

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

October/November 2012

ISSUE 72

FREE

New!
Youth Pages
p11 - 14

PEATBOG FAERIES LEAD CATSTRAND CELEBRATIONS

Top folk group the Peatbog Faeries and world-class Polish pianist Alexander Kudajczyk are among the performers coming to the Glenkens to celebrate the CatStrand's 5th anniversary at the beginning of October.

The programme, which also features performing poet John Hegley and a host of other performances, includes an exhibition of work by leading local artists.

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) Manager Sean Paul O'Hare says: "This is a celebration for the people of the Glenkens. Most importantly, we will be showcasing the creative and brilliant local talent within our community alongside both national and internationally recognised musicians and artists. This is a fantastic opportunity to come along and enjoy the very best of what the CatStrand has to offer, and we hope to see as many local people as possible out enjoying themselves over our birthday weekend. We've got

a great line-up, which we feel is a fitting tribute to all those who have contributed over the last five years."

On Friday 5 October we are holding a concert in Dalry; the Peatbog Faeries (nominated for 'Best Live Act'

at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2012), supported by local singer/songwriters Calum Gilligan and Zoe Bestel, are all set to get you into the swing of things. Then there is world-class classical music with Alexander Kudajczyk on Saturday 6 October, and poetry, comedy and performance with John Hegley on Sunday 7 October, along with a host of other events - a fantastic celebration of achievement."

Story continued on p10...



The Peatbog Faeries

Silver Wolf for Heather

A Glenkens Cub Scout leader has been awarded a top honour by the Chief Scout, Bear Grylls.

Heather McIntosh of New Galloway has received the Silver Wolf award, the highest award available to adult members of the Scout movement. The award is in the unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout and is only awarded for service of a most exceptional nature.

Heather, who has lived in New Galloway all her life, has been involved in the Scout movement since 1964. Her service has included being Cub Scout leader in the Glenkens and she was for a long time District Commissioner for Cub Scouts in Galloway.

To celebrate Heather's achievement and dedication the Glenkens Scout Group, the Galloway District Scouts and local Community Councils held a surprise party to share their appreciation. Heather is pictured here with Cub Scouts past and present, as well as Drew Low, Scout District Chairman of Galloway, and others involved locally with the Cub Scouts.



Dalry Community Update

A713 Allengibbon Bridge

Dalry Community Council has campaigned for some time now to get signage and road conditions improved at the Allengibbon Bridge, about a mile north of Dalry, after several timber lorries have overturned at the tight bends.

Dumfries & Galloway Council responded (finally) by applying an anti slip coating to the road, but not upgrading the signage to warn HGV drivers of the adverse camber and tight bends, and on Monday 3 September another timber lorry fell over at the bridge, making it quite clear that providing an anti-slip surface is not sufficient. Apparently upgrade work in this area is planned, but not for a couple of years... In the meantime Dalry Community Council would like to see improved warning signs – perhaps even a motion activated flashing sign. Plainly

the timber lorry drivers should be aware of the hazards at this bridge and respond accordingly.

4/5 bedroom homes wanted for Whinneymuir housing development

One of the reasons that Dalry Community Council opposed Dumfries & Galloway Housing Partnership's (DGHP) Whinneymuir development was not the development itself, but the nature of it; too many properties crammed into a small field which already had drainage issues, but also a lack of four or more bedroom properties.

The issue was raised with DGHP two years ago, who agreed to look into it, but nothing has happened. I am told there are two families with a local connection in need of a 4/5 bedroom social home who cannot get on the list for Dalry because; 'there are no 4/5 bedroom DGHP properties in Dalry', yet when DGHP was asked about provision of larger properties for these families, they said there was no demand

for them as there was nobody on their list! Is it me, or does DGHP's left hand not know what its right is up to?! I believe we should be able to expect better from the region's leading social landlord.

Not very broadband

Broadband provision in this remote area continues to be a problem and hinders internet access for business and private users alike. Recent 'blackouts' have highlighted that BT's ageing exchange is struggling to deal with demand, and we are told it will be some time yet before upgrade work is made in the Glenkens.

Whilst I can accept the economic reality that there are probably not enough subscribers in this area to make it 'financially' justifiable for BT to give us fibre-optic broadband any day soon, if we don't get internet provision improved we won't attract new people and businesses to the area that would make the investment worth it for BT. We desperately need intervention by the Scottish Government / Dumfries & Galloway Council to break out from this chicken-and-egg cycle!

*Andi Holmes,
Chair, Dalry Community Council*

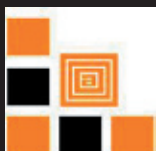
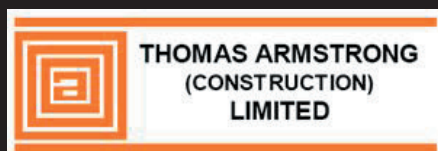
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Moving Stories

This is an exhibition aimed at increasing awareness of how the people of Scotland can become involved with their Parliament.

It will be run by the Scottish Parliament in Dalry Town Hall from Monday 15 October to Monday 5 November, and is described as; "Moving Stories: 10 people, 10 stories, one unmissable exhibition".

Stories are of ten members of the Scottish public who have been involved with the Parliament in various ways such as through campaigning, submitting a public petition or taking part in an MSP sponsored exhibition. In the form of ten voting-style booths, each booth tells the story of one of the ten people through audio interviews, video and photography.

The Town Hall are looking for volunteers to staff the exhibition; anyone interested please contact Marie Davie on 430 293.

Halloween Special: A Ghostly Execution

Just over 150 years ago, Dumfries played host to the last public execution of a woman in Scotland when Mary Reid (or Timney), was hanged in front of a crowd of thousands at the old Buccleuch Street Prison.

Mary, who was thought to have lived at Carsfad cottages on the A713 north of Dalry, was found guilty of murdering a neighbour following an argument which clearly got of hand. After a gut-wrenching build up and high drama on the day itself, Mary met her maker at twenty three minutes past eight on the morning of 29 April 1862.

Local paranormal team, Mostly Ghostly Investigations, marked the 150th anniversary of Mary's

execution with one of their popular Dumfries Ghost Walks.

"The team feels that Mary's tragic tale has captured the public's imagination," says Kathleen Cronie of Mostly Ghostly. "Mary's story is an intriguing insight into the events of that fateful day in 1862 and in addition to this, participants have reported a number of unexplained occurrences on the site of the old prison..."

Kathleen goes on to tell us about a bizarre incident which occurred on one of the Mostly Ghostly tours. Below is an eye-witness account:

"My family and I had the strangest experience... The guide was telling our group about the hanging of a lady there years ago. Out of the corner of my eye I could see a small light, just above a young girl's head. The light moved down to the top of her head,

then disappeared. At the same time she jumped and started rubbing her head.

"As we left the location, I said to the girl: 'Did something touch you on the head back there?' She answered: 'Yes, how did you know?' I replied; 'I saw it touch you.' I can't explain what happened that evening..."

Kathleen says: "We at Mostly Ghostly cannot say for sure who or what is responsible for these unusual occurrences. However, places where people have met tragic, untimely or violent ends are often associated with hauntings. There can be few places with stronger emotional imprints than the site of public executions."

Mostly Ghostly have two Halloween Tours planned for Wednesday 31 October, at 7pm and 9pm.

If anyone has information on the Mary Timney case, or any ghostly stories pertaining to the Glenkens, Mostly Ghostly would love to hear from you. To get in touch call 07791 047835 or visit www.mostlyghostly.org

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

We are very disappointed that despite meetings with officers of Dumfries & Galloway Council over the last year there has been no progress on our proposals for taking over management of the Town Hall.

Neither has the Council followed up its own plans for local consultations as conveyed to us a year ago.

At the 'hustings' meeting earlier this year, all candidates professed support for the Town Hall. Given that it is now, I believe, seven years since the Council proposed that local groups should take responsibility for their various community buildings, and nearly four years since LING informed them of our interest, we are writing formally to request that a decision is made and an appropriate agreement put in place.

Ros Hill, Chairman

PHOTO OF THE ISSUE

This issue's winner is Louise McClure from Dalmellington, with this quirky photo.

Louise says: "We popped up to say hello, and met this cheeky little chappie while enjoying a stroll along the banks of the river Ken."

Louise wins a meal for two at the Cross Keys Hotel in New Galloway. Next issue's prize will be a meal for two at the Thistle Inn in Crossmichael. So send in those snaps!



Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by natural power



EVERYTHING listed in the Glenkens Freecycle section 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. 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

Book case, 4' 6" high x 3' 6" wide, around 1' deep, dark wood, recipient to collect. Contact: Anne 430 520

Sofa, green leather, 3-seater, as new except one seat cushion inner is missing; the leather cover is there but foam cushion was never delivered... Contact: 460 673

Various

Pair of dark brown leather walking boots, size 10, good condition. Contact: Nigel on 460 545

Out-of-date but sealed and unused Canon BCI24C colour cartridges. Contact: 430 293

Guinea pig/rabbit hutch. It has been used and could do with a good dust and scrub. Contact: Bryher on 430039

Quantity of chicken wire suitable for rabbit proofing etc. Couple of rolls unused. Contact: Alan on 07769 680 938

Well-used portable Lexmark Z645 printer with all the software and a carry case but sadly no USB cable. Contact: 430 293

Kodak Easyprint printer and scanner, in perfect working order. Contact: George on 430 090 or 07920 125 816

Panasonic KXP2124 dot matrix printer for continuous paper with its parallel cable. Contact: 430 293

DIY/Home Fittings

White Twyford bathroom pedestal sink with mixer tap. New and unused. Contact: Andi on 430 255

Belling built-in electric single oven/grill. This has had very little use. Contact: Andrew on 430 387

Kitchen extractor fan (surface mounting) with flexihose. (Used). Contact: Andi on 430 255.

Small amount of parquet flooring.

Contact: Andi on 430 255

WANTED

Canoe in the shed? Never been used for years? We are looking for a small canoe for regular use on Loch Ken. Contact Mike on 077 666 86402

Wooden crates, the kind used for beer or cider, any size, I don't mind if they're grubby as long as they're not broken

or have wood worm. Contact: 07554 644 993

Calor gas stove. Contact: Mei on 460 528

Terracotta pots, any size/shape. Contact 07807 106 799

Bunk beds. Contact: Dawn 07774 543 465

Flat Screen TV, any size or type. Contact: 430 138

Dalry Anglers

Dalry Angling Association's annual Fishing Competition was held on Saturday 1 September.

Despite much advertising there were no junior entries, so this year's Junior competition did not take place. The Senior competition saw four members fishing in what was a day of poor returns, due in the main to the previous week's heavy rain which had resulted in high waters prior to the match. Only one fish was caught, which provided John Thom with both the Most Fish and the Heaviest Fish; the latter winning him the new Ray Cotterill Trophy. **Photo:** Angling Association Chairman Jeff Hardman presenting the Ray



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Eco Feature

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In this issue we find out what our new designation as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve will mean to the Glenkens.

What do Galloway, Mount Kenya, and Uluru have in common?

They are all UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. In July 2012 the United Nations, in the form of UNESCO, designated Galloway and South Ayrshire as Scotland's first Biosphere Reserve, and part of the World Network of Biospheres under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme.

This programme is dedicated to improving human livelihoods and ensuring natural habitats by promoting strategies to ensure sustainable development.

Our region was chosen for its number of unique combinations of habitats and environments, rich cultural heritage and communities that are aware of their impact on the environment and want to develop sustainably.

There are currently 600 Biospheres world-wide, with only two others in the UK - one in north Devon and the other in mid-Wales. Each Biosphere is

seen to be a site of excellence where new and optimal practices to manage nature and human activities are tested and demonstrated.

The Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere - based on the reserves of Cairnmore of Fleet, Silver Flowe, and the Merrick Kells (SSSI) - covers an area of 5268 square kilometres. It is divided into three distinct areas; the Core, the Buffer, and the Transition area, and ranges from Ayr in the north to Whithorn in the south, Portpatrick in the west to Thornhill in the east, encompassing 45,000 dwellings and 95,000 people.

Being part of the Biosphere programme is a unique opportunity open to individuals, businesses, and communities to develop the region sustainably, both economically and environmentally, for the benefit of the local and ultimately global community.

What the Biosphere brings is partnership in an international first class brand. The Biosphere does not directly bring funding with it, but it is a worldwide

symbol of a unique and spectacular environment; a symbol that is to bring the south west of Scotland more attention from both tourism and bodies such as the Scottish Government. The Biosphere is also interested in lending its support to a wide range of enterprising initiatives from micro energy generation to the promotion of traditional rural skills for biodiversity management, from sustainable tourism initiatives to the celebration and interpretation of local heritage and culture.

A group of local artists and writers is one of the first groups to take advantage of the new designation, and some of their members recently had the experience of visiting the East Carpathians and High Tatras Biospheres. The results of this informative trip will be reported at an evening event at the CatSrand - keep your eyes peeled for more on this.

Further information can be found on www.gallowayandsouthernayrshirebiosphere.org.uk

Sara McNeill

READER'S TIP:

When clearing tall perennials which are 'gone over', save the stems and dry them to use as plant supports.

Louise McClure, Dalmellington

Kylelea Cattery



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Below: Blackface sheep, an integral part of the Glenkens countryside and an example of how the landscape we know and love is created through people working alongside nature. Photograph courtesy of the Biosphere programme, taken by Allan Devlin.



Big Splash for Alternative Games

The Games started at 2pm on Sunday 5 August, and a few minutes after they were officially declared open the heavens opened too. Constant heavy rain fell for well over an hour as thunder rumbled, after which the arena was more suited to water skiing than gird n' cleek racing.

A good crowd had gathered to witness the opening ceremony, which had an Olympic flavour this year. Current gird n' cleek world champion Neil Armstrong and special guest competitors Rory McGrath and Will Mellor carried their torches around the arena, led by piper George Galloway.

Most of the crowd bravely soldiered on, hoping for a dry interlude to allow some of the action to take place. In the meantime, the popular snail racing switched venues across to

the CatStrand.

Rory McGrath and Will Mellor were at the Games to film for their new Channel 5 programme, 'Rory and Will: Champions of the World'. It was disappointing for everyone when no competitive action could take place for practical and safety reasons - the first time this has ever happened in the history of the event. However, after the rain had reduced to a steady drizzle, Rory and Will entertained the crowd with their attempts at Tossin' the Sheaf and the Tractor Pull. A special challenge gird n' cleek race was then arranged to give Rory and Will a chance to become Unofficial World Champions.

The weekend had started with



Jayde Devlin, Alexander McKenna, Neil Armstrong, Brian Edgar, Will Mellor and Rory McGrath.

a Quiz Night on Friday in New Galloway Town Hall, and Saturday evening's event was an Archive Film night in the CatStrand.

The organisers, New Galloway Community Council, would like to thank everyone who helped in any way with this year's events, particularly to all stall holders, helpers and the crowd for showing such resilience in the face of the testing weather conditions.

Aileen McLeod MSP



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BEAUTIFUL SINGING, BEAUTIFUL SETTING

On Friday 17 August, the lovely old church in St John's Town of Dalry was the setting for some exceptionally fine music, which was enjoyed by an attentive and appreciative audience.

The performers were Apollo5 - no, not the moon-landing, but a group of five young professional singers who perform without accompaniment.

Their programme was extremely

varied, ranging from church motets of the Tudor period to jazz numbers, songs from the shows and folksong, including many arrangements made specially for the group.

The five members of the group - two ladies and three gentlemen - sang in various groupings, taking turns to be the featured lead singer, and adapted their singing style according to the piece being performed.

They conveyed to the audience a sense of reverence, or of seriousness, or of fun and humour, whatever was appropriate.

Apollo5 are busy building a career as performers and we will certainly hear their name in the future. We are very fortunate that they chose Dalry as their first Scottish engagement.

Archie Thom

Church News

Family Services: The Church of Scotland congregations of Dalry, Balmacellan and Kells are planning to hold regular monthly family services on the second Sunday of the month.

The next one will be in Dalry Church at 10.30am on Sunday 14 October. There will not be one in November as the second Sunday will be Remembrance Sunday, but one with a Christmas theme will take place in Kells Church at 10.30am on Sunday 9 December. These services will be more informal and child friendly than our normal services, but aiming to cater for all ages.

Resurrection - The Evidence: A few years ago Derek McIntyre came down from Glasgow in response to an invitation from the local Church of Scotland congregations to lead a few evenings at the Kenbridge Hotel on 'Jesus: The Evidence'. He is returning to the Kenbridge Hotel for a meeting on Monday 12 November at 7pm where he will give a presentation on the evidence for the resurrection. After he has spoken there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion. Those who are sceptical about the whole matter are particularly encouraged to come along and engage in discussion and debate. A buffet supper will be served about 7.45pm for which there will be a charge of £5. For further information or to book a place please phone David Bartholomew on 430 380.

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THREE UNFORTUNATE BROTHERS

This tragic tale follows from a reader's request for elaboration on the story of Robert James Clark mentioned in Paul Goodwin's previous article on Dalry's war memorials.

In 1901, Hugh and Esther Clark were living in Craigielea, Dalry, with their three sons and four daughters. The oldest son was named Hugh after his father, with his brothers being John Martin and Robert James.

Hugh and Robert both served in the First World War in the Gordon Highlanders. Robert was unfortunately killed on the battlefield by a shell in November 1916; he had been an apprentice joiner to his father and was also a relief postman, and he is remembered by being the first named on the village war memorial.

John took his own life in

February 1917 in Dalry. As was customary in such cases, no newspaper report of his death was published, just an obituary, and in order to spare the feelings of anyone who might read this, I will also publish no further details of the event. I will also not speculate as to the circumstances other than to observe that this took place just two months after his brother was killed at the front.

Hugh eventually returned safely to Dalry after his war service and became the village postman for forty years before retiring and becoming the relief lighthouse keeper at Ross lighthouse in the Solway.

On 18 August 1960, Hugh was found murdered in the lighthouse. He had been shot three times in the head by assistant keeper Robert Dickson, who was eventually caught, tried and convicted of murder and theft. There are some well-written articles about the case to be found on the web; just put 'Ross Lighthouse Murder' into

your favourite search engine. The names of their parents, Hugh and Esther, can still be seen in the village; as you leave Dalry on the A713 to Carsphairn, a little way past Bone's garage is a bench with a plaque dedicated to them.

Three unfortunate brothers indeed; killed by enemy action, suicide and murder. One last puzzle remains... on the family gravestone beside the entrance to Dalry church, John Martin Clark is described as their eldest son - but we know from the 1901 census that Hugh was older by a year...

*Paul Goodwin,
St John's Town of Dalry*

Glenkens Business Association (GBA)

Issue 2 of The Glenkens Directory should be reaching you soon - so keep your eyes peeled!

For further information please contact Ros Hill, GBA Chairman, on 01644 420 632 or email roshill@rathanhouse.co.uk

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We continue our interviews with the newly elected councillors for the Glenkens with Finlay Carson (Scottish Conservative & Unionist).

What are your links to the Glenkens? I have lived in the Stewartry all my life, and have regularly visited the Glenkens. I have a close relationship and interest in the area, and am a keen supporter of the CatStrand.

What skills do you believe that you bring to your job as councillor? I think that as a family man, I am aware of and live with the issues that folk in the area deal with. I have an IT business in the area, and used to be involved in the farming sector; it is this practical knowledge and experience that I aim to bring to the job of councillor.

What do you believe to be the important issues facing the Glenkens at present, and how would you feel they would be best tackled? The important issues facing the Glenkens are employment, especially where the youth are concerned, and public transport. I believe employment can be encouraged through developing the Glenkens as a tourism destination in its own right, and I think councillors need to get behind projects that develop this sector.

I also believe that we must assist and support enterprising initiatives taking place in the area. An excellent example is the Crayfish Project. Initially this was aimed at dealing with the spectacular growth of the non-native crayfish in our waters, which were having a detrimental effect on both our water habitats and our native species. It was then suggested that an initiative could be developed whereby the crayfish could be, under license, commercially farmed and processed, as is done in other areas of the country. This particular venture has hit a hopefully surmountable brick wall, but it is enterprising endeavours like this that must be pushed forward.

Transport in the Glenkens, I think, has been addressed with the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI), but I would like to see this widened and developed to ensure that everyone has a reliable and regular service making access to town, and the facilities therein, available to all.

What do you believe are the important issues facing councillors today? Councillors and politicians across the UK are constantly being slated for forgetting why they have been elected to the positions that they are in. It is the responsibility of councillors to improve the lot of the people that they represent, and it is the duty of all councillors to work together, regardless of party politics, towards this end.

Councillors must be accessible to their electorate, willing to meet with them face to face and engage with them

in an environment that they feel comfortable in.

How would you like to see land use change in the Glenkens over the next ten years? I can't see the Glenkens changing much over the next ten

years but I think that it is topographically suited to small-scale hydro schemes, and I can see the introduction of those into the landscape. The Government's renewable energy commitments will probably mean more wind turbines, and I would like to see that these are carefully and sympathetically blended in to the landscape.

How would you like to see the Glenkens change over the next ten years? I would like to see the Glenkens developed into a recognised tourist destination. It has a lot to boast about with fantastic landscapes, natural history and great attractions such as Watson Birds, Galloway Activity Centre, the Water Ski Centre, and the CatStrand which, if marketed together, create a great holiday package.

What issues do you plan to tackle during your term and how? I plan to ensure the development of the GTI. It is essential to sustain communities, allowing the older generation to live independently for longer and the youth an essential key to employment. I also look forward to grasping the opportunity to work with the renewable energy sector, as well as forestry, as these provide opportunities for employment in the area as well as harnessing sustainable energy sources. Dumfries and Galloway is the second highest region in Scotland for fuel poverty. Councillors have a part to play helping communities and individuals access the ability to micro-generate their own electricity that can be used to power, for example, village halls or even whole villages.

What do you think can be done to encourage and attract new businesses to the area? I think that high speed broadband, good quality, affordable and appropriate housing, and a good transport infrastructure are important factors when attracting new businesses to an area. I feel, too, that we can attract new business to the area by promoting the unique personality of the Glenkens, with our good schools, lifestyle, and landscape.

Finlay Carson is available by appointment - call 07825 633 185 or email finlay.carson@dumgal.gov.uk

by Sara McNeill



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Story continued from front page...

Cathy Agnew, GCAT Chairman, has been involved in the CatStrand since its inception and says: "I think the CatStrand is now widely recognised as playing an integral part within Glenkens community life. Over the last five years we have welcomed over 100,000 visitors through the doors from all over the world. The building itself is in great shape which is a real tribute to the architects and the design team and it has been wonderfully managed and supported by a loyal and dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

"Now is a good moment to take stock, say thank you and celebrate what has been achieved. I think the CatStrand has definitely helped to put the Glenkens on the map!"

There are currently over 80 volunteers who donate their time to the project, but over the last five years over a hundred dedicated people have volunteered their time and energy to get the CatStrand where it is today.

There have been many heart-warming comments in the CatStrand's visitor book - here are just a few: 'Well done all those who created this truly community space! Thank you'; 'We have been very well looked after. This place is very calming and inspiring. Hope it grows and

grows but keeps its intimacy and good people'; 'Wonderful to have culture on your doorstep. Will definitely come back'; 'A place to be proud of'.

So come along to some of the events on offer over the weekend and celebrate the success of the next five years!

A BIG THANK YOU

Glenkens Children's Club (GCC) has got off to a great start after the very sad decision by the council to close the playgroup.

The community centre rooms are being used with great success to provide children of all

ages with a similar combination of stimulating play and activities that Playgroup offered, with the added advantage/disadvantage that parents and carers stay and join in too!

Holiday activities that were offered to school age children as well as little ones included artist-led craft activities based around the Giants in the Forest project in the Galloway forest.

Now that the schools are back,

GCC toddlers have baked cakes, made banners and run around a LOT! There are babies too, and with a health visitor visit the first Friday of every month, this is a valuable resource for new mums. The friendly group of carers includes mums, dads, grannies and even aunties, so do come along if you'd like to join in.

GCC remains most grateful to the Playgroup leader and committee, without whose support and transfer of funds and equipment the club would not have been able to get off the ground. We are also grateful to the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) for their support to the structure of the club, to the ladies of St Margaret's church who raised £250 at the Alternative Games tombola, and to the runners of Natural Power for raising £124 through sponsorship for our good cause. Thank you everyone, the children very much appreciate it!

Glenkens Children's Club runs from Dalry Community Centre on Mondays and Fridays, 9.15 - 11.45am, and costs £2 for children over six months and £1 for subsequent children.



CatStrand, 2012



// The **YOUTH** Pages //

AND WE'RE OFF!

Welcome to the brand new Youth Pages. This is the first issue and it's just a start. We need your ideas and suggestions to keep it fresh and interesting. You could:

- * Write a feature
- * Design the layout
- * Suggest something you'd like us to include

You could even give it a new name.
It's all yours and we'd love to hear from you.

To get involved, contact Rebecca Goldsmith:
rebecca@catstrand.com / 01644 420 374



Josie Oliver, Zoe Kirkpatrick, Eilidh Stalker, Dylan Blore, Eleanor Jones, Lowena Lindsay, Joseph Taylor

EXPLORERS STORM THE STREETS

Zany characters, daft questions and giant nets to catch passers-by. Congratulations to the Explorers who performed at the **Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival**. They went down a storm and were invited to perform at **Surge**; an international street festival in Glasgow.

The group learnt their street smarts in workshops at The CatStrand. Professional actors from **Conflux** in Glasgow taught them techniques and tips for wowing the crowd.

FIND OUT MORE:

www.dgartsfestival.org.uk
www.conflux.co.uk



REVIEW



Last season, **ROKPA Kids On Tour** brought a little slice of Nepal to the CatStrand.

A group of ex street-children from Kathmandu told their stories through film, drama, dance and song. These children had been saved from homelessness and poverty by a charity called Rokpa. Rokpa is the Tibetan word for help and that is exactly what they do. Rokpa adopted these children providing them with food, accommodation, security, love and a fresh start.

The show aims to help audiences better understand the difficulties that these children faced and how Rokpa has transformed their lives. The show is a staged autobiography of the children's experiences, covering themes such as bullying, domestic violence, hunger and drug abuse in a sensitive yet heart-breakingly honest way.

Despite the serious nature of the subject matter, the stage was brought to life with the vibrant traditional Nepalese costume and dance, touches of comic relief and their beaming smiles allowing the audience to appreciate just how much of a difference Rokpa has made to their lives.

After the show we interviewed two of the older members of the cast and saw how much of a buzz they got from their time on stage. The most important thing for them, however, was how "fortunate" they felt to be given the opportunity to share their story and, with the audience's support, help the thousands of others like them. They told us that the process of sharing their stories in order to put together the show was incredibly difficult for them but also that it was very important in helping them to overcome their past and start again. It was very clear to us how much gratitude they had for Rokpa and what it had done for them. When asked what Rokpa meant to him Sanjay answered, "like heaven".

We all felt very privileged to have been given an insight into these children's difficult lives and the bravery they have had to share their story. It made us all realise how lucky we are and how important charities like Rokpa are.

Find out more at www.rokpa.org

By Lowena Lindsay, Hannah Daly, Eleanor Jones and Emily Jones



JUST TRY IT

GO CREAT



Try s
old c
croch
The f
was s
The g
and i
differ
The p
Check
invol

GET YO

Visit a skatepark and try out some tricks on a BMX, scooter, skateboard or inline skates.

The Teen Spirit Youth Group went to Unit 23 Skatepark in Dumbarton. Apparently it was 'rad' and they were 'buzzing'! There were two huge halls full of ramps and they pretty much had the place to themselves.

Google or Youtube these tricks to get you started: No-Footer, Tyre Tap, Whip, Fakie, Kickout, One-Hander, No-Hander.

JOIN THE CF

Become a member of the GCAT Youth volunteer, backstage crew or even run bored - get started. Contact rebecca@

(YOLO!)

E



Something crafty. You could upcycle your clothes or jewellery, or learn a skill like net. Vintage is in!

Room 13 art project in Dalry this summer a great chance to try out creative ideas. A group went into the forest for inspiration and made large-scale artworks using loads of different materials and techniques.

The project was organised by Watson Birds. Check out their website for more ways to get involved: www.watsonbirds.org

OUR SKATES ON



Lee McMurray,
Aaran Ferguson,
Josh Clayphan,
Lewis Grieve,
Mackenzie Lawrie,
Alexander McKenna,
William Sainsbury,
Oliver Barrett-Phillips,
Danielle McQuarrie,
Jade McCosh

REW

Crew and you can get great experience as a running your own activities and events. Don't get catstrand.com for info or find us on Facebook.

YOUTH:CREW

RISK IT OUTDOORS



Throw yourself down a mountainside in a giant ball... with or without water!

Here's a photo taken at Laggan Outdoor on a Glenkens youth trip. They got WET.

Check out the other activities you can do there too, like the giant zip wire and the segway trails: www.lagganoutdoor.co.uk

LOL



© 2012 Griffin Pellowe

SATURDAY BUSES

Shop, Meet, Eat, Go Out...

520 to Castle Douglas

There:

Cairsphairn	10:35	-	14:35
Dalry	10:50	12:30	14:50
Balmaclellan	10:55	-	14:55
New Galloway	11:00	12:37	15:00
Parton	11:12	12:52	15:12
Crossmichael	11:18	12:58	15:18
Castle Douglas	11:28	13:08	15:28

Back:

Castle Douglas (Swimming Pool)	14:44	15:30	17:09	20:47
Crossmichael	15:00	15:48	17:21	-
Parton	15:15	15:53	17:26	-
New Galloway	15:29	16:07	17:40	21:25
Balmaclellan	-	-	17:45	-
Dalry	15:35	16:14	17:52	21:35

521 to Dumfries

There:

Laurieston	09:15
Mossdale	09:25
New Galloway	09:38
Dalry	09:45
Balmaclellan	09:52
Corsock	10:05
Crocketford	10:15
Dumfries (Whitesands)	10:33

Back:

Dumfries (Loreburn Centre)	13:30	17:00	21:57
Dumfries (Whitesands)	13:35	17:05	22:00
Crocketford	13:53	17:18	22:21
Corsock	14:03	17:28	-
Balmaclellan	14:16	17:41	-
Dalry	14:23	17:48	Ask the driver
New Galloway	14:30	17:55	Ask the driver
Mossdale	14:40	18:05	-
Laurieston	14:50	18:15	-

Ayr and Carlisle: You asked for it...

The GTI are running additional shopping buses to Ayr and Carlisle this season. These will start from October half term. Dates so far: AYR - Sat 24th Nov, Sat 15th Dec, CARLISLE - Thurs 6th Dec (evening).

BOOK IN ADVANCE OR THEY WON'T RUN! Check the latest timetable and book a place through The CatStrand, New Galloway: 01644 420 374.

WHAT'S ON?

Your pick of upcoming entertainment...



EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 31st OCTOBER

Halloween Party @ The CatStrand with fancy dress lantern parade

FRIDAY 9th NOVEMBER

Circus of Horrors @ DG One (Britain's Got Talent finalists) www.dgone.co.uk

TRIP

SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER

Xscape, Glasgow (from The CatStrand) www.xscape.co.uk

FILMS @ Newton Stewart Cinema

SATURDAY 13th to THURSDAY 25th OCTOBER:
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (PG)

Coming in November: Skyfall (James Bond)

Coming in December: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2
www.nscinema.co.uk



Spalding Bowling Club

After the grand opening of the season with Dalry's very own centenarian, Mrs Bella Wood, Spalding continued its 2012 season with style.

On 12 May 1910 Glencairn Bowling Club Moniave came to officially open the new green. Around 100 years later, on 12 May 2012, they were invited back for a friendly game.

On Saturday 4 August, an Invitation Triples tournament was held when a triple from all the surrounding clubs and associations were invited to come - in total 72 bowlers took part. After lunch the Centenary cake was cut by our Honorary President's wife Mrs Rita Harvie (see photo). The Grand Raffle was drawn at this point and then the heavens opened and there was no other option but to

abandon the game. It was decided later that as everyone had played three games, the ones with the highest points from each section were taken and the Triple with the most points at this stage would be the winners. This resulted with a home win of J Peacock, J Priddy & S Dempster. The runners-up were from Gretna and the other two section winners were from Port William and another home team, this time of all ladies; E Peacock, A Hamilton & M Young. All the guests expressed how much they enjoyed their day at Spalding, despite the rain.

We finished off our season on Saturday 15 September, declaring the green closed for the season. Our prizegiving will be held on Friday 2 November at The Clachan Inn.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support this year, especially those who have so



Mrs Rita Harvie cutting the Centenary cake.

generously given donations, raffle prizes, cakes, trophies and anything else. We are most grateful to you all and appreciate it very much. It has made this a very memorable and special year for all of us.

Liz Peacock



Our new Head Chef has raised the bar even higher at the Clachan Inn and we are now one of the top rated hotels in the area on TripAdvisor (www.tripadvisor.co.uk), and with the Dumfries & Galloway Standard. So keep your eyes peeled for our new menu, including our firm favourites and mouthwatering new dishes.

After the busy year we've had in the Clachan restaurant, we're now taking early Christmas bookings. Be sure to book early to avoid disappointment.



Tel: 01644 430 241
Email: mail@theclachaninn.co.uk
www.theclachaninn.co.uk

LOCAL GRANTS AVAILABLE

Glenkens Community Shop will be making available grant applications in late October.

The association's objectives are:

(a) The advancement of citizenship and community development within the Glenkens.

(b) The relief of those in need by reason of age, disability, financial hardship or any other disadvantage.

Both organisations and individuals can apply for a grant.

Application forms are available from Glenkens Community Shop, 34 Main St, Dalry and should be addressed for the attention of Shirley McNaught. Completed forms can be dropped into the shop either in person or sent by post.

HOW CAN THE BUS HELP YOU?

Although we have had a few questionnaires back, it would be nice to have a lot more - especially as there seems to be a lack of interest this year on Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) trips...

Is it the weather, is the cost putting you off, or what is the reason for it? Please do let us know and we'll try and help; and remember you'll also be entered in our Prize Draw in October. Forms are available in the CatStrand, local shops or from any GTI Committee member.

Some of our younger travellers

have asked for better access to Glasgow and Ayr - therefore, extra trips are being arranged during November and December. Like all GTI trips these are open to people of all ages, giving everyone the chance to go to Xscape, Ikea, Christmas shopping, etc. The dates are as follows: Sat 10 Nov; Braehead, Sat 24 Nov; Ayr, Thurs 6 Dec; Carlisle (evening trip for carols, hog roast, etc).

Full details for upcoming trips will be advertised locally and on the CatStrand website (www.catstrand.com). It would be great to have full buses!

School Run: We now operate a different and longer afternoon

run from Kells School, which increases our income from this source. Constant efforts are being made to offset the reduction in the financial support we receive from the Council, but it is vital that both buses are well used.

Recently a number of new user groups have been formed, as obviously transport is a vital part of many activities and interests. It will soon be time for planning your Christmas night out; therefore, if you are thinking of using a GTI mini bus (and I hope you are) please book now to avoid disappointment. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on 01644 420 374.

Keith Cooper
GTI Administrator

Literary Review: Maria Walker Cairnie

Review of Maria Walker Cairnie at the CatStrand on Saturday 8 September.

Canine and feline species are considered enemies in cartoon form, but this is not the case when Lakeland Terrier Blitzzy Boy is re-acquainted with Sassica, the Persian cat. Dog and cat lay their

differences aside and indulge in some animal passion...

Flame haired, Maria Walker Cairnie bounded into the CatStrand and instantly captivated the audience. Author of two literary gems, her stories are vibrant, fun and heart-warming.

The audience participation to music gave ample opportunity for free-styling and gentle perspiration. A former teacher, the author has bundles of energy and is clearly a natty mover herself, and she expects some nifty shapes from us too...

All too soon the show is over and, as well as a toy replica of Blitzzy Boy for the little ones to cuddle, the star of the show made a surprise appearance to rapturous applause.

by Phyllis Anderson, Ayrshire-based poet & author



Golfing Success

The Give Golf a Go initiative at New Galloway Golf Club attracted four new members.

The aim of the venture was to encourage local people to take up golf by residents coming along to the course for coaching over a five week period. Not only did they learn how to hit a golf ball, they were given instruction on the rules, etiquette, history and traditions of golf.

It is likely that the initiative will be repeated next year. The club needs new members in these difficult times in order to keep the course in a condition that is the envy of many clubs. Some say golf is a good walk spoiled, or perhaps it is a good excuse for a walk!



Pupils from Kells and Dalry enjoyed the 'M and M' production of Charlotte's Web on Tuesday 4 September.

The children were entertained by the story of Charlotte and Wilbur, with lots of music and laughter.

Carlingwark Cluster

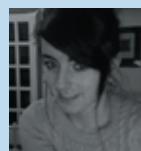
Primary 5 pupils from Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells recently went to Carlingwark Outdoor Centre in Castle Douglas for an overnight residential.

On the first day pupils were involved in watersports; an enjoyable day was spent kayaking and sailing on the loch. The pupils went to Dalbeattie Forest on the second day for orienteering.



The residential was a great opportunity for pupils from the Glenkens cluster to be involved in new experiences, work together on challenging tasks and make new friends.

CAITLIN'S COLUMN



You don't really notice change unless you've been away for a little while.

Living in the Glenkens, life is pretty slow-paced, so change is very gradual. Living here, I didn't really ever notice change much, but having been away, when I return everything is ever so slightly different... For example, the top shop in Dalry is now a charity shop. Walking past I can see a few of my old things in the window, ready to embark on a new life with somebody else. I have also noticed an increase of events celebrating our local talent; I didn't know just how much we had to offer, in terms of musicians, poets, artists, etc.

There are things I appreciate more now I've moved away; the quietness, the fresh air, and I definitely took the views for granted. I never really thought about it before I moved away but it's really nice living in a community where everyone knows who you are and what you're up to - always something to talk about. I guess you don't know what you've got until it's gone!

Sometimes change is difficult for us, but it moves us forward, and that is generally good. We can adapt. Finding a balance is key! The quiet pace of Galloway is one of the things that most appeals to me about the area. Is it the same for you or would you like more change? Whether it's personal change or working towards making things different locally, it can be done, starting from now!




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AGNES COOKS... SALMON

Does anyone else share my acute irritation when buying fillets of fish (especially salmon) to find that the scales have not been removed from the skin?

Many recipes call for fillet skins to be cooked to a crisp and eaten but you cannot cook or eat scales and they are impossible to remove easily when the fish has already been cut into fillets. As I like to fish, I am very happy to deal with all that needs to be done to prepare fish for the frying pan, including gutting, but I find de-scaling a fish an immense challenge. If done at home you will be picking scales off the ceiling and walls for weeks! Even in fishmongers now, fillets are often sold with the scales still on. I recently tried to buy a whole salmon which I was happy to fillet myself but when I asked if I could have it descaled I was told there was no one there who could do it!

To protect my blood pressure, this recipe calls for salmon fillets with no skin at all! This is one of my favourite ways of cooking salmon, and although it includes salt and sugar, it contains no added fat and the watercress sauce is easy and lovely with all

other types of fish too.

The fish can be prepared for any number of people by allowing one fillet per person. The quantities for the sauce will be enough for four to six people. Make the sauce first and keep warm as you cook the fish.

Watercress Sauce

In a deep pan (not a frying pan) gently fry a finely chopped shallot (or small onion) and crushed garlic clove in a little olive oil. When cooked, add about 175ml of white wine and boil until the liquid reduces to about half the quantity. Add a whole bag (usually 70 – 100g) of watercress. Stir it around but remove from the heat and blitz with a hand held mixer or in a food processor. Add the juice of half a lemon and season with salt and pepper. The addition of a couple of tablespoons of double cream makes it lovely and rich but it works well without. Keep the sauce warm in the pan while you cook the fish but avoid boiling it.

Griddled Salmon

If you cook the salmon on a ridged griddle you end up with nice toasted lines on the fillets but it works fine in a frying pan. Put a griddle pan or frying pan onto the heat with no oil. While the pan is heating, sprinkle a small pinch of salt onto each side of the salmon fillet. Repeat using pepper, and finally do the same with a little sugar. Try to get equal quantities on each



side. It is important to do this just before you are going to cook it as the salt will draw out moisture from the fish, making it wet.

When the pan is hot (it does need to be hot or the fish will stick) put your fillets in. Reduce the heat slightly at this stage and cook for about 3/4 mins each side depending on the thickness of your fish. You will see the fish becoming opaque as it cooks. The sugar also caramelises slightly as it cooks, giving a lovely crispiness to the fish.

Put the fish onto a warm plate and add the sauce. This dish is nice with plain boiled new potatoes and veg of your choice. The fish also works well cold with a little salad dressing or mayonnaise.

Mulloch Hill Race

Readers will be aware that there is no Clachan Fair this year, nor is there a Dalry School Fun Day, so unfortunately it has not been possible to find a suitable date to run the Mulloch Hill Race. Look out for its planned return in the summer of 2013.

Paul Goodwin

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or 07767 795 498 (Jonathan)

WATSON BIRDS



We have now launched our fundraising campaign for the events and activities for Watson Birds.

We aim to raise £100,000 to fund our activities and events programme for the next five years, and hope you can help us by contributing towards this.

Watson Birds' 'Feathers' fund-raising campaign is based on the three birds in our logo; the golden eagle, the hen harrier and the swift. We invite you to join one of these three clubs. With your help we can build on the successful events held so far and develop an imaginative programme for the future.

The Eagle Club: *Become a Founder Patron by making a donation of over £10,000.*

The Harrier Club: *Donations of £1,000 to £10,000.*

The Swift Club: *Donations from*

£100 to £1,000.

Donate or loan a Donald Watson painting: We aim to have a permanent exhibition of Donald Watson's paintings. Can you donate or loan a Donald Watson painting to help to start our collection?

Donate your own painting for auction: Many artists worked with Donald or who knew him in his later years. One way to contribute is to donate a painting which we can display in our exhibition, and which we can auction at the annual Bird Fair.

Gift Aid: If you are a UK tax payer, why not Gift Aid your donation as this will give us another 25p for every £1 you donate. Please make cheques payable to Glenkens Community & Arts Trust marked Watson Birds. *Watson Bird is an initiative of The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT).*

Support from Our Patrons:

The Duke of Buccleuch &

Queensbury KBE DL: "This is an original and beautifully conceived project that is so rooted in Dumfries & Galloway and so reflective of the character of our region that it deserves all our support. I send it every best wish."

Dame Barbara Kelly CBE DL: "I am delighted and honoured to be a patron of the Watson Bird project and it gives me great satisfaction to see the progress which has been made in its development in the last 12 months."

Mr Richard Agnew of Glenlee: "Donald Watson's paintings and writings provide an eloquent and sensitive record of the birds and landscape of Galloway. I am delighted that the Bird Festival commemorates him in the village where he lived and worked for over 50 years. I hope too that the Festival will help in achieving the longer term aims of the project to acquire and preserve Donald's house and studio."

For further information visit
www.watsonbirds.org

Roger Crofts



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or contact him by e-mail at:
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BATTLEFIELD CONNECTIONS

In the last issue of the Gazette there was a story from the pupils of Dalry Secondary School about their visit to the battlefields of Flanders and the Somme in June. After a reader's request for elaboration on local links found, here are three pupils' stories.

Mackenzie Lawrie, S3: This was my first time abroad and on day two of our trip we visited Thiepval, in France. This is a huge monument to the soldiers who were killed during the Battle of the Somme in August 1916. One of those soldiers was John McCubbing, my great grandfather, who was only twenty years old when he was killed. John lived in Wylie's Brae, New Galloway, and you can see his name on the New Galloway War Memorial.

I managed to find John's name

at Thiepval and I felt very proud that my great grandpa had fought and died for his country. I had always pictured him as an older man, but when I saw photographs of him when I came home, I realised that he had not had the chance to grow old. This made me feel very sad for John and I wish that I had known more about him before I went to France.

Josie Oliver S3: On Saturday evening on Saturday 23 June, we got on a coach to go down to Dover. I was quite excited about the trip to Belgium, as I thought we would all learn a lot from it. I found my great-great-uncle, John Marriott, on the Menin Gate. He was from Rochdale and worked in the printworks, and he enlisted in the army in November 1914. He was buried by a mine on 6 June 1916, and though his pals tried to dig him out, his body was never found. The Menin Gate is a memorial to men who were never found. Two of his brothers were also killed in the war, and they are in the Loos memorial and Wellington cemetery, which were too far away for us to visit. I felt

relieved when I found his name, as I was worried we weren't going to be able to.

I am proud of all my great uncles who fought in the war, and of all the men who gave their lives for their country. The trip taught me to be grateful for what I have, and I am thoroughly glad I went on it.

Thomas Petch, S3: While I was over in Belgium my main goal was to find the family members who had died in service during WW1 that I knew of, because I was one of the first members of my family to actually visit them. The first person I saw was my great great uncle on my dad's dad's side called Jonathon James Petch. He died during the battle of the Somme and because he does not have a grave, his name was put on the Thiepval memorial, a stone monument dedicated to the missing of the Somme. This was especially important to me as it is the source of the 'James' in my name.

The second person I saw was my other great great uncle on my dad's mum's side called Thomas Woodland; he died during the battle of Passchendaele and (unlike Jonathon) his body was found and buried in Tyne Cot cemetery, one of the biggest war cemeteries in the eastern front. This meant I was able to sit by his grave and tell him he was not forgotten (something my dad had asked me to) as his name carries on through me.



left to right: Mackenzie Lawrie, Josie Oliver and Thomas Petch

Balmaclellan Crimea War Memorial

Paul Goodwin will be writing an article about this, the oldest civic war memorial in Scotland, and has also been contacted by a couple of fellow members of the Scottish Military Research Group who intend to write and publish a booklet about the memorial.

If anyone has any information about Balmaclellan War Memorial, please contact Paul Goodwin on 07973 174 342.

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LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

Kenmure's Awa'



William Gordon, sixth Viscount of Kenmure, is famous for having been executed for his part in the sorry Jacobite Rebellion of 1715.

His father, Alexander, was suspected by the royalist Claverhouse of conversing too frequently with the rebels; that is, the Covenanters. 'Bluidy Clavers' to his enemies and 'Bonnie Dundee' to his admirers occupied Kenmure Castle in 1682, charged with the suppression of the southwest.

When Claverhouse was killed at the battle of Killiecrankie, Gordon was on the opposing side fighting on behalf of William of Orange following the 'Glorious Revolution'. His son William Gordon, however, chose to become a Jacobite and thus a supporter of the exiled James VII and II. As a result he rallied to the standard at the outbreak of the '15 Rising. Each year the Earl of Mar hosted a great hunt lasting several days on Deeside. Under cover of that event the rebels gathered, Mar appointing Kenmure to the post of chief commander in the south of Scotland, despite the fact that he was described as 'utterly a stranger to all military affairs'; not the best of qualifications.

Kenmure, rightly or wrongly, comes across as a somewhat dithering individual who found himself in command by accident. The whole rebellion, although thought by many commentators to have had the best chance of success of all the Jacobite risings, was a shambles from start to finish, organisationally pathetic and fatally lacking in leadership.

Indeed the Jacobites had a habit of holding supposedly secret meetings in public and so

advertising their intentions to the British Government.

The Viscount's first objective was to capture Dumfries. Learning that the burgh was full of armed men ready to defend it, Kenmure allegedly said that 'he doubted not that there were as brave gentlemen there as himself, and therefore he would not go to Dumfries that day'. Instead he went to Lochmaben where he proclaimed the Old Chevalier as James VIII, a ceremony repeated in Langholm, Hawick and Jedburgh. According to Peter Rae's 'History of the Rebellion' (thought to have been the first book published in Dumfries) Kenmure stumbled around the Borders to no effect in the Autumn of 1715 and crossing into England he was forced to surrender at the battle of Preston on 14 November.

The following January he and six other noblemen, including the Earl of Derwentwater and the Earl of Nithsdale, were impeached for High Treason.

Kenmure begged for mercy, 'that I may live to show myself the dutifullest of his subjects, and be the means to keep my wife and four small children from starving'. To no avail; with Derwentwater and Nithsdale he was sentenced to death, although one member of this Solway Group, Nithsdale, escaped.

Kenmure made no speech but he wrote a final letter to a fellow nobleman who had

attempted to

intercede for him. He claimed to have pleaded guilty in the expectation of a pardon which he said had been promised when he surrendered. He refused to make a speech because he regretted disowning his principles and he would have to speak according to the dictates of his conscience and not prevaricate as he did at his trial, so possibly incriminating the survivors who had been pardoned.

On the scaffold Kenmure was accompanied by two ministers, an undertaker, and a surgeon who drew his finger across the victim's neck to indicate where the executioner should strike. He prayed for the Old Pretender, repented of having pleaded guilty, 'and died after a very courageous manner'. It could be said, in charity, that nothing in his life became him like the leaving of it. The title was attained but in 1824 it was restored to John Gordon, the man who entertained Robert Burns at the castle; it became dormant on the death of Adam eighth Viscount of Kenmure without issue in 1847.

Ted Cowan

Ted Cowan FRSE is Emeritus Professor of Scottish History at the University of Glasgow, author or editor of 12 books, with numerous articles on Scottish History to his name. He has been Visiting Professor of History at universities in Europe, Canada, the US, Australia and New Zealand. Currently he is heavily involved in the European Ethnology Research Centre's pioneering Dumfries and Galloway Project.

Hear Ted Speak: Friday 5 October, Talk by Ted Cowan - 'Historic Glenkens', 5pm, CatStrand, free entry.

Watch Ted's TV Presentation: Monday 22 October, BBC 1, Ted Cowan presents 'Scotland's Greatest Warrior', the story of the Marquis of Montrose 1612-1650.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

OCTOBER

Thurs 4, Magnetic North: Sex & God, 8pm, CatStrand

Thurs 4 - Mon 12 Nov, CatStrand 5th Birthday Exhibition, CatStrand

Fri 5, Talk: Professor Ted Cowan 'Historic Glenkens', 5pm, CatStrand

Fri 5, Peatbog Faeries, 7pm, Dalry School

Sat 6, Family Film Club & Workshop, 10am, CatStrand

Sat 6, CatStrand Youth Crew: Street Spirit, 2-5pm, CatStrand

Sat 6, Alexander Kudajczyk, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 7, Wee Mice: Adult & Child Creative Dance Class, 11.30am-12.15pm (3-5 yrs + adult), CatStrand

Sun 7, Scottish Ballet Design Talk, 12.45-1.45pm, CatStrand

Sun 7, John Hegley: The Animal Alphaboat Workshop, 2-3pm, CatStrand

Sun 7, CatStrand Youth Players: Open Rehearsal, 3-4pm, CatStrand

Sun 7, CatStrand Birthday Party, 4-6pm

Sun 7, John Hegley: Peace, Love & Potatoes, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 11, Hitch & Crunch, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Mon 15 - Mon 5 Nov, Moving Stories Exhibition, Dalry Town Hall, see p2

Tues 16, Glenkens Trust AGM, 7.30pm, Ken Bridge Hotel

Wed 17, Kids Film, CatStrand

Mon 20 & Tue 21, Self Help & Health Awareness Workshop, 10am-5pm, CatStrand

Mon 22, Ted Cowan TV Presentation: BBC 1, see p21

Mon 22 & Tue 23, 10.30am-4pm, Animal Reiki Level 2, CatStrand

Thurs 25, Film: TBC, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 27, Film: 1952 Classic- Singin in the Rain, 2pm, CatStrand

Sat 27, Spooky Walks in the Woods, Kिरroughtree Visitor Centre, 6.30-8pm, see back page

Sat 27, Carsphairn's Got More Talent, 7.30pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Sat 27, Halloween Fancy Dress Party, Clachan Inn, Dalry

Sun 28, Film: The Gruffalo's Child & Other Stories, 2pm, CatStrand

Wed 31, Children's Lantern Parade & Halloween Party, around 6pm, CatStrand

Wed 31, Mostly Ghostly Halloween Tour, 7pm & 9pm, Dumfries, see p3

NOVEMBER

Thurs 1, Open Stage, 7pm, CatStrand

Fri 2, Glenkens Halloween Party, 6.30pm, Dalry, see back page

Fri 2, The Ugly Bugs Ball, 9pm, CatStrand

Fri 2, Spalding Bowling Club Prizegiving, The Clachan Inn, Dalry, see p15

Sat 3, Balmaclellan Bonfire Night, 6.30pm, see back page

Sat 3, Firebrand: Iron by Rona Munro, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 3, Concert with Terri Farley and Friends, 7.30pm, Mossdale Village Hall

Sun 4, Firebrand: Iron by Rona Munro, 3pm, CatStrand

Fri 9, Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Fri 9, Film: Zombie, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 10, GTI Bus Trip; Braehead, see p16

Sat 10, Harpoetry, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, see back page

Sun 11, Bruce McGregor, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 15, Art and the Biosphere, evening event, CatStrand

Fri 16, Film: The City Dark, CatStrand

Thurs 22, Guidewires, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 23, Music and Mirth with Jane McMiken & Friends, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 24, Craft Fair, Mossdale Village Hall

Sat 24, GTI Bus Trip; Ayr, see p16

Sat 24, Christmas Shopping Day, 2 - 5.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 28, Breabach, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Christmas Shopping Event



The CatStrand
Saturday 24th November
2pm-6pm



Join us for a relaxing afternoon of Christmas shopping, and buy all your presents locally at The CatStrand.

Shop for a seasonal selection of handmade and quality gifts: to fill all the eagerly awaited Christmas stockings!



With a range of stalls presenting local craft and produce this is an ideal opportunity to find unique and special gifts for family and friends.



Enjoy a glass of mulled wine while you browse.



High Street, New Galloway, DG7 3RN
01644 420374
info@catstrand.com
www.catstrand.com

The CatStrand is an operating name of the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust Ltd, a registered Scottish Charity, No. SC032050

POST OFFICE

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
21:35 Dalry

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

...GLENKENS DIARY

REGULAR EVENTS:

CatStrand (New Galloway):

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am

Guitar Workshop: Mon, 7-8pm, all welcome

Children's Dance Class: Mon during term time, 3.45-4.45pm age 3-7, 4.30-5.30pm age 8-15

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

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

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

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

Zumbatomic, last Sat each month, 10-10.45am

Catstrand Youth Players: Sun during term time, 2pm

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

Glenkens Community Centre (Dalry):

Contact: Kath 430 281

Glenkens Children's Club: Mon & Fri, 9.15-11.45am

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

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:

Texas Hold 'em Poker, Mon, 7.15pm, Cross Keys Hotel, New Galloway

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

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

Dog Training: Tue & Wed, 7pm,

Dalry Town Hall. *Wed 10 Oct last session until Tue 8 Jan.* Contact: Eric 460 670

Wednesday Quiz Night, Wed, 8.30pm, Cross Keys Hotel, New Galloway

Stewartry Camera Club: Wed, 7.30pm, The Tolbooth, Kirkcudbright (resumes 12 Sept)

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

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, £3. Contact: Raymond 420 451

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

Folk Music Session: 1st Sat each month, 8pm, The Clachan Inn, Dalry

Dalry Library (Tel: 430 234)

Opening Times:

Tue: 2-4.30pm
then 5.30-7.30pm

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

There are 23 mobile library stops - to find out where and when please phone.

Glenkens Community Councils

Dalry Community Council: Next meetings: Mon 1 Oct & 5 Nov, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.

New Galloway & Kells Community Council: Next meetings: Mon 8 Oct & 12 Nov, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall.

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

Carsphairn Community Council: Next meetings: Mon 29 Oct & 26 Nov, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall.

Balmaclellan Community Council: Next meetings: Mon 29 Oct & 26 Nov, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND:

Sundays: Balmaclellan: 12noon 1st, Carsphairn: 10.30am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th, Dalry: 12noon 1st 2nd (Nov) 3rd 4th, Kells: 10.30am 3rd 4th

Special Services/Events: Sat 6 Oct, 10am, Coffee Morning for Abbas Rest Orphans, Dalry Town Hall. **Sun 7 Oct,** 10.30am, Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Carsphairn Church & Harvest Lunch in Lagwyne Hall. **Sun 7 Oct,** 12noon, Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Balmaclellan Church & Harvest Lunch in Balmaclellan Village Hall. **Sun 14 Oct,** 10.30am, United Family Service in Dalry Church. **Sun 11 Nov,** 11am, Ceremonies at New Galloway

and Balmaclellan War Memorials & Remembrance Service in Kells Church.

Mon 12 Nov, 7pm, 'Resurrection - The Evidence' with Derek McIntyre, Ken Bridge Hotel.

Communion Services: Sun 28 Oct, 12 noon, Dalry Church; Sun 4 Nov, 12noon, Balmaclellan Church; Sun 18 Nov, 10.15am, Carsphairn Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 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

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

Halloween in the Glenkens

The Glenkens has a variety of Halloween events for all ages on offer this year, from lantern parades to fancy dress and even some scary cocktails...

Start the festivities with family face-painting at the CatStrand on Halloween night, then join the fancy dress lantern parade through the streets of New Galloway. Meet some scary characters along the way, and finish up back at the CatStrand where there will be dancing for wee ones and a screening of a short ghost film made by local teenagers.

Look out for workshops in October for lantern-making (all ages) and film-making (age 12 to 16). Keep an eye on

www.facebook.com/thecatstrand for updates.

Why not perform a spooky treat at the CatStrand's Open Stage on Thursday 1 November, then head back on Friday 2 for the adults' fancy dress party, 'The Ugly Bugs Ball'. Expect themed decorations, spooky cocktails, freaky face-painting, and prizes for the Best Dressed.

Donations taken at the door for CatStrand Halloween events will go towards the Glenkens Children's Club.

And for the whole family, the annual Glenkens Halloween Party, organised by Friends of Dalry School, will take place on Friday 2 November in Dalry at 6.30pm. There will be Fancy Dress competitions for all (adults included), games, a disco, prizes for Best Carved Pumpkin, hot dogs, cakes and teas. Entry is

£2, with under 5's free (keep your eyes peeled for posters for further info).

And more fun for the grown-ups; there will also be a Halloween Fancy Dress party on Saturday 27 October at The Clachan Inn, Dalry.

So, young or old, find your scariest outfit and join in the fun!

Balmaclellan Bonfire Night

Sat 3 Nov - 6.30pm

£2.50 (soup included)

There will be a bar, hot-dogs, mulled wine, and 2 gazebos in case the weather isn't so good!

The fireworks will be followed by a family-friendly ceilidh in the Village Hall.

WATSON BIRDS 
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Harpoetry

An Evening of music and poetry with harpist Wendy Stewart and poet Kenneth Steven




Saturday 10th November 2012
7.30pm in the Town Hall
St John's Town Of Dalry

A Watson Bird Project event - entry free but donations to the project greatly appreciated.
For more information see www.watsonbirds.org

This project is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community (Dumbries & Galloway Leader 2007-2013 Programme, Scottish Natural Heritage and Awards for All).
Glenkens Community and Arts Trust is a registered Scottish Charity (SC032050).

 **Forestry Commission Scotland**
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Galloway

HALLOWEEN

AT KIRROUGHTREE VISITOR CENTRE

Enjoy your forests!
Meal ur coilltean!

SPOOKY WALKS IN THE WOODS
Saturday 27 October 6.30pm - 8pm

Storytelling throughout the evening, refreshments, fancy dress competition, lantern competition at 7.50pm & firework display at 8pm. Torches are essential, please bring one with you as it is very dark out there!!

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult on the spooky walks.

£4 adult, £2.50 child/concession,
£12 family ticket (2 adults & 2 children), includes parking.

Don't forget our spooky lantern making event.
Wednesday 24 October 2pm - 4.30pm, £3 per lantern.

Sorry, dogs not allowed.

For more information visit our website or call us on 01671 402420
www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark

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

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