

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

April/May 2012

ISSUE 69

FREE

Twin Trophies for Youth Players

The CatStrand Youth Players entered two plays to be proud of at this year's Stewartry District Drama Festival at Lochside Theatre, and were doubly delighted to triumph with two trophies to top it all off.

The Glenkens '73 Club CatStrand Youth Players' performance of 'Teesha's Got Elves' was awarded the Bill McKinnon Award for the highest marks overall in production out of every entry, including adult productions.

The team also took home the Lochside Youth Theatre Trophy as the best youth production for 2012. The award acted as their ticket to the next round of the competition on Saturday 24 March when they competed against the other West of



Eleanor Jones and Lowena Lindsay of the Catstrand Youth Players. Photo courtesy of the Galloway News.

Scotland Winners in Kilmarnock.

The performance enthralled the audience and provided a huge challenge for two young actresses, Eleanor Jones and Lowena Lindsay, who met the challenge head on and held the stage throughout the play, ably supported by twelve 'elves', a few of whom were making their debut stage appearances!

The CatStrand Youth Players

also amused the audience and impressed the adjudicator with their other entry 'Cinderella: The Sequel'. The outrageous plot and hilarious comedy moments in this play were complemented by an experienced cast who seemed to enjoy themselves just as much as the audience!

Both plays were performed at the CatStrand to a very appreciative audience on Friday 2 March.

AWARD-WINNING READING



Gill receiving her award.

Dalry resident Gill Stanyard has brought home a prestigious award for her hard work in the field of mental health.

In March this year Gill won the EDGE 2012 Social Award for her project 'Get into Reading' which aims to increase well-being amongst people with dementia and carers through shared reading groups.

The award highlights and rewards good practice in innovative information projects and the project won the social category for increased participation.

See p3 for the rest of the story...

World Book Day

The whole of Dalry School, from Nursery to S4 and staff, made an event of World Book Day on Friday 2 March by coming dressed as a character from a book.

As well as raising money to boost the much-used library shelves, it was a colourful culmination to a week of book-related activities.

*Jane Banner (school librarian, Dalry)
jbanner749@ea.dumgal.sch.uk*



Pupil librarians from Carsphairn launched their re-vamped school library to coincide with the run up to World Book Day on Friday 2 March.



The P4/5 pupil team that run the flourishing Puffin Book Club are as enthusiastic about books as the P6/7 librarians. Their enthusiasm has caught on and all pupils are enjoying Friday afternoon library time and borrowing books to take home (as much as the librarians enjoy stamping them out!)

Mr McKenna (principal teacher) and Mrs Banner (school librarian), who support the pupil teams, hope that the Carsphairn pupil librarians will be pioneers in the Glenkens Cluster, helping train new pupil librarians and promoting the sharing of books between the schools.

Dalry Community Council: It was reported that a formula for allocating funds for the Glenkens wind farm sub-committee will take a long time to develop but progress was being made. The Developers had been identified and are to be approached. It was thought that it would take at least 3-4 years before any money was likely to be available but the aim of the committee is to get maximum benefit for the Glenkens Community. *Next meetings: Mon 2 Apr & 7 May, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.*

New Galloway & Kells Community Council: Complaints have been received regarding the picking up and dropping off of school children outside the Old Bank. It was felt by the meeting that there is no reason why schoolchildren should not be picked up at the usual bus stops (Achie Bridge, Town Hall & Old Bank) on the normal bus circular route as used to be the case. The matter is to be raised with the Council. *Next meetings: Mon 9 Apr & 14 May, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall.*

Carsphairn Community Council: A member of the community warned against bogus policemen asking for credit card donations for a yearbook to promote the police.

The funding application to the Lottery's 'Investing in Ideas' scheme for a feasibility study of Greystones Pub was submitted Mon 20 Feb. A response is expected in 6 weeks.

The CC has enquired of Natural Power whether Carsphairn's community benefits would increase with regard to the extended Windy Standard wind farm and we were informed it was not an extension and is now called Ashmark Hill. Planning permission has not yet been granted; CC to continue to investigate. *Next meetings: Mon 30 Apr & 28 May, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall.*

Balmaclellan Community Council: *Next meetings: Mon 30 Apr & 28 May, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.*

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



DALBEATTIE MOBILE POST OFFICE

MONDAY

Corsock: 12:30-1.30pm, Balmaclellan: 2.30-3.30pm, Mossdale: 4-5pm

WEDNESDAY

Balmaclellan: 2:45-4:45pm

THURSDAY

Mossdale: 9:30-10:30am, Balmaclellan: 11am-1pm, Corsock: 2-3pm

Bill payments, postage, banking, motor vehicle licences, travel insurance, bureau de change, key charging and mobile top-up.

GTI WEDNESDAY BUS SERVICE

(registered route)

Outward Journey:

19:00 Dept. Dalry (Underhill)
19:10 New Galloway
19:25 Mossdale
19:35 Laurieston
19:40 Townhead of Greenlaw
19:47 Castle Douglas (Market St)

19:50 Castle Douglas (Tesco)

Return journey:

20:45 Dept. Castle Douglas (Tesco)
20:47 Castle Douglas (Market St)
20:52 Townhead of Greenlaw
21:00 Laurieston
21:10 Mossdale
21:25 New Galloway

To book a GTI bus or for more information please contact Keith Cooper, GTI Administrator, on 01644 420374.

Continued from front page...

Get into Reading is an innovative shared reading model which Gill Stanyard has piloted across Scotland for people with dementia and their carers.

Gill says: "We need to remember the person behind the dementia and do what we can to ensure that they can live as well as they can, with full opportunities for meaningful engagement. Carers of people with dementia can have the roughest ride due to the changing and progressive nature of the disease. We need to look after these carers and ensure they have good respite and feel cared for and connected to others."

Get into Reading seeks to use the shared reading aloud of stories and poems to increase well-being and reduce isolation.

Natural discussion develops and participants share experiences, memories and their thoughts and feelings about the reading.

"We have found that attendance at a Get into Reading group can increase empathy and well-being and reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness," says Gill.

As the majority of people with dementia are cared for at home, it is important to reach local communities where people can have easy access to group sessions. This is especially important in a rural area like Dumfries & Galloway.

The next phase of the lottery-funded project will be run here in D&G as two three-month programmes of weekly shared reading groups. Gill says:

"IT FEELS GREAT TO BE DOING THIS BACK AT HOME IN DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY".

The group in Dumfries is for carers and starts on Thursday 29 March from 10am-12noon at the Alzheimer Scotland office, 1 Gordon Street.

The other group, which is for both carers and people with dementia, starts on Wednesday 28 March

at 10am at Castle Dougals Community Centre.

Glenkens residents are welcome to attend both groups; Gill has tried to work it in around the bus-times too, so people who don't drive can still attend.

And Get into Reading is not just for older folk... At the moment Gill is working in Dalry Secondary School, along with Catherine Phillips (who co-wrote the funding bid for the schools project) running a reading group with some of the students.

Gill says: "I love my job with the Reader Organisation. It is rewarding in many ways, but the real reward for me is when people have 'Got into Reading' and tell me it's the thing they most look forward to in their week."

Gill would like to thank everyone who helped make this project a reality - and well done Gill!

For more information on Get into Reading you can phone Gill on 07807 106 799 or visit www.thereader.org.uk.

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Our skilled head chef uses the best local produce including Galloway beef, Craigadam lamb and venison, cheese from Rowan Glen and fish from the Galloway Smokehouse.

With a warm and friendly atmosphere, outstanding food and lovely locals, it's no wonder The Clachan Inn is fast becoming the place to be in the Glenkens.



Tel: 01644 430 241

Email: mail@theclachaninn.co.uk

www.theclachaninn.co.uk

Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by natural power



EVERYTHING listed on the Glenkens Freecycle page is **FREE** - you just need to contact the owner and go and pick it up!

Anyone can list an item they no longer want, and hopefully someone else in the area is looking for just that thing and will come and collect it. You can also list items you are looking for in the hope that someone else is getting rid of something similar and will get in touch with you. If you would like to list something on this page, please get in touch with Sarah on 07727 127 997 or email glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk.

Please remember that people list their items in good faith that they will go to an appreciative home - items are not to be collected simply to sell on.

Furniture

TV/Stereo wooden stand.
Contact: 420 839

Beanbag (adult Marimeko pattern). Contact: 420 839

"I think it's a brilliant idea for our communities"

Butcher's Trolley (still in IKEA flatpack). Contact: 420 839

Sofa Bed, futon style mattress on pine framework, almost double bed size. Heavy and solid! Contact: Andi on 430 255

Various

Clipboard - A4 - Black. Contact: 440 657

Golf bag and two drivers.
Contact: Nigel on 460 545

Electric golf trolley, needs slight repair to one of wheels, complete with battery. Contact: Nigel on 460 545

Assorted home phones, including cordless phone with alarm clock / radio. Contact: Nigel on 460 545

Leather laptop case. Contact: 440 657

Pair of PC speakers. Contact: 440 657

A4 lever arch files - blue - 65mm. Contact: 440 657

A4 ring binders - blue - 25mm. Contact: 440 657

Watson portable television with remote control. Contact: Nigel on 460 545

Aiwa record turntable, hardly used. Needs to be connected to amplifier and speakers. Contact: Alan 07769 680 938

4 wine demijohns with airlocks etc. Contact: Cynthia on 420 605

Lampshade for standard lamp, height 42cm, bottom diameter 52cm, top diameter, 26cm. Contact: Ken 460 516

Various bits and bobs filling up

my outdoor shed if you want to come and pick them up.
Contact: 460 636

Exercise Bike. Contact: 420 839

Pine framed cork pinboard, 61 x 92cm. Contact: 430218

Four Tensa barrier crowd control posts. Black with red retracting band. In need of a little TLC.
Contact: 440 657

Plants/Garden

Scarborough lilies: House plants, small bulbs, potted and ready to grow on, produce spikes of coral red flowers from July to September. In this case I wouldn't mind if people want to take these to sell on to raise money for good causes, eg. Scouts, Guides, etc.

Large Money Plant needs a bigger home or community venue and a bit more TLC!
Contact: Andi on 430 255

Greenhouse glass, various sizes.
Contact: Jim 420 836

Petrol-driven lawn mower.
Contact: 460 636

Car/Bike

Man's bike, three-speed hub gears, old but everything works.
Contact: Ian on 450 618.

Thule roof box, model Polar 100.
Contact: 430218

Ladies bike. Good overall condition but needs two new tires through lack of use.

Contact: Fiona on 07789 903 127

2 brand-new Land Rover paintwork touch-up kits - colour is Rioja Red. Contact: 07554 644 993 (evenings)

Childrens'

Children's desk/easel - moulded plastic (make is 'smoby').
Contact: Sarah on 430 138

2 children's sledges. Contact: 440 657

Pink 'KINX' girls bike 6 - 13 year old. Heart-shaped adjustable saddle, 6 speed, good brakes,

tires as new, suspension good. handles 31 inches from ground, seat 24 inches from ground, 16.5 inch wheels. Collect from: Muirdrochwood Farm, Dalry.
Contact: 460 517

Girls bike, suit age 4/6. Purple and in good condition. Contact: Fiona 07789 903 127

Pair of children's Clarks sandals in size 2, light brown. Contact: 430 004

DIY/Home Fittings

Pedestal hand basin and close coupled WC both in Champagne colour. Contact: 440 657

Central Heating Radiator 2100mm x 600mm. Contact: 420 839

Calor Gas Cooker, 4 hobs and oven (never used). Contact: 420 839

Plain bathroom mirror, with holes and wall fixings, never been used, 45 x 60cm. Contact: 430218

"I got rid of all my plants, got some curtain poles, and also gave some things to the Guides!"

Selection of Double Glazed units from our old windows. Will need frames made, but might suit a carpenter with a chilly house.
Contact: Andi on 430 255

14 New Cement wallhead coping stones each 900mm long.
Contact: Alan on 07769 680 938

WANTED

Any old/spare buttons, zips, buckles, fastenings, fabric, curtains, etc. for recycling into bags. Contact: Glenkens Guides on 430 393

Air Compressor, chainsaws or chainsaw parts, any condition, working or not. Contact: Gareth 460 661.

Kayak/canoe. Contact: Sean Paul on 07765 888 662

Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power



Over the next few issues we will look at the government's new energy-saving scheme, the Green Deal. In this issue is a general overview, and following issues will focus on specific energy-saving measures.

Chief secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander has announced the approval of £200m to be used as an incentive for the public to pick up the Green Deal scheme when it is available for homeowners in October 2012.

The Energy Act 2011 includes provisions for the new 'Green Deal', which intends to reduce carbon emissions cost effectively by "revolutionising" the energy efficiency of British properties.

At a local level, the Green Deal will enable many households and businesses to improve the energy efficiency of their properties so less energy is consumed and less money is wasted.

From October this year, participating energy utility companies and accredited retailers such as Tesco, B&Q and Marks & Spencer will provide customers across the UK with quality-assured work

to their homes, businesses and community spaces for no upfront cost, and without loans or advance finance.

The full cost of the measures will be recovered through instalments on the energy bill over several years, and because the Green Deal is not a personal loan or an advance payment scheme, there is no obligation to continue paying the instalments if you move house.

Suitability for the scheme will be assessed on a simple calculation, known as the 'golden rule' of the Green Deal - the predicted savings from the energy efficiency improvements to your property must equal or exceed the cost of installation.

So keep this date in mind, and read in the next few issues of the Gazette what you can do to make your home more energy

efficient so you can make the most of the Green Deal when it becomes available.

For further information, either contact the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) on 0300 060 4000, correspondence@decc.gsi.gov.uk or www.decc.gov.uk, or visit www.green-deal-guide.co.uk

Reader's Green Idea:

Louise McClure of Dalmellington has suggested:

"Instead of throwing away tatties which are past their best, why not plant them and get a nice wee crop!"

"Also, when planting up your garden, save money by planting hardy native perennials which come up year on year; you will also create a fantastic habitat for wildlife."

RNLI Evening

The Glenkens branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) is holding its annual fundraising evening on Thursday 24 May in Dalry Town Hall.

The theme of 'Life on the Ocean Wave' is particularly suited to this year with the rise in 'staycation' tourism having led to one of the busiest years on record for the crews of the 45 RNLI stations around Scotland's coastline.

Last year many people opted for a holiday by the sea in this

country rather than abroad, but many then ran into difficulties in the water and had to be rescued by the RNLI. According to new figures 2011 was the sixth busiest year on record since the charity was founded in 1824.

The Lifeboats receive no Government money but rely instead on voluntary donations to meet the cost of maintaining its 24 hour search & rescue service.

Residents of the Glenkens have always been generous supporters of the RNLI and with more than 800 people rescued by Scotland's lifeboats last year it is gratifying to know the money is going to good use.

Diamond Jubilee

Plans to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee are in place for the residents of Dalry.

A beacon will be lit on Mulloch Hill on Monday 4 June to join other beacons up and down the country and then a village-wide 'street party' is to be held on Tuesday 5 June on the school playing fields.

Open to all residents there will also be a Fancy Dress Competition, a Best Decorated House or Garden competition and a Children's Art Competition.

Carsphairn Burns Supper

The Burns season got under way this year with Carsphairn hosting their 43rd Annual Burns Supper on Thursday 19 January.

The Top Table had a distinctly local flavour – taking part were two local farmers, our minister, our shopkeeper, our present school teacher, and our previous school teacher! Along with our only visiting artist, Mark Laird from Gatehouse, they entertained a packed Lagwyne Hall and were much appreciated by the knowledgeable audience.

The haggis was piped in by Andy McCartney, a regular and welcome visitor, and the evening was chaired by Robert McTurk.

Jimmy Wallace was invited to address the haggis, David Bartholomew gave the Selkirk Grace and this was followed by the traditional meal of haggis, neeps 'n tatties prepared by



the Committee of Lagwyne Hall, and, in the tradition of Carsphairn, served by the male committee members.

Mark Laird outlined Rabbin Burns' complex lifestyle with an intuitive mix of anecdotes and quotes from the Bard.

Two songs were performed by our own Chris Szafran and much enjoyed by those attending. After the interval, Walker McKenna proposed a Toast to the Lassies. His 'toast' involved much hilarity and audience involvement...!

Robert McTurk gave a fiery rendition of 'The Twa Dugs' and the audience really appreciated

hearing one of the more rarely recited poems of Robert Burns. This was followed by Margaret Heuchan, in excellent form, replying on behalf of the Lassies.

Margaret's reply focussed on several of the local gentlemen, comparing them to the Bard (or not) as the case may be!

The evening was rounded off with some community singing accompanied by Margaret Sloan, a vote of thanks to all the artistes from David Gibbon, and Auld Lang Syne.

Dalry School Burns Supper



On Friday 27 January P4-7 at Dalry School organised a traditional Burns Supper.

The event was held in the evening and over 100 people - parents, families, friends and members of the community - came along to celebrate the life of our National Bard.

The evening was a great success, with everyone enjoying a number of traditional Scottish ceildh dances.

This was greatly due to the tremendous help from all of the people involved, and the school would like to thank everyone who made this such a wonderful event.

FHB Fencing
Dalry

Domestic and
Agricultural
Fencing

01644 430 495 (Peter)
or 07767 795 498
(Jonathan)



CARSPHAIRN.ORG GOES LIVE

Carsphairn Community now has a new dedicated website.

This has been set up by the Community Council and will act as a platform for providing information for both locals and visitors.

Content includes contact lists for local groups and information on essential services.

There are photographs of the area to show off the beautiful scenery and facilities are available for advertisers to encourage visitors to come to Carsphairn.

The Minutes of the Community Council meetings are there to read, along with other reports of relevance.

If, when you read this, you have something you want to be included on the website, please contact the administrator by email at webmaster@carsphairn.org



It is hoped that all the local groups will keep in touch to advertise events and report on meetings which affect the community.

Log on now to see what's happening in Carsphairn at www.carsphairn.org



For short-hand we call our project Watson Birds.

Our logo comprises three birds with direct links to Donald and Jeff Watson, and also to Dalry: The Golden Eagle, the Hen Harrier and the Swift.

We are delighted to hear that the Dalry Town Hall Committee has decided to remove the netting to allow the swifts to nest there; what a fitting link with our developing Dalry Bird Town.

Upcoming events:

Saturday 21 April - In Quest of the Golden Eagle:

Celebrating Jeff Watson's work on the biology and conservation of this magnificent bird. In Dalry Town Hall from 10.30am to 4pm there will be exhibition of Jeff's photos; at 2pm a Talk on Galloway's Golden Eagles; and at 2.30pm a film will be shown - In the Company of Eagles.

19-20 May: Scottish Bird Fair. This takes place in Hopetoun, Edinburgh. Visit our stand, as well as many others, at Scotland's visit ever bird fair.

6 - 8 August: 'Room 13' Young Persons Art Workshop. Visiting artists will work with children to explore creativity. Participants can book for one, two or three days. Bookings advised contact Sarah see below.

21-23 September: Dalry Bird Festival. A weekend of events for one and all centred on Dalry Town Hall. More details later.

Our web site is currently under construction - see www.watsonbirds.org. It will contain information about the project, about Donald and Jeff Watson, events, the archive and links to related activities in Galloway.

Contacts:

Roger Crofts - roger@watsonbirds.org or 07803 595 267 and Sarah Keast - sarah@watsonbirds.org or 01644 430457 or 07716 170871.

PANCAKE PROCEEDS

The fifteenth pancake lunch held in New Galloway Town Hall was once again a great success.

Organised by Balmacellian & Kells Guild, in excess of 60 people attended to enjoy pancakes. The £425 raised at the Pancake Lunch was donated to the British Heart Foundation.



Terramundi Theatre Company visited Kells school and performed Tam O'Shanter using shadow puppets. Primary 6/7 then were given the opportunity to make their own puppets in a workshop then perform their short plays to the rest of the school.

ON THE BUS WITH CATSTRAND COURSE

On Wednesday 29 February six drivers attended a Midas Training Course run by Jon Nimmo at the Catstrand.

This was the theory part of the course, lasting about two hours, after which Jon takes each individual out in the mini bus to assess that person's driving and for them to familiarise themselves with the vehicle.

We already have two more people who would like to receive training, and as the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) gets busier and busier, more is the demand for volunteer drivers – please ring Jon (01644 420 247) or Keith (01644 450 201) if

you are interested.

EXTRA BUS NEEDED

The demand for seats on recent trips has meant that we had to put an extra trip on to Glasgow for the Hobbcraft exhibition, and on Monday 16 April both vehicles will be taking people to Dumfries House – you need to book tickets as soon as tickets are on sale to ensure your seats!

PROGRAMME OF TRIPS

To help you plan your summer we have produced a programme of trips for the next few months; please note the following dates:

Thursday 10 May: Afternoon trip to New Abbey, Carsethorn and Kippford (time for a meal if you wish)

Monday 21 May: Loch Lomond

Sunday 10 June: Appleby Horse

Fair

Monday 9 July: Kirkcolm, The Agnew Monument and Corsewall Lighthouse.

Monday 30 July: Ayr

Saturday 26 August: Floors Castle, Kelso.

Monday 17 September: Royal Yacht Britannia

Other trips will be added including another visit to Braehead from where you can catch the ferry down the Clyde, Houghton Hall Garden Centre, Carlisle and a visit to Lowther Castle and Gardens – see local posters and website for updates.

Let us hope for some good weather to enjoy visiting a variety of places – any more ideas please let me know.

Keith Cooper, GTI Administrator

Carsphairn Heritage Exhibition

The Carsphairn Heritage Group 2012 Exhibition, at the Carsphairn Heritage Centre, will be titled 'An Officer and a Gentleman: The Life of John Clark Kennedy'.

Our exhibition celebrates the long and full life of John Clark Kennedy. He was an officer in the 12th Lancers, and a soldier who fought with distinction in

World War II followed by dedicated service in some of the post-war hotspots throughout the world.

In his later life, for over forty years at his home at Knockgray in Carsphairn, he had many diverse interests all linked by his love of the countryside and his heritage. He generously shared his Clark Kennedy history for two exhibitions in 2004 and 2005.

Now, for the first time, we have been given the opportunity to fully understand not only what an officer and a gentleman he was, but to realise what a huge

contribution he made to our community.

The exhibition opens on Good Friday (6 April) and is open throughout April and May on weekends and Bank Holidays, and thereafter every day except Wednesdays until the end of September.

For more information call Carsphairn Heritage Centre on 01644 460 653 (after Friday 6 April) or visit our new website www.carsphairnheritage.org



Family and friends coming to stay?

Short of space?

Cosy country cottage available (sleeps 4)

Call Fiona on 01644 420 227 or 07789 903127

THE STEWARTRY VETERINARY CENTRE

CASTLE DOUGLAS SURGERY HOURS
Mon-Fri 2.00-2.30 pm & 5-6 pm
Sat 2-2.30 pm

DALBEATTIE SURGERY HOURS
Mon, Wed, Fri 3-3.30 pm
Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

FOR APPOINTMENTS AT BOTH SURGERIES
OR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

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GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

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*The Surgery
High Street
New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

A YEAR IN THE GLENKENS

It is now over a year since Joanna Sinclair and Stewart Macpherson took over the Clachan Inn. In this article, Joanna describes their first 12 months in Dalry.

On the 28th of December 2011 Stewart and I celebrated our first year at The Clachan Inn.

On that day, we both agreed that the last 12 months had been the most challenging and rewarding days of our lives, and that we would not have survived without the support and friendship of the Glenkens locals.

Without a doubt, there have been hard times since we began our tenancy in December 2010, but this is entirely overshadowed by the huge pride we share in how popular The Clachan Inn has become.

We had lived and worked in Glasgow for several years before moving to Dalry, so the change of scenery was drastic. Instead of the noise of sirens and street-sweepers, we wake up to the sounds of animal noises... and Jimmy Dixon going for his morning messages!

Although the pace is somewhat slower here, we wouldn't change it for the world and have discovered a strong and wonderful sense of community for the first time in our lives.

We had both worked in offices before moving to Dalry; I was an organiser for a teachers' trade union and Stewart worked as an administrator for the Procurator Fiscal. Neither of us took much satisfaction in our careers, so we felt a change was needed.

We had originally looked at hotels in Kirkcudbright, but once we were shown The Clachan we knew it was for us.

I think I will always be overwhelmed by the atmosphere and look of the bar, lounge and bothy.

Stewart and I had never worked in bars before, so the decision to take over the lease of The Clachan was both scary and exhilarating.

We were a little naive to start, Stewart had never even started a fire



Joanna and Stewart, managers at the Clachan Inn

before our time here, and then there were three to light every morning!

That said, one year on, Stewart still gets 'constructive feedback' from the locals about his fire-lighting skills.

Now into 2012, Stewart and I are taking stock of what we can build on this year. The restaurant has been a big hit since it opened and we will be expanding the menu in the coming weeks to include game and various other local produce.

We are organising more events in the bar, and have already had live folk and jazz music over the last few weeks.

The Clachan Inn deserves to be a gem in the area's crown, and we have worked tirelessly to establish it as the heart of the community once more.

We are still humbled by the support and kindness from the Glenkens community. We run the hotel to the best of our abilities, but it is the locals who make The Clachan Inn. The Glenkens is our community and The Clachan is its pub.

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**61 Victoria Street
NEWTON STEWART
DG8 6NL**

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

For mortgages we can be paid by commission or a fee of usually £300 or a combination of both. For Home Insurance we usually offer products from a limited panel of providers.

CatStrand Highlights

You'll find plenty at the CatStrand to put a Spring in your step for April and May: From folk to film to a puppet show that will tickle your funnybone, we have produced a packed-full programme of Easter entertainment to treat you to this season.

Find some Easter holiday humour at our showing of Puss in Boots on Wednesday 4 April. Shrek's feisty feline hatches a plan to steal the famous golden egg-laying goose and save the world from two murderous outlaws known as Jack and Jill. (Tickets £5/4, Cert U, 2pm showing.)

Or if storytelling through song is music to your ears, come along to Rachel Sermanni on Friday 6 April. She's a straight-up storyteller with a voice to blow all others clean out of the water. 19-year-old Scottish

singer-songwriter Rachel packs an almighty punch with her earthy folk melodies and dextrous fingerpicking.

A few more unusual visitors will be at the CatStrand on the Thursday 12 April including Big, Little and Dog with their show, Funnybones. This puppet production finds fun, frights and friendship through song and illustrated adventure. Spooky houses, dancing clocks, dinosaurs and skeleton pets all make an appearance as well as that darned Black Cat.

There is even more brightening up our brochure for the month of May as Fabulous Forces come into play on the 1st. In association with Dumfries & Galloway Science Festival, those aged over eight can explore with experiments and suss science surprises at the fun demonstration with findings that will surprise and delight.

Science stays on the agenda for the Wednesday 25 April as Robin Ince performs his Fringe Festival stand-up show, "Happiness Through Science." His comic exploration of the human condition



Rachel Sermanni

ponders if you can be happy and rational at the same time. Robin's show will leave you laughing as he orienteers through the craggy landscape of evolution whilst plumbing the depths of his own murky consciousness.

These are just a few of the highlights. Make sure you pick up an Events Guide and call 01644 420 374 or visit www.catstrand.com for tickets.

WELCOME TO THE GLENKENS

We would like to welcome Gemma and Rebecca, the CatStrand's newest staff members, to the Glenkens.

Gemma Graham is the new Reception/Retail Co-ordinator, and Rebecca Goldsmith is taking up the post of Youth Arts Co-ordinator. The youth post is aimed at developing arts with young people in the Glenkens and the programme, funded by the Hollywood Trust, will run for three years.

Guide Thank You

The Guides would like to thank all those who have donated materials for their Bonanza Bags project.

They now have lots of wonderful materials and the project - making bags from recycled materials to raise funds for their own activities as well as to donate towards the SSPCC 'Children First' charity - is well underway.




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Cross Country Championships

The Dumfries & Galloway Regional Cross Country Secondary Schools Championships 2012 were held at Wigtown Show Ground at Bladnoch, near Wigtown.

Last year they were cancelled twice because of the waterlogged ground, but this year they went ahead on time.

Dalry Secondary School sent a team of 14 pupils, seven boys and seven girls. In very competitive and large fields of quality runners (up to 60 in some races), Dalry Secondary School pupils did very well. All our runners are to be commended for their effort, preparation and commitment.

Those who did particularly well on the day were: Grace Mckie in S1 Girls – 5th; Kirsten Stalker in S4 girls – 7th; Georgina Smith in S2 Girls – 10th and Alexander McKenna in S3 boys – 10th.



Want a cycle ride? Come and join us!

Glenkens Bike Club will offer short 'led-rides' for parents and their children, once a month from April to September.

To register interest or leave a question to be answered please leave your contact details at The CatStrand, New Galloway (01644 420 374).

From the 'Bikeability' Team

Spalding Bowling Club

Centenary Year

1912 - 2012

There will be a Grand Opening of the Green on Saturday 14 April at 2pm.

There will be a Special Guest of Honour, and everyone is welcome to come and join in the special celebrations.



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New Dog Show

This year's Carsphairn Show, on Saturday 2 June, is to have a new attraction – an open exemption dog show.

The show will be open to all dogs from the Glenkens and beyond and is to have classes for pedigree and non-pedigree dogs, from puppies to veterans, as well as fun classes including The Best Six Legs and Fancy Dress.

Entries will be taken on the day from 12 noon and judging will commence at 2.30pm.

Classes will be judged by Mr Kevin Burke (Markath) who has judged throughout the UK including Crufts, and rosettes will be awarded to 4th place and also for Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show.

Entries will cost £1.50 for the first class per dog with subsequent entries £1 per dog.

Entry forms will be available to download from the new Carsphairn website - www.carsphairn.org - for you to complete and bring with you or available at the showground on the day.

It is hoped people from the Glenkens will come along to the Show and have some fun with their pooches and, if it is successful, that this will become an annual event.

Well Won

Isobel Cuthbertson of Dalry (pictured below) won a record number of trophies last year.

In 2011 she won the three cups, three salvers and a certificate, for various activities and achievements. Isobel won the cups for baking and preserves at local flower and agricultural shows - she has shown at Carsphairn show for 40 years.

As president of Dalry WRI, Isobel last year won their points salver trophy. She was also presented with her loyalty certificate for being a member for 46 years.

Isobel, who also judges blackface sheepis looking forward to this summer's shows!



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Acoustic Success

The first Glenkens Acoustic Session, held on Sunday 26 February was a huge success with a turnout of around 60 people over the course of the afternoon.

With a great array of musicians, ranging from guitars to a ukulele, a mandolin to a boran, lots of lovely vocals, and even a fiddle, the listeners were entranced and many stayed from 2pm all

the way to almost 6pm. With an overrun of nearly two hours, people must have been enjoying themselves, including the wonderful CatStrand volunteers who had a very busy Sunday afternoon!

So come along for some coffee or a beer, some yummy CatStrand cake, and some really good local music on Sunday 29 April, 27 May, and the last Sunday of each month thereafter.



Local Jazz Night

The Lochinvar Hotel will be hosting two evenings of top class traditional jazz on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 April with John Fenner and the Mike Daley All Stars.

Local musician John Fenner has assembled an all star band for the occasion. The 'All Stars' have a wealth of international experience and between them have played along side some of the most recognised names in world jazz, such as Acker Bilk,

Ruby Braff, Martin Taylor, Louis Armstrong, Wild Bill Davidson and Bud Freeman. John was a member of the Kenny Ball band for 17 years.

The band is made up of Mike Daley on cornet, Tommy Evans on double bass, Duncan Nairn on clarinet and vocals, Jack Murray on trombone and vocals and of course John Fenner on guitar (and maybe the banjo).

The evenings will be run on an informal Jazz Café type atmosphere and will be accompanied by a light buffet supper during the interval. The events are by ticket only, in advance, and tickets are £12.50 from the Lochinvar Hotel (01644 430107).



Scots Concert

On Monday 20 February Kells students, P4-7, put on a short concert for parents and members of the local community at the Cross Keys in New Galloway.

The pupils recited a variety of Scots poetry, P4/5 played a number of well known tunes on their ukuleles, some pupils sang songs, plus the whole choir performed 'Get on Board' and 'Any Dream Will Do.'

Music Festival

Dalry Secondary School music students have again reached for the skies at the Galloway Music Festival and proved themselves worthy.

These early teenage years are often the time when students become less inclined to push themselves forward and enter competitive events, but this year many of our pupils took part in ensemble, duet and solo classes and worked hard to improve their performances, many gaining high marks and high praise from the adjudicators.

It is hard work but the reward is that these pupils are becoming successful learners, effective contributors and confident individuals. They are a credit to our school.



AGNES COOKS... RHUBARB

In this issue, our very own award-winning cook, Agnes Holden, will give us some tips on what to do with all that rhubarb in our gardens this summer...

There are lots of recipes both sweet and savoury for this versatile fruit (although to be accurate it is actually a stem vegetable). I have decided to offer one of each as many people are faced with a glut of rhubarb and the chutney recipe should at least help with some of the excess! They both contain ginger (in different forms) but I think that rhubarb and ginger is a combination hard to beat.

Rhubarb and Stem Ginger Tart

This recipe uses preserved stem ginger which can be found in most supermarkets but maybe, like me, you have some lurking at the back of the fridge from Christmas! I am giving the recipe for the pastry but a bought tart base would be fine.

Pastry

200g (8oz) plain flour
140g (5oz) butter
2 teaspoons ground ginger
3-4 tablespoons of preserved stem ginger syrup

Filling

350g (12oz) rhubarb cut into 2.5cm (1in) lengths
3 pieces of preserved stem ginger, sliced

2 eggs, separated
50ml (3fl oz) double cream

Put the ground ginger and flour into a bowl and mix evenly, add the butter and rub it in finely. Pour in the ginger syrup and mix to form firm dough. (Alternatively, put the flour, ginger and butter into a processor and pulse until fine. Add the syrup and pulse until it forms a stiff dough).

Roll the dough out thinly and line a 23cm / 9in diameter loose bottomed tart tin. Chill for at least 40 mins.

Bake the pastry case blind in a preheated oven (200C / gas 6) for 10 – 15 mins.

For the filling put half the sugar into a pan with 1 tablespoon of water. Bring to the boil and stir until the sugar is dissolved. Add the rhubarb and cook very gently for 5 – 10 mins until rhubarb is just cooked.

Drain the rhubarb but keep the juice it was cooked in. Arrange the rhubarb and sliced ginger in the pastry case. Put the egg yolks, remaining sugar and cream in a bowl and whisk until thick then stir in the reserved cooking juices.

Whisk the egg whites in a bowl until stiff and fold into the cream mixture. Pour into the pastry case and bake for 30 – 40 mins when it should be just set.

Dust with icing sugar. Delicious served hot or cold with some crème fraiche to which a few



teaspoons of the preserved stem ginger syrup have been added.

Rhubarb, Ginger and Orange Chutney

1 large onion, chopped
1kg (just over 2 lb) rhubarb – cut into approx 2.5cm (1in) lengths
150g (5oz) sultanas
300ml (1/2 pt) cider vinegar
400g (14oz) soft brown sugar
2 tablespoons of freshly grated ginger
Zest of one large orange
2 whole cloves

Piece of cinnamon stick

Put everything (except the rhubarb – it's added later to help retain its colour and shape) into a large pan and heat gently, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Bring to the boil and simmer for about 20 – 30 mins until the syrup has thickened. Add the rhubarb and continue cooking, stirring gently from time to time until the rhubarb is soft (about 15mins) but still retains its shape. Take the pan off the heat and cool for 15mins. Stir gently to distribute the fruit and spoon into warm, sterilised jars. Store the chutney in a cool, dark place for about one month before using. It will keep for a year.

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Glenkens Photo Group

A suggestion has been made that a photography group is established in the Glenkens.

It might be that you are interested in starting photography; you may be a professional photographer; you may be an amateur photographer; you may like looking at other people's images; or you may just like the company of like-minded people.

If you have any interest at all please send your contact details to jodie@catstrand.com. Should there be sufficient interest, a meeting will be called to discuss what people would like and how to progress the group.

STEWARTRY CAMERA CLUB

The Stewartry Camera Club's 'Abstract Competition' was judged by Alwyn Howes.

Alwyn is a Stewartry photographer and club member who has been very successful in previous years' competitions. Well qualified to carry out the judging, he commended the creative thought that had been put into the competition entries.

Glenkens successes in Group 1 were Mary McIlvenna who was second with 'Life Within' and fifth with 'Shades of Grey' that also won Best Mono. John Houfe with 'Reeds' won Best Landscape. In Group 2, Karen Kubran was third with 'Springtime'.

The Club thanks Alwyn for the time and effort put into what was considered a very fair and encouraging judging.

For further information contact Mary McIlvenna 01644 420613 or John Smith 01557 332043



Life Within by Mary McIlvenna

Gazette 'Photo of the Issue'

We've had lots of wonderful photos of the Glenkens submitted for our first 'Photo of the Issue' competition - thank you everyone who submitted photos. Keep them coming!

After much deliberation, the person chosen as the winner of a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Sunday carvery is Iain Davidson from Dalry with his dramatic photo of a Hercules flying low over Woodhall Loch.

The prize for next issue's winner will be a meal for two at the Clachan Inn in Dalry. You can either drop your photos into the CatStrand, or email them to me at glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk.



Hercules over Woodhall Loch by Iain Davidson

Galloway Photographic Collective

A number of Galloway fine art photographers, mainly from the Glenkens, have formed the Galloway Photographic Collective.

The group will launch the project on the weekend of 31 March at the CatStrand. Photographers include Morag Paterson and Ted Leeming, Phil McMenemy, Alan Wright and Ian Biggar.

Website Launch

Award-winning local photographer, Phil McMenemy, has just launched his new website.

"I do hope you can find a wee bit of time to have a look at and enjoy my images - I would love to hear back from you with any thoughts or comments," says Phil. Most of Phil's photographs are of Galloway, including many lovely Glenkens images. Phil goes on to say: "Please feel free to drop by the 'Gallery at Laurieston' where a warm welcome is guaranteed, music will be playing and you might also be offered a cuppa!" Phil's new website is:

www.pmcphotography.co.uk

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Kells Parish War Memorial (Part II)

I had fully intended to submit an article on the Dalry War Memorial for this issue but I have had several observations and requests for information about the article in the last issue so I thought I needed to revisit the topic with further information.

Mike Brown mentioned that since I had not given Adam Byers's regiment he had checked the memorial himself and found that Adam was among a number who had served in the Cameronians. He wondered why this should be so.

As Dumfries and Galloway had long been the recruiting territory of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers, the fact that Adam Byers and a number of other men from New Galloway chose to enlist in the Cameronians deserves an explanation. I can do no better than repeat an item written by a fellow military researcher (Stuart Wilson, formerly of Auchencairn).

One of the main reasons for the relatively low KOSB enlistment in the New Galloway area was localised political fall-out from the decision not to include the Kells as one of the companies in the newly formed 5th KOSB (TF) in 1908.

New Galloway had always been a strong supporter of the Galloway Rifle Volunteers ('E' Coy.) and so expected to be represented in the new set-up. However, once they realised that they were being overlooked there was a great deal of ill-feeling towards the 5th Battalion and so very few men from the area ended up with the KOSB.

New Galloway's antipathy towards the new set-up is expressed more fully by Ian Devlin in Albanich:

"With a sufficiency of recruits within the Dumfries and Galloway region, it was considered that 'E' Company, New Galloway... was drawn from too remote an area and it was with some reluctance that this Company was disbanded. It was to be many a long day before the men of New Galloway and the Glenkens were to forgive their home Regiment, the KOSB, for their ingratitude to a Company who had produced

many of the Regiments finest marksmen, two of the Regiments four Commanding Officers and their Colour Sergeant, now Sergeant Major Grierson, who had captured Commandant Wolmaran and 30 armed men in South Africa in 1901. From that date [1908] the men of the Glenkens were to offer their future services to the Cameron Highlanders."

Although omitting the reason which lay behind it, it is even noted in the official history of the 5th KOSB that: "... the first man enlisted in New Galloway went to the Cameron Highlanders. As soon as he had been seen swaggering in his kilt down the High Street of this ancient burgh, nine or ten of his chums went off to join that regiment."

That first man may well have been William Stewart, also listed on this memorial.

Thanks to research by Ken Morrison of Rockcliffe, we know that the men did not die together but on a variety of dates throughout the war.

I have placed a copy of Ken's research notes on the New Galloway men in the Catstrand. A photograph of 9 New Galloway Cameron Highlanders at the front in 1915 was published in a pictorial book of the Glenkens in 2002.

Each Town and Village set up its own War Memorial Committee and decided on the qualification criteria for a name to be entered on the memorial. Some required a man to be born there, others that they lived there at the time of enlistment but often we just don't know how they decided who should be listed, particularly as the minutes of these committees rarely survive.

We do know that the New Galloway

Committee decided to add the name of VAD nurse Jane Nodwell. Jane was the daughter of Samuel and Janet (Lockerbie) Nodwell of the Cross Keys Hotel and is buried in Kells churchyard. She died on 19 November 1918 of influenza at Yorkhill War Hospital, Glasgow.

The Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) was a voluntary organisation providing field nursing services mainly in hospitals. The organisation was founded in 1909 with the help of the Red Cross and the Order of St. John. VAD nurses appear on some memorials but not others; it depends on the conditions that the local committee applied.

Barbara Barker has also been in touch. Her grandfather was Alexander McCubbing, a master stonemason and one half of the building firm who built the memorial. I will let Barbara's words tell the story...

"His eldest son John, was an apprentice with the firm until WW1 broke out and he joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in January 1915. He is, in fact, the Lance Corporal John McCubbing whose name is on the memorial, having been killed at the Battle of the Somme in August 1916 at the age of 20.

"He was injured by shrapnel in the knee and thigh, and was being helped to safety by a Private Hunter from Carsphairn. When he was injured his helmet had fallen off, and as he was being lifted up by Pte Hunter he was shot again, this time in the head and died instantly."

Barbara has also given information about the Stewart brothers listed on the memorial.

You can find this information with photographs and more on the Scottish War Memorial Project at <http://tinyurl.com/39u8g8>.

If you have information you would like to share about anyone on this or any other local memorial, please contact Paul Goodwin on 07973 174342 or memorials@paulgoodwin.me.uk



Alexander McCubbing; standing in the centre of the photograph

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

Still Working on the Railway



Since, happily, the article in the last Gazette on the Glenkens Railway generated a fair number of responses we return to it in this issue.

Logan Paterson has pointed out that there is a video of the train journey from Parton to Kirkcowan on Youtube. Put 'Madrigada Eterna' into the search facility and you will be on your way, stopping at most of the stations en route. There is space for comments so if you enjoy it and the soundtrack by KLF, a group that had local connections – and even if you don't! – please respond and mention Glenkens in order to make this district better known.

Tom Scott reports that his mother served in the Auxilliary Territorial Service (ATS; women's branch of the British Army) during World War II. When boarding the train at Parton, on one occasion, to go south, the train was so full that she had to be pushed through the window – a local example of in-fenestration... Rumour hath it that when Tom was on Dalry Community Council he sometimes inspired ideas of defenestration!

It has also been pointed out that it was Harold Wilson's Labour Government that actually closed down the line in 1965. The decision, however, was made under the regime of Prime Minister Alec Douglas-Home following the advice of 'Transport

Minister Ernie Marples, who just happened to be director of a road building business, and Dr Richard Beeching. In 1950 British Railways controlled some 21,000 miles of track and 6,000 stations, reduced to 12,000 miles and 2,000 stations by 1975. During the 1964 election campaign Labour promised to stop the closures if elected, but of course later reneged.

The railway is central, to the point of tedium in my view, in Dorothy L Sayer's Lord Peter Wimsey novel, *Five Red Herrings* (1931) in which one of the characters briefly visits High Brig of Dee and New Galloway, but which is mainly concerned with the Stranraer-Glasgow line. The story was televised some time ago starring Ian Carmichael as Wimsey. Some may find the author's obsession with timetables utterly

fascinating but they tax the patience of this reader if no other...

In John Buchan's *Thirty-Nine Steps*, a story that depends on more incredible coincidences than there are varieties of weather on a Galloway Spring Day, Richard Hannay, after the murder of Scudder, decides that Galloway is the best place to go to. 'It was the nearest wild part of Scotland and from the

look of the map it was not over thick with population'. He switches from the London to the Stranraer train at Dumfries. The author was not writing a guide book but it would appear that the stations where Hannay alights to go walkabout before reboarding an east-bound train, were inspired by Dromore and Loch Skerrow. He abandons the train at the Stroan Viaduct and later comes across a road bridge beside which is an inn, 'standing golden in the sunset against the brown hills', clearly the establishment once known as The Spalding Arms, now the Kenbridge Hotel. There he meets the 'literary landlord' who has ambitions to write. When Hannay remarks that innkeepers should make the greatest story-tellers in the world he is told,

'Not now. Maybe in the old days when you had pilgrims and ballad-makers and highwaymen and mail-coaches on the road. But not now. Nothing comes here but motor-cars full of fat women, who stop for lunch, and a fisherman or two, and the shooting tenants in August. There is not much material to be got out of that'. Perhaps the pessimism was due to recession in 1930 as now. Dave and Sue Paterson, proprietors of 'The Brig', can perhaps inform us about how many pilgrims and highwaymen are among their patrons nowadays.

When the baddies show up in the book Hannay sends the innkeeper (Dave P. take note!) on his motorbike to Newton Stewart to alert the chief constable. He would have gone faster than any train but the bike was diagnostic. Slowly but surely, private transport was outstripping the public variety. Many folk have challenged my suggestion that the railway died, in part, due to apathy.

A legend seems to have grown up about Westminster deliberately severing Galloway from the rest of the country by cutting the railway but the facts are that passenger use was seriously declining and freight was increasingly moved to roads while rolling stock and allied services were becoming evermore dated.

Whether we are discussing a past way of life, dispossessed Gaels or First Nations Americans, human beings have a great capacity for waiting until peoples and institutions are on the verge of extinction before belatedly sentimentalizing their loss. The demise of the railway was a regrettable disaster in which everyone was, to a greater or lesser degree, complicit.

Ted Cowan

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GLENKENS DIARY...

MARCH

Weekend of 31 March, launch of Galloway Photography Collective, CatStrand

Sat 31 March – Wed 30 May, Exhibition: Galloway Photography Collective, CatStrand

APRIL

April – November, Giants in the Forest, CatStrand

Mon 2, Bus Trip - Edinburgh Zoo

Wed 4, Film: Puss in Boots, 2pm, CatStrand

Thurs 5, Class: PCs, CDs & MP3s, 10am-12noon, CatStrand

Thurs 5, Play it by Ear, toddlers' music session, 10-11am, CatStrand

Fri 6, Carsphairn Heritage Centre Exhibition opens - see p8 for opening days/times

Fri 6, Rachel Sermanni, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 7, Craft Fair, Dalry Town Hall

Thurs 12, Funnybones (Ages 3-7), 2.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 12, Class: PCs, CDs & MP3s, 10am-12noon, CatStrand

Sat 14, Spalding Bowling Club Centenary Grand Opening, 2pm, Dalry

Bowling Green (opposite The Garage)

Thurs 19, James Grant, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 19 (for four weeks), Classes: Digital Photography – First Steps, 10:30am-12:30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 19 (for four weeks), Classes: Digital Photography – Next Steps, 1:30-3:30pm, CatStrand

Fri 20 & Sat 21, Jazz Evenings, Lochinvar Hotel, see p13

Sat 21, Andy Irvine, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 26, Film: Hugo, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 27, Amy Geddes, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 28, Workshop: 3D Felt – Bags & Hats, 10m-4pm, (incl. lunch), CatStrand

Sun 29, Glenkens Acoustic Sessions, 2-4pm, CatStrand

MAY

Tues 1, Dr Ben Craven: Fabulous Forces (Ages 8+), 7pm, CatStrand

Wed 2, CatStrand Open Stage, 7pm, CatStrand

Thurs 3, Play it by Ear, toddlers' music session, 10-11am, CatStrand

Sat 5, Scout Jumble Sale, 2-4pm,

New Galloway Scout Hut

Sun 6, Scout Jumble Sale, 1.30-3pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Wed 9, Woody Pines, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 10, Bus trip to New Abbey, Carsethorn & Kippford see p8

Fri 11-Thurs 17, Newton Stewart Walking Festival, see back page

Thurs 20, Workshop: Freedom & Flow in Watercolour, 10am-4pm, CatStrand

Mon 21, Bus trip to Loch Lomond, see p8

Thurs 24, Film: The Iron Lady, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 24, RNLI fundraising eve, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 25, Robin Ince: Happiness Through Science, 8pm, CatStrand

Sun 27, Glenkens Acoustic Sessions, 2-4pm, CatStrand

Thurs 31, Chris Lerner: An Instinct For Kindness, 7.30pm, CatStrand

JUNE

Sat 2, Carsphairn Show, opens 8am, Show Dance 9pm, see back page

Mon 4, Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, Dalry, see p5

Sun 10, Bus trip to Appleby Horse Fair, see p8

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays:

Balmaclellan: 12noon

1st Carsphairn: 10.30am

1st 2nd 3rd 4th, Dalry (Apr):

12noon 1st 2nd 3rd 4th,

Dalry (May): 9am 1st 2nd

3rd 4th, Kells: 10.30am

2nd, 3rd 4th 5th

Special Services/ Events:

6 April, 7.30pm: Good Friday Service, Carsphairn Church

8 April, 7am: Easter Dawn Service at Balmaclellan War Memorial, followed by breakfast in Balmaclellan Village Hall

29 April, 10.30am, United Service with Choir in Kells church

4 May, 7.30pm, Quiz Night, Dalry Town Hall

17 May, 6.30pm, Ascension Day Service in Dalry Church

Communion

Service: 6 May, 12noon, Balmaclellan Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

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

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Call 07727 127 997 TO BOOK YOUR AD TODAY

USEFUL NUMBERS:

- Pot-hole Hotline: 0845 276 0000
- Local Police: 0845 600 5701
- Doctor: 01644 420 234
- NHS 24: 08454 24 24 24
- D&G Council: 030 33 33 3000

Dalry Library

Tue: 2 - 4.30pm
then 5.30 - 7.30pm

Fri: 11:15am - 1:15pm
then 2 - 4.30pm

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

APRIL & MAY

REGULAR EVENTS:

The CatStrand (New Galloway):

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am

Guitar Workshops: Mon, 7-8pm

Play it by Ear: 1st Thurs every month during term time, 10-11am

Children's Dance Class: Mon during term time, 3.45-4pm, age 3-7

Carers Coffee & Chat: Tues, 10am-12noon

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

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

Boxercise: Wed, 7-8pm, £4, New Galloway Town Hall

Zumba: Wed: 7.30-8.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall, £4

Gentle Yoga & Relaxation: Thurs, 10-11.15am

Sing it Out: Thurs, 11.30am-12.30pm

Pilates: Thurs, 4.15-5.15pm & 5.30-6.30pm

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

Family Film Club: 1st Sat each month, 11am, £5

annual membership

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

Catstrand Youth Players: Sun during term time, 2pm

Glenkens Acoustic Sessions, last Sunday of the month, 2-4pm

Glenkens Community Centre (Dalry):

Glenkens Playgroup: Mon-Fri, 9.15-11.45am (contact - Julie 01644 460 687)

Paint & Art: Mon, 1.30-4.30pm & Wed, 7-9pm

Ballroom & Latin Dance Class: Mon, 7.15, for more info call Sam Rushton on 420 672

Good Neighbours Club: Tues, 2pm

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

Glenkens Mother & Toddlers: Fri, 1.30-3pm

Thursday Craft Group: Thurs, 2-4pm

Brownies: Wed, 5.30-6.45pm

Guides: Tue during term-time, 6.15pm, contact: Kath 430 281

Various Locations:

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

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

Beavers: Tues, 6-7.15pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Dog Training: Tue, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall. Contact Eric Broadhurst on 460 670

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

Thursday Lunch Club: 12.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall, fortnightly starting 6 Jan, £3, contact - Raymond Vincent, 01644 420451.

Advice Surgeries with Alex Fergusson MSP, 2nd Friday of the month from 5pm, contact: 0800 028 7260

Lions Club monthly quiz: alternating between The CatStrand & Lochinvar Hotel, contact - Andrew Frew on 420 323



FORREST FIREWOOD

01644 430 230

Walkers Return to the Glenkens

The Glenkens will once again feature in Galloway's largest walking festival this year.

The tenth anniversary Newton Stewart Walking Festival takes place between Friday 11 and Thursday 17 May. The programme of more than 30 walks and evening events features a number of routes in and around the Glenkens. One route, entitled 'The Glenkens Villages' is an 11 mile walk starting in Balmaclellan, taking in Dalry, and ending in New Galloway. The route includes short climbs to viewpoints at Mulloch and Waterside Hills.

The full festival programme is available online at www.newtonstewartwalkfest.com and brochures can be picked up at Dalry library and the CatStrand in New Galloway. For further info or to book, call 01671 404500.



Walkers make their way towards the summit of Corserine via Polmaddy Gairy. Photo credit by M Kneeshaw.

Thank You

The Glenkens Gazette would like to thank Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd for their substantive award towards the running of the Gazette.

This will help the publication as it strives to become sustainable and financially self-sufficient.

Dalry Craft Fair

Dalry Town Hall are holding a craft fair on Saturday 7 April.

The focus will be on locally produced arts and crafts and with such a wealth of talented creative people in and around the Glenkens this should prove to be well worth a visit.

Carsphairn Show



Saturday 2nd June

Show opens at 8am with the Sheepdog Trial, Sheep Judging starts at 10am, Pet Show at 2pm, NEW Exemption Dog Show at 2.30pm and Childrens' Sports & Hill Race start at around 3pm.

Entries on the day for Sheep, Pet Show, Dog Show and Industrial Section (Sheep Dog Trial entry now closed). Entries for Sheep and Industrial Section must be received by 9.30am on the day.

Schedules available from local shops or contact Jean Gibbon on 01644 460 244, email info@furmiston.co.uk or download a schedule at www.carsphairn.org/carsphairn-show

Carsphairn Show Dance in Lagwyne Hall at 9pm

The Lochinvar Hotel

Hotel - Restaurant - Bar

JAZZ EVENING

John Fenner & Mike Daley All Stars

An evening of traditional jazz with a collection of international jazz musicians.

John Fenner - guitar

Mike Daley - cornet

Tommy Evans - double bass

Duncan Nairn - clarinet/vocals

Jack Murray - trombone/vocals

Friday 20th & Saturday 21st April

Tickets £12.50

Show begins at 8pm with a light buffet supper served during the interval.

Tickets are in advance only from the Lochinvar Hotel.

St. John's Town of Dalry

Tel: 01644 430 107

www.lochinvarhotel.co.uk

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Submit events, activities, news stories, cartoons, reviews, tips & techniques, fiction, photos, ads or ideas... Contact Sarah Ade on 07727 127 997 or glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

JUNE/JULY COPY DEADLINE: Fri 4 May



Design & co-ordination:

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Printing: Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press
www.stranraer-freepress.co.uk