uk or email
lorna@foods4life.co.uk

CLUB

CORNER

Glenkens Walking Group: 1.30pm every Wednesday outside the Bank of Scotland in Dalry. **Glenkens Strollers:** 2pm on Fridays at the top bus stop in Dalry for a slow walk on good roads and tracks, followed by tea and biscuits. For further info contact John or Isobel on 430 539. **Glenkens Ramblers:** 1.30pm every Monday outside the Bank of Scotland in Dalry. If very wet, please phone a Walk Leader to confirm that the walk will proceed. For further info on either activity contact John & Isobel on 430539, Peter on 420219 or Gerry on 420852.

The Glenkens '73 Club: 'Chips with Vinegar' by Harry Glass will once again be the club's entry in the Stewartry District SCDA Drama Festival, hopefully this year it will finally make it on to the stage! Unfortunately it had to be withdrawn at the last minute in 2009 due to illness but rehearsals are now well underway to be ready for the Festival at the end of February in Lochside Theatre. This year there are ten one act plays entered, five from youth teams and five adult teams. The top two adult teams will go forward to represent the Stewartry District at the Western Divisional Finals in Greenock at the end of March. The winning youth team will represent the Stewartry at the Western Youth Finals in Lochside Theatre on 20th March. The Stewartry Festival will run over four nights from Wednesday 24th – Saturday 27th February, 'Chips with Vinegar' will be on stage on Friday 26th February. The play will be performed again along with the Youth Players' production at The CatStrand on Friday 12th March at 7.30pm.



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TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays

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

Special Services and Events

26th Feb, 7pm: Beetle Drive, Dalry Town Hall

5th March, 7pm: World Day of Prayer Service, Dalry Church

29th March, 10.30am: United Service with Choir in Carsphairn Church

Communion Services:

28th Feb, 10.30am, Kells Church
21st March, 10.15am, Carsphairn Church
21st March, 12 noon, Dalry Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E)

St Margaret's, New Galloway: Holy Communion - 10.30am every Sun & Wed

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

Gatehouse of Fleet: Sat, 6pm
Kirkcudbright: Sun, 9.30am
Dalbeattie: Sun, 11am
St Ninian's Episcopal Church, Castle Douglas, contact Rev McFadden for info on 01557 330687.

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GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Mon 1 to Fri 12, Exhibition: Dalry School, CatStrand opening hours, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Tue 2, Balmaclellan CC Meeting, 7pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Tues 2, Session A9, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 4, Storytelling Café, 7.30-9.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 6 & Sun 7, Reiki Training Course, 10am-4pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Tues 9, Glenkens's Youth Sateboard Project Public Consultation, 6-7pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 8, Kells CC Meeting, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Tue 9, Benefit Maximisation Team, 9am - 1pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway, please call 01644 420374 for a confidential appointment

Fri 12, Duo X, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 13, Public Consultation for Planning Permission; Cumnock Knowes, 10am & 4pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Sat 13, Saturday Art Club, 10am-12noon, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Tues 16 & 23, Arthritis Care; Challenging Pain, 1.30-3.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 20, One Up One Down, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 22, Carsphairn CC, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Wed 24, Film: The Soloist, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 26, Beetle Drive, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 27 Feb - Thurs 25 Mar, Exhibition: Celebrating the Watsons, CatStrand opening hours, The CatStrand, New Galloway

February - Date to be confirmed, 'A Wii Night in the Glenkens'; Stewartry Wii Championships, The CatStrand, New Galloway

MARCH

Mon 1, Web Builder 1, 9.30am - 12.30noon, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Tues 2, Carers Coffee and Chat, 10-12noon, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 4, Storytelling Café, 7.30-9.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 5, Michael Marra, 8pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 6, Celebrating the Watsons: The Glenkens Star Bird Men, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 8, Kells CC Meeting, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Mon 8 Mar, Web Builder 2, 9.30am - 4.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Tues 9, If I Were A Mouse, 1.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 12, Glenkens '73 Group & Youth Players Productions, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 13, Saturday Art Club, 10am-12noon, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 13, Lorna Reid, 8pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 15, 2011 Clachan Fair Public Meeting, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Mons 15, 22 & 29, Rag Rug Making Workshop, 2 - 4pm, £33, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 19, Clutter Keeps Company, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 21, Bike Maintenance Workshop, 9.30am

- 12.00noon, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 28 Mar - Thurs 22 Apr, Exhibition: Lisa Hooper, CatStrand opening hours, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 29, Carsphairn CC, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Wed 31, Film: Nowhere Boy, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

REGULAR EVENTS:

Glenkens Ramblers, Mondays 1.30pm, Bank of Scotland, Dalry

Scouts: Mon, 7-8.30pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Mother & Toddlers Group: Tues 9.45-11.15am, New Galloway Town Hall

Beavers: Tues, 6.30-7.45pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Stewartry Camera Club: most Wednesdays throughout the winter at 7.30 pm in The Tolbooth, Kirkcudbright

Cub Scouts: Wed, 6.45-8pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Glenkens Walking Group, meet Wed 1.30pm outside Bank of Scotland, Dalry

Glenkens Strollers, meet at 2pm each Friday at the top bus stop in Dalry for a slow walk

Lions Club monthly quiz, alternating between The CatStrand & Lochinvar Hotel. For further info contact Andrew Frew on 420 323.

The CatStrand, New Galloway (see p7)

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am

Play it by Ear: every Mon during term time, 1.30-2.30pm

Children's Dance Classes with Margaret Morris Movement: every Mon during term time, 4-5pm (ages 8-12)

Taking the Next Step in Computing: Mon, 5.30-7.30pm

Carers Coffee & Chat, starts Tues 1st Dec, 10am-12noon, The CatStrand, New Galloway

The Reading Cure, Tuesdays, 11.15am-1.15pm

Teen Spirit: Tues, 7.30-9.30pm

Wednesdays, Glenkens Walking Group, 2pm, outside Bank of Scotland, Dalry

Taking the First Step in Computing: Wed, 5.30-7.30pm

Gentle Yoga & Relaxation, Thurs, 10-11.15am

Catstrand Youth Players, every Sun during term time, 2pm

Afternoon Tea Club: 2nd Fri each month, 2pm

Saturday Art Club, 2nd Sat each month, 10am-12noon

Glenkens Youth Choir, Sun, 5-6pm

CatStrand Playstation Tournaments: contact The CatStrand for info.

Dalry Community Centre
(for info or to book contact Sarah on 430 393)

Glenkens Playgroup: Mon-Fri, 9.15-11.45am

Paint & Art: Mon 1.30-4.30pm

Ballroom & Latin Dance drop-in class: Mon 7.30-9pm, £5

Ballroom & Latin Dance course: Mon 9-10pm, for more info tel Sam Hood on 01644 420672

Good Neighbours Club: Tues 2pm

Kickback Martial Arts: Tues & Thurs 7-9pm, adults welcome

Glenkens Mother & Toddlers: Wed 1.30-3pm

Craft Class: Thurs 2-4pm

Brownies: Wed 5.30-6.45pm

Guides: Wed 5.30-7pm

Drama Club: for further info contact Brian Edgar on 420 288



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