

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

April/May 2010

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www.glenkensgazette.com

Youth Drama Success



The CatStrand Youth Players stole the show at the Scottish Community Drama Association (SCDA) Drama Festival with their production of 'The Willow and The Pomegranate' by Derrick Brown and as the winners of the youth section will now go forward to represent the Stewartry District at the West of Scotland Finals. This is the first time that a youth team from the Glenkens has reached this stage of the SCDA's national competition.

The Youth Players, appearing in only their second festival, also retained the coveted 'Audience Choice' trophy, which they won on their debut appearance in 2009. The adjudicator summed the production up by saying: "This was a beautifully presented piece ideally suited to the young cast and a worthy representative at divisional level." He also praised the cast and the direction during his adjudication as "superbly delivered by a talented director, marshalling a young and very talented cast supported by excellent lighting, sound, costuming and stage set. The cast contained some very young actors with considerable potential and tremendous stage presence."

The cast of fifteen youngsters ranging in age from 9 up to 14 years were absolutely delighted to lift the trophies and the noise in the dressing room when the winner was announced was deafening! The audience reaction was fantastic and very pleasing for the cast and crew; everyone is now looking forward to the honour of representing the Stewartry District which is hosting the Western Finals this year in Lochside Theatre. They will compete against the youth winners from the other five Western SCDA Districts; Newton Stewart Junior Players, Abbey Youth Drama Group (Kilwinning), Greenock Youth Players, Kirkintilloch Youth Players and Peninver Junior Players.

The Glenkens in a Biosphere?

The Glenkens is poised for international recognition if Biosphere status is granted to this part of South West Scotland. The area, which would include other parts of Dumfries and Galloway as well as South and East Ayrshire, would become known as a place of world class environment and sustainable development.

Local councils, together with Scottish Natural Heritage and the Forestry Commission Scotland, have for some time been discussing the possibility of applying to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for Biosphere status for the area. Biospheres are locations recognised under UNESCO's 'Man and the Biosphere Programme', which innovate and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development. They remain under national sovereign jurisdiction, yet share their experience and ideas nationally, regionally and internationally within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Biosphere status does not impose any new regulatory or legislative controls on an area or on the activities within it. Studies have shown the concept would generate significant economic opportunities and broad community support for the concept, which in turn has won local political support.

Dumfries & Galloway Councillor Graham Nicol said: "A Biosphere for South West Scotland would be a great asset. We have a wonderful environment that is often overlooked in national tourism promotion and a whole range of quality small businesses linked both to tourism and the use of the land. A Biosphere could become a powerful brand for marketing the whole area on the world stage."



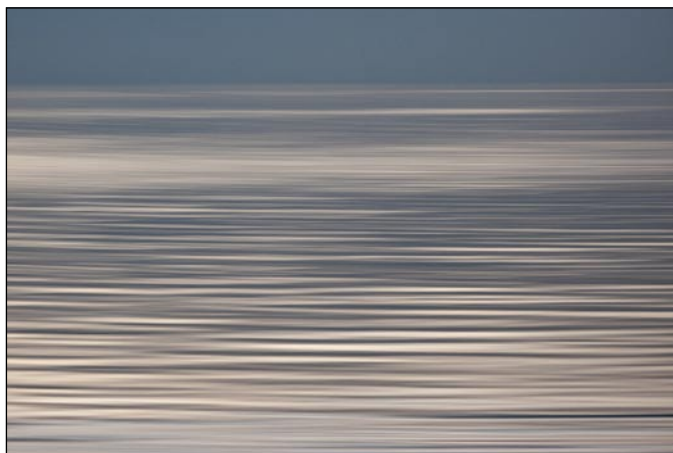
"There are two existing Biospheres within the UK, one in North Devon the other in the Dyfi Valley in Wales. If the SW Scotland project goes forward it could be the third in the UK and the only one in Scotland... There is already strong interest in some local communities within the potential Biosphere and there are proposals for biosphere-type projects linked to local marketing or promotion initiatives."

For further information please contact Pip Tabor at The Southern Uplands Partnership on 01750 725154 or piptabor@sup.org.uk

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Local Artist: Morag Paterson



You may have seen Morag's unusual photographs about – they are beautiful and often abstract, with the feel of a painting rather than a photographic image. Morag works with her husband Ted to create a wide variety of fine art prints, from landscapes to abstracts.

"I first came to the Glenkens when I was 19 and have lived here (on and off) since then", says Morag. "I love the feeling of uncrowded wilderness here and the constantly changing skies. After such a beautiful winter I can't imagine living anywhere else, but ask me again after another wet summer and I'll probably be feeling very differently..." she says wryly.

"I met my husband, Ted, here, and it was he who inspired me to start taking photographs, which has since developed into a full time occupation. I enjoy experimenting with photography – having no formal training, I don't feel constrained by some of the 'rules' that usually apply to the art-form. Having said that, after a long spell of only creating abstract images, I'm now working on a project of much more traditional images. Working together with Ted, we spend a lot of time exploring boundaries and now jointly sign all of our images in recognition of the shared creative process."

Morag Paterson and Ted Leeming will be exhibiting in the studios building of Gracefield Arts Centre from 29th – 31st May as part of this year's Spring Fling event. You can see more of their work at www.leemingpaterson.com or contact them on info@leemingpaterson.com



NOTICE BOARD

Newton Stewart Walking Festival: 7-13 May

There are many beautiful walks, both within and outwith the Glenkens area. The walks which take in the Glenkens are Walk 2-1: The Rotary Corbett Challenge (8 May), Walk 2-3: Rhinns of Kells (8 May), and walk 3-1: The Three Cairns (9 May).

Visit the website to book onto a walk, and to check up to date times/dates: www.newtonstewartwalkfest.com, or call 01671 404500, or brochures can be found at local shops or at The CatStrand.

The Carsphairn Heritage Group Annual Exhibition, 'Carsphairn Captured on Camera; 1885 - 2010', opens on April 2nd. For more info see p10.

GTI Bus Funding Update

The decision on whether the bus receives any funding has now been passed from Dumfries & Galloway Council to the Area Councils. The Stewartry Area Council (made up of your local councillors) will meet in April/May to decide whether to support our bus - watch this space. See p7 for more GTI info.

Glenkens Business Association

Make sure of your entry: GBA Membership at only £20 gives you a free entry in the online directory and in the new printed directory due to be published in late spring. A grant from the Stewartry Area Committee has provided the opportunity to offer free membership and directory entries for community groups and organisations. Look out in shops and other local venues for the new application forms for joining or renewing membership.

The GBA is continually looking for ways in which local businesses can take advantage of new opportunities and initiatives, especially at this time of recession. The committee has been putting together a programme of useful talks but will be pleased to hear further suggestions for what the GBA can do for business and the community.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th April at 7.30pm at the Kenbridge Hotel. Come along to talk about putting the Glenkens on the map and share your ideas for the future to make the Glenkens a great place for living, working and visiting. For further info contact Alan Rumble on 01644 420250 email alanrumble@gmail.com

Ros Hill, Chairman

Dalry Community Council

Extract from minutes of meeting held 1 February 2010

Regarding co-option of young members, it was reported that a new form has been created which, after viewing by the CC, will be circulated amongst pupils.

Discussion was had on the topic of pavements, roads and verges - it was noted that the gullies in Main Street have been cleared and hedges trimmed. There is still the problem of overhanging branches on the A702. It was also noted that Main Street is severely cracked along a lengthy section of the road. There is also a very large pothole on Ayr Road opposite the garage by the entrance to the bowling club. Members were advised that there has been an application for change of use on the former doctors surgery.

Regarding Duchrae, representatives from 2020 Renewables addressed the committee on the proposed windfarm project at Duchrae. They confirmed that a Scoping report had been submitted and copies of the proposals and report have been left with the Community Council (if anyone wishes to look at these then please contact Dalry CC). It is unlikely that the work, if approved, will commence before 2014, and it is anticipated that there will be 21 turbines with each turbine approximately 115 meters in height. Discussion ensued and concerns were raised about the number of windfarms being proposed for the area and their eventual impact on the surrounding villages. One of the 2020 Renewables representatives informed the committee that public exhibitions will be held.

The committee was addressed the committee regarding the Donald Watson Bird Studio, informing them that sponsors and family members had received the reports that had been made and he was currently awaiting their response. It was clear from the reports that no other site other than Barone would be suitable and it was understood that the family want the project to go ahead and would be willing to support the proposal financially. A Trust will have to be set up. Annual competitions, celebration events, exhibitions and a Raptor/Science prize are proposed.

The recent report in the Galloway News relating to the recent school inspection was referred to; a copy of the report is available if anyone wishes to see it - the school did exceptionally well and pupils and staff alike should be congratulated.

It was suggested that we should encourage people to continue to write to the Galloway News over any concerns they may have, for example housing/planning matters.

Next meeting : Monday 5th April, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.

Carsphairn Community Council

Extract from minutes of meeting held 25 January 2010

Kathryn Thacker has been appointed on a trial basis to take on the role for this and future meetings under the title of secretary. Winter maintenance of the public highways was discussed with Cllr Peter Duncan - a full review by the council of its gritting policy is to take place. The council commits to keeping primary routes open and if successful will move on to secondary routes. The budget for doing this has already been overspent by £500,000. There was also a national shortage of salt due to the adverse weather event in December and January which has in turn caused widespread damage to roads. The council feels its policy was implemented and the meeting was directed to the D&G website for definitions of which routes are primary and which secondary. The community council is to convey its thanks on behalf of the residents on the way the council maintained the primary routes and the help that was given to people in the community in difficult circumstances. It was agreed that a letter will be sent to the council conveying these feelings.

PC Bryan Bruton reported that it had been very quiet over the past month due to the adverse weather and people not moving around. He was pleased to report that all the communities have pulled together and looked after their vulnerable people. There were a few minor 'bumps' but this was again due to the adverse weather conditions.

Regarding the welcome leaflet, no further progress has been made with this as yet. The website remains ongoing. The CC has been in contact with Charles Clemie regarding the trees on the A713, and

clarified that it is the responsibility of the landowner to remove trees overhanging the carriageway. The council is able to compel the landowner to maintain them. It was asked who is responsible for trees actually on the highway verges - at the moment the lorries are 'trimming' the trees as they pass. It was agreed to check if trees are overhanging the carriageway and to ask Charles Clemie to clarify re trees on council highway.

Clarification was sought as to who is able to use the salt in the bins in the village. An email was received from D&G council that stated grit in the bins was for council workmen for use on the public roads and pavements - however, in extreme circumstances, the public may apply the grit but on council roads and pavements only. It may not be used for salting private paths, roads, access or driveways and that salt/grit for private use should be purchased by the individual. A vote of thanks was received from Linda Szafran of Carricks Shop to all in the community who helped to keep the paths in the village cleared. A suggestion was made that when it snows each home owner could be asked to clear the pavement outside their home and even help with more general clearing in the village.

David McMath from the D&G Operations Team for Scottish Water was contacted about the leaking water pipes after some houses in the village had no water supply and others had reduced pressure. The explanation given was that following burst pipe(s) in properties, the main storage tank was low. One burst was identified on the first day and water turned off, but despite their best efforts over two more days, no more bursts could be found. The problem was solved by someone unknown repairing a burst pipe or turning off water to premises. There are 13 empty properties in the village and only the police have right of access to them. Advice given is that owners of empty properties should leave a key with someone and/or leave a contact number with the police. It was discussed how best to make this known, and agreed that Scottish Water would be asked if they can provide a leaflet giving advice to owners of empty properties.

Regarding timber transport on the B729, there has not been any feedback on the improvements along this road. It was noted that a new contractor is working in the Carsphairn forest with inappropriate slogans on its vehicles given the sensitive nature of wood wagons in the area. The loads had been seen not securely fastened and some of the vehicles driven more aggressively than it is liked. PC Bruton agreed that he would make routine roadside enquiries in order to ensure the vehicles, drivers and the loads are legal. On the issue of forestry expansion, there doesn't appear to be any immediate threat to Carsphairn from this. Following the Kyoto summit, Scotland has agreed to expand the forestry by 1 million acres. On the Forestry Commission website there is a link to rural development contracts. On the regional priorities there is a link to D & G. A discussion took place that the community council will be proactive in getting our voice put forward that the parish of Carsphairn does not require anymore forestation as 50% of the parish is already planted. It was agreed that a meeting with the Scottish Forestry Commission would be arranged and a letter sent to D&G council outlining the views of the community.

A consultation is to take place between the community and developers proposing a development of four houses at Cumnock Knowes. There is an existing house but there are plans to build an additional four large dwellings on the area. Because of the size of the development the company are required to hold a 12 week consultation - a decision whether the community council is for or against the proposed plans will be made after that date.

There has been little activity in the community garden due to adverse weather conditions. Currently we are waiting for feedback regarding a grant application. It was decided that in order to ensure the whole community feel part of the project, a fundraising social event should take place when money for specific items could be raised i.e. picnic benches, and agreed that ideas for fundraising to be put forward at the next meeting.

Cllr Duncan was asked for clarification regarding data protection and the registration of the community council with Data Protection and the policy for disclosing personal information. Cllr Duncan agreed that the community council is to register and that anyone wanting personal information should be signposted to the D&G website or their number passed on to relevant person for them to contact them.

Next meeting: Monday 26 April, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall.

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

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

Glenkens Schools Visit Edinburgh



February was an exciting month for the children of the Glenkens cluster of schools. All 51 pupils from Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells Primaries went to Edinburgh for a very busy and exciting residential trip for three days. Below is a write-up for each day, written by pupils from each school.

Wednesday: Lucy and Daisy from Carsphairn: We left Carsphairn at seven o'clock and drove to Kells Primary to meet all the other children. We got on the coach and drove through the snow to Edinburgh. We first went to Murrayfield Stadium, where we got a guided tour of all the hospitality suites and changing rooms. We next went to Scottish Parliament where we met Alex Fergusson and watched the start of a debate with Nicola Sturgeon saying sorry for writing a letter to a judge. Next we went to Dynamic Earth where we discovered what happened on earth in the past and the present. The best part of the day for both of us was visiting Dynamic Earth!
by Lucy Blackett and Daisy Hickman, Carsphairn

Thursday: The second day of our trip was packed with fun as we had over five fun places to go to! At first we got up to a lovely breakfast at our B&B, followed by an exciting view up Arthur's Seat. Everybody enjoyed the thrill of being so high up! Next we were off to the famous Edinburgh Castle for a great tour. Nearly everyone came back with a souvenir! After that we went to Camera Obscura to have a very exciting experience. We got to spy on the people outside using a mirror and a lens! Next we went to a sadder, but very touching visit to Greyfriars Bobby's Gravestone, in Greyfriars Graveyard. Then we went off to an educational hour of fun at the National Museum of Scotland. We soon returned to our B&B and had a short supper, followed by a trip to the local Fire Brigade Station and Museum. There we saw many different and historical exhibits including the setting of the great Edinburgh fire! Finally, after a long and tiring day, we headed back to our B&B to have a DISCO!!! It was sooo fun and everybody got a chance to shine on the Dance floor! Yes Miss Lamont and Mr McKenna, we do remember when you danced to Robbie Williams 'Angels' together!
by Sorchia Wolffe, Kells

Friday: Friday was the last and possibly best day of our trip to Edinburgh. First was the Museum of Childhood where we saw little cars that children use to play in - it also had a rocking horse that was so cool. My favourite floor was the top floor, where we saw what clothes children used to wear. We got to try on all these old fashion styled clothes ourselves too.

When we were at the Dungeons we started with nervous pupils shivering in the church pews and they jumped as the Dead Judge shouted loudly. There was darkness and you could hear voices all around echoing in the room and feel cobwebs on you head. A brief boat ride ended suddenly with a cannibal saying: "Ah, smell them daddy, ah, smell them!" as yet another scream punctured the air. To finish we had to escape a room of mirrors. Our bus drive home was a last chance to talk about all our experiences with our new friends and look forward to seeing our parents after three busy days!
by Eilidh Stalker and Faye Green, Dalry

Kells Burns Supper 2010



Primary 7 pupils at Kells Primary School hosted their annual Burns Supper for the local community.

The 100 guests who attended were entertained by humorous speeches, poetry (some written by Burns, and also some written by the children) and even a slideshow of pictures!

The pupils would like to thank the special guests who attended as they all support the school throughout the year and also the PTA for their hard work preparing the hall and the meal. Finally, congratulations to the P7s who gave up their free time to organise this successful event.

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GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

GALLOWAY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2010

CARSPHAIRN PRIMARY: On March 3rd, for the first time, the 11 children in Primary 1 - 7 travelled to Newton Stewart to take part in the Galloway Music Festival. The children had rehearsed songs for the groups entitled: Singing Games, Action Song and the Group Music Making. With an audience of around 200 adults and children, the children performed Jim-A-Long, Red Riding Rap and On My Pond. Being a non-competitive class, the children received comments from the adjudicators and proudly travelled home with comments such as "very good" and "outstanding".

KELLS PRIMARY: We were very proud of their achievements as a team and individually. The children performed superbly in the choir, therefore were proud of coming second and would like to say a big well done to Dalry on their deserved first place.

DALRY SECONDARY: Pupils at Dalry Secondary School returned from the Festival bearing numerous medals and silverware. Lowena Lindsay, S2, won her class playing clarinet; Dylan Blore, S2, won a trophy, a Silver Quaich and four medals for both speech and fiddle classes and Kirsty McMath, S1, won a silver medal in her cello class. In S4, Ruth Moslin won the Gold medal for her guitar playing, and her combination with Ryan McCall won a Silver medal for the Popular Music Class. Congratulations must go to all the other participants from Dalry - Fraser Cameron, Calum Wilkie and Darrel Wilson who worked so hard practising and improving their performances and being prepared to perform in competitive events.



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- Telephone: 01644 460 660

Cluster Success

For the schools of the Glenkens, working as a cluster is proving very successful, with everyone benefitting from shared resources, joint trips which are bringing the cost down, and children are developing social skills through interacting with the other schools.



Dalry P4/5/6 and Kells P4 5 visited Vindolanda and Hadrian's wall to bring their Romans topic to life.

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The CatStrand: News & Events



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

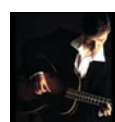
Storytelling Café, Thurs 1 April, 7.30–9.30pm, free, but donations for tea and coffee welcome. An informal and relaxing evening - this month's café will be hosted by Renita Boyle with the theme, "Beginnings, Middles and Ends".



Laurel and Hardy by Tom McGrath - A Mull Theatre production, Fri 2 April, 7.30pm, £7/£5. Two instantly recognisable characters: Stan's crying face and his explosive hair...Ollie's long-suffering camera

look and his tie-twiddle ...and, of course, the iconic bowler hats. *Pre-event fixed menu supper available. Book at least 7 days in advance

Lempen Puppet Theatre Company: The amazing Thing, Mon 5 April, 3pm, £3.50. A truly original story told with puppets, acting and live music. Suitable for children aged 5+ and their families. *This event is part of the Puppet Animation Festival.*



James Grant, Sat 10 April, 8pm, £10/£8. Widely regarded as one of the finest singer-songwriters and performers around, James Grant plays material from all his critically acclaimed solo albums and a smattering of the old favourites.

The Middle Eastern Film Festival: Eye of the Sun, Sat 17 April, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50. Through the eyes of Shams, a playful, inquisitive, 11-year-old girl, the poignant and charming Eye of the Sun journeys through modern day Egypt.



Exhibition: Vanishing Scotland, from Sun 25 April - Thurs 20 May, CatStrand opening hours. A new exhibition that seeks to preserve the memories and insights into rural Dumfries and Galloway. A fascinating journey back to the working and cultural past of the region, this exhibition of portrait and photography, oral history and craft, records ways of living that are fast disappearing. *Vanishing Scotland is based on the work of folklorist Alyne Jones and the Galloway Tryst Archive.*

Film: District 9, Wed 28 April, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50. In 1982, a massive star ship bearing a bedraggled alien population, nicknamed 'The Prawns', appeared over Johannesburg, South Africa. Twenty-eight years later, the initial welcome by the human population has faded...



CatStrand Youth Players: Spud Ferrett and the Case of the Stolen Diamonds by Jeff Gallagher, Fri 30 April, 7.30pm, £3/£1. A comedy whodunnit, almost like a game of Cluedo on stage - a light-hearted spoof on all the worst excesses of detective stories!

Dumfries Film Festival: Julie and Julia, plus Cookery Demonstration with Catherine Braid, Sat 1 May, 2pm, £4.50/£3.50. The film follows Julie Powell, a government employee who decides to cook her way through legendary cook Julia Child's classic cookbook, 'Mastering the Art of French Cooking' in one years time out of her small Queens kitchen. The film will be followed by a cookery



demonstration by Catherine Braid, who will be conjuring up some great dishes from recipes from the film.

Storytelling Café, Thurs 6 May, 7.30–9.30pm, free, but donations for tea and coffee welcome. An informal and relaxing evening - this month's café will be hosted by Anne Errington with the theme, "Saints, Selkies and Witches".



Breabach, Sun 16 May, 8pm, £8/£7. Scottish firebrands Their innovative Celtic style, blending double bagpipes, flute, fiddle, song and Scottish stepdance, brings to the stage, flare, excitement and diversity rarely seen from such a young group.

Exhibition: Flower and Field... a Celebration by Lorna Graham and Barbara Kelly, from Sat 22 May - Thurs 24 June, CatStrand opening hours. Local artists, Lorna Graham and Barbara Kelly in their first joint exhibition for many years will show a selection of recent work in watercolour, gouache and oils.



Brute Farce Theatre Company: Around the World in 80 Days, Mon 24 May, 7.30pm, £10/£8. Brute Farce's new re-working of Jules Verne's classic tale whisks the audience from rainy station platforms in nineteenth century London to a technicolour Bollywood visions of the tropics and the frozen wastes of North America.

Film: A Serious Man, Wed 26 May, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50. Period black comedy set in 1967 concerning a Midwestern physics professor whose staid and stable life slowly begins to unravel after his wife announces that she's leaving him.



Tony McManus, Thurs 27 May, 7.30pm, £8/£6. In little over ten years as a professional musician Tony McManus has come to be recognised throughout the world as the leading guitarist in Celtic Music.



Mimika Theatre: Small Worlds, Sat 29 May, 10.30am & 2pm, £3.50. What could a small green wriggly thing, a bug, a goose, a cat, and a six-year-old girl have in common? A 50 minute non verbal performance for children aged 5 - 11 and their families.



Regular events:

Saturday Art Club, Saturdays, 10am–12noon, £4. Two-hour workshops run by professional artists and teachers, offering 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).

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. Please wear loose clothing (age 8-12 years).

The CatStrand: News & Events

COMMUNITY EVENTS / CLASSES

Baby Reflexology, drop-in starting last Fri of each month 10am-12noon.

COMING SOON - boxercise classes with Sam Hood; times tbc but looking at end of April / early May.

Sleeping Disorder workshop, Sat 17th April 2-4pm, free, (see p11 for further info.)

Fundraising Training with SCVS,

Tues 11th May.

Rag rug making, Sat/Sun 15/16 May, £33.

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.

Becoming a Friend of The CatStrand

The success of The CatStrand so far has only been possible thanks to the support and contribution of a wide range of people and organisations, and this will continue to be true over the coming years.

As a Registered Scottish Charity we encourage all our supporters to give as much as they can, whether monthly, annually or in a one off payment. As a Friend you will be kept up to date with The CatStrand and other local news, you will benefit from special offers and promotions and be involved in opportunities to contribute ideas and provide feedback. In addition to these direct benefits you will know that your contribution has genuinely helped to ensure the future success of The CatStrand.

To become a Friend you can pick up a form at The CatStrand or please contact us and we will be happy to send you a copy.

Thank you.

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust seeks a

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Glenkens Gazette Online - New Social Media for the Glenkens!

Glenkens: Online
Social Media for the Glenkens.

■ NOTES
Welcome to the Glenkens Online! Join us to keep up to date on what's going on in and around the Glenkens. Advertise your organisation, with events, news, photos & videos. Free and easy to use. There is a lot going on lets let everyone know about it.
Created by Peter Renwick Feb 8, 2010 at 4:00pm. Last updated by Peter Renwick Feb 8.

■ FORUM
Local Info
Info about local business, groups, and activities.
2 discussions
Useful Links
Links to Local Organisations
3 discussions
★ Start Discussion

■ PHOTOS
A landscape photo of a valley with hills in the background.

■ EVENTS
MARCH 2010
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31

■ ABOUT
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The Gazette has launched a new interactive web site - www.glenkens.ning.com. It includes all the articles and local information you would expect to see find in the Glenkens Gazette. There is a local events calendar, information on local activities and business articles about what's going on in your area. In addition, become a member and you can start adding your events, advertise your business, upload photos and videos or write about issues that concern you. There is even a chat room. It's also a great way to keep in touch with the Glenkens community.

This is an excellent way of letting locals and visitors know about your group, business, or simply to keep in touch and show of your best photos. It's easy to use - and perhaps best of all, it's free!

Peter Renwick, Marketing Officer, The CatStrand

THE BUS: GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

NEW SEASON OF BUS TRIPS FOR YOUNG AND OLD

You may have noticed that now that spring is upon us, trips in April have already been advertised and, in the case of the Lake District trip, fully booked within five days of tickets going on sale! Future dates for your diary are:

Monday 10th May - Castle Kennedy Gardens, Monday 24th May - Falkirk Wheel, Monday 7th June - Wanlockhead Head Mining Museum, Saturday 26th June - British Pipe Band Champs - Annan.

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.

EASTER TRIPS FOR OUR YOUNGER TRAVELLERS:

Friday 2nd April - a day at RSPB at Southwick (nr New Abbey) pond dipping, mini beast hunting etc. Thursday 8th April - Kirtcubtree Visitor Centre - a day of events and things to do organised by the Forestry Commission.

For full details of the Easter trips please contact Fiona at The Catstrand - for all other trips see local posters advising you of the price and the date from when places can be booked.

For an update on future funding for the GTI Bus, see the Noticeboard on p2.

Keith Cooper, GTI Administrator

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

LOCAL HISTORY

King Arthur in the Glenkens?



Can we imagine King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table paying a visit to the Glenkens? Not very likely you may think, but if we recall that in medieval times the Glen was part of a huge Forest or Hunting Park, extending westwards beyond Glen Trool, it may be a different story.

Like the sport or not, the Glenkens has been attracting hunters for hundreds of years, as it still does. As it happens we have a description of a fabulous hunt by Arthur and his men in a composition, in French, known as the Romance of Fergus of Galloway. It is named for the historical, but heavily fictionalised Fergus, Lord of Galloway, aka King of the Gallovidians, founder of a new cathedral at Whithorn and Dundrennan Abbey, who died in 1161. He had to sell, or pawn, various pieces of land to pay for these expensive building projects. Among those receiving them were the Knights Templars and the Hospitallers, so originating a number of oft-repeated, but unfounded, legends, from that day to this, about associations between Templars and St John's Town of Dalry. However, the fictitious hunt took place around the Feast of John the Baptist, 24 June, Midsummers Day, a time of

revelry, inversion, fun, festival and foolery, still celebrated in the village's St John's Fair. That sense of celebration and irreverent humour seems to lie at the heart of the romance, in which Fergus, reincarnated as a chivalric anti-hero, is depicted as a brash and rustic simpleton from a remote part of the world, populated by barbarians like himself. It is not history but it does contain historical information and it was composed, around 1200, by someone who knew something about the region and the Scottish Borders.

The story opens at Arthur's court where the king announces that he wishes to hunt a white stag in a forest near Carlisle. There follows an exhilarating wild hunt as the stag leads its pursuers all over the south of Scotland through the Borders to Jedburgh, and the Lammermuirs, doubling back to the Forest of Glasgow and Ayr, "the home of fair women of whom none are more beautiful in all he world", eventually fetching up in Galloway, "a richly endowed land. But the folk who live there are very ignorant, for they will never enter a church: they are so stupid and bestial that they are not concerned with praying to God". Such comments are mild compared to some of the vituperation directed towards Galloway, by English commentators especially, in the twelfth-century. Galwegians were accused of rape, plunder, killing children, selling women into slavery as well as other acts, "violent, lewd and execrable". All of this seem to become about because Galloway nurtured fierce warriors and folk of independent mind who did not take kindly to the imposition of external authority, Scottish or English. The historical Fergus saw himself as ruler of a separate kingdom or province.

Arthur's entourage comes upon a motte and bailey castle owned by a wealthy peasant named Somerled, the father of three sons, two of whom are shepherding in the mountains while the eldest, Fergus, is ploughing, "dressed in a short, shaggy jerkin roughly made from lambskins, and with a pair of rawhide shoes on his feet. Such was the work they were engaged in every day". He carries a club for such was the Galloway custom when working. There and then Fergus decides he wants to join the Round Table. Unhitching the horses and oxen – which suggests a joint draft team – he picks up the ploughshare and coulter (the plough irons) – and runs with them to the castle, sweating so profusely as to almost collapse. It is of interest that this may be the earliest Scottish written description of a plough. After a bit of blustering: "Where did he get such ideas? His job is in the fields", his Old Man hands over some rusty armour, weapons and a fine plump horse, one of the Galloway breed noted for their ability to move more swiftly over boggy ground than any man could travel on foot. And so his quest begins.

He has many knightly adventures, subduing robbers, conquering the Black Knight, wandering in the wilderness, acquiring a shining shield, defeating an evil king in combat and participating in a tournament, all in a recognisable Scottish landscape. Most importantly of all he meets the love of his life, the smitten, assertive Galiene, a beauty with a mind of her own and certainly possessed of more gumption than Fergus, who initially turns her down to concentrate on deeds of derring-do, muttering, "I'm stupid to dabble in love. My father never in all his living days indulged in that sort of thing". A true romantic Scot and son of Galloway if ever there was one! The translation is now rather hard to find but it is available in libraries: Guillaume Le Clerc, Fergus of Galloway Knight of King Arthur, translated by D. D. R. Owen, Everyman's Library, 1991. Read and Enjoy!

Ted Cowan

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

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CLUB CORNER

The Glenkens '73 Club



The adult and the youth thespians from the Glenkens broke a few records at the Stewartry round of the SCDA Drama Festival, bringing home an unprecedented four trophies between them. (For an update of the Youth Players, see the front page feature.)

The Glenkens '73 Club's production of 'Chips with Vinegar' by Harry Glass was very well received by the audience winning the 'Best Scottish Play' and finishing third in the open festival, just missing out by one place on another appearance at the Western Finals.

The adjudicator commented, "The play requires thoroughly convincing naturalistic playing and setting plus sensitive direction, it got this from a director and cast very much in tune with the author's wishes." He summed the performance up as: "Good teamwork throughout a quietly compelling script delivered with relaxed sensitivity in a performance that was clearly appreciated by the audience." Both adult and youth plays were also performed at The CatStrand on March 6th to a full house.

Walking Groups

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.

Stewartry Camera Club: The judge for the latest Stewartry Camera Club Competition, 'Trees', was Brian Corr. Being the Head Gardener at Threave Gardens, Brian understands trees, and he was able to use this knowledge and his interest in photography to judge the high quality images submitted by members.

The Best Print was 'Big Feet' by Mary McIlvenna. Mary says: "I have had this image in my mind for several years. I was on a photographic holiday in The Lakes last May. Taking shelter under the canopy of the trees to gain some protection from the rain, I saw the image. My camera had on its waterproof, just as I had. Wearing waterproof trousers, I was able to get down on the ground and catch the shot from a low viewpoint. Afterwards, a well earned coffee and scone – and a good photo in the bag!"

Another Glenkens resident, John Houfe, won the Most Innovative Print with 'Winter Mist'.

The club will start its new session at 7.30pm on Wed 15 Sept in The Tolbooth, Kirkcudbright, and will run on most Wednesdays throughout the winter months. For further information contact Mary McIlvenna 01644 420613 or George Wishart 01557 870090.



'Big Feet' by Mary McIlvenna

YOUTH UPDATE

FIRE CADETS

The New Galloway Cadets have been active again with on station activities. The group have one session left before their break, and will start up again later in the spring.

The cadets cover the core subjects that fire fighters are involved with on a regular basis, which include working with ladders, pumps, breathing apparatus and road traffic management and equipment use.

It is hoped that more interest will be generated before the start of the next session and any potential 'recruits' are encouraged to come along.

For further information, please contact Crew Manager McKenna at New Galloway Fire Station.

GIRLS ON THE MOVE!



Teenspirit has just received £2,000 from Girls on the Move, which aims to get girls more active.

Girls 12-18 will get the chance to attend some new boxercise classes on a regular weekly basis as well as several weekend dance workshops in Glasgow. It's fantastic to receive this money, and to be given the opportunity to try new things for free or at very little cost. Dates need to be confirmed.

We are looking at Dance Jam, Funk Workshop and my favourite Zumba which sounds great fun- 'latin and international music are fused to create an explosive, booty shakin' party of a workout that burns 400-1000 calories an hour and leaves you on a high!' Any girls interested check out www.dancehouse.org

Catherine Phillips



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www.alexfergusson.org.uk

or contact him by e-mail at

alex.fergusson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Carsphairn Heritage Group Annual Exhibition

**'Carsphairn Captured on Camera;
1885 – 2010'**

The exhibition this year is drawn mainly from the Heritage Group's own collection of photographs. Much of the material has been donated by families who lived in the village and records everyday life and events.

The exhibition provides a precious visual archive of life in the isolated upland Glenkens community of Carsphairn covering a period from 1885 through to the present day.

Social change has swept away the lifestyle of our forebears. Fortunately, much of their lives have been captured by the camera and displayed here and just as importantly, there is a record of our present day lives in Carsphairn – for within a generation, given the pace of change, this too may seem to be a piece of distant history.

The exhibition opens on 2nd April and until the beginning of June is open on weekends and Bank Holidays only. From June until 26th September it is open daily, except Wednesdays.

Health Tips:

by Nutritionist, Dietician & Allergy Specialist Lorna Willock

TIPS TO LOWER SUGAR INTAKES

With obesity and diabetes reaching epidemic proportions we need to watch our sugar intakes. Here are a few tips;

- 1) Use high fruit percentage jams or ones found in health shops which contain 100% fruit e.g. meridian pear and apple spread.
- 2) Cut shop bought biscuits out of your diet (I hear gasps here!!)
- 3) Check how much sugar your cereal actually contains – do not sprinkle sugar on top – use fresh or stewed fruit (stewed in fructose – fruit sugar) instead.
- 4) Sweeties give us no nutrition e.g. pandrops. Chocolate, on the other hand, does have nutritional value - the dark 70% variety is best. Also, you can buy pure fruit strips and real liquorice.
- 5) Do children a favour and give them small bags of natural apricots, raisins, currants, dates etc. They are sweet, delicious and full of vitamins and minerals.
- 6) Make old fashioned puddings like apple sponge, crumbles, etc, using wholemeal flour, adding seeds/nuts and cutting back on sugar (or use fructose). This makes a really healthy option and is much better than creamy, sugar-laden options.
- 7) If needing a between-meal-snack (especially relevant for hungry children) have wholemeal scones, pancakes or drop scones as snacks, using honey or fructose to sweeten them. Scones can be sweetened with dried fruit and pancakes are delicious with stewed fruit or maple syrup.
- 8) The Scottish tablet and fudge industry - full of sugar and fat (heart attack treat!) is mainly good for rotting teeth...
- 9) Instead of cans of juice e.g. coke, iron bru, etc, have fizzy water and a natural cordial.
- 10) Make a natural jelly using pure fruit juice and thickening with arrowroot. You could also add fresh fruit to the jelly.

For further information contact Lorna:

01644 470218

www.foods4life.co.uk

lorna@foods4life.co.uk

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Do You Have a Problem Sleeping?

Do you, or your partner, have a problem sleeping? Unable to get to sleep or have a problem staying asleep? Waking up too early or waking up feeling un-refreshed and tired in the morning?

Sleep is essential to good health, yet nearly a third of the population experience some form of sleep disorder which can result in fatigue, depression, poor concentration, illness and injury. It can also be the cause of relationships breaking down, unemployment and many more problems. Insomnia is the most common sleep disorder and is often caused by stress and anxiety, the inability to 'switch off' before we go to bed resulting in fragmented sleep patterns. Other factors that can disrupt sleep are ill health, depression, pain, some prescription drugs, life changes, your environment and even sleeping pills!

If you long to be able to sleep for 8 hours and wake up feeling refreshed and ready to face the day, we may be able to help you. The Sleep Disorder Workshop aims to explain the different types and causes of sleep disorders and offers self-help guidance, in addition to information on the natural therapies and lifestyle changes that can restore you to the world of regular, deep, refreshing sleep.

Sleep Disorder Workshop

Sat 17 April, 2-4pm

admission free

please book as numbers limited

call The CatStrand on 01644 420374

Mountain Challenge

Local man Bob Peace, along with seven men from the Newton Stewart area, mostly Rotarians, are taking part in the Sightsavers International 3rd Rotary Mountain Challenge - an exhilarating and very satisfying adventure - in an effort to raise valuable funds in support of Sightsavers.

Sightsavers is an International charity which works to combat blindness in developing countries by restoring sight through specialist treatment and eye care. It also supports people who are irreversibly blind by providing education, counselling and training. Last year 3.7 million people were treated for potentially blinding conditions.

On Saturday 12 June, the team will start by climbing Ben Nevis (4409ft); move to Thirlmere in the Lake District where they will climb Helvellyn (3116ft) and descend to Glenridding, before driving into Wales where they will ascend Snowdon (3506ft) by the Llanberis path. With a final descent back to Llanberis they hope to finish in less than 24 hours!

Whatever struggles they face along the way they will know that their efforts are going towards providing much needed funds for a very worthwhile cause. If you wish to support the team then you can do so by contacting Bob Peace on bobpeace@btinternet.com



Team members reach the summit of Ben Lomond on a training walk.



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TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays

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

Special Services and Events

2nd April, 7.30pm: Good Friday Service,
Balmaclellan Church

4th April, 7am: Easter Dawn Service in New
Galloway Park, followed by breakfast in New
Galloway Town Hall

19th April, 7.30pm: 'James Clerk Maxwell,
Scientist and Christian' - Dinner with speaker Robert
McQuistan, Ken Bridge Hotel

23rd April, 7.30pm: Quiz Night, Dalry Town Hall

30th May, 10.30am: United Service with Choir in
Carsphairn Church

Communion Services:

2nd May, 12 noon, Balmaclellan 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

APRIL

runs until **Thurs 22 Apr**, Exhibition: Lisa
Hooper, CatStrand opening hours, The
CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 1, Storytelling Café, 7.30-9.30pm, The
CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 2, GTI Bus Trip - a day at RSPB at
Southwick (nr New Abbey) pond dipping, mini
beast hunting etc, see p7

Fri 2, Laurel and Hardy by Tom McGrath
- A Mull Theatre production, 7.30pm, The
CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 5, Dalry CC meeting, 7pm, Dalry Town
Hall

Mon 5, Lempen Puppet Theatre Company: The
am-A-zing Thing, 3pm, The CatStrand, New
Galloway

Thurs 8, GTI Bus Trip to Kirroghtree Visitor
Centre - a day of events and things to do
organised by the Forestry Commission, see p7

Sat 10, James Grant, 8pm, The CatStrand,
New Galloway

Sat 17, Sleep Disorder Workshop, 2-4pm, The
CatStrand, New Galloway, see p11

Sat 17, The Middle Eastern Film Festival: Eye
of the Sun, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New
Galloway

from Sun 25 April - Thurs 20 May,
Exhibition: Vanishing Scotland, CatStrand
opening hours, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 26, Carsphairn CC meeting, 7pm,
Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

**Carsphairn Heritage Group Annual
Exhibition; opens 2 April** and until start June
is open on weekends and bank holidays only.
From June until 26 Sept, it is open daily except
Wednesdays, see p10

Wed 28, Film: District 9, 7.30pm, The
CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 30, CatStrand Youth Players: Spud Ferrett
and the Case of the Stolen Diamonds, 7.30pm,
The CatStrand, New Galloway

MAY

Sat 1, Dumfries Film Festival: Julie and Julia,
plus Cookery Demonstration with Catherine
Braid, 2pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 6, Storytelling Café, 7.30-9.30pm, The
CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 7 - Thurs 13, Newton Stewart Walking
Festival, see p2

Mon 10, GTI Bus Trip to Castle Kennedy
Gardens, see p7

Tues 11, Fundraising Training with SCVS, The
CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat/Sun 15/16, Rag Rug Making, The
CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 16, Breabach, 8pm, The CatStrand, New
Galloway

from Sat 22 May - Thurs 24 June, Exhibition:
Flower and Field... a Celebration by Lorna
Graham and Barbara Kelly, CatStrand
opening hours. The CatStrand, New Galloway

Mon 24, GTI Bus Trip to the Falkirk Wheel, see
p7

Mon 24, Brute Farce Theatre Company: Around
the World in 80 Days, 7.30pm, The CatStrand,
New Galloway

Wed 26, Film: A Serious Man, 7.30pm, The
CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 27, Tony McManus, 7.30pm, The
CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 29, Mimika Theatre: Small Worlds,
10.30am & 2pm, The CatStrand, New
Galloway

Sat 29 - Mon 31, Exhibition by Morag Paterson

and Ted Leeming, studios building of Gracefield
Arts Centre, see p2

JUNE

Mon 7, GTI Bus Trip to Wanlockhead Head
Mining Museum, see p7

Sat 26, GTI Bus Trip to the British Pipe Band
Champs - Annan, see p7

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 p6 & 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

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

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

Baby Reflexology, drop-in starting last Fri of
each month 10am-12noon

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

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

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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fiction, photos, ads or ideas... If you have a submission, contact Sarah Ade on 07727 127 997 or
glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk. **JUNE/JULY COPY DEADLINE: Wed 12 May**