

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

December/January 2012

ISSUE 73

FREE

Season's
greetings

NEW CHILDREN'S CLUB IN LINE FOR AWARD

The group of volunteers who started the Glenkens Children's Club (GCC) has been short-listed for a prestigious award.

The club, which has been named as a finalist in the Volunteer of the Year category in the Dumfries & Galloway Life People of the Year Awards 2012, was set up in response to council cuts which lead to the closure of the Glenkens Playgroup.

Helen Keron, chairman of the club, says: "I'm delighted that we have been nominated and short-listed for one of the D&G Life awards. It's a real recognition of the huge effort a lot of people have put in to ensure that the amazing childcare facilities at the Dalry Community Centre are not lost. The Club is going from

strength to strength, with more than 25 children attending some of our holiday events. To be in the running for this award makes us feel very proud."

The Volunteer of the Year Award is made to voluntary or charitable groups dedicated to making a difference to life in the region. Judges are looking for innovative ideas and exceptional community engagement and results.

Since the council's closure of the Dalry-based playgroup, the GCC has offered a similar mix of stimulating play and activities with the involvement of parents, other

relatives and carers as well as a holiday programme of artistic events and outings.

The D&G Life Awards for 2012 will be announced at a ceremony at Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries, on 29 November.

Glenkens Children's Club meets at Dalry Community Centre on Mondays and Fridays from 9.15am to 11.45am. Fees are £2 for children over 6 months, £1 for subsequent children.



GCC having a visit from the Animal Man's Mini Zoo in the October holidays.

Bird Festival Success



Giant owl visiting Dalry School.

This year's Watson Bird Festival, held in Dalry, was a great success according to participants, visitors, local businesses and local residents.

Over 750 people attended the weekend's events and the village was buzzing with activity. There was a wide variety of events and activities on offer, from exhibitions to storytelling, music to lectures.

Our weekend concluded with wonderfully mellow music on the harp, cello and flute by the Rhona Mackay Trio in The Clachan Inn, and on Saturday evening Dalry residents were thrilled with the depiction of Donald Watson's paintings on the gable end of Margaret Hamilton's house.

Roger Crofts

THE CRAYFISH CONUNDRUM

One of the hottest topics of conversation for some time in the Glenkens has been that of crayfish.

The American signal crayfish appeared in our waters in the 1980s, and numbers have continued to grow ever since. Both local and visiting fishermen began to notice the impact that they were having on the fish populations in Loch Ken, and soon hoteliers, B&B owners and other local businesses started noticing that the fishermen, with their vital repeat bookings, were no longer coming to the area.

It was then that the crayfish question was brought to the New Galloway community council. The decision was made early on to treat this as a priority, and local concerns were put before both the Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). SNH sent down experts to monitor and attempt to contain the crayfish population.

Unfortunately the crayfish have spread to other rivers and burns, so one Glenkens resident decided, along with other interested parties, to set up an

independent committee focusing solely on the crayfish question.

The New Galloway community council remains supportive of appropriate action being taken to deal with the crayfish issue, but is not directly involved in any of the measures currently being discussed or taken to deal with them. The face of the crayfish committee is at present John Thom, former bailiff for the New Galloway Angling Club and current bailiff for the Dalry Angling Association.

John tells us that, having looked at many options, the crayfish committee have applied to SNH for a scientific and commercial trapping licence. The premise for this is that, as it is unlikely that we will ever get rid of them, why not turn their appearance in to a positive and make an income out of them whilst controlling numbers.

The licence will be held by the six committee members who will then contract out the business of trapping to a commercial crayfish trapping company.

This idea has been met with mixed responses from local people, with

some in the area believing that a commercial contractor may grow on the small crayfish on site, raising the chance of them spreading, or that it may encourage others to illegally trap in order to supplement their incomes.

The idea of controlling their spread is contentious in itself, as there are rumours of their presence in both the Nith and the Clyde. Others believe that this issue could be dealt with on a local level, by having an annual crayfish festival, inviting locals and tourists alike to trap them, and then holding a music and food event. The crayfish committee have looked into this and, although the social side of the festival is a great idea, they say the strict regulations regarding trapping make this impossible.

The application for a licence is now in the hands of SNH, but in the meantime the crayfish committee welcomes any fresh and imaginative ideas that seek to control crayfish numbers, prevent their spread and maintain a balanced ecosystem in our waterways. To get in touch with the committee please contact John Thom on 07776 116 819.

Sara McNeill

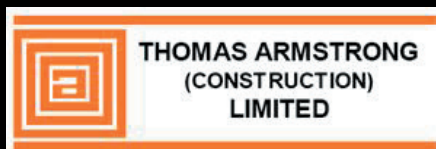


**Thomas Armstrong
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WHO'S EATING THE CRAYS?

During the last two summers the remains of signal crayfish have



appeared atop a grassy knoll beside the river Ken.

Whoever kills and eats the crayfish does a very neat job of eating the head without damaging the shell... It might be otters, but they would eat by the river's edge, or herons, but they would probably swallow them whole and could not clean out the shell...so my guess is crows. Just below Earlstoun power station are a number of shingle beds that dry out whenever the turbines are turned off. Crayfish could become trapped in pockets of water and as these dry, try to crawl over the shingle in search of safe water; easy pickings for an inquisitive crow... Unfortunately, there is plenty of deep water where the crayfish can hide, and a few dozen less will have no impact on the problems that they pose.

Gazette reader, Dalry

Stewartry Camera Club

Recently, the Stewartry Camera Club was awarded grant support by Awards for All Scotland. As part of the submitted project, we agreed to hold an open day and training.



A course, entitled 'Photography - The Next Step', will be held on Saturday, 9 February. The trainer will be Alwyn Howes, and the cost is £5. To book, or for further details, contact Mary McIlvenna 01644 420 613.

Mary, Grant Co-ordinator

St Margaret's Raises Over £3,000

At the recent AGM of St Margaret's Church Ladies Guild, it was reported that over £3,000 had been raised for a variety of charities and good causes over the past year.

Causes include Dumfries & Galloway Befriending Project, Sports for Special Needs, Combat Stress, Friends of Dalry School and the new Glenkens Children's Club.

President Christine Rankin says: "We are a small group of ladies but punch well above our weight!"

Diary date for next year: Plant and Bake Sale, Saturday 27 April.

Stag Tea Room & Garden



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Glenkens Freecycle

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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

Sofa, green leather, 3-seater, as new except one seat cushion inner is missing; the leather cover is there but foam cushion is missing... Contact: 460 673

Various

Fishing rods; 2 spinning rods, 1 split cane, 1 fibreglass, with reels. Contact: Sue on 07554 644 993

Nursery Fire Guard. Mothercare, extendable, brass. Contact: Jean on 420 372.

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

Child's scooter. Contact: 430

218.

Washing machine, AEG, working except for a fault on the spin cycle which is most probably fixable but haven't tried as don't need the machine now. Contact: 07727 127 997

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

Extra thick felt carpet underlay, new and unused 9 metres x 1.37metres. Contact: 420 613.

WANTED

Non-working chest freezer or other suitable item to use for the storage of animal feed - will collect. Contact: 01644 450 201.
Bunk beds. Contact: Dawn 07774 543 465

Freezer, any sort; chest or upright. Will collect. Contact Helen: 07789 693 698

Call Out: Will the couple from New Galloway who bought a Robin petrol generator from me sometime ago please call me on 07754 644 993 as I have now found the instruction manual.
Sue

simon winstanley architects



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email@simonwinstanley.com
www.simonwinstanley.com

LOCAL GRANTS AVAILABLE

The deadline for applications for Glenkens Community Shop grants will be Wednesday 5 December, so please get applications to us by then.

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.

Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power



In this issue we take a look at a local company with an admirable, eco-friendly company ethos.

"Putting the Environment Before Profit" is the motto of the fascinatingly named Tsarina Imperial Dacha Company that has chosen to base itself in the Glenkens.

Owner Michael Dutton is passionate about his subject, and his subject is log buildings. His two previous careers - as an army Arctic Warfare and Survival Instructor and then as an electrical and software engineer - took him around the world, and it was his travels in Russia and Norway that first introduced him to the log-built cabin.

Michael saw in log cabins a more natural way of living; a more energy efficient, stronger, and affordable alternative to the timber-framed houses built in the UK today.

Michael's goal when he returned home was to educate people about log cabins as a viable and more natural way of living, and set up a business to manufacture them.

Five years ago, he set up the Tsarina Imperial Dacha Company, inspired by the dachas or holiday homes of Russia and three years ago, taken with the landscape and quality of life and community, he moved the business to the Glenkens.

Michael chose Forrest Estate, Dalry, having worked out early on that to make the whole production process as environmentally low-impact as possible, he needed to be based in an area where his raw materials were plentiful. "The logs that I use are all harvested locally," Michael says.

Michael constructs the buildings

out of unseasoned soft wood logs, treated with a naturally found fire-retardant, anti-fungal, and anti-insecticidal product which he blends with natural oils, waxes and natural pigments for the treatment, making them robust, resilient and long-lasting.

"My Mother-in-law lives in a 180 year old log cabin in Russia. Properly maintained they can last forever," Michael tells us.

It is a warm and rustic material that is both enjoyable to look at as well as to live in, is low maintenance, and blends into the natural landscape.

Log cabins are an inherently energy-efficient concept; the internal structure of soft wood logs contains air pockets in the cells which makes timber a poor conductor of heat, ensuring that heat is kept inside the building - so local soft wood trees

are perfect as they grow faster than their Scandinavian counterparts and therefore have larger cell structures.

Michael says: "Log cabins have far superior thermal properties to a brick or timber-framed house." The cabins are built using unseasoned green wood firstly, because kiln dried timber loses over 40%

of its innate strength and secondly, because the artificial heat pushes the flame retardant salts found within the wood to the surface where they dissipate into the atmosphere. The other advantage that logs have over milled timber is that the logs retain the heart of the wood; should a crack occur, it will be prevented from splitting all the way through so the strength of round logs is far greater than that of milled timber.

Michael sees log cabins as bespoke, affordable, quality housing. Each log building is a unique construction, designed and built to meet the needs of the client, climate and local landscape. In addition, should the client ever wish to relocate, the cabins can be disassembled and moved to a new location.

To find out more, get in touch with Michael on 07880 621 103 or rasputinscotland@aol.com.

Sara McNeill

LOCAL LOG HOMES

The Tsarina Imperial Dacha Company is the only UK company creating log cabins from locally sourced timber.

A variety of bespoke log homes are available, using Glenkens wood. These structures are made to last, and are not the usual imported kits sold by other companies.

Other log structures are also available such as stables, summer houses, log bridges, hot tubs, saunas, picnic benches, fishing/hiking shelters, bothies and children's playhouses.

Call managing director Michael Dutton to arrange a visit to their yard at Forrest Estate and learn about an energy efficient, low impact, more natural way of living.

Call 07880 621 103 (anytime), 01292 551 840 (evening) or email rasputinscotland@aol.com.



Abbas Rest Fundraising Success

On Saturday 6 October, a very successful coffee morning was held in Dalry in aid of Abbas Rest Orphans in Malawi. We would like to thank everyone; a wonderful total of £705.89 was raised. Our thanks also go out to all the people who staffed the stalls, provided transport, waited on the tables, and helped in the kitchen, as without your help this would not have been possible.

Barbara Colbenson

Halloween Excitement in the Glenkens

There was a great turn-out full of fun and fright on Wednesday 31 October for the CatStrand Ghoulish Gathering and Mystery Parade.

The evening started with face painting followed by a lantern lit procession through New Galloway and ended up back at the CatStrand for a halloween disco, complete with games and floating Chinese lanterns.

Well done to the CatStrand Youth Players who entertained everyone with a promenade performance of Tam o' Shanter as the lantern parade made its way around the streets of New Galloway, starting at the Cross Keys and ending at the bridge where Tam was chased out of the village by the procession!

Many thanks to everyone who showed up in support of the event; see you next year for an equally successful evening.

The annual Halloween party for children in the Glenkens took place at Dalry Town Hall.

Hanging skeletons in the trees by the entrance, spookily lit by coloured lights, put revellers in the right mood before entering the hall through a maze of cobwebs and howling ghouls.

Friends of Dalry School (FoDS) had decorated the hall and organised the party, helped by donations from Dalry and New Galloway Community Councils. Costumes were colourful and very inventive, with many being handmade. Judge for the Fancy Dress Competition, Rhoda Rugg, said: "It was very difficult to choose winners as all the entrants looked suitably scary and horrible". This year had the largest number of carved pumpkins, all of which were skilfully created and made a spectacular display. Music and games were followed by refreshments and each child was given a 'goody-bag' on departure.



Winners of the Glenkens halloween party
Fancy Dress Competition:
Photo © Robbie Wilson.

Aileen McLeod MSP



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Working With Children - the Job for You?

There is a shortage of registered childcare in the Glenkens.

With no registered childminders in New Galloway, Dalry, Ballmacellan, Carsphairn, or any of the surrounding villages, parents are struggling to find quality childcare in the local community.

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) could help you start your own childcare business; you could embark on a rewarding career and help support your community too.

Some comments from local parents are: "I have a one-year-old and a three-year-old and have had problems finding childcare as I work. There do seem to be a lot of young children in the area, and there don't seem to be any childminders."

"There is childcare in Castle Douglas but it is a half hour journey each way."

Why should I become a childminder?

Childminders are professional childcare workers who provide a high-quality childcare service from their own homes and, like nurseries, are registered and inspected by the Care Inspectorate.

Childminding provides you with the opportunity to:

1. Earn money as your own boss while still being there for your own family.
2. Run your own business from home.
3. Provide a valuable service in your community.
4. Contribute to children's development and learning.
5. Develop new skills and qualifications.

Why would parents choose a childminder?

Childminders offer a flexible and unique service - unlike most nurseries, a childminding service can often extend both to evenings and weekends.

Local childminding development officer Ann Hadland is keen to meet anyone interested in childminding; contact Ann on 01581 300 659 or email ann.hadland@childminding.org.

Malawi Cycle Update

Ian Knox, from Dalry, says: "The total money raised so far for EMMs charity is £3,510. This goes towards healthcare projects in Malawi.

"A fundraising cycle run on 19 September around Loch Ken raised £678, so thank you everyone who took part."

To donate towards Ian's fundraising cycle across Malawi in May 2013, visit: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/ianknox1>



Are you looking for a rewarding career that fits around your family's needs?

Become a registered childminder!

For more information contact your local SCMA Childminding Development Officer,
Ann Hadland
01581 300659 or email
ann.hadland@childminding.org

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EXCITING TIMES AHEAD FOR OUR COMMUNITY BUS

The last 10 years have seen significant changes to the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) in both the number of people who make use of the minibuses and how GTI is funded.

We now own two minibuses, carried over 4,000 passengers last year, and we have our own qualified driving assessor; and the demands on our services continue to grow.

The biggest challenge we face is to adapt to a 60% drop in Council funding; to offset this loss GTI now do more work for the Council such as a regular morning and afternoon school run, providing transport for the Spring Fling, and of course the Wednesday evening service into

Castle Douglas.

GTI have recently been asked by the Council to consider helping with a project making better use of community transport for adult recreational centres, day centres, hospital visits, etc – this has been successfully tried in Wigtownshire and the Council are keen to extend this into the Stewartry.

It is a great testament to the success of GTI that we have been asked to consider this, but the advantages and disadvantages will be closely looked into before any decision is made, bearing in mind our main function is to provide a service for the people in the Glenkens.

I would like to thank all those who have supported GTI in any way over the last decade and hope you will continue to do so in the future.

Have a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Keith Cooper, GTI Administrator

NOTE: The midweek service into

Castle Douglas on a Wednesday evening will not be operating on either Wednesday 26 December 2012 or Wednesday 2 January 2013.

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Sat 15 Dec, Ayr - Xmas shopping.

Friday 28 December, Carlisle - New Year sales.

Thurs 3 Jan, Ayr - National Hunt Racing.

HIGH MARKS FOR GTI

In the August/September issue of the Gazette, questionnaires were enclosed asking your opinion of the Glenkens Transport Initiative's (GTI) first 10 years of service.

These have now been analysed and I am pleased to say most of you are very happy with our performance. 85% of the surveys received were from people who had used GTI, and comments from the small number who made more general points regarding transport issues in the area will be passed onto D&G Council.

The question concerning a safe and comfortable journey received top marks from 59% of you, whilst the other 41% gave good marks but made comments about the comfort aspect, a point we shall certainly bear in mind.

A few suggestions were made about the booking system, but 68% were happy.

It is apparent that the majority of users are satisfied with our achievements over the last 10 years, with 86% giving top marks in this field and the remaining 14% giving 4 out of the 5 marks possible marks.

90% of you indicated you would be prepared to pay more for GTI trips, should it be necessary, and as a result of the questionnaire we should have at least one new driver, and possibly a couple of new committee members, which is great news.

A draw was made from all completed questionnaires and the winners were as follows: Bottle of Bucks Fizz – Ann McLaughlin, Pair of Tickets for GTI Trips – Jacqui Excell, Tourist Map of Dumfries & Galloway – George Colbenson.

Thank you to all those who took time to complete the questionnaire – your comments will be considered and we hope you continue to support GTI.

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Glenkens Walkers

The Glenkens Walking Group wish to say a special thank you to all those who supported the Soup & Sweet event, the tombola and the collection boxes, as well as those who donated prizes and cash.

We raised a total of £556.35 for the Yorkhill Children's Foundation. **Well done everyone!**

We conclude our interviews with councillors for the Glenkens with Brian Collins (Scottish National Party).

What are your links to the Glenkens? I originally came from East Kilbride. Back then it was still a village and who I didn't know by name, I knew by sight. East Kilbride began to change, and my wife and I wanted the children to have the rural idyll to grow up in, so we moved here.

What skills do you believe that you bring to your job as councillor? The ability to listen, to communicate, and imagination; and by the latter I mean thinking outside the box.

What do you believe to be the important issues facing the Glenkens at present and how do you feel that they should be tackled? There are quite a few challenges facing not only the Glenkens, but D&G as a whole; they range from youth unemployment, to transport, to the new Welfare Rights Bills that are coming out of Westminster.

What do you believe are the important issues facing councillors today and how do you feel these should be faced? One of the most significant issues that I feel that we have to deal with here is the negative feelings and attitudes towards our Council. I hope this relationship can change going forward as I feel that a positive attitude will translate in to a better understanding of the needs of communities throughout Dumfries and Galloway, making in turn a more beneficial and productive relationship.

Another topic that comes to mind is the debate over whether party politics and connections are useful in local politics. My view is that party connections prove very useful. It gives the region access to more information and resources that cannot but add to the quality of decisions and action taken on a local level.

What does your role as Deputy of Dumfries and Galloway Council entail? The Deputy of D&G Council acts as the civic head of the council. I am an ambassador that represents the council in recognising individual and collective actions of those who live and work within the region.

What does your role as Vice-Chair on the Policy and Resources Committee entail? The Policy and Resources Committee decides Council policy and how each of the other Council departments and bodies will deal with the topics and problems put before them. It also decides what resources, in terms of funding and expertise to allocate to which departments and their issues.

How would you like to see the Glenkens change over the next ten years? I believe that in my position as councillor that I am not here to be prescriptive about how I would like to see the Glenkens change in the future. My role is to act to progress and facilitate the community views and concerns, and to bring what resources I can to best achieve their goals. I believe that the current topics of

concern within the community are the sustainability of the villages, limiting where possible the closure of shops and community facilities, and the retention of our young people.

What issues do you plan to tackle during your term and how? It is the job of all Councillors to address all the issues facing both their communities and D&G as a whole; that said, the issues closest to my heart are those concerning our youth. The young people of Dumfries and Galloway face issues such as employment, transport and portrayal. I believe that continued nurturing and investment in our tertiary educational establishments will not only attract youth to our area and swell numbers, but will also provide a better educated populace, both professionally and vocationally. A second, but equally important issue that faces our young people today is the negative attitude in which they are regarded. I see this attitude reflected throughout the region and, for example, in the local media.

What changes would you like to see to farming over the next ten years and what local and national policies would you like to see introduced to enable this? I think that the Scottish Minister, Richard Lockhead, has some very imaginative and innovative ideas with regard to farming and the countryside. Internationally there is great cache given to the products labelled 'Made in Scotland', and he has some great ideas on how to develop the brand, and add value.

The council has assigned £50 million for improvements to rail and road networks. How would you like to see this realised in the Glenkens? Ideally I would like to see the A713 given more importance. It is very much seen as a route to exit D&G, but I would like to see some consideration given to it becoming a primary route in to the Galloway Forest Park and the Biosphere, enabling in turn the Glenkens to be seen and developed as the gateway.

Do you feel that the relaxation of planning in the form of the 'Smallholding Policy' in the upper Glenkens has achieved its aim? I certainly think that it has succeeded in bringing more people, including families to live in the area, and that in itself is positive. I think that with every new project it has to be regularly evaluated to ensure that it is addressing the issues that it was engineered to. I would also add that as well as addressing the needs and aspirations of the local communities, one eye needs to be cast to the market in its current state.

Brian Collins available by appointment - call 01644 420 849 or email brian.collins@dumgal.gov.uk

by Sara McNeill



Gordon McAdam

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VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

CatStrand Highlights

Come down to the CatStrand and enjoy some warming festive cheer over the cold winter months.

The young Highland five-piece Breabach bring their fresh dynamic blend of traditional and modern to the CatStrand on Wednesday 28 November, and we can't wait to see what these Radio 2 Folk Award winners have in store.

Channel 4's Mark Dolan - comedian, presenter, and documentary maker - will be providing us with the comedy injection needed at this time of year. Star of documentary series 'Balls of Steel' and 'The Worlds... and Me', Mark Dolan shares his views on everything from politics to married life. A real highlight on Friday 30 November, and be sure to book your pre-event dinner.

Daimh and special guest singer Kathleen

MacInnes will perform songs connected with Christmas, new year and midwinter on Thursday 20 December. These exceptionally talented musicians thrill with their close-knit instrumental style and haunt you with their ballads.

The winter programme would not be complete without our CatStrand Christmas Panto on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 December; going by last year's performance, there will be plenty of hilarity.

Pick up a programme for full listings, or to book tickets call 01644 420 374 or visit www.catstrand.com



Mark Dolan

The CatStrand Needs YOU!

Following on from the successful birthday celebrations, it has been decided to reinvigorate the Friends of the CatStrand.

The financial support from the Friends over the years has been extremely valuable, but it was agreed that the arrangements had lost some impetus and needed to be reviewed.

The CatStrand has become recognised as a first rate national arts performance venue and it is a vibrant hub and focal point for the local community.

As it considers the challenges for the future in these times of recession, it recognises that it is as financially vulnerable as any other arts organisation and social enterprise in the country. It, too, has fallen victim to public sector spending cuts, reduced budgets and lack of core funding. If it is to continue its commitment of bringing quality arts and community events to this remote rural area of Scotland, it needs to find extra financial subsidy.

A small group have been looking at the current arrangements to see how they can provide additional support to the CatStrand. The plan is to launch a new Friends and Patrons of the CatStrand

scheme during the Christmas shopping day at the CatStrand on 24 November.

There will be an annual cost for joining, and the new arrangements will come into effect on 1 January 2013. All current Friends will receive information directly about how it affects them, and in particular the additional benefits available from next year.

So how can you help?

If you have not already done so, you can sign up as a Friend or Patron and support the delivery of successful arts and community projects to the people of the Glenkens and its welcomed visitors.

In return for your support, you will be invited to events such as exhibition launches and other events organised exclusively for Friends and Patrons. As a token of the CatStrand's and the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust's (GCAT) appreciation, a discount for any shop purchases will also be available.

More importantly, being a Friend will not only provide a wide range of benefits and promotions, but will also give a true sense of involvement in the CatStrand's future success.

Full information will be available from 24 November from the CatStrand and on www.catstrand.com - in the meantime, if you have any comments please email friends@catstrand.com or call 01644 420374.

The Glenkens Trust

Concerned that D&G Council proposals would dissipate any community benefit monies from windfarm developments across the region and away

from the Glenkens, The Glenkens Business Association (GBA) has taken the initiative to set up The Glenkens Trust.
Registered as a Scottish Charity

Incorporated Organisation, as a completely independent body, the Trust can receive and dispense benefit monies. community councils, businesses, community organisations and individuals all have the opportunity to become members of this Trust. Please contact GBA chair Ros Hill for further information on 01644 420 632.

// YOUTH Banter //



Welcome to Youth Banter!
The new title was suggested by Alexander McKenna.
Have you got an idea for next issue? Send it in!

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

**THEY'RE
YOUR
PAGES**

HALLOWEEN FRIGHT NIGHT

Witches, zombies and a spooky lantern walk. New Galloway came alive for Halloween! There were some serious screams later on for the Teen Choice scary movie: The Woman in Black.



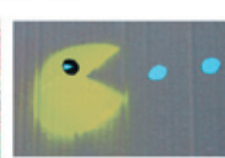
Eleanor, Kirstin & Chloe were Youth Crew for the event

SOMETHING WICKED



BIRTHDAY STREET PARTY

The CatStrand turned FIVE and we hit the streets to celebrate. Here are some pics of the best bits; an outdoor DJ slam, street art workshops, badge making, giant dream catchers and a skate & BMX demo.

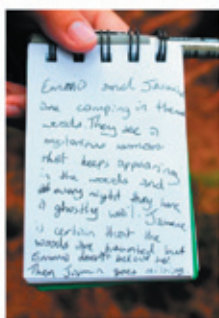


The Holywood Trust

Supported by the
Holywood Trust

The Youth Pages from the GCAT

YOUTH:CREW



WORD UP

From chilling ghost stories to Einstein's underpants; local teens learnt how to write from the experts and you can too...

GIANTS IN THE FOREST

Imagine yourself in a creepy forest. Giant heads look down on you from the trees. Good inspiration for a ghost story? We thought so!

A group of us met up with award-winning author Alex Nye at The CatStrand for a writing workshop, then drove out to the forest to create a spooky story. Alex wrote the books 'Chill' and 'Shiver', and she gave us some excellent tips. Try them yourself:



Flora and Anna with the giants

TOP TIPS FROM AUTHOR ALEX NYE



Alex with her books 'Chill' and 'Shiver'

1) READ ALL THE TIME

"Love to read, even to the point of obsession."

2) FIND YOUR OWN VOICE

"Don't try to write like someone else, or how you think you ought to be writing...Write from the heart always."

3) BE PREPARED FOR REJECTION

"It's part of the game. Don't let it get you down."

4) DON'T TURN WRITING INTO A CHORE

"Write when you feel like it, when it suits, and for pleasure."

More at www.alexnye.com

WTF (WIGTOWN: THE FESTIVAL)

Did you go to the Wigtown Book Festival? Dalry School did, and they got the chance to meet exciting writers like Caroline Clough and Anthony McGowan (who wrote Einstein's Underpants - we didn't make that up). Here's William with the story:

"The first author we saw was Anthony McGowan and he was really funny. He read us some of his book which was good and then went on to talk about some writing techniques. Caroline Clough began by telling us how she got her book published and how it came about. She had written a 45,000 word story in 10 days which then won the Kelpies contest."



Anthony McGowan with Lucy, Thomas, Owen & Eilidh

GO CRAFT

For Christmas projects or just for fun, here are some crafty things for you to try...



PAPER LANTERNS

1) START WITH YOUR PLAIN LANTERN...



If you're a dab hand at arts and crafts, have a go at making one of these beautiful pyramid lanterns from willow and tissue paper.

Instructions: www.wickermanoxford.co.uk



Want a quick cheat? Start with a white paper shade. You can buy these cheap (e.g. £1 from Wilkinson's).

2) DECORATE IT - You could...

- * Make shapes from tissue paper and stick them on (you can buy special paper that doesn't fall apart when it gets wet)
- * Use tinsel, ribbon or holly berries
- * Draw or paint onto your lantern (be gentle!)

3) LIGHT IT UP

Use candles in jam jars, LED tealights or hang over a light bulb (make sure it doesn't burn!)



ORIGAMI

These are origami cranes. You can join them together to make mobiles. They are as good as paper cranes at

Instructions: www.origami-fun.com/origami

DREAMCATCHERS

Hang one of these above your bed for sweet dreams. Based on a Native American tradition, dreamcatchers are a symbol of protection. They are believed to filter out bad dreams so you just get the good ones.

*Why not make a red and green one for Christmas with a hula hoop to make a giant dreamcatcher?

Instructions: www.indianica.com/dreamcatchers

ATE

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gs for



Image credit: Samarttw



Bethany & Liza-Beth with their Halloween lantern



GAMI BIRDS

great fun to make, and you can
together to make garlands or
Decorate your room or give them
ifts! We made owls, swans and
the Watson Bird Festival.

[gami-birds.html](#)



dreams.
catchers are
filter out bad

tmaz? Or start
er!*

[catchers.php](#)

WHAT'S ON?

EVENTS

THURSDAY 6 & FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER, 7:30pm
CatStrand Youth Panto
The CatStrand
www.catstrand.com

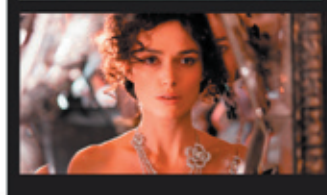
SATURDAY 22 DECEMBER, 2:30pm - 2am
The Dirty Dozen @ The Venue, Dumfries
12 headline bands / £5adv / 16+
www.thevenuedumfries.co.uk

FILMS

SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER, 7:30pm
Skyfall (12A)
Lochside Theatre
www.lochsidetheatre.co.uk

FRIDAY 14 - SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER
The Hobbit 3D
Newton Stewart Cinema
www.nscinema.co.uk

THURSDAY 24 JANUARY, 7:30pm
Anna Karenina (12A)
The CatStrand
www.catstrand.com



JUST TRY IT (YOLO!)

BEAT MATCHING

Want to be a DJ? Grab a set of decks and get mixing! Here's some techno talk to get you started...

Beat Match - Blend two separate tracks into one. Find the beat, shift the tempo, mix the two.

Breakdown - Let the bass and drums take over, everything else drops out.

Scratch - Move your hand back and forth quickly on the decks to scratch the track.

Spinback - Spin the decks backwards quickly. Great way to finish a set!

Numark DJ controllers start from around £50



Joseph, Aaran, Lewis & Kerr at Teen Spirit Youth Group's DJ Workshops

USEFUL LINKS

howtodj.djdownload.com
www.learn2dj.co.uk
www.djkit.co.uk

JOIN THE CREW

YOUTH:CREW

Become a member of the GCAT Youth Crew and you can get great experience as a volunteer, backstage crew or even running your own activities and events. We need YOU! Contact rebecca@catstrand.com for info or **find us on Facebook**.

SATURDAY BUSES

Shop, Meet, Eat, Go Out...

Glenkens to Castle Douglas (520)

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

Glenkens 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	21:57
Dumfries (Whitesands)	13:35	22:00
Crocketford	13:53	22:21
Corsock	14:03	-
Balmaclellan	14:16	-
Dalry	14:23	Ask the driver
New Galloway	14:30	Ask the driver
Mossdale	14:40	-
Laurieston	14:50	-

GTI BUSES

Cheap Fares - Get On It!

SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER

LAURIESTON - Christmas Fayre (£1 Bus, £2 Entry)

There:	Dalry	18:45	Back:	Glenkens	21:30
	New Galloway	18:55			
	Mossdale	19:05			

SATURDAY 15 DECEMBER & THURSDAY 3 JANUARY

AYR - Christmas Shopping / January Sales

There:	New Galloway	09:50	Back:	Glenkens	17:30
	Dalry	10:00			
	Carsphairn	10:15			

SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER

CARLISLE - Catch the Sales Early!

There:	Dalry	09:30	Back:	Glenkens	18:00
	New Galloway	09:40			
	Crossmichael	10:00			

- * £5 Concessions
- * Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult
- * Parental permissions for activities (e.g. sports centres) are the responsibility of the passenger & parents

BOOK IT!

CatStrand
01644 420 374 /
rebecca@catstrand.com



Image credits: Dana Rothstein, Ann Schorr

Clatteringshaws Trip

On Monday 24 September P3/4 from Dalry School and P1-4 from Kells Primary School spent a damp but enjoyable day at Clatteringshaws as part of their Scotland topic and as well as a 'Forest Schools' activity.

Both classes have spent time this term looking at the Scottish Wars of Independence and this was their opportunity to touch a piece of history as they viewed Bruce's Stone, a spot that King Robert the Bruce is reported to have visited himself in 1307. Close to the stone is a reconstruction of an Iron Age roundhouse which the children enjoyed looking around, though I don't think they would trade in their own house for one!

After this the children were given time to investigate the visitor centre and look around the Animal Zone. The afternoon was spent in the surrounding woodland as the children investigated the use of natural materials to build dens among the trees.

The children relished the opportunity to see this piece of local history and to spend the day in the great outdoors and would happily do it again, come rain or shine!



ZOMBIES RAISE CASH FOR GOLF

On Friday 9 November at the CatStrand a unique event took place...the showing of the film *Zombie Flesh Eaters*!

This classic 1979 horror is an infamous cult hit of the genre, and the showing coincided with the national re-release on dvd blue ray of the film. Ian McCulloch, the star of the film and a member of New Galloway Golf Club, presented the evening.

The event raised over £200 for Club funds. Thanks go to the staff of the CatStrand for their considerable help and assistance in staging this event.

New Galloway is a very friendly club and members and visitors alike will get a warm welcome. This coming season, the Golf Club will be linking up with the CatStrand who can provide refreshments and golfing accessories. Anyone who wants more information or is keen to join the Club should contact the Club secretary on 01644 420 737. For further information visit www.nggc.co.uk

People Who Help in Our Community

P1/2 from Dalry School and P1 from Carsphairn Primary School have been finding out about the People Who Help in Our Community this term.

Firstly, they visited the Glenkens Medical Practice in New Galloway where they found out about all of the different jobs and explored the different areas that they use in the surgery.

They then walked to the fire station, where they were told about all of the different types of emergencies that the fire team are asked to help with. It was a great afternoon which brought the learning that has been taking place in the classroom to life.



Children visiting the Glenkens Medical Practice.

Children Meet Alex Fergusson MSP

Upper primary pupils from Dalry and Kells invited Mr Alex Fergusson MSP to attend a Question and Answer Session at Dalry School.

This was part of their topic work last term on the 'Glenkens Commons'. The pupils asked him a variety of questions about his job as an MSP as well as current local and national issues.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Primary 7 pupils from Kells hosted the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Cross Keys Hotel recently.

The pupils have raised an amazing £1007.49 so far with money still to come in. The pupils would like to thank the New Galloway community for supporting the event.

A big thank you to Miss O'Hare for allowing the pupils to use the Cross Keys Hotel for the coffee morning. Thank you also to parents and family members who attended, worked at, and donated baking and raffle prizes to the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Glenkens Community Council Update

Balmaclellan: The newly elected office bearers are Neil Cawthorne (Chair), Lee Cawthorne (Secretary), Ryan Grierson (Vice Chair) and Alan Rumble (Treasurer). CC members are June Hay, Jim Kirkpatrick, Robin Jardine, Sandra Dempster and Dave Paterson.

The Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch will be on Tuesday 18 Dec, and there will be a Children's Christmas Party on Saturday 15 December.

Carsphairn: The newly elected office bearers are: Andrew Metcalf (Chair), Tony Challis (Secretary), Liz Holmes (Vice Chair) and Anne Rutherford (Treasurer). CC members are Sylvia Sinclair, Matt Hickman and Maggie Phillips.

Dalry: The newly elected office bearers are Andi Holmes (Chair), Andrew Mellor (Vice Chair), Moira Jones (Secretary) and Gerald Bell (Treasurer). CC members are: Maggi Kay, Nicolette Wise, Pat Woodley and Andrew Belinski and Jim Reid.

Last year Dalry Community Council (CC) bought the red heritage phone box by Bone's Garage for re-use by the community. We have yet to decide exactly what to do with it; a tourist information

point has been suggested, and to house a defibrillator for first responders use is another idea. The CC welcome any suggestions from the residents of Dalry (email the Gazette with ideas). Dalry CC is involved in a new renewable energy project - see article on p17.

New Galloway & Kells: The newly elected office bearers are Brian Edgar (Chairman), James McKenna (Vice Chair), Chris Newman (Secretary) and John McGaw (Treasurer). CC Members are Julia Brown, Andrew Frew, Phillip Holmes, Vic McIntosh, Lyndy Renwick, George Scott, John Thom and Margaret Watson.

Meetings are held on the second Monday each month and are open to the public. If you have any issues that you would like to raise, please come along or raise the matter with any Community Councillor.

The annual Christmas Lunch for all senior citizens of Kells parish will be held on Saturday 15 December at 12.30pm; venue to be confirmed. Anyone wishing to go should add their name to the lists available in the Post Office, Hopkins Shop, the CatStrand, Mossdale Shop and the Glenkens Hair Studio.

See p23 for details of all Glenkens CC meeting days and times.



**ALEX
FERGUSSON
MSP
FOR
GALLOWAY &
WEST DUMFRIES**

Holds regular advice surgeries at:

**Constituency Office, New Market
Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1HY**

on the 2nd Friday of every month from 5pm

Telephone free on **0800 028 7260**
for an appointment or to make
any alternative arrangement.

You can visit Alex's website at:

www.alexfergusson.org.uk

or contact him by e-mail at:

alex.fergusson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

The Cross Keys Hotel New Galloway



We have 10 cosy en-suite bedrooms with TV/ DVD/Radio and tea and coffee making facilities, a traditional bar with a good selection of Real Ales, Malts and a welcoming log fire and an excellent restaurant specialising in fresh, local produce.

We have wi-fi access, drying facilities, secure bike storage, off road parking for motorbikes, firearms safe... and lots of local knowledge!

We welcome well-behaved and 'dog friendly' dogs.

Traditional Hospitality at its Very Best

Every Monday, 7.15pm, Texas Hold 'em Poker

Every Wednesday, 8.30pm, fundraising quiz

Every Friday, Fish Friday, fish meal for £8.95

Tel: 01644 420 494

Email: enquiries@thecrosskeys-newgalloway.co.uk

www.thecrosskeys-newgalloway.co.uk

Community Renewable Energy Scheme

Dumfries & Galloway Council is the first local authority in Scotland to be working with Community Energy Scotland to take part in this Intelligent Energy Europe project.

Following interest from the Glenkens Business Association (GBA), Dalry Community Council and Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING), the Glenkens has been selected to take part. It is hoped that all Glenkens Community Councils will be involved.

Participating communities will benefit from advice and guidance to investigate and take forward sustainable energy projects over a three year period. These could include schemes using biomass, micro hydroelectric, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, ground/air source and wind.

The next stage for the Glenkens is having a steering group formed by a representative from each Community Council to look into what projects the community would like to see developed and how they can be funded from sustainable energy schemes.

With the many groups now involved with different aspects of sustainable energy development and possible benefits to the community, it is proposed that public meetings are held in the New Year (for further information contact Ros Hill on 01644 420 632).

Ros Hill

CATSTRAND CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

The CatStrand Youth Players are looking forward to presenting their second pantomime on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 December, at 7.30pm in the CatStrand.

This year's production is Old Mother Hubbard by Paul Reakes - perhaps not one of the best known pantomime stories, but it promises to be just as funny and enjoyable as Cinderella proved to be last year.

Old Mother Hubbard, her cupboard bare of course, is granted a wish by the Good Fairy and despite the more obvious suggestions of her son Hughie and daughter Polly, she chooses to be re-united with her long lost brother Ossie, as she knows that he will be able to help her. Many exciting and entertaining adventures ensue, and of course everyone lives happily ever after in the end, and Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard is never bare again. The Youth Players hope that you will be able to join them on their Wild West adventure!

Photo of the Issue



This issue's winner is Paul Goodwin with a striking shot of wild goats on Corserine.

Paul wins a meal for two at the Thistle Inn in Crossmichael. Next issue's prize will be a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel (up to the value of £30), so send in your photos!

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For more information visit our web site
www.realdogtrainingscotland.co.uk

AGNES COOKS... MINCEMEAT

A jar of mincemeat is not just for Christmas...

Halfway through November I begin to think about my Christmas trio; cake, pudding (for the only member of my family that likes it) and mincemeat.

The cake, if I am being honest, has become one of those traditions that is made but rarely finished; visitors will nearly always have a hot mince pie in preference to Christmas cake and so in the end the last of it is usually fed to the birds in January. You will have guessed by my tone that the pudding is also made out of a sense of tradition, but at least it is always eaten...

Mincemeat, however, I love to make because it is very easy, involves almost no cooking, keeps well and is never wasted as there are plenty of ways of using it up; it is lovely stuffed into a cored cooking apple with some pieces of marzipan and baked; a few spoonfuls can be added to fruit before baking a crumble, made into muffins, biscuits, even a delicious stuffing for homemade doughnuts, and as a lighter pudding for Christmas it adds a seasonal flavour to homemade ice cream.

One of the joys of making your own mincemeat is that you can add or take away ingredients and make it your own. For example, I dislike chopped peel and brandy but love cranberries and Amaretto. You can make it very orangey by adding marmalade and Grand Marnier. Traditional recipes use suet, which has become rather unfashionable, but I think its inclusion is important as mincemeat made without it has a less unctuous texture, more like fruit chutney. You can substitute vegetable suet for the beef variety if you like though. The sugar and alcohol help with preservation, but you can reduce the quantities of these and even substitute fruit juice for the alcohol.

The recipe below will make just over 2kg of mincemeat:

Two medium cooking apples (cored and chopped but not peeled)
250g raisins
250g sultanas
250g currants
250g mixed peel or mixture of cranberries/ chopped apricots / cherries)
50g roughly chopped blanched almonds
250g shredded suet
250g soft brown sugar
Grated zest and juice of 2 lemons



Grated zest and juice of 2 oranges
2 teaspoons of mixed spice
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ freshly grated nutmeg
200ml of Brandy/Grand Marnier/ Cointreau/Amaretto...

Put all of the ingredients (except the alcohol) into a large pan and mix thoroughly. Cover and leave overnight. The next day (still covered) put into a pre-heated oven, set at 120°C/gas mark ¼, for about three hours. When removed from the oven the suet will have melted and risen to the surface. As the mincemeat cools, stir it now and again. When cold, stir in the alcohol and put into sterilised jars. Kept in a cool place, it will keep for about a year.

Glenkens Hair Studio Duke Street, New Galloway

Eileen thanks all her customers for their support throughout the year and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Festive Period Opening Hours:

Thurs 20 Dec: 9am–6pm,
Fri 21 Dec: 9am–5pm
Mon 24 Dec: 9am–1pm
Thurs 27 Dec: 9am–6pm,
Fri 28 Dec: 9am–5pm
Thurs 3 Jan: 9am–6pm
Fri 4 Jan: 9am–5pm

Call to book: 01644 420 616

Quality Fresh Fish and Fruit & Vegetables
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Mary 07767 407814 - Eric 07719 959757

The Fleet Fish van is in the Glenkens on Tuesdays & Wednesdays every week. Anyone wishing me to call, please phone Mary on above mobile no.

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

01556 502263

VETERINARY SURGERY
OAKWELL ROAD
CASTLE DOUGLAS

FHB Fencing
Dalry
Domestic and Agricultural Fencing

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

Spalding Rounds Up

Spalding Bowling Club rounded off their centenary year with their annual social and prizegiving at the Clachan Inn.

This year the Gents Champion was Matt Taylor in his first year of bowling here at Spalding, with the runner-up being Eric Broadhurst. The Ladies' Champion was Eliz Peacock with Mabel Young being the runner up.



2012 prize winners.

Clachan Fair 2013

Plans are now well under way for next year's Fair, and the committee could do with some additional help. There are all sorts of jobs which need doing beforehand and during the week, and new ideas are welcome, so please don't be shy in coming forward! If you would be willing to offer your services in any way, call Sally Hooker on 01644 430 120 or see anyone on the committee.

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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.

The CLACHAN Inn

Book your Christmas meal at the Clachan Inn, the place to eat in the Glenkens...

(Christmas menu is available between December 1st to December 24th)

CHRISTMAS MENU

Starters

- Tian of paprika prawns, bound with marie rose and fresh thyme
- Haggis croquettes rolled with cranberries and red onion confit
- Veloute of festive roots and thyme

Mains

- Roast turkey crown
- Honeyed breast of duck
- Hand-picked mushroom and spinach pithivier
- Pan-fried fillet of spiced orange salmon
(all served with delicious festive trimmings)

Desserts

- Vanilla and cinnamon cheesecake with raspberries
- Christmas pudding with chef's brandy sauce
- Cheese board including classics and festive twists

2 courses for £17.95

3 courses for £21.95

(One course available on request)

All meals come with a complimentary glass of mulled wine

T: 01644 430 241

E: mail@theclachaninn.co.uk ~ W: www.theclachaninn.co.uk

8-10 Main Street, St John's Town of Dalry, Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway, DG7 3UW

T: 01644 430 241

E: mail@theclachaninn.co.uk ~ W: www.theclachaninn.co.uk

8-10 Main Street, St John's Town of Dalry, Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway, DG7 3UW

It All Started in Balmaclellan

We have all seen cairns and standing stones, some of which will mark battles or lives lost or even great deeds; but when did the erection of war memorials begin?

You would be forgiven for supposing that war memorials were first erected following the First World War, or even from the Boer War some years before that. The truth is that the erection of civic war memorials in Scotland began in 1857 at Balmaclellan.

The Dumfries & Galloway Standard of Wednesday 17 May 1857 reported: 'In memory of the departed brave...a monument is being erected in Balmaclellan burial-ground, in memory of five young men, natives of, or lately residing in the parish, who were cut down in battle, or died of disease in the Crimea.'

Research in 2007 by members of the Scottish Military Research Group confirmed that this is the only Crimean Civic War Memorial in Scotland, and as well as being unique, is also the oldest civic war memorial in Scotland.

The red sandstone pillar stands around six feet high and is in Balmaclellan churchyard at the opposite end of the church to the entrance. It has carvings on its four sides of a cannon, a rifle, crossed sword and musket

with bayonet and lighter stick with grapeshot.

The men listed on the memorial are: Lance Corporal James McMichael, Lance Corporal Joseph Gordon, Thomas McRobert, James Gibson and William Barr.

Balmaclellan lost another son at Crimea; the prominent grave beside the entrance to the church records the death of Lieutenant John Henry Upton Spalding, who also has a stained glass window memorial in St Margaret's Episcopal church in New Galloway.

The memorial featured in Adam Brown's article in the December 2008 issue of The Scottish Genealogist: The Quarterly Journal of the Scottish Genealogy Society and an application to Historic Scotland by Paul Goodwin, supported by the Reverend Doctor David Bartholomew, resulted in the church and churchyard at Balmaclellan being listed grade B (of national importance) in September 2009 and specific mention is made in the listing of

the Crimean Memorial.

Jane Brayshaw recently uncovered a poem about the memorial in the papers of the Balmaclellan Community Council, but alas the author is not given. The last two verses are:

*Of wounds, and toil, and
cold they died,
There too, brave Spalding
won,
A glorious name – like hero
died,
Beside his conquering gun.
He and those five sleep far
from Holme,
And Garple's wooded glen,
Their worth shall e'er
remembered be,
By those, who live by Ken.*

If anyone has any information about the memorial, the men listed or the authorship of the poem, please contact Paul Goodwin on 07973 174 342. Members of the Scottish Military Research Group are in the process of writing a short book about the memorial.

Paul Goodwin

Glenkens Business Association (GBA)

To represent businesses in the area, Ros Hill as GBA Chairman has been invited to take part in the Community Liaison Group being set up by Orbit Communications on behalf of Burcote Wind as part of their consultation process. Ros would like to be in touch with all businesses, whether or not members of the GBA. If you would like to know more, or if you have any ideas, please email Ros at ros.hill@rathanhouse.co.uk

It is important to note that neither the GBA nor the Glenkens Trust (see p16) have taken a view on whether or not any commercial windfarms should be established.

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LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

Arctic Wanderings



A White Christmas is defined as one when snow falls on Christmas Day.

England experienced only seven of them during the twentieth century. In our part of the world we had roughly a 35% chance of a White Christmas between 1950 and 2006; they were much more common between the 1580s and the 1850s when ponds, lochs and rivers regularly froze to provide sport for community curling clubs. So popular was the 'roaring game' that the curling potential of Canada was advertised in the nineteenth century as a potential lure for Scottish immigrants.

Since snow is not that common in Galloway, perhaps we may view it vicariously, through the eyes of two Glenkens residents who both ventured into the Arctic.

The first, Alexander Trotter, was a fourth generation medical doctor. He spent most of his working life in Northumberland, but in later years bought Dalshangan as a holiday and retirement home where he wrote his excellent *East Galloway Sketches* (1901). In 1856, at the age of 21, he served as surgeon on the *Enterprise*, a whaling ship sailing out of Fraserburgh.

By the end of March the ship was

beset in ice off Jan Mayen Island. He took a turn in the Crow's Nest, hunted seals, struggled with seasickness and experienced some ferocious stormy weather, and said: "There is decidedly a beauty in a storm, as well as in a calm untroubled sea, that beauty being mixed with grandeur and sublimity".

His conclusion was that "on the whole I may say I have just liked this voyage middling; sometimes, as in a storm, it was not very pleasant, whereas at other times, in a calm, I felt that I liked the sea finely. The terrible oaths and curses I got used to and as yet I must say that the voyage has done me a great deal of good".

The second Arctic venturer from the Glenkens is Captain Alexander Clark-Kennedy of the Coldstream Guards. When he died, at the early age of 43, he was buried in a tomb which he had commissioned on the Craig above his ancestral home of Knockgray, Carsphairn. A keen ornithologist, like many of his contemporaries he saw no conflict in shooting birds for sport. I own a copy of his epic poem, *Robert the Bruce*, bound in calfskin.

In 1878 he published 'To The Arctic Regions and Back in Six Weeks Being a Summer Tour to Lapland and Norway with Notes on Sport and Natural History' which was designed to remind British travellers of the proximity of the European Arctic. He was

correct; Galloway, Dumfries

and the Borders lie rather neatly along the 55th parallel. The Arctic Circle is only some eleven degrees to the north.

Clark-Kennedy and his wife set sail from Hull. On crossing the Circle, no-one on deck spoke and "the extreme stillness and solitude was very striking and the effect solemn".

He fished whenever practicable and purchased Sami spoons, walrus tusks and ten pairs of reindeer antlers.

Ultimately he found endless daylight "rather monotonous", but he also approvingly quoted a writer who observed that Arctic views were so breathtaking that "it seemed culpable to go to bed".

It is worth noting that although reindeer are conspicuous in his text, there is no mention of Santa Claus or Christmas. All of that legendary accretion lay in the future.

In 1878 the kids of Glenkens and elsewhere in the region still attended school on Christmas Day.

Admittedly they would often party, play games and present the teacher with a gift, but the main lesson of the day was that learning had priority over frivolity. Season's Greetings! *Ted Cowan*

Mystery Animal?

This photograph was taken in April 2011 by Glenkens resident Emma Gibson, on the High Road between Dalry and Carsphairn, on the other side of the Deugh by the bad corners near the Marbrack road end.

She wonders whether anyone else saw it, and if you have any ideas what it may be...? A seal, a bird... or just a bit of white plastic? Let us know if you have any suggestions!



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

'Some time after placing the ad I received a number of positive responses, showing that people do remember what they see in the Gazette, even if they don't respond immediately!' Helen



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

NOVEMBER

Wed 28, Breabach, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 30, Mark Dolan, 7.30pm, CatStrand

DECEMBER

Sat 1, Craft Fair, 10am-4pm, Dalry Town Hall

Wed 5, deadline for local grants through Glenkens Community Shop, see p4

Wed 5, Open Stage, 7pm, CatStrand

Thurs 6 & Fri 7, CatStrand Panto, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 15, Bus Trip; Ayr - Christmas shopping, see p8

Thurs 20, Dàimh ho ho ho; rogheallaidh, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 28, Film: Mary Poppins, 4.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 28, Bus Trip; Carlisle - New Year sales, see p8

JANUARY

Thurs 3, Bus Trip; Ayr - National Hunt Racing, see p8

Thurs 17, Carsphairn Burns Supper, 7.30pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, see ad below

Sat 19, McGill Duncan Gallery Winter Exhibition, see back page

Thurs 24, Film: Anna Karenina, 7.30pm, CatStrand

FEBRUARY

Sat 9, CatStrand Burns Supper, 7.30pm.

CatStrand * **please note amended date** *

Sat 9, Photography; The Next Step, see p3

Tue 12, Balmaclellan & Kells Guild 16th Annual Pancake Lunch, 12noon-2pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Fri 15, Valentine's Disco (for Glenkens primary children), Dalry School, organised by Friends of Dalry School (FoDS)

Fri 22, Race Night, fundraising for FoDS, location to be confirmed

FESTIVE PERIOD BUS CHANGES:

The midweek GTI service (see below) into Castle Douglas on a Wednesday evening will not be operating on either Wednesday 26 December or Wednesday 2 January.

CARSPHAIRN BURNS SUPPER

Thurs 17th January, 7.30pm

Speakers to Include:

Graham Bell (Immortal Memory), Andrew Dunlop (Toast to the Lassies)
Chairman Robert McTurk

Tickets £10

Phone Jean Gibbon on 01644 460 244

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

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, not on in December

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

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

Balmaclellan Community Council Meetings: Last Monday each month, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.

Carsphairn Community Council Meetings: Last Monday each month, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn.

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

Dalry Community Council Meetings: 1st Monday each month, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.

New Galloway & Kells Community Council Meetings: 2nd Monday each month, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND:

Sundays: Balmaclellan: 12noon: 1st Carsphairn: 10.30am: 1st,2nd,3rd,4th,5th Dalry: 12noon: 1st,2nd(Jan),3rd,4th Kells: 10.30am: 2nd,3rd,4th

Special Services/Events: Sun 9 Dec, 10.30am, United Family Service, Kells Church. Sun 9 Dec, 6.30pm, Carols by Candlelight in Dalry Church. Wed 12 Dec, 10am, Guild Christmas Coffee Morning, New Galloway Town Hall. Sat 22 Dec, 5pm, Carsphairn Church Community Christmas Service & Children's Party. Mon 24 Dec,

11.30pm, Watchnight Service, Kells Church. Tue 25, 10.30am, Christmas Day Family Service, Dalry Church. Sun 30 Dec, 10.30am, United Service with Choir, Carsphairn Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL

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

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SERVICES: Gatehouse of Fleet: Sat, 6pm. Kirkcudbright: Sun, 9.30am. Dalbeattie: Sun, 11am

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Christmas at the Gallery

I have really strong childhood memories of Christmas at the McGill Duncan Gallery, long before my family owned it.

I remember the gallery had dark hessian covered walls, dimly lit lamps and interesting antiques and furniture. At the crowded openings, everyone clustered to view the paintings while sipping mulled wine. I wasn't drinking the wine, but I loved helping myself to one or two mint imperials from a bowl in a little wooden alcove...

Things have changed at the gallery, and we have redecorated, but the little wooden alcove is still there and it is now one of my favourite places for displaying ceramics.

We have carried on with the

tradition of making mulled wine, and this year we will be having a Saturday morning opening and an evening reception. The start of the Winter Exhibition is a very social event, with groups of friends meeting up every year to see the paintings.

We always open the gallery in the week between Christmas and New Year, and serve ginger wine and chocolates every day. Surprisingly, after the Christmas rush, it is one of our busiest times for selling art.

This year we will have a selection of older Galloway paintings alongside some of our favourite contemporary artists. In the five years that we have owned the gallery, we have built strong working relationships with some of the finest artists in Scotland. We feel very lucky that these



Antony the gallery dog.

artists now produce work specially for the gallery. This year Sandy Murphy RSW RGI PAI has painted us a truly wonderful painting of Crossmichael church (below). Both Jill and I are looking forward to this Winter Exhibition with much excitement.

Zoe Blamire

See ad below for details of the Winter Exhibition.

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