

GLENKENS GAZETTE

news from Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Mossdale, New Galloway and St John's Town of Dalry

February/March 2011

ISSUE 62

FREE

CHAMPIONS!

The CatStrand has won the Culture Champion award at the Dumfries & Galloway Life People of the Year 2010 awards.

This is the first year of these awards which have been set up to recognise people and places around the region that play a vital role in making our area such a wonderful place both to live in and to visit.

The award highlighted the vision, purpose and hard work that has gone into making the The CatStrand a reality.

The CatStrand's success is down to a number of key elements, among which are the hard work of the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) in getting the project up and running, the continuing input of a dedicated team of tireless staff and volunteers, and the venue's

adaptability; its ability to be so many things at once, from conference venue to theatre, sports hall to cinema makes it a hub of activity in a rural area where other similar resources are so limited.

The CatStrand has also proved itself in the area of environmental sustainability by achieving Gold Award status in the Green Tourism Business Scheme. Validated by Visit Britain, businesses opting to join Green Tourism are assessed against a rigorous set of criteria covering a range of areas such as energy and water efficiency, waste management, biodiversity and more. This award makes the Catstrand one of only three venues in Dumfries & Galloway to achieve the Gold standard.

Brian Edgar, who has been involved with The CatStrand since its



Photo: Mark Jardine, from award sponsors Roucan Loch Crematorium, presenting the award to Cathy Agnew, GCAT chairman.

conception, was also nominated for two awards in 2010 - the first was Leader's Rural Community Champion, for which there was no overall winner but four champions were recognised, and the second was Dumfries & Galloway Life's People of the Year 2010 awards under the title of Community Champion. Well done Brian!

TWICE THE ICE

For the second time in 2010 Mossroddick loch, outside Dalry, has been host to local curlers.

Up until January of last year the loch had not had ice thick enough to curl on for 24 years. Then, at the end of December, the ice was once again ready to be polished into a curling rink where young and old alike could enjoy a foray out onto the ice.

Are our winters getting colder? The ice this year which built up at the High Bridge of Ken would suggest that might be the case... Perhaps curling will become a regular event on our local lochs once more!



Curling at Mossroddick by Liz Peacock

Ice at the High Bridge of Ken by Steve McCallie



IN THIS ISSUE

- Dalry Quarry Update
- GCAT Restructure
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- ...and much more

ANOTHER FEATHER IN THE CAP

Our quest for funds for the next phase of Dalry Bird Town has been given a major boost by an award from the Big Lottery's Awards for All scheme. The award of £10,000 will kick start the next steps of the initiative.

We are now applying for funds to employ a Project Development Officer for two years, hopefully from April 2013. This will allow development of the project for the purchase and refurbishment of Barone and its grounds and to establish the Dalry Bird Festival as an annual event. We hope to know the results of our applications sometime in March.

We are planning the first Dalry Bird Festival for the autumn of 2011.

We hope to have guided bird walks, talks from bird and arts experts, demonstrations of arts and bird-related activities and art exhibitions. If you have ideas please let me know.

Roger Crofts,
roger@dodin.idps.co.uk

QUARRY QUERY

Dalry Community Council's petition against the proposed quarrying operation was handed over to Patsy Gilroy, who is Chair of the Stewartry Area Committee, by a group of Dalry residents at the last full Council meeting in December.

The petition asks Dumfries & Galloway Council to re-examine its provisional decision to allow the quarry and to ensure that any such decisions are only taken after lawful consultation procedures have been carried out.

The petition was signed by 301 people, 207 of whom are Dalry residents. This represents the majority of the adult population of the village. In addition 39 people indicated their support for the petition on the Facebook website. Members of the delegation from Dalry told Ms Gilroy that they found the Council's decision in principle to allow a housing company to extract and remove 40,000 tonnes of rock

from a prominent site next to the School and the childrens' playpark to be inexplicable. Mention of this quarrying operation was only added to the planning application to build houses after public consultation had taken place. This was a material change to the application about which the community had a lawful right to be consulted.

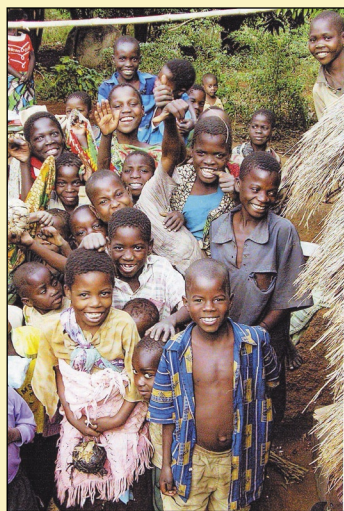
Patsy Gilroy said in her letter of acknowledgement that the Community Council would receive a substantive reply in due course. She confirmed that the petition and the Council's response to it would be circulated to all members of the Council.

The Community Council hopes that at least one of the local Councillors will have the courage to ask for this to be discussed by the full Council. After all, it is not every day that 300 people from a small community put their names to a petition questioning the legality of the Council's actions.

NOTICEBOARD

March 12 - Glenkens and District Music Club: Quintet Zambra (wind quintet), 8pm, Dalry Town Hall.

Abbas Rest Orphanage Coffee Morning - On October 30th a very successful coffee morning was held in Dalry Town Hall in aid of Abbas Rest orphans.



We would like to thank all the people who supported us with their presence, as well as donations of money, raffle prizes, baking and the sales tables, and all the willing helpers who served refreshments and helped on the stalls.

£760 was raised which will help towards buying the maize required which will be more expensive this year. As they need over 1,000 bags weighing

50 kilos each to keep the children fed all year, the money raised is badly needed. Thank you once again for your support, it is greatly appreciated - Jean, Avril & Barbara.

Balmaclellan Village Hall Committee has been awarded a grant of £1000 from the Stewartry Area

Committee, which was then matched by Balmaclellan Community Council.

The money was used to equip the hall with full sets of crockery, cutlery and utensils (120 of each), as well as new tables, making it a more attractive venue for hire. If you would like to hire the hall, please get in touch with either Jim Kirkpatrick (420 604) or Neil Cawthorne (420 603).

The Senior Citizens of Kells Parish enjoyed an excellent Christmas Lunch at the Ken Bridge Hotel on Saturday 11th December as guests of New Galloway Community Council.

Entertainment was provided by Tommy Edgar and the festive raffle prizes were largely provided from the proceeds of the donations collected in Hopkins Shop throughout the year.



GCAT - A FRESH NEW FACE

In 2010, the Board and staff at GCAT had a 'light bulb' moment.

This re-think was prompted by some excellent work with an external consultant which encouraged the board of GCAT, collectively, to realise that we are GCAT – the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust – rather than any one of the projects supported.

The organisations supported at present are:

- Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) – the invaluable 'Bus'.
- The CatStrand – our wonderful Arts, Community & Visitor Centre.
- Glenkens Gazette – the community news publication you are currently reading.
- Dalry Bird Town - the newest project, currently

attracting a lot of attention.

In GCAT's 10th anniversary year, we can look back on a decade of experience and learning which has provided us with a network of good contacts; and an even more important network of enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers.

We are an appropriately registered company and have charitable status. We are registered for VAT and are experienced in corporate governance. And we have an appetite to continue working towards our aim; to unite the communities of the Glenkens.

We have, therefore, restructured the organisation - see the flow chart to get an idea of the structure.

We look forward to hearing from all and any members of

the community who have ideas for projects in the Glenkens. Contact us via email – gcatnip@catstrand.com

Gillian Khosla, Glenkens Community & Arts Trust New Ideas & Projects (GCATNIP)



Dalry Community Council

A McKay tendered his resignation as both chairperson and as a councilor due to personal reasons; a vote of thanks was recorded for all his work.

Regarding recent work at Allangibbon Bridge, it was agreed to request that improved signage be erected indicating the severity of the bend from the north.

Next meeting: Mon 7 Feb, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.

New Galloway & Kells Community Council

It was reported that Scottish Power had closed the footbridges between Dundough and Kendoon due to 'accelerated levels' of corrosion that made them unsafe for public use. However, following national media coverage, Scottish Power announced that they hoped that repair work could start early in 2011.

Concerns were raised over Scottish Power's proposal to increase the water flow from Loch Doon via the Water of Ken into Loch Ken, etc. *This point was also raised by Carsphairn CC and further information is being sought.*

Next meeting: Mon 14 Feb, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall.

Balmaclellan Community Council

Another great Christmas lunch was held at The Ken Bridge Hotel for Balmaclellan senior citizens. Many thanks to Jane Brayshaw of the CC and Dave and Sue Paterson and staff for all their hard work.

The Glenkens childrens' Christmas party was a great success and could not have taken place without the involvement of Chris and Kay Bird, presents funded by Balmaclellan CC, food by Dave and Sue Paterson and Jane McQueen, and the support local families.

Next meeting: Mon 28 Feb, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.

Carsphairn Community Council

Kathryn Thacker resigned as administrative secretary due to changes in personal circumstances.

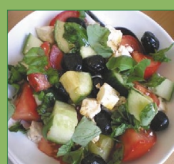
Right to Buy legislation has been extended to buildings as well as land. A house in the Salutation is up for sale as well as one of the flats. Discussion outlined that a community can register a right to buy if land or buildings have gone on the market if good reason is given for public interest.

Next meeting: Mon 31 Jan, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall.

Full minutes of local Community Council meetings can be viewed at Dalry Library.

CatStrand Cafe

LUNCHES: Mon to Fri, 11am-2pm



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GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

Glenkens Schools – All Change!

The start of the new term in January has seen a number of changes in the management team in the Glenkens Schools.

At Kells Primary, Mrs Kelly Devine, who was due to start her maternity leave at Christmas, was promoted to the post of Head Teacher at Wigtown Primary School with immediate effect. Mr Zane Gray, Principal Teacher at Moffat Academy primary department, recently acting Headteacher at Beattock Primary, was appointed to cover Mrs Devine's maternity leave. Mr Gray started on 5th January 2011 and it is anticipated that he will be in post until a permanent appointment is made. The School Council at Kells will be closely involved in the process of appointing a new Depute Head Teacher (DHT).

Mrs Margaret Heuchan, who has been appointed to the post of Head Teacher at Kirkbean Primary School, will be replaced as Principal Teacher at Carsphairn by Mr Walker McKenna, with Mrs Jean Adams covering the 1.5 days support. Mr McKenna's 3.5 days at Dalry will be covered by Mrs Turner, who is currently in Dalry covering for Miss Lamont. Both support posts were advertised on a permanent basis in January.

Mrs Annette Craig, previously acting Depute Head Teacher at Castle Douglas Primary School, will take up the role of acting DHT at Dalry for the duration of Miss Lamont's maternity leave. Miss Lamont had the best possible Christmas present when Molly Rose Newman arrived on Christmas Day weighing in at 6lb 11oz; I am sure her many friends in this area would like to pass on their congratulations.

Farewell then and best wishes to our leavers and a warm welcome to the Glenkens to Mr Gray and Mrs Craig.

Shoebox Sharing

Once again Dalry S1 pupils and Wilkinsons Store in Castle Douglas teamed up to send a Happy Christmas around the globe for overseas children who would otherwise have nothing.

With contributions from pupils, staff and Wilkinsons, twenty eight brightly wrapped shoeboxes left Dalry School filled with gifts to bring cheer to children from two to fifteen years old.



Carsphairn's Circus Skills...

At Carsphairn Primary the children performed a Christmas Concert about Ffinfo the Clown.

The performance was enjoyed by parents and friends in the Lagwyne Hall.

The children entertained the audience with their singing, percussion playing and various circus skills which linked in with the Circus topic running from October to Christmas.

The evening was thoroughly entertaining and everyone agreed it was a lovely performance by the ten children.



REWARDING ROWING

The children at Carsphairn Primary have been running a Rowing Challenge over the past few months, inviting adults into the school to challenge them to row 500 metres on the rowing machine in the fastest time possible.



The winner of the Challenge was PC Bruton, our Community Policeman, who completed the challenge in 1 minute 48 seconds.

The children then interviewed each participant, asking questions about their hobbies and favourite sports, and about their occupations past and present.

The children found out that PC Bruton trained as a welder before becoming a policeman, Angus Leigh (school photographer) drove a pony and trap for a living before taking over the family photography business, Mrs Heuchan worked for a football club before becoming a teacher and Mr Grant (Director of School Services) washed dishes to earn money when he was at University.

Some comments from the students were; William said he

enjoyed taking the photographs of the people who took part in the challenge, and Caitlin and Rachel enjoyed hearing about their jobs.

The children thoroughly enjoyed welcoming people into the school and would like to thank everyone who participated in the challenge.

Photos: right - winner PC Bruton, left - Director of School Services, Mr Colin Grant.



GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

Primary pupils from Carsphairn, Kells and Dalry schools visited Mr Murray, Dalry Secondary's Technology teacher, who showed them how to make stilts.

In the past primary students have made football rattles and trucks to go with 'World Cup' and 'Transport' topics. This year the topic was 'Travelling with the Circus'.

Mr Murray and Mr Harvie kindly gave their time to make stilts with children from all three schools. These lessons are a highlight of each year as

students get to use the equipment in Mr Murray's room to make some fantastic pieces of work. It also helps with later transition as the children all know Mr Murray and are already aware of all the very important safety rules that must be followed in his room.



As you can see from the pictures, the children concentrated thoroughly during their lesson to produce excellent pairs of stilts. Many are now excellent stilt walkers!



YOUTH UPDATE

Youth Players & Drama News

The 'house full' signs were up on December 3rd at The CatStrand as the Youth Players presented Alan Ayckbourn's famous play 'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations' along with two different but very enjoyable shorter pieces, 'Kennel Club' by David Muncaster and 'The Funeral' by Laurie Allen.

The members are now working on their Scottish Community Drama Association (SCDA) Festival entries to be staged at Lochside Theatre at the end of February. They will be performing 'Dust of the Street' by Harry Glass and also 'Round the World with Class Six' by Nick Warburton. 'Dust of the Street' is set in the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw during the Second World War and follows the plight of a

group of orphaned children as they struggle to survive in impossible circumstances. 'Round the World with Class Six' was presented at the CatStrand in 2009 and as everyone enjoyed it so much at that time it was decided to enter it for this year's festival. As the number of cast is flexible, it can involve all of the remaining club members. The

story follows the antics of Class Six as they carry out a task set for them by their new supply teacher - to sail around the world without leaving the classroom..... and be back in time for school dinners!

Everyone is hoping to follow up last year's success when 'The Willow and the Pomegranate' won the Stewartry Youth Festival and went

on to represent the District at the West of Scotland Finals.

The plays will be performed at The CatStrand on Friday 4th March, along with the adult festival entry from the Glenkens '73 Club, 'Outdoor Pleasures' by Jean McConnell. This is a comedy from another festival favourite playwright which finds long-suffering Deirdre waiting for an outdoor production of a Shakespeare play to begin, reluctantly accompanied by her rather awkward and far from enthusiastic Aunt Tottie.



The cast of 'Kennel Club' from left to right - Hannah Daly, Lowena Lindsay, Eleanor Jones & Kirstin Stalker.

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

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CatStrand Highlights

February and March are exciting months at The CatStrand as our winter programme draws to a close and we herald in the spring with the brand new March – June programme.

We are very excited about launching our packed new programme which features theatre, comedy, music and film - plenty for all the family. So make sure to get your hands on a copy and book up for your favourite events to avoid disappointment.

On 4 February we are delighted to welcome Janice Galloway, one of Scotland's best known and most versatile authors. This will be an opportunity to hear this entertaining writer speak and read from her work, including her latest novel 'This is Not About Me,' with opportunities for book signings on the night.

The final live event of the winter season is an evening of Chamber music with award winning violinist Sijie (Susie) Chen on her first visit



to Scotland. Sijie will be joined by international artists Cherry Tsang and Matthew Huber for a programme that includes pieces by Prokofiev, Fauré and Smetana.

The new season continues on Wednesday 10 March with a visit by the immensely talented Dáimh (pronounced Dive), who offer a fresh, up to date approach to traditional music, fusing bagpipes, fiddle, banjo, guitar and mandola. Their gigs have been described as

"an overwhelming and exuberant experience".

On Friday 18 March we are delighted to welcome back Rapture Theatre to CatStrand, who celebrate their 10th anniversary with a performance of Gagarin Way by Gregory Burke. This blisteringly funny black comedy by the writer of the tremendously successful Black Watch features an all star

Scottish cast including Dave Anderson and Jimmy Chisholm.

Are you a musician, poet or singer? Whether you are a seasoned performer looking to try out new material with a friendly audience or just starting out and thinking about performing for the first time, The Catstrand's Acoustic Open Stage on 21 March will be the perfect opportunity. Come along to perform or just to watch and support the performers.

If you are interested in a performing slot please email jodie@catstrand.com.

For more information or tickets please call the CatStrand box office on 01644 420 374 or visit www.catstrand.com



THE BUS : GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

£25,000 XMAS PRESENT FOR GTI: Just before Xmas GTI received the excellent news that a Family Trust Fund based in London had decided to donate £25,000 to be used for the purchase of a new bus. One of the Board members is a resident of Glenlochar and for a long time she has been very impressed with the work done by GTI and its mini bus. She was aware that we are in need of a second vehicle and accordingly asked the Board in London for a donation towards it. Even she was delighted at their response and we are all very grateful for this good news.

NEW MINI BUS: The GTI Committee are now busy researching the different vehicles available and it is hoped to have it on the road by March 2011. It is important the best use possible is made of BOTH vehicles therefore if you have any ideas please contact Keith Cooper. Having a second vehicle will obviously give us more flexibility in that commitments such as the School Run and the Registered Route will not prevent the other mini bus being used, possibly even travelling away from the Glenkens for an overnight stop!

WINTER TRAVEL: Throughout the recent cold spell we have managed to keep the School Run and the Registered Route operating. Numbers using the Wednesday evening service into Castle Douglas show how important a service this is, but please remember all our drivers are volunteers and it is their decision as to whether it is safe

to travel. Responsibility for this decision is solely that of the driver and not the Council. We are allowed to use the A713 via Parton if it is felt this is safer than using the normal route via Mossdale.

TRIPS: We always have a short break from running trips at this time of the year but they will resume in March. On Sunday 13 March 2011 there will be trip to the Farmers Market in Moffat whilst on Monday 28 March 2011 we will visit Callender House in Falkirk. Details will be advertised locally and tickets can be purchased from The Catstrand after 1 February 2011.

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.

CLUB CORNER

Thursday Lunch Club

The Club welcomes new members from the over fifties.

We meet fortnightly in New Galloway Town Hall, ground floor, entrance from Duke Street, at 12.30pm for a lunch of soup and filled rolls, cheese and biscuits and tea or coffee for a charge of £3.00.

Our first meeting of the New Year is Thursday 6 January, and thereafter at fortnightly intervals.

Contact phone numbers are:

Raymond Vincent – 01644

420451, Dot Struthers – 01644

420312, Louise Knight – 01644

450655.

Walking Groups

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 1.30pm outside the Bank of Scotland in Dalry. Lists of walks are displayed in shops in Dalry and New Galloway.

Contacts: John & Isobel on 430 539, Gerry on 420 852, Peter on 420 419 and Elizabeth on 430 581.

Spalding Bowling Club

The Club held their annual Social and prizegiving on the 1st Friday in November at the Ken Bridge Hotel.

This year the Gents champion was Steve Davie (not in the photo as he was on holiday) and the Ladies champion was Mabel Young.



Golf Update

Highlights of the year were: Dick Tulloch set a new course record - 64-5-59; Sandy Harvie won the Gents Club Championship and Anne McQueen the Ladies Club Championship; the Gents Team won the Kirkcudbrightshire Team Championship and is the only team

to win it twice; and the Ladies Team made it through to the 7th round of the Mail on Sunday Classic Tournament.

Limited Memberships are now available for the coming season and anyone who is interested should contact Ian Brown, Club Secretary, on 01556 670 579.

The Open dates for 2011 are:

23rd April - Ladies - Glenkens Salver Greensomes

28th April - Mixed Foursomes - Glenkens Cup (over 15 holes)

2nd May - Gents May Day Greensomes

19th May - Over 55 Mixed Greensomes - Glenkens Trophy (over

15 holes)

29th May - Natural Power Men's Open

2nd June - Senior (over 50) Men's Open

31st July - Tilhill Gents Four Ball Better Ball

13th August - Ladies - Muirhead Rosebowl - Singles

The Club draws people to New Galloway and businesses in the village benefit from having the Golf Club. Why not put something back into your Community and sponsor a competition or advertise in the Fixture Book? If you would like to participate in any way please contact Jeff Sutcliffe on 01644 450265.

Jeff, Vice Captain/Match Secretary
New Galloway Golf Club



Prize winners at the Annual Dinner of the Golf Club.

Stewartry Camera Club

The club's latest competition, 'Music Titles', was judged by Geoff Keating, probably better known for his local involvement in music. Geoff used to be a member of The Stewartry Camera Club and was well qualified to judge the 30 entries from 15 members.

Geoff was hugely impressed with the much higher standard of technical proficiency than when he was a member. He made helpful comments on how he saw individual images being improved. His advice for members was to scratch on the camera LCD screen;

"What am I taking a photograph of?", "shun the cliché" and "escape the tyranny of the familiar". His helpful advice was much appreciated by the club members.

The star of the evening was Alwyn Howes who had the best overall score with his two prints. His image 'Morning' was judged 'Best Landscape' and 'Best Print'. 'Pictures of Lily' by Mary McIlvenna was the 'Best Monochrome Print'. Peter Middleton with 'Snake Oil Blues' had the 'Most Innovative' and the 'Best New Member' print. Pete's image was taken whilst on a camera club photography course with Ted and Morag

Leeming. The 'Best Handicap Score' was gained by Hazel Groome with 'Salt Peanuts'.

For further information contact Mary McIlvenna 01644 420613 or George Wishart 01557 870090.



'Pictures of Lily' by Mary McIlvenna

LOCAL HISTORY

The Military Occupation of the Glenkens

Contemplating Glenkens today it is difficult to imagine the dread and horror which pervaded these peaceful surroundings back in the 1660s, a period which generated atrocities in the name of government such as to impact indelibly upon the character and attitudes of the glen's inhabitants.

When Charles II was restored to the throne, following the Covenanting Revolution and the Cromwellian Occupation, he immediately set about the transformation of Scotland's presbyterian church, re-introducing bishops and episcopalian government. In 1663 ministers who refused to conform were ordered to remove themselves forthwith with their "wives, bairns, servants, goods and gear" from their churches and manses.

Most in Galloway were in this category, among them James Buglos of Crossmichael, Thomas Warner of Balmaclellan, John Cant of Kells, Adam Alison of Balmaghie, Thomas Thomson of Parton and John M'Michan of Dalry. They were replaced by inexperienced and allegedly under-qualified, curates.

All legislation supporting the covenants was rescinded and parishioners who refused to attend the local church were fined. Those who adhered to the covenants and the principle of the separation of Church and State sought spiritual solace in conventicles - illegal meetings for worship conducted by the displaced ministers in houses, barns or the open air. In order to collect the fines, to monitor non-attendance, to enforce laws proclaiming the covenants treasonous and to create general terror and mayhem, troops were sent into the region.

Thus the Scottish Government, at the bidding of the king, declared war upon its own subjects.

To make matters worse the soldiers were quartered upon the local population. An un-named 'gentleman of Galloway' reported the inevitable consequences to his friend in Edinburgh. He declared that

he was no fanatic but he found himself becoming radicalised by the sufferings of his fellow countrymen and women, as a result of the soldiers' "inhuman and atheistical deportment", as they arbitrarily preyed upon "a desolate people for their own private gain".

Quartering was hated as profoundly as it was dreaded. The troops seemed to luxuriate in needless waste, feeding whole sheep to their dogs and destroying crops, to cries of;

"We came to destroy, and we shall destroy you".

Having consumed the resources of the landlord they then descended on the tenants. Men were attacked and tortured, women and children assaulted. Property was wilfully damaged, informants were rewarded, complaints and grievances ignored by the authorities.

In addition to the levying of cess (assessment or taxation) and the considerable cost of quartering, fines for non-attendance at the kirk were imposed, though sometimes they could be avoided by bribing the soldiers. Allegedly there was no distinction between those who conformed and those who refused, producing "an universal outcry in this country". Even worse, many loyal subjects were fined for the non-obedience of their wives. This was particularly alarming,

"for there are many wives who will not be commanded by their husbands in lesser things than this",

occasioning much contention and strife in families to the point that some women fled their husbands to seek shelter elsewhere, and so, horror of horrors, the poor goodman was "doubly punished despite his conformity"! The independence of Galloway women is a recurring theme in this period.

The total amount of fines for some parishes have survived. Thus (rounded to nearest pound): Carsphairn, 49 families paid £4865 (av. £99 per family); Dalry, 43 families, £9576 (£223 per family); Balmaclellan, 49 families, £6431 (£131

per family); Balmaghie, 9 families, £426 (£47 per family); Parton, 24 families, £2838 (£118 per family); Crossmichael, number of families unknown, £1667; Kells, number of families unknown, £467; Stewartry, an additional 91 individuals, £7,860 (£526 per person). These figures are in pounds Scots, 12 of which equated to one pound sterling. They would be paid by the head of the household. Although we do not know the total number of families in any parish since there was no Scottish census until 1755, Dalry is clearly the stand-out on this reckoning, a veritable hotbed of resistance.

The sums may seem misleadingly paltry. When converted from pounds Scots, for example, the 47 families in Balmaclellan owed, on average, £5 sterling each but according to the National Archives Currency Converter website, that is equivalent in today's money to £384. The Carsphairn average is a hefty £614 and Dalry a staggering £1459. For the individuals of the Stewartry the average works out at some £3378.

These are colossal sums by 17th century standards. Little wonder that the Galloway letter-writer opined that the consequence of these

"grievous and intolerant impositions" would be the "utter ruin" of a majority of Galloway families.

Furthermore, these sums were demanded from a society that had little experience of cess or taxation, let alone of fines for not attending church, and these were the first of a series that would be levied relentlessly for a generation through to 1688. Of course most fines were never paid, leading to the seizure of property and imprisonment. Government intention was apparently the total destruction of a dissident civilian population. And the killing of 'The Killing Times' had not yet commenced! How could the hapless population defend itself? The unexpected and unlikely response was to appear in the guise of the ill-fated Glenkens Rebellion of 1666, better known, inaccurately, as 'The Pentland Rising'.

Ted Cowan

NATURE & WILDLIFE

Diamonds on the Soles of My Shoes

In a roundabout sort of way, after all the mild winters of the past two decades, these past two frozen years lead to a hope that we might sometime see a decent summer through July and August – even one would do, for now!

Meantime, we have to find positives in the bitter conditions, and there are many for those of us lucky enough to get around and stay warm.

With all of the local lochs and most of the rivers ice-locked, waterfowl had a real challenge not only to find food by day, but open water for safe roosting by night, too – not only here, but across Scotland.

For several weeks through December all flight lines led to Dumfries & Galloway, including the Glenkens, because here and there tracts of open water remained on the Ken and lower down on the Dee.

One Sunday evening George and I watched 2-3,000 pink-footed geese join Icelandic greylags and Greenland white-fronted geese to roost on the River Dee near Threave Castle.

More than content with seeing them, we then sat spellbound in the nice new hide overlooking Blackpark Marsh, as the grey gloaming gave way to near dark, and watched 101 whooper swans come past in groups of a dozen or so from the east on their way to the river. Pure white apart from their black legs and distinctive yellow and black bills, in the silvery half-light of that frosty evening they appeared ghostlike as they flew silently past, before

characteristically honking evocatively in circling down to find some water of their own for the night.

Like the geese, these travellers from Iceland are regulars here in winter, often feeding between Castle Douglas and Haugh of Urr. However, the numbers of pinkfeet were certainly swollen by incomers from elsewhere, and there were reports of thousands more right along the Solway to Luce Bay, and even a few bean geese, which used to be such a feature of this part of Galloway. They are now better known from the Slamannan plateau near Falkirk, and it was no surprise when I was contacted by Angus, their principal watcher, wondering if they were here.

However, of all the natural phenomena around the area this winter, my wonder was most stimulated again by a half hour's afternoon walk down the Water of Ken from Dalry.

The ground was encrusted with hoarfrost after many days of sub-zero temperatures, but now the sun was shining and a thaw was coming.

Suddenly I became aware of a fairly continuous crackling sound coming

from the alder trees alongside the burn, punctuated now and then by the soosh of another batch of ice slipping into the water from the warming banks. All natural and timeless sounds that will have been heard countless times before in the Glenkens over the millennia I'm sure, but not by me; not like I heard that day anyway.

These thoughts were running through my mind as I made my way back upstream along the flood bank. Just forment the screens at the foot of the Garroch Burn, I glanced to my right over the bottom holm towards Kirkland. With each succeeding step a new set of sparkling stars lit up the ground as myriad ice crystals momentarily caught the strong, low sun rays and reflected them towards me. This I had often seen before, but never was I so struck by their number and brilliance.

The ground was literally twinkling as I strode along.

Instinctively, I stopped. So did they. That is, the stars stood still. I stepped on a yard and they all disappeared as quickly as a whole new set opened up to view. On stepping back the new ones disappeared and all the old ones came back, while a further backward step brought yet another set of ground stars out. I stood in the fascinating realisation that at any given point all of the twinkling stars were at just the proper angle to catch the light and divert it to my eyes, and as I moved on so the effect was of twinkling starlight, or even of walking on sunshine. Winter was never less dull!

Chris Rollie



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VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Local Author: Chris Rollie

Chris Rollie may be more familiar to many of you in his role as Area Manager for RSPB Scotland in Dumfries & Galloway.



Chris on 13 January at the Caledonian Club, Belgravia, with the President of the Caledonian Society of London, where he was the principal speaker at their Burns Supper.

With the RSPB, Chris has managed projects such as the re-introduction of red kites to Galloway and the subsequent creation of the Galloway Kite Trail.

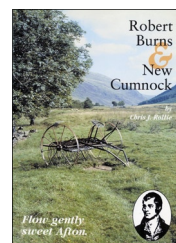
Before employment with RSPB, Chris was a biology teacher in Ayrshire for 10 years, but was always heavily involved in voluntary ornithological surveying and monitoring, which led to his first full-time

post with RSPB as Conservation Officer in 1991, the year and stimulus for his move to the Glenkens.

"My reasons for choosing Dalry were various", says Chris. "I absolutely loved the place from my annual visits to monitor peregrines and eagles in the 1980s – it gave easy access to the hills, Dumfries, Ayr and back to New Cumnock where my parents lived, and where I was born and grew up. I was also very good friends with the late Donald Watson and great admirer of his paintings, particularly of birds in the Glenkens. Also, it was a great place to bring up my then two young daughters, with shops and two vibrant pubs!"

"Although things have changed a bit over the 20 years since coming, I am still in love with the area – the hills, lochs, woods and remaining bird life are breathtaking at times, and there to enjoy in a light and tranquility that I treasure".

Chris goes on to talk about his work as an author: "Some of my writing involves short articles or papers for publication in ornithological journals and newsletters, but I am also keenly interested in Robert Burns, not only his works, but also his life and times.



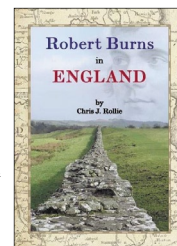
"I have published various articles and papers on Burns and delivered several of these at conferences and seminars. Having been born overlooking the Afton Water, I guess

it was inevitable that one day I would write a book on Robert Burns and New Cumnock, and this was published to mark the bi-centenary year of the poet's death in 1996.

"My second book, 'Robert Burns in England', was published in 2009 to mark the 250th anniversary of the poet's birth."

Chris has also been asked to write a book on Burns and Birds, and has been considering writing about Burns in Galloway. At present he is writing up a recent sabbatical to Syria and working on a long term Definitive Chronology of Burns... whew! Watch this space for more from Chris.

Chris' books are available from The CatStrand, New Galloway, or for further information contact Chris on 01644 430 103 or chrisrollie@moorglen.fsnet.co.uk



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GLENKENS DIARY

FEBRUARY

Sat 5, '73 Drama Burns Supper, 7.30pm, The CatStrand

Fri 4, Janice Galloway, 7:30pm, £8/£6

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

Sat 12, An Evening of Chamber Music with Susie Chen and Friends Saturday, 7:30pm, £10/£8

Mon 14, New Galloway & Kells CC Meeting, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Tues 22, Film: Despicable Me (U), 2pm, £4.50/£3.50

Wed 23, Film: Tamara Drewe, 7.30pm, £4.50/£3.50

Mon 7 to Fri 18, Exhibition: Dalry School, Catstrand opening hours

Mon 28, Carsphairn CC Meeting, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall

Mon 28, Balmaclellan CC Meeting, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

MARCH

Fri 4, Glenkens 73 Club & CatStrand Youth Players, 7.30pm, £5/£3

Thurs 10, Stewartry Bird Watchers Talk, for info contact Joan Howie, 01644 430 226

Sat 12, Glenkens and District Music Club: Quintet Zambra (wind quintet), 8pm, Dalry Town Hall

Wed 16, Dàimh, 7.30pm, £10/£8

Fri 18, Rapture Theatre presents Gagarin Way by Gregory Burke, 7.30pm, £10/£8, Age 14+

Thurs 24, Acoustic Night, 7.30pm, £6 (Ticket includes glass of wine/beer or soft drink)

Thurs 31, Stewartry Bird Watchers AGM & talks by members, see entry on 10 March for contact info.

REGULAR EVENTS:

Glenkens Ramblers, Mondays, 1.30pm, outside the Bank, 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, Wednesdays, 1.30pm, outside the Bank, Dalry

Stewartry Camera Club: Wed, 7.30pm, The Tolbooth, Kirkcudbright

Mossdale Painters, Wed, 9.30am, Mossdale Village Hall

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

New Galloway Thursday Lunch Club, 12.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall, fortnightly on Thursdays starting 6 Jan, the Club welcomes new members from the over fifties, £3. Contact Raymond Vincent, 01644 420451.

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

Boxercise, Wed 7-8, NG Town Hall, £4

Zumba, Wed 8-9pm, NG Town Hall, £4 - **£6 combined Boxercise & Zumba**

Gentle Yoga & Relaxation, Thurs, 10-11.15am

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

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

Catstrand Youth Players, 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 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

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Special Services &

Events: 25 Feb, 7pm: Beetle Drive, Dalry Town Hall. 4 Mar, 7pm: World Day of Prayer Service, Carsphairn Church.

Communion Services:

27 Feb, 10.30am, Kells Church;
20 Mar, 10.15am, Carsphairn Church.

20th March 12 noon, Dalry Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E)

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

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

Dalry Library

Tue:

2 - 4.30pm then 5.30 - 7.30pm

Fri:

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1/2 page (13cm x 13cm) - £126 (25% series discount)

Full Page (18cm x 27cm) - £210 (25% series discount)

A TALENT FOR FUNDRAISING

A Christmas concert in Carsphairn, staged by the villagers themselves, has raised almost £450 for the local Sunday school and the village hall.

Following on from the inaugural event entitled 'Carsphairn's Got Talent' last year, this year's show, on 4 December, was called 'Carsphairn's Got Even More Talent' and featured a variety of acts ranging from solo and group vocal and instrumental items to humorous sketches, monologues and recitals.

The event played to a packed Lagwyne Hall and was brought to a close with a karaoke that went on into the wee small hours.

The concert was organised by the Carsphairn Church Social Committee and members and helpers laid on tea, coffee and mince pies during the interval.

As the event was purely for the enjoyment of the villagers, donations were requested instead of an admission charge. Added to the proceeds of a raffle, these amounted to more than £450 in aid of the Sunday School and the Lagwyne Hall.

"The main aim of the show was to provide some pre-Christmas entertainment in the village, put on by ourselves for our own enjoyment.

The bonus was that we also raised money for a couple of local worthy causes.

"We are grateful to everyone who took part in and supported our show, especially those who donated raffle prizes and made donations," commented Nigel Martin, one of the concert organisers.

Pics left to right: Carsphairn members of the Glenkens Choir entertain the villagers, Colin Feierabend bursts into song with the backing of Julie McKay, Maggie Phillips and his wife Maureen and Sue Wiseman relates one of her own poems entitled 'A Holiday Romance'.



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Printing the Glenkens Gazette for the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust is just one way of expressing our commitment to the communities we work in. **www.standardlife.com**

