

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

August/September 2010

ISSUE 59

www.glenkensgazette.com

Jayde to Run for World Champion



Jayde Devlin, Sombo Champion for Great Britain, grew up in the Glenkens. After moving to Dumfries a few years ago, Jayde joined Closeburn Judo/Sombo Club. "I moved to Carsphairn when I was three years old and then to Balmacellan when I was seven years old, where I stayed there until I was 21," says Jayde. "Judo/Sombo is a great way to meet new people and it as a good way to keep physically fit. I have found it beneficial as I can do it in my spare time, it's a lot of fun but also serious when it comes to competitions. I have met people from all around the world and will be travelling to lots of new destinations. It is possible for anyone of any age to join and I would thoroughly recommend it to everyone!"

Coach Robin Hyslop of the Closeburn club where Jayde trains says: "Since Jayde has been training at Closeburn Judo/Sombo Club he has become an inspiration to many of the students due to the extreme amount of hard work he puts into his

training. In the short time that Jayde has been with the club, his dedication has paid off as earlier on this year he became Great Britain 100+ Kilo Sombo Champion". Robin explains that Sombo Wrestling, or Sombo to use the correct name, is short for 'SAMozashchit aBezOruzhiya' which, translated, means 'self defense without weapons'. This martial art was designed primarily for the Russian army, using many of the folk wrestling styles of Russia and martial arts from Japan. There are two sides to Sombo; the sport wrestling style, and the combat military style. Both styles are evenly effective and over the last 20 years Sombo has become more and more popular in the western world with many worldwide tournaments taking place.

"Since Jayde has become the number one heavyweight for the British Team, he has been selected to fight in the World Sombo Championships which will be taking place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in November," says Robin. "Jayde will also be competing in the Scottish Open Judo and Sombo Championships at DG1 in Dumfries on the 24th July 2010 - a prestigious event which attracts players from all over the world. After this event there will be hard training for Jayde leading up to the World Championships, and all the members from Closeburn Judo/Sombo Club are backing him all the way. Jayde has the right attitude to become a world champion - he's physically fit and very strong, a very popular player in the club and he has a brilliant sense of humor." Jayde is currently looking for sponsorship to help him on his way to the top, so if any local business or individual is interested please get in touch with coach Robin Hyslop on 07803129973 or robinhyslop@angelfifteen.fsnet.co.uk.

Glenkens Schools Working Together

Health Week was a cluster event for pupils of Dalry, Carsphairn and Kells primary schools. It introduced the children to different ways of keeping fit and healthy, showing them we can all find something we enjoy doing that is good for our health! It was also part of our ongoing project to work collaboratively as a cluster, meaning we can offer more experiences to the children as we are sharing resources and transport, etc. Also they are developing relationships across the schools, which build on friendships established in Nursery, strengthening these links throughout primary and making their transition to Dalry Secondary much easier.

The P7s visited the Galloway Sailing Centre, P6 went Mountain Biking with Outdoor Education to Dalbeattie forest, P4/5 visited Laggan Outdoor Centre and Mossyard beach and P1-3 went orienteering to Kirroughtree which was led by the Forestry Commission team.

We celebrated the end of the week with a musical performance from Kim Wheeler, who had prepared songs and materials to support our message. All three schools would like to say a big thank you to all the parents, specialists and centres who helped to make the week such a huge success! All the children (and staff!) had great fun and learned a lot through this practical approach. See p5 for more...



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Local Author: Margaret Elphinstone



Historical novelist Margaret Elphinstone moved to the Glenkens just under two years ago; this is the second time she has set up home in Galloway, where her writing career began in the 1980s.

"Galloway is the place which shaped me as a writer," says Margaret. "It is a setting which inspires me. I can relate to a landscape like this. I walk a lot and that's good thinking time for a writer. And I find the places where I walk inspiring - sky, hills, woods, rivers - water is very important."

Her writing is characterised by people on journeys to places on the edge - islands, frontiers - where cultures and ideas meet. Her first novel, *The Incomer* (also known as *Clachanpluck*), is set in Galloway but subsequently her novels have varied widely in time and place - from Greenland and North America in the 10th century to the Isle of

Man in the 19th. Her most recent book, *The Gathering Night*, is set 8000 years ago among the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers on what is now the west coast of Scotland.

"I grew up in the country," explains Margaret. "I've never set a book in an urban setting. I find it hard to explore character when people are detached from the land they live on." When she lived in a city, she says, she was always travelling somewhere else in order to write. "I need a degree of solitude to write. I need some people around me - but not too many."

A new edition of *The Gathering Night* was published by Canongate in August 2010. For more about Margaret's writing visit www.margaretelphinstone.co.uk

Above - Margaret Elphinstone on one of the many sea trips she has undertaken while writing.

Right - Margaret on Woodhall Loch in the coracle she built while researching 'The Gathering Night'.



NOTICE BOARD

Glenkens Agricultural Show

Saturday 14th August in the standing stone field, the Grennan, New Galloway.

Judging commences 9.30am, admission on gate.

Glenkens Society Annual Flower & Veg Show

Sat 28 Aug, Dalry Town Hall, doors open at 2pm, entries as to be returned to Hilda McAdam before 6pm on the Mon prior to the show.

Alternative Games 2010

Sun 8 August, New Galloway Park, 2pm

Christina Lawrie - Piano Soloist

Sat September 18, Dalry Town Hall, 8pm, Tickets £9

Barscobe to Corriedoo - Have You Walked This Way?

The official definition of a right of way is that it must run from one public place (such as a road) to another public place; follow a more or less defined route; must have been used openly and peaceably by members of the public otherwise than with permission, express or implied of the landowner, and must have been so used without substantial and effective interruption for a period of 20 years or more. Use of such a route, in such a way and for such a period constitutes the right of way as a matter of fact, and it is not necessary that the right of way be declared by the court or be entered onto a register or map. Rights of way are created and preserved by members of the public using such routes 'as of right'.

A questionnaire is being circulated, the purpose of which is to obtain evidence from past and current users as to the nature, amount and period of use of the route, to allow a view to be taken on whether the route meets these criteria or not, without relying on anecdotal evidence. If there is evidence that the route is a right of way, the route may be used by the public, whether the route is included in the adopted Core Paths Plan or not. The questionnaires have recently been sent to June Hay, secretary of Balmaclellan Community Council, for distribution - if you would like a questionnaire, contact June on 420 361 or email junehay@glenkensbb.co.uk or pick one up from Balmaclellan Village Shop.

CARSHAIRN COMMUNITY GARDEN WINS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Carsphairn Community Council has been awarded a £13,000 grant by Dumfries and Galloway LEADER Programme to complete the Carsphairn Community Garden.

The Council's Garden Sub-Group, lead by David Richmond and with the help of a dedicated group of volunteers from the community, have been working diligently for several years to create an attractive outdoor amenity in the village. This will benefit not only the Carsphairn community but also those visitors who stop off in the village to visit the Heritage Centre or Carrick's tearoom.

Community Council Chair, Matt Hickman, comments: "This generous support from LEADER, together with £4,000 we have received from the Stewartry Area Committee and private local funds, mean that we can plan to finish the project by next summer. It will turn what was a derelict piece of ground opposite the Church and the School into a bright and attractive facility of which the village can be truly proud."

Right: Artist's impression of finished garden by Robin Ade.



Balmaclellan Community Council

Extract from minutes of meeting held 28 June

Andrew Bielinski gave a presentation on the Biosphere which provided a great deal of information. It was emphasised that this is a project to which communities can contribute. More information can be obtained from Andrew Bielinski S.N.H.

Loch Hill wind-farm project was discussed, with an outline of the idea, then a Q & A session, the 'formal' consultation only beginning when the planning application is submitted.

Some issues under consideration are: The 'Civic Pride' presentation; could be a useful source of funds to assist with planned repairs of 'Old Mortality' and other possibilities to be explored at next meeting. Funds may be available from July. D&G C 'village tidy-up scheme'; all villages contacted in rotation in Stewartry for assistance.

Feedback from convention of CC's, the main item of which was presentation by Miriam Owen, development worker with D&G Small Communities Housing Trust (D&G SCHAT). Clarification was provided on an important difference between housing associations and this Trust; that it is not required to accommodate homeless tenants, but was formed to enable local people in small communities to remain there and to provide housing for essential workers.

The idea of a collective Glenkens website was discussed but doesn't seem a popular notion. The possibility of a joint presentation for Glenkens CC's through Planning Aid charity was discussed.

It was reported that Glenkens Sustainable Development Steering Group will reconvene when the planning decision regarding Black Craig Windfarm is known, to consider forming a 'Trust'.

The planning application for eight static caravans to be sited at the KenBrig Hotel was discussed, with various views expressed and some reservation regarding parking for cars.

Next meeting: Friday 27 August, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Carsphairn Community Council

Extract from minutes of meeting held 30 May

As the community council is not yet up to full membership, a voting member can be co-opted onto the council. David Whyte has expressed an interest and was asked if he was prepared to be a voting member until the next election of members to which he agreed.

The issue of road closure of the A713 through Carsphairn is ongoing, and the CC is working to arrange dialogue with East Ayrshire council. Cllr Duncan made the point that the lack of advance notice was also part fault of Dumfries and Galloway. A discussion took place with him about the lack of signage and the lack of information about the length of diversion. It was reported to him that some of the few diversion signs are still in situ and that members of the community have in fact been round to turn them over to stop confusion.

There are various planning applications in the parish: Plot 2 Marbrack - approval of matters specified in conditions of outline planning consent. Dalshangan Woods - temporary siting of two caravans. Yellowcraig, Moniaive - amended proposal for house extension. Corlae - application for extension to property. A member of the CC will inspect plans at the Planning Office and report back to the CC.

Regarding the Community Garden, please see opposite page regarding successful grant funding. A vote of thanks was given to David Whyte for the huge effort he put in on the application and also to David Richmond for his help with this.

There has been a request from Kelton Community Council for advice and attendance at their meeting regarding Mayfield Community windfarm - a representative from CCC will attend. A request from 2020 Renewables was received by email for dialogue with Carsphairn Community Council regarding the proposed Loch Hill windfarm. They had been advised that it was not practical to attend our meeting and so it was arranged that members of the CC would attend the Public Information Day in Dalry Town Hall on Wednesday 9 June.

On the issue of Core Paths, some landowners in the area have not been contacted regarding the proposed core paths despite the access officer maintaining they have been. Impositions have been made without consultation. Some landowners are not happy with

the situation.

Discussion took place regarding placing a footpath from the top of the village to Bridgend. This is no further forward and is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Next meeting: Monday 30 August at 7pm, Lagwyne Hall

Dalry Community Council

Extract from minutes of meeting held 13 June

AGM - Election of Officers: Chairman - Angus, Vice Chairman - A Holmes, Treasurer - G Bell, Secretary - M Jones.

It was confirmed that Loreburn do not own the Whinneyburn site - DGHP do. It is said that a response has been received to a recent letter to the Planning department, in respect of the development by Kindbuild, by Alex Ferguson, but this is not yet confirmed. A member of the CC has been in touch with Planning Aid, and assistance will be given by someone not linked to the village and as far as they can tell, the steps the CC have taken in respect of the query over the Kindbuild development have been sensible. An opinion is awaited as to whether the Council's actions were lawful.

There had been some damage to the Church Roof and this has been addressed. PC Bruton also confirmed that the airgun incident by the School had been looked into and dealt with.

Regarding pavements, roads and verges, it was reported that there were a number of potholes in Kirkland Street and also in Thoroughgate. It was advised that there was a rut appearing in the middle section of the road about ½ mile from Barmurrie as you head towards Corsock. Cllr. Prentice informed members that concerns over the accident black spot at Alan Gibbon Bridge will be addressed as it had been confirmed to him that it was on the Councils list of items to be dealt with. A couple of meetings ago the question was raised about having a speed restriction installed at the entrance of the village - cars are still abusing the speed limits. G Prentice & PC Bruton suggested that we contact C Clemmy (Cllr Prentice said he would approach him) and PC Bruton will speak with the Camera Unit and see if they will bring the mobile unit to the village a couple of times.

The Biosphere scheme was discussed - it is part of Unesco and a Biosphere already exists in D&G - leaflets are freely available from the local shops or library. Andrew Belinski is willing to give a presentation at the Town Hall, specifically to discuss the project. It was agreed that this presentation will be held at our September meeting.

Next meeting: Monday 6 September, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Community Council

Extract from minutes of meeting held 12 July

The Chair welcomed Alistair Campbell and Alasdair MacLeod (2020 Renewables) to the meeting. They gave a presentation to the Community Council of the proposed Loch Hill windfarm to the north of Borgue and Knockman Hill.

LING Chairman Ros Hill reported that she had not received any further updates regarding the Town Hall repairs/upgrading as Anne Sweetin (Dumfries & Galloway Council) had been on sick leave. As Ms Sweetin is now back at work there is a possibility of arranging a short meeting. It was noted that Kells School have been told by Dumfries & Galloway Council that any alterations to the off-road car parking at the school would be acceptable.

Action to be taken regarding the loose disused electric wires at Achie Bridge bus stop, which are still awaiting removal; also the problem of the lack of street cleaning and hedge/tree maintenance in New Galloway.

The final information board (Kenmure Holms SSSI) is now installed in the Galloway Kite Information Shelter in the car park. Three complaints have been received from members of the public regarding the 'invisibility' of the information shelter on occasions, due to the practice of overnight and weekend parking of large vehicles directly in front of the notice boards, rendering them ineffective.

The dangerous practice of young people skateboarding down Wylie's Brae and having no apparent regard to any person or vehicle in the vicinity of High Street or at Achie Bridge was discussed.

Next meeting: Monday 9 August, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT



Carsphairn Primary: The children at Carsphairn Primary have all been learning through the World Cup theme. They made flags for the competing countries, P1-3 designed new football tops and learned about the importance of a healthy body, while the upper primary made powerpoint presentations in a bid for France and Spain to host the next World Cup. As well as footballers, the children all learned about other famous sports people. P1-3 learned about Ellen McArthur's achievements, while P4-7 chose a famous sportsperson and wrote a short biography about their life.

The children learned skills in technology, using wood and cardboard and tools such as hand saws, drills and scalp knives (very safely) to make Victory Vehicles for the winning team. The children impressed their parents at the end of year assembly by displaying their artwork and performing songs which continued the South African theme.

Glenkens Speed Shearing

A Glenkens Speed Shearing competition, organised by Marcus and Kate Maxwell, which raised £2000 for Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells schools. We hope to use this towards a cluster project and would like to thank Marcus and Kate for organising the event and everyone who supported it!



Global Enterprise for Dalry:



On 15th June Dalry School welcomed the new S1 pupils for four transition days starting with a one day "Globalocal Enterprise" event. Pupils had to come up with an idea for a local business in order to support an overseas good cause. The winning team decided on 'Jolly Jam'.

They proposed collecting surplus and wild fruit locally, recycling jam jars and selling on your doorstep. The "Jolly Jam" company made a very good presentation to the judges giving them the edge on the competition. All teams had to produce a Business Plan and a Cashflow Statement, quite a challenge considering the one day timescale! Some very amusing video adverts were also produced. Some of the photos and videos of the event can be seen soon at www.dalryschool.dumgal.sch.uk. Our picture shows the winning team enjoying another part of Dalry transition; a fantastic couple of days at Stronord Outdoor Centre where the D&G Outdoor Education team provided a "never to forget" experience.

In fantastic weather the pupils did mountainbiking, rock climbing, orienteering and a 'Tyrolean Traverse' (scary wires across a gorge). Group leader Paul Bannister of Dalry School said: "You know you have a good group when the teachers enjoy it as much as the pupils."

Dalry School Goes for Capital Punishment!

After three weeks of research and preparation in Religious and Moral Education classes the third and fourth year pupils of Dalry School entered the debating chamber on Wednesday 23rd June to decide:

"Should capital punishment be brought back?"

Miss Winchester, chairperson, then set out the rules for the debate and introduced the first adult speakers. Mr Bannister (Maths) opened for the boys 'pro' side and based his impassioned argument on speaking on behalf of the countless dead victims of crime who are now without a voice. Mr Carmichael (PE), supporting the girls 'con' side, highlighted many moral and religious reasons why the death sentence should never be reinstated.

Every pupil in the chamber stood and made a contribution, drawing on historical, financial, religious and ethical sources, and many case histories.

Paul Goodwin (IT Technician) took an international view: "Sentencing criminal despots to death would help to stabilise warring areas".

Mrs Mackinnon (Art) also supported the motion, taking the viewpoint of the mothers of victims of crime.

Guest speaker Mr Andrew Mellor recalled how his view changed over the years from pro to con since his father, a policeman, had been involved in the 'Moors Murders' enquiry.

Although the sides were chosen by gender everyone was then allowed a free vote resulting in a 22 to 15 majority for the reintroduction of the death penalty. More debates will follow next session...

Dalry Primary Show

Dalry Primary 4-7 Pupils put on a production of 'The Big Green Adventure' on Wednesday 9th June. Everyone had great fun taking part in, and watching, the play. The theme of the play was how everyone can be more eco-friendly whether it's by recycling or reducing the energy we use.



Fun & games at Dalry School

As the final event preparing Glenkens P7 pupils for Secondary, a Transition Barbecue was held at Dalry School on Monday 28th June, blessed with the only rain we have had in recent weeks!

Spirits were not dampened however as FODS (Friends of Dalry School) got the locally produced bangers and burgers sizzling and P7 teacher Mr McKenna got the 35 primary and secondary pupils burning calories with team games in the gym. Now in its second year, this event has proved highly popular with the pupils and staff alike.

As term draws to a close, the secondary pupils at Dalry will be doing a sponsored walk in support of local charity shop Debra.

Our picture below shows Mr McKenna demonstrating his 'break-dancing' to pupils.



GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

Glenkens Schools Gets Active!

On 31st of May 2010 the p7 kids from the Kells and Dalry primary schools stopped in at the Galloway Activity Centre for a day of kayaking, sailing, laser quest and archery. The day had a strong focus on team-building and fun with the classes having to work closely together when setting up their boats, sailing around the loch and also from stopping the kayaks/funboats capsizing! It wasn't all wet and cold though with lots of relay races and rafting games to keep the spirits high.

"My favourite part was sailing, it was so fun! When we did the first race our team won and the second race our boat was the wrong way around so we lost!" Said Kara Hamilton, P7

The kids got to relax a little more when it came to showing off their precision and accuracy skills at the archery and their tactical shooting skills at laserquest – not to mention how fun it was.

"Thank you for a really fun morning. I really liked the laserquest with Dan. My favourite bit was when me and four others chased instructor Stu around the laserquest forest!" James Bosworth, P7.

"I thought archery was quite hard to get a hang of, but I soon got it!" Eve Langford, P7

Laser Quest: P7 had a really fun day out during Health Week. We did various activities, my favourite being Laser Quest!

First of all we all got guns with a coloured strip and we were in teams. One team would get the higher ground and one team got the low ground. The reds beat the blues in all of their games (I was in the blue team for the first two games and the red team for the last two).

I am very appreciative that we have a Health Week and I think it does benefit us going out and doing these activities to get fresh air and meet new people, as well as being active. This was the highlight of my Health Week!

By Owen

LAGGAN OUTDOOR CENTRE: On Thursday the 3rd of June 2010, P4/5 from Kells, Dalry and Carsphairn Primay schools went to visit Laggan Outdoor Center and Mossyard Beach.

When we arrived at Laggan we were split into two groups. One group stayed at Laggan and the other group got on the coach and went to the beach. At Laggan we were met by three people who took us to the archery shed. We all had to put on a wrist guard and stand behind a blue line so we didn't get hit. We got called out two at a time to have a practice at archery, we all got four arrows and we tried to hit the target. After the practice we played a points round. On the target there were different coloured circles worth different points. To finish off the archery we had balloons pinned to the target which we had to try and burst.

Whilst this was all happening different groups were called out to go grass sledging. We got a red sledge that had tracks on it. Each sledge had one lever at each side. If you pulled a lever you turned to that side. If you pulled both of the levers you stopped. There was a steep hill that we had to pull our sledge up. We got in our sledge and went zooming down the hill. It was hard work but lots of fun.

At the beach we saw some boats. When we went paddling the sea was cold. There was a massive clump of muscle shells all over the bottom of the rocks and they were sharp on our feet. We had our lunch at the beach. By the time we had to go home we were all exhausted. We all loved it, it was awesome!

By Emma Jordan & Jack Patterson, P5

Orienteering: On Thursday P1, 2 and 3 went to Kिरroughree Forest. First we went into the class room and a lady called Lucy talked to us about maps and orienteering.

Kells went orienteering first. Lucy said we could go for a walk in the forest. We got to go to the play park afterwards. It was fun. Then we went back to the class room to have lunch and at one o'clock we went orienteering.

First we split in three groups then Lucy told us about the map. Then we had to find number fourteen stamp and then we went different ways to find the other stamps and my group was called Dalry Eagles. We came second and our time was forty minutes.

By Cameron & Annabelle, P3



The CatStrand: News & Events

Storytelling Café, Thurs 5 Aug, 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 Tony Bonning.



Exhibition: Joan Eardley and Lady Audrey Walker, runs until Thurs 2 Sept, CatStrand opening hours. This exhibition offers a fantastic opportunity to see and enjoy works by the renowned Scottish artist Joan Eardley and her friend and photographer, Audrey Walker. It has been drawn from the Gracefield Arts Centre permanent collection, Dumfries, and the private collection of the Walker family.

Rachel Hair Trio, Sat 7 Aug, 8pm, £10/£6. With her eclectic mix of traditional and contemporary Scottish and Irish music, as well as original music, celtic harpist Rachel Hair has been described as "one of the most innovative young musicians to have emerged over the last few years" (The Irish Music Review).



Mischief La Bas: The Laird of Callybrew and The Cowboys Last Round up, part of The Scottish Alternative Games, New Galloway Town Park, Sun 8 Aug, 1.30 - 6pm. Scotland's leading street theatre company present The Laird of Callybrew - "The Laird of Callybrew has taken leave of his Estate to award medals, rosettes and ribbons to anything that catches his eye. Just try and stop him!" and The Cowboys Last Round-up - "These Wild West ranch-hands - rounding up the last of the Urban Buffalo can be a tough job for any cowboy."

Film: The Last Station (2009), Wed 25 Aug, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50. A historical drama that illustrates Russian author Leo Tolstoy's struggle to balance fame and wealth with his commitment to a life devoid of material things. Nominated for 2 Oscars. (Cert.15).



Storytelling Café, Thurs 2 Sept, 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 John Wheeler.

Jubovski, Sat 4 Sept, 7.30pm, £8/£6. Three friends Jub, Peter and Liz Cawdrey - having performed both classical and gypsy music together for many years - created this unique ensemble to share with their audiences their passion for the music of the Eastern European Gypsies.



Exhibition: Phil Howard, Sun 5 Sept - Thurs 23 Sept, CatStrand opening hours. An exhibition of objects created using a woodturning lathe as the principal tool. The show will explore and demonstrate the range of items that can be produced - some you will expect, some you may not! Phil Howard from Dalbeattie has been wood turning for many years, he is now semi-professional.

Moishe's Bagel, Sun 12 Sept, 7.30pm, £10/£8. Rip-roaring, foot-stomping, jazz-inflected klezmer and Balkan music from some of Scotland's finest musicians. An intoxicating, life-affirming mix of Eastern European dance music, Middle Eastern rhythms and virtuoso performances. An eclectic band made up of accordion, harmonica, bass, guitar, violin, mandolin and piano.



David Hughes Dance Company: 'SOLO WORKS', Sat 18 Sept, 7.30pm, £10/£8. David Hughes Dance Productions presents a quadruple bill performance of dance with original commissions by Christopher Bruce, Cesc Gelabert, Siobhan Davies and Javier de Frutos.

Sportinghouse Strings, Sat 25 Sept, 7.30pm, £10/£8. Sporting House Strings, originally Tommy Burton's rhythm section (and much more), has established a big following on the British jazz scene over the years.



Young NADFAS Arts Exhibition: Fairies and Pirates, Mermaids and Crocodiles, Dreams of Flying, Magic, Beauty and Stars, Sat 25 Sept - Thurs 30 Sept, CatStrand opening hours. Over the summer there will be a competition for young people (under 18) throughout Dumfries & Galloway to produce a piece of art inspired by the story of Peter Pan - a selection of pieces will be chosen for this exhibition. For information please call 01557 500256.

Film: Shutter Island (2010), Wed 29 Sept, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50. Drama is set in 1954, U.S. Marshal Teddy Daniels is investigating the disappearance of a murderess who escaped from a hospital for the criminally insane and is presumed to be hiding on the remote Shutter Island. (Cert.15).

Regular events:



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, 3.15–4pm pre school, 4–5pm age 8–12 years, free. Dance exercises are created to develop agility, balance, co-ordination, elevation, flexibility and posture. Please wear loose clothing.



Teen Spirit, every Tues, 7.30pm–9.30pm. A weekly club for young people to hang out, chill, listen to music, eat munchies, play console games on a big screen, watch films and plan trips and activities. If you are interested in coming along just turn up and see what happens. Special projects in the coming months that you can choose to participate in include the Log onto More Music Bus, songwriting workshops and Guitar Hero Playstation tournaments on the big cinema screen.

Saturday Art Club, 2nd Sat of every month, 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, starts again Sun 5 Sept and will run every Sun during term time 3–5pm. 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).

The CatStrand: News & Events

COMMUNITY EVENTS / CLASSES

NEW! Long-Term Conditions Programme Self-Help & Social Group, first monthly meeting Mon 16 Aug, 5-7pm, then every 3rd Mon of the month.

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

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.

Carers, Coffee & Chat, 1st Tue each month, 10am-12 noon, free. Transport may be available if required, please

phone 01644 420374.

NEW! Tone and Stretch, Fri 10am, £4/£3. A workout to tone muscle and improve body shape followed by a stretch out to ease those tired/aching muscles; a great way to start the day!

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

Great Workshops in August & September

Business Gateway are offering a series of three free business start-up courses which will run on consecutive Wednesdays starting 11th August. These consist of Personal & Business Planning, Marketing & Market Research, and Resource Planning & Management. The sessions will be from 9.30am-12.30pm - if you are interested contact The CatStrand to book your place.

There are also lots of other workshops on in August and September such as Digital Photography, Reiki, Benefit Advice, Internet, Alzheimer's Scotland Support and much more - contact Catherine at The CatStrand for further info.

New Galloway Self-Help & Social Group

The Stewartry Holistic Self-Help Long-Term Conditions Programme are encompassed within the framework of NHS Building Healthy Communities in Dumfries & Galloway. The plan is to initiate monthly self help/social groups not only in New Galloway but also Castle Douglas Kirkcudbright and Dalbeattie. Activities that can be available include mindfulness, relaxation techniques, massage, reiki, healthy eating/ exercise, positive thinking and communication skills to name but a few.

Dumfries & Galloway Arts Association are also offering a wide range of activities from African drumming, painting/drawing, many different crafts, photography, film making, dancing and singing the list goes on... This social group is open to anyone with any long term condition, come and let us know what you would like in your social group.

In August we are offering head/scalp or hand massage, armchair exercises and breathing exercises to induce relaxation. Call in for a coffee & chat - see the above listing for dates/times.



Eat @ CatStrand

LUNCHES: Mon to Fri, 11am-2pm

THE BUS : GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR MINI BUS: The Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) has recently been successful in securing funding for this year from the Stewartry Area Committee of Dumfries and Galloway Council. GTI were one of the few Transport Initiatives to be awarded funding in South West Scotland and were praised for their work and involvement with the local community and also the quality of the application submitted. The support of our local Councillors is much appreciated and they will be interested to learn that because of the success of GTI, Brian Juffs, who is head of the Transport Directorate of the Scottish Government, has recently requested details of our Initiative as a good example for other such schemes.

ACTIVITY SCHEME FOR DISABLED CHILDREN: During the School holidays the mini bus will be helping with transport for disabled children attending an activity scheme in Castle Douglas - this scheme last four weeks, and we are delighted to get involved in yet another aspect of community life.

TRIPS: The trip arranged to Kelvingrove Museum on 18th July was fully booked very quickly and another trip will be arranged in September before the Glasgow Boys exhibition closes. Trips during August will mainly be to local events before going further afield to the opening day of the Viking Festival in Largs on Saturday 28th August 2010 and the Victorian Fayre in Lanark on Sunday 5th September 2010.

The photographs show a recent visit to Summerlee Heritage Park near Coatbridge - an excellent place to visit and the chance to ride on Scotland's only electric tram! Another visit for this venue is planned for our younger travellers on Thursday 12th August 2010.

Keith Cooper, GTI Administrator



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.



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

LOCAL HISTORY

Samuel Rutherford Crockett

According to the Crockett Memorial at Lauriston, Galloway's best-known novelist was born 150 years ago on 24 September 1860, yet the anniversary will pass with a minimum of notice; there will be no celebrations or festivals in honour of the man who, above all others, attempted to place Galloway on the literary map. In fact he was born a year earlier, the natural son of dairymaid Annie Crockett, at the farm of Little Duchrae on the Hensol estate. For Galloway, wrote Crockett, the Glenkens represented "the heart of the matter", asserting that every traveller's road in the province led her or him "at long and last to the Glenkens". That such is no longer true is certainly no fault of Crockett, who brilliantly evoked the Ken "flowing silver-clear between the greenest and floweriest banks in the world". The very names of the hills in the Kells range created "a storm of music – Millyea, Milldown, Millfire, Corscrine and the haunted fastnesses of the Meaul of Garryhorn in the head end of Carsphairn". He wrote of Kenmure Castle, New Galloway, the clachan of St John's Town of Dalry, "the wide moorland expanse of Lochinvar Loch", and the Gordon stronghold of Earlstoun. He made good use the local topography in his stories but, as we shall see, his artistic creativity inspired the invention of part of the heritage that we in the Glenkens now enjoy.

His Cameronian grandparents ensured that his childhood was glorious as they filled his head with the heroic exploits of the Covenanters and indulged his love of nature and the countryside. Samuel was educated at Lauriston (Clachanpluck), Castle Douglas and Edinburgh University where he supplemented his bursary by occasional journalism. He found employment as a travelling tutor for a while, meeting none other than Bismarck while climbing in the Tyrol. He eventually studied divinity and in 1886 became Free Church minister in Penicuik, naming himself Samuel Rutherford Crockett after the great covenanting minister of Anwoth and author of *Lex Rex*, regarded as one of the most seditious and subversive treatises of the 17th century.

As a student, Sam volunteered for pastoral work in the slums

of Edinburgh. His radicalism became overt following the Mauricewood Pit Disaster of 1889 which killed 63 men and boys in his parish. While other ministers explained the tragedy as an act of God, Crockett preached managerial indifference. The men were left to die "with no chance of safety, without even a man's poor consolation of a fight for life and wife and little ones". There was no escape because due to a previous accident (ignored by the owners) there was no other exit except that which was blocked by fire and deadly vapour. In a story based on Mauricewood, Crockett has a new minister argue that Jesus Christ was a working man and his followers socialists. Furthermore "the fatherhood of God meant the brotherhood of man". In his story the outspoken minister goes further than Crockett did in 1889 by explicitly apportioning blame and vowing that those responsible will have to answer for murder before God himself. Such sentiments were regarded as revolutionary in the 1890s. He would return to the theme of the mining disaster to great effect in *Vida*, or the Iron Lord of Kirktown (1907).

He struck up a correspondence with Robert Louis Stevenson through their shared interest in the Pentlands and literature. Stevenson, who was clearly an important influence on his writing, once observed that writers never tackled the subject of rain; both *Kidnapped* and *The Raiders* are full of weather. Stevenson's ultimate tribute to Crockett is moving, indeed haunting, as it encapsulates the very essence of Galloway: "Blows the wind today, and the sun and the rain are flying...". Ever since his calling to Penicuik Crockett had written short stories for Christian readers, collected as *The Stickit Minister* in 1893, the title indicating a clergyman not quite qualified and a degree of authorial self-mockery. It was swiftly followed by *The Raiders*, the weirdly gothic *Mad Sir Uchtred of the Hills*, and *The Play-Actress*, a story of redemption but shocking to Crockett's parishioners because of his familiarity with theatre; much more acceptable was the phenomenally successful *The Lilac Sunbonnet*. In 1895 he resigned his charge pleading that God had given him his literary talent with the obvious intention that he should use it. He did so having satirised the Penicuik establishment and members of his own congregation in a series of magazine articles later published as *Seven Wise Men*. From then on he was a fulltime writer, a sin for which some of the devout were never to forgive him.

Is S.R. Crockett worthy of celebration after a century and a half? In twenty years he produced 63 books, some written for children including the two *Sweetheart* collections which contain much Galloway material. He has often been dismissed, alongside J.M. Barrie of *Peter Pan* fame and Ian McLaren (*Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush* [1894]), among others, as 'kailyard', which is code for parochial, sentimental, rustic tales set in a Scottish Neverland. Though he could churn out the saccharine with the best of them the charge against Crockett is unfair. His Galloway novels include, in addition to those already mentioned, *The Men of the Moss Hags*, which tracks the covenanters from the battle of Bothwell Brig (1679) to the Wigtown Martyrs (1685); *Lochinvar* is a dull sequel. *The Standard Bearer* is set in the Balmaghie of the Rev. John MacMillan. *Silver Sand* is a prequel to *The Raiders* while *Dark o' the Moon* is intended as a sequel. *The Grey Man*, thought by some, but not by me, to be his best, is set mostly in the Ayrshire of James VI. *Maid Margaret* and *The Black Douglas* are about medieval Galloway. The latter novel, published in 1899 two years after *Dracula*, features Gilles de Retz who captures children whose blood he drinks in search of eternal youth.

Galloway also features in *Lads' Love* and *Strong Mac*. The melodramatic *Kit Kennedy* is mainly of interest for its semi-autobiographical content. Some stories are set in Europe but



LOCAL HISTORY

industrial (and impoverished) Scotland features in Cleg Kelly and Kid McGhie, both of which explore the evil city/rural paradise theme. Cleg opens with the startling statement; "It's all a dumb lie...God's dead", and he goes on to relate that prayer is rubbish. Here Crockett returns to his post-Mauricewood period of doubt and despair while attacking Christian hypocrisy and the injustice of capitalism, though the inconsequential ending may reflect something of his inability to live according to his own ideals.

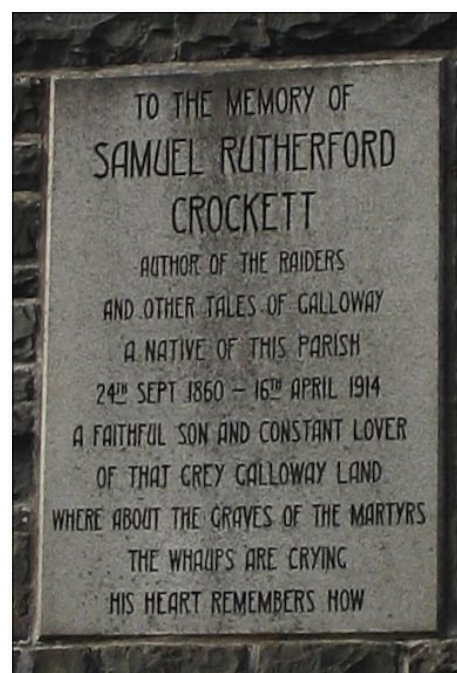
At a banquet held in Dalbeattie in his honour in 1906, Crockett said that he was often asked why he did not write another Raiders or Stickit Minister, helpfully explaining to his local and largely agrarian audience that "You cannot go on producing the same kind of crop. After each book is finished the brain becomes something like cold boiled turnips. To recover its elasticity, to strike fresh that unexhausted soil, one must try a new crop... something as different as possible from the old". He deliberately experimented with different types of fiction and plot. He confided that his ambition was to write "a real Galloway book, in the full dialect, to be understood only by those to the manner born". Sadly the promise was never fulfilled before his death on 16 April 1914.

Crockett once wrote that if he had not been born upon Loch Grenoch (Little Duchrae) he "would have desired to be born on Loch Ken-side - in some herd's house up towards the Tinkler's Loup, past Mossdale, and looking across to the Shirmers". His Galloway extended far beyond Glenkens, though he wrote much about the glen and he left his mark upon it. Without him there would be no 'Raiders' Bridge' over the Dee at Mossdale and no 'Raiders' Road'. There would be no 'Murder Hole' at Loch Neldricken either, because this item was borrowed from Nicholson's Historical and Traditional Tales in which it was set at an indeterminate spot on the borders of Galloway and Ayrshire. In assembling Raiderland all about grey Galloway and its stories, traditions, characters and humours, he

sought to create a legendary landscape in which he blatantly spliced his own stories with the traditions, history and heritage of Galloway. Before long his success was reflected in postcards and advertisements celebrating 'Raiders Country'.

S.R.Crockett was a literary phenomenon in his own day with impressive sales worldwide. He wrote of heroes and troubled men, gutsy women and precocious children, with sympathy, humour and respect. In our imaginations they inhabited the same alluring landscape as us. Their spirits still hover over the "grey recumbent tombs of the dead in desert places". Crockett conspicuously put Glenkens on the map like no-one before him. He is our greatest writer who never forgot Galloway and who uniquely understood her people. Galloway should not forget him. To find out more read the novels. See also Islay Murray Donaldson; The Life and Work of Samuel Rutherford Crockett (Aberdeen 1989).

Ted Cowan



THE SCOTTISH ALTERNATIVE GAMES WEEKEND 2010 Friday 6th to Sunday 8th August

The Scottish Alternative Games, first held in Parton in 1977 to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee, moved a few miles north to New Galloway in 2001 and proudly celebrates ten years in Scotland's smallest Royal Burgh this year. To help mark the occasion we are delighted to welcome back most of our regular events and performers together with the hilarious theatre group 'Mischief La Bas' who are appearing at the Games as part of The CatStrand's regular events programme. They will definitely add to the alternative nature of the day with their impromptu performances of 'The Laird of Callybrew' and 'The Cowboys Last Round Up' throughout the afternoon. Other new events for 2010 include Laser Quest and Unicycling!

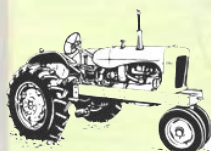
Thousands of people from all over the world have enjoyed the enduring family atmosphere of the Alternative Games in the past, whether as spectator or competitor, and although one year we counted 21 different nationalities taking part, The Gird 'n' Cleek World Championship has still only been taken out of Scotland on one occasion back in 1987. The edible 'medals' awarded to the prize winners of each event are typically Scottish and unique in the world of sport! But there are real trophies too, with the Loch Ken Holiday Centre Trophy awarded to the World Gird 'n' Cleek Champion, the Mungo Bryson Memorial Trophy going to the Tossin' the Sheaf Champion and The Commentator's Quich presented to the best overall competitor - in the opinion of the commentators.

All events can be entered on the day and all necessary equipment is provided - just bring your sense of humour and be prepared to experience a day out with a difference at this unique family event. You could even end up as a World Champion and win your Sunday dinner along the way!

Friday 6th August: The Alternative Games Weekend Ceilidh with The Robert Menzies Ceilidh Band', New Galloway Town Hall, 8.30pm - 12.30am, adults £6, children £4 (supper included), licensed bar - all welcome! Tickets from Community Council Members or The CatStrand (01644 420374).

Saturday 7th August: Rachel Hair Trio, The CatStrand, New Galloway, 8pm, £10/£6.

Sunday 8th August: The Scottish Alternative Games 2010, New Galloway Town Park from 2pm, games, craft stalls, sideshows, teas, barbecue, beer tent - admission; adults £4, children £1, free parking.



LOCAL HISTORY

THE GORDONS OF LARGMORE

The Pentland Rising in late 1666, led by men from the Glenkens area, and in particular men from Dalry, ended in a crushing defeat at Rullion Green. The Covenanters were met by 3,000 well-armed Government troops, and many lost their lives. The survivors, many of them wounded in the battle, admitted defeat and headed for home. John Gordon, of Largmore in Kells parish, was seriously wounded but managed to reach home.

Sir William Bannatyne was sent to Galloway with a regiment of 400 foot soldiers and 80 horsemen soon after the Pentland Rising, and most were stationed in the Glenkens. They set about persecuting any local people whom they suspected were sympathising with the Covenanters. Fines were imposed, and goods and stock seized where fines could not be met. Women and children were molested, houses were burned down and many were made homeless. Bannatyne was notorious for the atrocities he and his men committed.

When Bannatyne heard that John Gordon was home at Largmore, he ordered that he should be brought to him, dead or alive. A cart was taken as the soldiers knew John Gordon would not be fit to ride or walk. When they came to Largmore with their message from Bannatyne, John painfully raised himself up on his bed. He said he defied Sir William Bannatyne and all his persecutors, but he forgave them, adding that he would soon be in better company. He lay back in his bed and shortly afterwards he breathed his last. He was buried in Kells Kirkyard beside his grandfather who had died five years earlier, aged 72 years.

Roger Gordon, who seems to have followed John as laird of Largmore, was also a well-known Covenanter. He may have been a son of John, but it is possible that he was a nephew, being descended from an elder brother. Roger Gordon was at the battle of Bothwell Bridge in 1679, when the Covenanters were again defeated. He fled south with some friends and eventually they reached Moniaive where they spent some time with friends. At nightfall they set out to resume their journey and as they made their way up Castlefair Water they suddenly saw a company of troopers who had been sent to Craggy Mains to disperse a conventicle. Roger and his friends fled to the home of a friend at Knockaughley on Craigdarroch Water and were soon sitting down to a hearty meal by a roaring fire, and sharing all the latest sad news. Suddenly the sound of horses' hooves was heard outside the cottage.

The lady of the house quickly led Roger and his friends to a small dairy room at the back of the house, hidden behind furniture, and ushered them through a hidden trapdoor in the floor which led to a concealed cellar. She pulled a mat over the trapdoor while her husband went to meet the soldiers. They searched the house and although they found the hidden dairy room they did not find the trapdoor. Roger Gordon and his friends were saved and the next evening they made their way back home to the Glenkens.

Some time later Roger and his wife were walking with friends across the moors to a conventicle near Minnigaff when they suddenly came

upon a company of foot soldiers. There were similar numbers of men on each side and a conflict ensued. The soldiers had their swords, while the Covenanters had only sticks and clubs with which to fight, but they defended themselves well and bravely. Roger was a very strong man and he attacked the leader of the soldiers with such energy that everyone else stopped to watch the fight. Roger broke his opponent's sword then struck him a heavy blow with his club which rendered the man's arm useless. He then threw him to the ground with great force where the soldier lay motionless. Roger's friends shouted triumphantly and they all continued their way across the moors to the conventicle, leaving the soldiers to gather round their disabled commander!

Roger's house was frequently visited and searched by the troopers after this event, and Roger only rarely ventured home under cover of darkness. On one of his rare visits to Largmore he had barely arrived when a company of dragoons rode up to the door. Roger quickly donned some coarse and tattered clothes of a farm servant and went to meet the soldiers. He held their horses while they dismounted and led the animals to the stable. He helped one of the dragoons to fodder the horses, and the soldiers, assuming he was a servant, went off to search the house. In the darkness and confusion Roger took a pitcher and under the pretence of fetching water for the horses he headed quickly to his favourite hiding place up on the side of Meikle Millyea, a fine mountain in the Rhinns of Kells. The soldiers were furious when they realised he had tricked them, but they had no idea where to search for him.

Some time later Roger and a friend were lying low in the wild moorlands when an informer discovered them and led a party of dragoons to their hide-out. Fortunately they saw the horsemen coming and had time to conceal themselves in a deep ravine where there was a cavern in which they hid. They had just arrived in the cavern when the leading horseman, quite unaware of the deep ravine which was only visible from a few yards distance, came charging down the slope. He was too late to rein in his horse, and they both crashed down the steep side of the ravine to be dashed to pieces on the rocks below, close to where Roger and his friend were hiding. All thoughts of the chase abandoned, the troopers retrieved the body of their comrade and the harness from his horse, and returned home saddened by the accident.

Roger was caught on another occasion while visiting his family. As the troops entered the farmyard by one gate, he was disappearing out at the other end. They apprehended him, suspecting that he was the man they were seeking. One soldier asked if he was the laird of Largmore, to which he replied he was the laird of Shinmount. His answer confused them and they let him go, unaware that Shinmount was the name of a prominent hill to the north of Largmore and in those days it was on his estate! Through his quick thinking and possibly a fair share of luck, Roger Gordon survived the persecutions and lived on at Largmore for many years to enjoy a peaceful life with his family.

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THE 2010 CONVENTICLE AT LARGMORE

In a field not far from the farmhouse of Largmore on Sunday 30th May, around thirty brave souls assembled as a chilly breeze blew down the Garroch Glen from the wild hills where, during the covenanting times, Roger Gordon had spent so much time trying to keep himself hidden from the dragoons who continually searched the area for fugitives.

Reverend Dr David Bartholomew welcomed the gathered congregation and the service opened with the Psalm "The Lord of Heaven Confess", followed by the opening prayer. As is traditional at the conventicles, the old Psalms, so well-known to the Covenanters, are always sung, and Psalm 46 "God is our refuge and our strength" followed the prayer.

Dr Bartholomew then spoke of the Covenanting cause, and of the terrible hardships endured by those who were determined to follow the Presbyterian form of worship in Scotland. Following the singing of Psalm 121 "I to the hills will lift mine eyes", and the reading of Psalms 94 and 124, Dr Bartholomew then told of the death of John Gordon of Largmore, following the Covenanters defeat at Bullion Green, and the subsequent persecution of Roger Gordon of Largmore in the years that followed. Through his great knowledge of the wild terrain, and his ingenious dodges when confronted by the troops, Roger managed to survive those dreadful times.

It is said in Simpson's book 'Traditions of the Covenanters' that Roger Gordon, in 1714, presented to Kells Church a fine new bell, a pair of communion cups, and also a stone plaque was set into the gable end of the church in his memory. However, Dr Bartholomew has been up the tower and has found a splendid old bell, but here is a mystery! The inscription on the bell reads "Donated by William Gordon. Quirin de Visser made me. Rotterdam 1722". Below the bell, on the outside of the tower there is a square stone inscribed with similar words, rather worn and difficult to read.

Dr Bartholomew is inclined to think the bell was presented by a son of Roger Gordon in memory of his father soon after his death - or was Roger's full name William Roger, and did he donate the bell himself? We will probably never know the answer! The communion cups are also a mystery as there are none presented by Roger Gordon. There are two cups presented in 1721, one by Andrew Ewart, minister at Kells from 1691 to 1739, and the other presented by William Newall of Barskeoch, who was a neighbour of Roger's up the Garroch Glen and a fellow covenanting sympathiser. All these are interesting links with those years following the persecutions, given by people thanking God for the return to a peaceful life.

Dr Bartholomew's talk was followed by the psalm "As pants the hart for cooling streams", then the offering was collected, as is traditional, in a blanket, made more difficult than usual due to the wind tugging at the loose end of the blanket. The Conventicle closed with the Lord's Prayer, the paraphrase "O God of Bethel" sung to the tune "Salzburg", and the Benediction.

Very welcome cups of hot tea and coffee were then dispensed by Dr Bartholomew and his willing helpers, and tasty biscuits and other refreshments were handed round. As it was cold and rather dull few, if any, of the gathering accepted the invitation of Mr and Mrs Trevor Biggins to have a closer look at the house at Largmore, but their kind offer was appreciated by all.

Once again our thanks go to Dr Bartholomew for a most interesting and enjoyable Conventicle, held in a well-chosen location. We look forward to the 2011 Conventicle with pleasant anticipation, where ever it may be held.

© Helen Bolton, July 2010



Rev Dr David Bartholomew leading the prayers at the 2010 Conventicle. The farmhouse of Largmore is in the background, and the wild country of the Garroch Glen.

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ORGAN AND HARP RECITAL RAISES £130 FOR CHURCH FUNDS

An organ and harp recital in Carsphairn Church by Zarah Groves and Margaret Sloan has raised £130 for church funds. Playing a range of popular music from Baroque and Bach to the Beatles and Bacharach, the duo – both regular organists for church services – entertained an appreciative audience for just over an hour.

PICTURE CAPTION: In harmony...Margaret Sloan (left) and Zarah Groves.



CLUB CORNER

Walking Groups

Would you like to explore some of our marvellous countryside? All are welcome to join walks suited to all abilities; we even accommodate persons with powered wheelchairs on some walks by prior arrangement.

The Glenkens Ramblers meet on Mondays for a moderate walk taking around two hours. The Glenkens Walkers meet on Wednesdays for an easier walk taking around 90 minutes. Both groups meet at 2pm during the summer (1.30 in winter) outside the Bank of Scotland in Dalry and participants share transport when needed. Lists of walks are displayed in shops in Dalry and New Galloway.

Walk Leader's contact phone no's are: John & Isobel on 430 539, Gerry on 420 852, Peter on 420 419 and Elizabeth on 430 581.

Few of the paths walked have an even surface, so it is advisable to wear stout footwear and to bring a waterproof jacket. If very wet, please check with the Leader that the walk will proceed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RUBY!



Ruby Kirk celebrated her 80th birthday by walking up Waterside Hill, Dalry, with fellow members of the Glenkens Ramblers. Afterwards, instead of the usual tea and biscuits, the Group celebrated with champagne and birthday cake!

Mossdale Painters

Now in their fourth year, the group will begin again on Wed 29 Sept in Mossdale Village Hall at 9.30 am for 10 sessions.

Due to members moving out of the district we now have a few spaces for people to join us. Anyone from the Glenkens (tel. code 01644) is very welcome.

Whether you have painted before or haven't picked up a brush since leaving school, except to do some DIY, do give it a try!

It is a relaxed group made up of both beginners, who can always get whatever help they need, and of painters who have a bit more experience. It is definitely self-help, working to a weekly theme in whatever medium you want to use.

In addition there are occasional workshops lead by a professional artist which are invaluable and great fun.

If you have a free Wednesday morning this autumn and would like to paint contact Wendy Davis on 420 225, Beryl Hamilton on 420 200, or Isobel Ellis on 450606 to find out more.

If anyone would have difficulty in getting to Mossdale for 9.30 am a lift could be arranged.

The end of May and the beginning of June was a busy time at New Galloway Golf Club. The Natural Power sponsored Open Competition was held on 30th May, attracting a field of over 60 from around the area. The weather contributed to a testing time for the players, with a strong wind making scoring difficult. The course was in excellent condition, although the greens were not as good as in previous years due to the cold and dry weather, and the scores reflected the difficulty. The winner was Peter Evans (Kirby Lonsdale) with a score of 79-15-64, second Brian McGinily (NG) 82-17-65 and 3rd Robert Wilson (NG) 84-17-67. The scratch winner was M. Watley (S/ness) with a gross 72. (Bottom pic - winner Peter Evans being presented with the trophy.)



Thursday 3rd June saw the Belhaven sponsored Seniors Open. It was a beautiful summers days with plenty of sunshine and ideal for golf, and a field of 52 played in the competition. Scores were good and the winner of the John H. Kirk Cup with 41 points was Jeff Sutcliffe. The J.E. Yates Senior Open Quaich for the best scratch score went to Ian Brotherston with a 67 gross. (Top pic - winner Jeff Sutcliffe being presented with the trophy by Joyce Harvey, Lady Captain.)

The Club competitions are now in full swing and there are a few vacancies for new members. Anyone interested should contact the Secretary, Ian Brown, at the Club or view the website at www.nggc.co.uk

Jeff, Vice Captain/Match Secretary,
New Galloway Golf Club



The Mulloch Race

Dalry's Mulloch Hill Race was run last year after a gap of a number of years and was a popular event. This year's race will take place on Saturday 4th September starting at Dalry school at 3pm and is one of the shortest runs available at around 1.6 miles in total. The entrance fee for this year's race is just £1 towards prizes with any balance going to Friends of Dalry School. Registration is on the day from 2:40 - 2:55pm. Apart from the competitive runners, fun runners and walkers are welcome and all finishers will receive a certificate.

In 2009, the Crozier cup for overall winner was won by Angus Hilsley in the impressive time of 13 minutes and 2 seconds. Drife Finlay was first Primary age finisher and second overall! Joe Paterson beat Edmund Wise by the narrowest of margins to be the first Secondary age finisher and Andy Reid (the Fleein' Haggis) won the prize for the best costume. For further information contact Paul Goodwin at mulloch@paulgoodwin.me.uk

Carsphairn First Responders

Carsphairn First Responders are all set to go live!

The volunteers are trained to carry out emergency treatment respond on a collapsed or unconscious patient with a suspected heart attack until an ambulance arrives - each minute saved is vital for improving the chances of recovery.

Carsphairn Parish Church social committee put on a show entitled Carsphairn's Got Talent and instead of ticket sales, a collection was made for the First Responders to purchase necessary equipment.

The First Responders are pictured below in their new jackets with South West Ambulance trainer Vicky Moyes. They are Ken and Ruth Williams, David Richmond, Anne Rutherford, Margaret Richmond and Zarah Groves.



Local Success in the Three Peaks Challenge

After successfully completing the Rotary International Three Peaks Challenge on 12/13 June in a creditable time of 21 hours and 40 minutes, easily beating the competition and taking first place, Bob Peace and the Rotary Club of Newton Stewart would like to thank the people of the Glenkens for there support in helping the team to raise much needed funds for Sightsavers International.

The effort put in by the team and their supporters to reach the summits of Ben Nevis, Helvellyn and Snowdon has all been worthwhile with a cheque for over £4000 being sent to Sightsavers.

The picture below shows team members descending Ben Nevis.



Anyone who has not already heard may like to know that there are baby Meerkats (or should that be Meerkits?) at Kircudbright Wildlife Park. Aren't they cute?

Regards, Rhoda

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Brass Concert Raises Funds for Combat Stress Charity

Carsphairn Church resonated to the sound of brass on Saturday evening, 17th July, when Dunaskin Doon Band performed a summer concert to raise funds for Combat Stress, the UK's leading military charity specialising in the psychological wellbeing of ex-service personnel.

The event drew a sizeable audience from way beyond the boundaries of Carsphairn to hear the band play such favourites as Memory (from the Cats musical), the Can Can, the theme from Star Wars and a selection from the Pirates of the Caribbean soundtrack.

The concert, which was organised by the church social committee, raised £595 for the local branch of Combat Stress which is located at Hollybush House on the A713 to the south of Ayr.

Committee member Nigel Martin, who plays flugel horn with the band, commented: "This was a simply fantastic evening for the church, for the community, for the band and for Combat Stress. It looks as though a summer band concert will now become an annual event in the village."



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YOUTH UPDATE

The CatStrand Youth Players: The first meeting of the new season will be held in The CatStrand on Sunday 5th September at 3pm. There are a limited number of places available for new members aged 10 -17 years old and anyone interested in joining should come along to the first meeting. During the season it is planned to stage a production for performance at The CatStrand prior to Christmas and then to enter the Stewartry One Act Play Festival in Lochside Theatre at the end of February and finally to finish the year off with another CatStrand production probably in May. Rehearsing for the plays will be interspersed with occasional drama workshops etc. Most of the current members are taking the opportunity to hone their skills at the RSAMD Drama Summer School being held at the CatStrand during the first week in August.

The 2009/10 season brought unprecedented success with the Youth Players winning the Stewartry District Youth Festival. They then went on to represent the District at the West of Scotland Final where they narrowly missed out on winning through to the Scottish Final with their charming production of 'The Willow & The Pomegranate'. The Christmas production of the hilarious 'Cinderella, The Sequel' was also very well received and the themed evening which included 'Spud Ferret & The Case of The Stolen Diamonds' at the end of April was great entertainment and brought the curtain down on a very enjoyable and rewarding second season.

CARSPHAIRN SHOW 2010

THE 119th annual Carsphairn Show at Crofts field on Saturday 6th June was a success, with numbers of spectators up, and extra entries in some of the classes.

The Ramsays of Knockreoch took the Interbreed Championship, after winning the Confined Section and the Supreme Blackface title. A Paton from Craig, Straiton was the Reserve Blackface Champion and the Champion Mule Title was awarded to RJ Shennan and Sons, Farden, Daillly. R McTurk, Glenhowl, took the Bluefaced Leicester Championship Cup for the second year running and the Any Other Breed Champion was a Ryeland ewe from Messrs McCornick, Barquhill, Kirkcowan.

The childrens' pet class was won by Sabrina Smith with Tap, and the dog show winner was a black Labrador - Mac - belonging to Alistair Russell. The Hill Race Shield was won by Henry Sainsbury in a time of 17 minutes. He has competed many times before, with a best finish of second, so he was delighted to take victory. Drife Finlay was second and David McTurk was third.

RSAMD Residency: Beg, Borrow & Steal

Mon 2- Fri 6 Aug
The CatStrand
New Galloway

A project designed for young People aged 9-14 years old who are interested in making original theatre, and who care about the environment.

To book a place contact the CatStrand on 01644 420 374.

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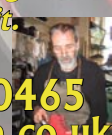
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 23 mobile library stops - to find out where and when call 430 234

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays

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

Special Services and Events

29th Aug, 10.30am: United Service with Choir, Dalry Church

6th Sept, 7pm: Whist Drive, Dalry Town Hall

12th Sept, 10.30am: United Family Service, Kells Church, followed by barbecue at Kells House

26th Sept, 12noon: Harvest Thanksgiving, Dalry Church, followed by Harvest Lunch in Dalry Town Hall

Communion Service:

22nd Aug, 10.30am, Kells 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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AUGUST

runs until Thurs 2 Sept, Exhibition: Joan Eardley and Lady Audrey Walker, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 1, Tilhill Open Four Ball Competition, New Galloway Golf Club

Mon 2 - Fri 6, RSAMD workshop, The CatStrand, New Galloway, see p15

Mon 2, Dalry CC Meeting, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thurs 5, Storytelling Café, 7.30-9.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 6, Alternative Games Ceilidh, New Galloway Town Hall, 8.30pm, see p9

Sat 7, Rachel Hair Trio, 8pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 8, Scottish Alternative Games 2010, New Galloway Town Park from 2pm, see p9

Sun 8, Mischief La Bas: The Laird of Callybrew and The Cowboys Last Round up, part of The Scottish Alternative Games, New Galloway Town Park, 1.30- 6pm, see p6

Thu 12, Family Bus Trip, see p7

Sat 14, Glenkens Agricultural Show, standing stone field, the Grennan, New Galloway, starts 9.30am

Mon 16, Long-Term Conditions Programme Self-Help & Social Group, 1st meeting, 5-7pm, then every 3rd Mon of the month.

Wed 25, Film: The Last Station, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 27, Balmaclellan CC Meeting, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Sat 28, Glenkens Society Annual Flower and Veg Show, Dalry Town Hall, starts 2pm

Sat 28, GTI Bus Trip, Viking Festival, Largs, see p7

Mon 30, Carsphairn CC Meeting, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 2, Storytelling Café, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 4, Dalry's Mulloch Hill Race, 3pm, Dalry school, see p13

Sat 4, Jubovski, 7:30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 5, GTI Bust Trip, Victorian Fayre, Lanark, see p7

Sun 5, CatStrand Youth Players: 1st meeting of the new season, 3pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 5 - Thurs 23, Exhibition: Phil Howard, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun12, Moishe's Bagel, 7:30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 18, Christina Lawrie: Piano Soloist, 8pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 18, David Hughes Dance Company: 'SOLO WORKS', 7:30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 25, Sportinghouse Strings, 7:30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 25 - Thurs 30, Young NADFAS Arts Exhibition: Fairies and Pirates, Mermaids and Crocodiles, Dreams of Flying, Magic, Beauty and Stars, The CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 29, Film: Shutter Island, 7.30pm, The CatStrand, New Galloway

REGULAR EVENTS:

Glenkens Ramblers, meet Mon 2pm in summer, 1.30pm in winter, outside 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

Glenkens Walking Group, meet Wed 2pm in summer, 1.30 in winter, outside Bank of Scotland, Dalry

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

Mossdale Painters, starts again Wed 29 Sept, Mossdale Village Hall, 9.30am each Wed for 10 sessions, see p12

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

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&7)

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

Teen Spirit: every Tues during term time, 7.30-9.30pm

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 last Fri each month 10am-12noon

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

Tone & Stretch, Fri 10am, £4/£3

Catstrand Youth Players, will start again on 5 Sept and run every Sun during term time from 3-5pm

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, both adults & children 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

WRITE FOR THE GAZETTE! Submit events, activities, news stories, cartoons, reviews, tips & techniques, fiction, photos, ads or ideas... If you have a submission, contact Sarah Ade on 07727 127 997 or glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk.
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER COPY DEADLINE: Friday 10 September