

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

February/March 2013

ISSUE 74

FREE

LOCAL LIGHTING REVOLUTION TO CUT POLLUTION AND COSTS

Our Glenkens villages are the first in the region outwith the Galloway Forest Park to receive revolutionary new street lights which will reduce light pollution and cut energy consumption.

The orange glow from sodium street lighting which indicated the presence of villages from miles away will soon be a thing of the past.

If you have been in Carsphairn or Dalry between dusk and dawn this winter, you will have noticed that the orange glow from sodium lighting that stained the night sky has already gone. In November Dumfries & Galloway Council started changing street lights in the two villages to light emitting diodes (LEDs). Street lights in Balmaclellan and New



Galloway are scheduled to be changed by the end of March.

For the Glenkens' communities, located as they are on the edge of the Galloway Forest Park - the UK's first Dark Sky Park (and now also part of the United Nations Biosphere) - the new lights bring particular benefits.

The LED light footprint is more easily controlled, creating significantly less light pollution than traditional street lighting.

The reduction of light pollution even in small villages will make a significant contribution in helping the area maintain its Dark Sky status.

"Street lighting is the single largest contributor to the 'sky glow' effect across the UK, and indeed the world," says Keith Muir, head of Tourism, Recreation & Communications for the Forestry Commission in the Galloway Forest District.

Story by Sara McNeill - continued on p2...



Cathy Agnew Stands Down as GCAT Chairman

Cathy Agnew, the founder Chairman and Director of Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT), has retired from the Board.

Announcing her decision at the AGM of GCAT in December, she said that after 11 years at the helm she felt it was time for others to come forward. **Story continued on p2...**

Editors Note

The next issue of the Gazette may be out a little late...

I'm due to have a baby towards the end of February and, as the copy deadline for the April/May Gazette is Monday 4 March, we're not yet sure when that issue will make it to the shelves.

It may be that some kind and competent soul can take over for a while, or else that the issue is delayed a bit. Either way, please bear with us; the Gazette will reach you one way or another!

Sarah

GCAT story from front page...

Anna Campbell and Ted Leeming have also stood down from the GCAT Board. Five new directors were elected at the AGM: Zoe Blamire, Brian Edgar, Richard Hermon, Helen Keron and Margaret Watson. They join Margaret Elphinstone, Andrew Mellor and Alan Smith on the Board, which will be appointing a new Chairman shortly.

"I can't believe it was back in 2001, at the time of the foot and mouth outbreak, that a group of us first got together with the idea of doing something with the old school," says Cathy. "It's extraordinary to think that it took six years, £1m, and a huge amount of dedication and commitment from so many people to transform that ruin into what the CatStrand is today. It was a real team effort and great fun. Now that the building has just celebrated its 5th Birthday, is firmly established in the community and is recognised as a first-rate regional arts venue, it's time for a change all-round. It's only fair that others should have the chance to play their part in helping shape the next five years."

Both GCAT and the CatStrand have won a number of prestigious awards since their inception, including ones from Arts & Business, LEADER and DG Life. Currently, the Glenkens is in the running to receive a Creative Scotland Creative Places Award which will be announced at the end of January in St Andrews.

FIVE REMARKABLE YEARS

Anna Campbell reflects on Cathy Agnew's contribution to the CatStrand.

The names of Cathy Agnew and the CatStrand are intrinsically linked. Now that the CatStrand has celebrated its 5th birthday and goes from strength to strength, Cathy has decided that it is the right time for her to leave the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) Board.

In 2001, in the tragic aftermath of foot and mouth disease, Cathy, with others, grasped the opportunity to put the Glenkens at the forefront of community and cultural activities in Dumfries and Galloway.

Cathy spearheaded the move to transform the old school in New Galloway into an imaginatively designed building fit for the requirements and demands of the 21st century. There were challenges and some opposition but, undaunted, Cathy, with her inspirational leadership and supported by her Board members and volunteers, overcame them. Her ambition was always to go for the best. Nothing less was good enough and her unswerving strategy motivated all those who believed in the goal but didn't know if or when it could be achieved. During the five years it took to complete the building, seemingly insurmountable obstacles often appeared but Cathy, with her eyes firmly set on realising the dream, tackled every problem with drive and determination laced with incredible charm.

Since the building was opened by the Princess Royal in 2007 it has been used as a centre for many diverse activities, and when one goes in

nowadays there is a feeling that the CatStrand represents a vibrant community. Its many awards in the last five years acknowledge Cathy's dream, which has come to fruition through her infectious enthusiasm, constant commitment and ability to help others have the confidence that the Glenkens could build and sustain such an ambitious project.




New Galloway Golf Club

Founded 1902

www.nggc.co.uk

✓ **01644 420737** ✓

Buggies now available for hire

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Web Site Design

Individually designed web sites to complement your business and to suit your budget; all sites are optimised for search engines as standard.

Graphic Design

Advertising, packaging, leaflets, large scale exhibition stands, pop ups, corporate identity, business cards, flyers, logos etc...

Photographic Services

Portable studio photography, specialising in internal & external property shots, event photography, damaged & old photos digitally restored.

Melissa Priddy

T: 01644 430118
E: info@creativestation.co.uk
W: www.creativestation.co.uk

Creative STATION

Street light story from front page...

Keith Muir goes on to say: "It is why a huge percentage of families, when asked what colour their night is, reply by saying - orange."

"Any change that starts to mitigate this sky glow is excellent news. However, Dumfries and Galloway Council have gone one step further by changing the lights to white LED down-lighters. This will drastically change the night sky environment, making the sky above us all far more easily observed and protecting the night-time environment for all of us and the wildlife that relies upon it."

"It will also make the streets a safer place as white light adds to the security of people as you can identify colours and it reduces

the claustrophobic feeling that orange lights can give. Overall, this is a fantastic move by the Council and clearly demonstrates that as a region the key public bodies are trying to make the most of our unique, selling points."

These new LEDs have less impact on the environment as they are less attractive to nocturnal insects, do not contain mercury or lead and create less carbon dioxide through using less energy. It is estimated that using LED lighting systems throughout the UK will reduce the carbon dioxide being released into our atmosphere by over 40,000 tons per year.

The project, which has been funded through the D&G Central Efficiency Fund, has cost £27,000, supported by Scottish Government grants. It has been calculated that there is a 6.4 year payback period with the venture saving 300 tonnes of

carbon dioxide over its 20-year lifespan.

The project aims to save money by spending money since LEDs are significantly more cost-effective than current technology, having to be maintained and replaced less frequently, as well as being 40% more efficient to run.

Locals seem to have a positive reaction to it, with Dalry resident, Angela, saying;

"I really like the new lights - even from our upstairs windows we now have no light coming in from the street lamps except a little silver light, more like moonlight, which is nice."

simon winstanley architects



190 King Street, Castle Douglas DG7 1DB
Tel: 01556 503 826
email@simonwinstanley.com
www.simonwinstanley.com

The Smithy
New Galloway

Tea Room & Craft Shop

- Re-opening Saturday 2 March -

The Smithy specialises in home cooked food using fresh local produce.

There are wonderful home-made daily specials to satisfy the hungry traveller, possibly followed by our own apple pie and Galloway ice cream...

A wide choice of teas and Italian espresso coffee (or you could treat yourself to the rather delicious Italian hot chocolate deluxe, a meal in itself!) are available, along with a range of soft drinks. Fancy a glass of wine? Why not bring your own - no corkage charge.



open daily from 10am
March to October
Tel: 01644 420 269
www.thesmithy-newgalloway.co.uk

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!

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.

Various

Dinatron music centre; records, radio and tapes. Nice piece of furniture, well looked-after. Needs a good home. Contact: Sue on 07554 644 993 (preferably evenings).

2 ceramic garden plant pots, light blue, approx. 1 foot high. Contact: Sue on 07554 644 993 (preferably evenings).

27 volumes of the annual Galloway Cattle Society Herdbook. Earliest dated 1934 and latest 1976. Alan on 07769 680 938

Furniture

Brown velour sofa. 3-seater. Not great condition (should be fine with a throw over it). Contact: Sarah on 430 248

Wooden arm chair. Cushioned seat and back. Good condition. Contact: Sarah on 430 248

Two 4-drawer filing cabinets. Contact: Diana on 07796 911 569

Wooden table. Medium size, handmade solid wood table. Very heavy. Contact: Sarah on 430 248

Washing machine, AEG, working except for a fault on spin; may be fixable but haven't tried as

don't need the machine; inherited it with the house. Contact: 07727 127 997

Small brass kindling/log box. 14" w x 12" d x 12" h. Contact: Fiona on 07789 903 127.

Hostess trolley; various compartments for keeping food warm. Contact: Sarah on 430 248

2-tier wood effect tray trolley. Contact: Fiona on 07789 903 127.

TV Unit. Handmade, wooden, with shelves for dvd player, sky box,

etc and drawers. Contact: Sarah on 430 248

Wardrobe. Solid pine, 2-door, with mirror panel. In excellent condition. 7ft 2ins (H) 23ins (D) 70ins (W). Item has been disassembled for ease of transportation. Contact: 420 839.

Electronics

26" JVC TV with built-in Freeview. Contact: Davy on 01292 551 524

A3 scanner. Seems to have a communication problem with computer... I was given it but have no technical know-how so have given up, but for someone who knows about these things it may be fixable. Contact: 07727 127 997

Overhead projector. Also some acetates that I don't need anymore. Contact: Diana on 07796 911 569

Dell 948 printer. Printer, flatbed scanner and fax. Contact: Diana on 07796 911 569

Plants/Garden

Home wanted for Japanese acer (I think). About five feet high. At present in large plastic pot, needs releasing into the ground. Contact: Sue on 07554 644 993 (preferably evenings).

WANTED

Set of 12 stair rod with clips. Contact: Sue on 07554 644 993 (preferably evenings).

Any second-hand shuttering or scaffold boards suitable for making raised vegetable beds. Contact: Sue on 07554 644 993 (preferably evenings).

Computer screen. Contact: 430 655

Bargatton Sand & Gravel

Supplying sand and gravel for all your farming needs, as well as households and businesses both large and small.

In Stock: Concrete sand, building sand, washed gravels including peagravel and 20-40mm draining gravel.

£15 per tonne + VAT.

Aggregate mix £15.50 per tonne + VAT.

For further details contact:

Angus Wilson, Quarry Manager - 07715 606 685

James Mair - 07793 085 243

Email: loch.bargatton@live.co.uk

Bargatton Quarry, Laurieston, Castle Douglas, DG7 2PS

**Open 7 days Mon-Fri
Weekends by arrangement**

Delivery can be arranged - subject to quantity

Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power



In this issue we take a look at a wood as fuel; types of wood, seasoned or green, air flow and more...

WONDERFUL WOOD

There has always been something rather magical about a real fire; the flickering light, the mesmeric quality, and the warm glow you just don't get with gas or electric fires.

The draw of a real fire, combined with the rising cost of gas, electricity and oil, have seen more and more fireplaces uncovered, chimneys uncapped and wood-burning stoves installed in kitchens and living rooms around the Glenkens, and indeed the country as a whole.

The new buzzword that abounds is 'wood fuel'; wood that is used to generate heat or electricity. It comes in three main forms; logs, chips, and pellets or briquettes made from compressed sawdust. Both logs and briquettes can be used in open fires, wood-burning stoves can take logs or briquettes (some of these are not suitable for stoves - see manufacturer's guidelines for the specific product), and wood-fuelled heating systems used to generate electricity can be suited to any of the three.

In this article we will focus on the wood fuel used in domestic wood-burning stoves and open fires.

The most traditional form of wood fuel in the past was discarded wood not suitable for building or joinery, such as smaller branch wood from windfall (branches found after high winds and storms), branches cut when coppicing (a way of managing woodland) and the waste from hedge-trimming. Smaller branches were used as kindling to start fires, and often referred to by the anachronistic

use of the terms 'faggots' or 'pimps'.

Nowadays, larger wood which would have been saved for other purposes in the past is valuable in its own right as a fuel, and pre-cut logs are the preferred type to purchase for burning.

For most families, with children in school and full-time jobs, we just don't have the time or labour available to gather our own wood; although on school holidays it can be a useful ploy to keep children entertained and the wood shed stocked!

The demand for pre-cut logs has seen a growth in the number of wood fuel suppliers offering a choice of hardwoods, softwoods, various species of tree, seasoned or green, and now briquettes have been added as an 'eco-friendly' alternative too; and that's without even delving into the whole issue of calorific value.

So let's demystify things a little by saying that all wood burns.

How quickly it burns and how much heat it produces in the burning process depends on three things; the type of wood you are using, whether it has been seasoned, and how much air you allow your stove or fireplace to draw in.

So what wood do you want to use? The difference between hardwoods and softwoods is really a question of density. Softwoods (coniferous trees such as spruce/pine) grow faster than hardwoods (broad-leaved trees such as oak, elm, cherry, ash) and as a result are less dense and tend to burn quicker and hotter. They also have a higher resin content, which can make them spark more (so if you intend to put softwoods in your open fire remember to use a spark guard), and causes a higher build-up of resinous tar or 'creosote' in your chimney

which must be cleaned out regularly to avoid chimney fires. The major cause of this type of build-up, however, is from burning un-seasoned softwood; un-seasoned wood is the least efficient in heat-production, as well as the worst for the condition of your fireplace or stove, and chimney.

Seasoned hardwood is the best firewood to burn as it is denser, burns slower and is easier to regulate, and has less resin to create nasty chimney build-ups.

With a wood-burning stove you can regulate the speed at which wood burns through adjusting the various air-intakes. This makes burners/stoves much more fuel-efficient than open fires. Also, with an open fire a large percentage heat goes up the chimney - some sources say as much as 90% - so if you have the opportunity, converting your open fire to a wood or multi-fuel stove will maximise your fuel-efficiency.

At the end of the day a shed full of hardwood is going to last you longer than a shed full of softwood, but in an area where spruces abound and softwoods are more readily available, it seems a common sense option.

The most important factor in buying firewood is the moisture content. If you burn either wet or green/unseasoned wood, your fire will spend much of its energy boiling off the water rather than producing heat, as well as producing more soot and tar that will eventually damage your chimney. So if you are buying firewood for immediate use, make sure that it is seasoned.

However, if you have the space to buy in advance and season your own wood over the course of a year, this will be your most cost-effective option.

Whatever you decide to burn, keep warm this winter!

Sara McNeill

PERFECTLY POTTY

In February 2003 Hannah McAndrew received a start-up grant for her pottery business.

This year she is celebrating her tenth year in business and plans to mark it with a series of events and special pots, starting with an open studio day on Saturday 9 February at her workshop in Kelton, Castle Douglas.

Hannah is an award-winning slipware potter. She uses a technique that has been used for centuries to create earthenware pots characterised by the use of liquid clays called slips to trail patterns and images across their surfaces. Though inspired by medieval British pottery, Hannah uses these techniques in such a way that the pots she makes are characteristically hers and not copies of older wares.

Hannah works in red terracotta

clay and mixes coloured slips to create the decoration which is so key to her work.

"I make pots with a purpose, pots for use in the home," says Hannah. "My work, thrown in red earthenware, is decorated with coloured slips and rich honey glazes. The decoration is applied to the surface of the pot whilst the slipped surface is still glistening wet. The nature of this means that patterns applied must be free and fluid to take full advantage of this state."

In April 2011 Hannah was invited to demonstrate her skills in America at a series of workshops at arts centres on the east coast. November of the same year saw her exhibiting at the prestigious Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show as one of a select group of crafts people from Scotland who were there as invited guests of the show.

During March 2012 an exhibition

billed as 'the best of British slipware' and featuring just three potters was held at Gallery St. Ives in Tokyo, Japan and Hannah's pottery was included.

2013 brings with it the opportunity to exhibit in the USA again during the Minnesota Potters Tour in the St Croix Valley, and Hannah will be the first non-American to be invited to take part as a guest of the show.

For further details contact Hannah on 01556 680 220 or info@hannahmcandrew.co.uk

Hannah McAndrew

Celebrating 10 Years in Business



Open Studio Saturday 9
February, 3-8pm
Studio 3, Lochdougan,
Kelton, Castle Douglas

www.hannahmcandrew.co.uk

Aileen McLeod MSP



working for you across the South of Scotland

Postal address:

Unit 7
Loreburn Shopping Centre
High Street, Dumfries, DG1 2BD

Email:

aileen.mcleod.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Tel:

01387 255 334

Please check

www.aileenmcleod.org
for regular surgery, constituency
and parliamentary updates



**Gillespie Gifford & Brown LLP
Solicitors and Estate Agents**

*Selling properties across
Dumfries & Galloway*

01556 503744

www.ggblaw.co.uk

All legal advice

***Offices in Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie
Kirkcudbright and Dumfries***



A Fair Success

A very successful craft fair was held in Mossdale Village Hall in November raising £418 for Hall funds.

It was a very enjoyable and sociable occasion and the Hall Committee are very grateful for the support received from people of the Glenkens and beyond.

Mossdale is a very small community and fundraising and arranging events is not easy so support from outside is very welcome to make events successful and worthwhile. *Jill Haslam*

Mindfulness - It's Not What You Think

Mindfulness is officially mainstream; it was referred to by name on Eastenders over Christmas.

So what is mindfulness, why has it become so popular and what can it do for you? There are many definitions, but essentially it is being in the present moment and knowing you are in the present moment with a relaxed, non-judgemental state of mind and an open heart.

It sounds easy until you sit down for ten minutes with the intention of calming the mind and not following the often unrelated stream of thoughts that continually come into it. Most people find it a real challenge.

Thousands of people in Dumfries and Galloway alone suffer from a stress-related long-term condition.

Pain is inevitable, but the suffering which is created by our minds when we revisit an event over and over can be optional. The job of mindfulness is to alleviate suffering based on concrete, evidence-based,

neuroscientific understanding of how our minds work.

With mindfulness, we train what is called the 'mindfulness muscle' to stop following negative thoughts using core methods which have been tried and tested over years, if not centuries. When applied regularly the actual make-up of the brain changes and new neurological pathways are built. These enable us to find more creative solutions to the inevitable challenges and problems of life.

Mindfulness is the ultimate self-management tool.

It is not a new self-help method or therapy. The ability to calm the mind and emotions and be happy from within is foundational.

As adults we also have a duty of care. Reports are showing that a brain gap is developing between generations. As younger people are 'plugging in' and spending more and more time on screens, the brain is becoming 'e-addiction' trained resulting in shorter concentration spans and the need for more and more stimulation.

A recent UNICEF report found

that children in the UK are the most unhappy in the world, followed by American children.

For anyone involved in children's wellbeing it is a sobering thought indeed. I hear reports frequently from grandparents about the negative effects they feel 'screen time' is having on their grandchildren and they are often the ones who have a good overview.

When she was asked for her opinion on what brings lasting happiness and true freedom, Alice Sommers-Hertz, survivor of concentration camps and now one hundred and thirteen years old, said it was the satisfaction of doing a job well and thankfulness; being grateful for every small thing - a smile, a flower, everything.

It sounds like common sense, but as a friend recently said to me common sense isn't all that common anymore, and gratitude is now being promoted as one of the most effective mindfulness tools in combating low-level depression and anxiety. It seems we do need tools and training to recover our true natures and restore the balance of our minds and hearts, and mindfulness is an exceptionally effective one.

Debra Hall

The Clog & Shoe Workshop

unique handmade footwear

open 10am - 5pm weekdays
Easter Mon to 31st October
please ring to arrange a visit at other times

Tel: 01644 420 465

visit our new online shop at
www.clogandshoe.co.uk

T. H. CARSON BUTCHERS

See us at Dalry Farmers
Market on 2nd Sat each month.

*We deliver
every Thursday*

*Give us a call,
no order too small!*

**THE CROSS, MILL ST, DALBEATTIE
01556 610 384**



TRUE NATURE

- Mindfulness courses -
- one-to-one training -
contact Debra on 430 013
or debra.ha@hotmail.co.uk

(22 yrs practice & experience)
All courses are run in accordance with the UK
guidelines for mindfulness teachers.

FANCY A BITE?

People are understandably concerned about the crayfish in Loch Ken, but there is still some good fishing to be had. This pike was caught in December by Paul Thornton from Carronbridge, near Thornhill. He estimates it was 10 to 12 pounds, and it swam off well when released.

Paul Goodwin



On Your Bike

Cycling has certainly been in the news over the past year.

It's fun, healthy exercise, good for the environment and can help save transport costs.

Now that the days are lengthening and the weather improving, isn't it time to dust off your bike and have a go?

Cycle training is available to help improve skills in all areas of modern biking; Bikeability Scotland offers various courses including mountain biking, adult cycle training and Bikeability Levels 1, 2 and 3.

The Bikeability training is primarily for school-age children, in place of the old cycling proficiency test.

Bikeability Level 1 is entirely playground-based and aims to develop essential balance and control skills through fun activities. Bikeability Level 2

aims to build on these skills and includes practising on roads and growing understanding of the Highway Code.

As trained volunteers June, Linda, Martin and Claire have helped children in the Glenkens develop their cycling skills by delivering Bikeability Level 1 and 2 over the past two years.

We plan to continue this training at Kells, Dalry and Carsphairn Primary Schools, and would like to develop cycling-based activities for families in the area.

If you are interested in helping us as a volunteer, please contact June on 420 361, or for further information about all aspects of cycle training visit the Cycling Scotland website at www.cyclingscotland.org

June Hay

THE KEN BRIDGE HOTEL

New Galloway



*Open 7 Days
Beautiful Riverside Location*

MEALS SERVED
12.00 - 2.00pm, 5.30 - 8.30pm

*Renowned Ken Bridge Sunday
Lunch Carvery, 'The Best in the
West', now in its 8th year.*

Bed & breakfast en suite accommodation

01644 420 211

mail@kenbridgehotel.co.uk
www.kenbridgehotel.co.uk

From the makeshift home
office to the London HQ,
from the entrepreneur to
the plc, from the small
business loans to the next
business acquisition

...we're with you

To find out how we could help you call Brian Johnstone on
01387 955900 or email
brian.johnstone@armstrongwatson.co.uk

www.armstrongwatson.co.uk

ArmstrongWatson®
Accountants & Financial Advisers

Armstrong Watson is registered to carry on audit work by the Institute of
Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Registered office: 15 Victoria Place,
Carlisle CA1 1EW

New Plans Hatching for Watson Birds

We are busily fundraising to keep the momentum up on our Watson Bird celebrations, and have been awarded a £2,000 grant by the Co-operative Membership Community Fund which will get us on our way.

The money from this and other project funds will go towards developing walking and driving trails around Dalry and the Glenkens. This will enable locals and visitors alike to enjoy birdwatching and the outdoors in the countryside which inspired local bird artist and illustrator Donald Watson.

Our Feathers fundraising campaign has so far raised

around £19,000 through an excellent response from our many supporters. The funds will be used to attract money from trusts and foundations for specific projects.

We said thanks and farewell to Sarah Keast who has done a wonderful job in getting our activities and events under way. Aaron Edgar, from New Galloway, has now taken over her role on the project.

Aaron will be based at Dalry Library on a Wednesday morning and a Thursday afternoon, and for the rest of the time at the CatStrand where he is working on other projects. Please contact him on aaron@watsonbirds.org or 07917 034 450.

We plan two key events this year -

one in March and the other in September.

Join us on Easter Saturday, 30 March, in Dalry Town Hall for displays and demonstrations (see ad on back page).

Our annual festival will be Friday 20 to Sunday 22 September at a number of venues in Dalry. In addition to the usual events we have some new ones planned, so visit our website to stay posted - www.watsonbirds.org

Watson Birds is a Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT) initiative and is supported by the Dumfries and Galloway LEADER Programme, Scottish Natural Heritage and the BIG Lottery Awards for All.

Roger Crofts,
roger@watsonbirds.org,
07803 595267

VISIT US ONLINE

The Glenkens Gazette can now be viewed online at www.glenkensgazette.co.uk

The latest issue, as well as previous issues, can be seen and we're also hoping to have extended versions of articles which have had to be cut due to space constraints in the printed publication.

There is also the potential for a blog, and for events listings between issues - as the Gazette is bi-monthly, a lot of local activities fall between issues, so it would be great to have an up-to-date events page.

If you have any ideas on how the website could best benefit the communities of the Glenkens - features you would enjoy using, items you would like to see, links you feel are important - please get in touch with Sarah at glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

cream o' GALLOWAY

S I M P L Y N A T U R A L

- ◆ Adventure playground
- ◆ Nature trails & cycle tracks
- ◆ Tearoom with luxury ice cream
- ◆ Ice cream tasting events
- ◆ Farm tours



Food for Thought Lunches

Coffee, event & lunch: £12.50. Please phone to book places.

- ◆ 1st March ~ Meet a Fairtrade Coffee Grower from Uganda



- ◆ 15th March ~ Cookery Demo with tasting
- ◆ 26th April ~ Rainton Farm: come and see for yourself how our new dairy system is working

Free weekday entry for adults
outwith UK school holidays.

Open Feb 9th-24th, Mar 2nd & 3rd, 9th & 10th
then daily from 16th March.

01557 815 222 www.creamogalloway.co.uk

CatStrand Highlights

Just when you think the festivities are over, it's time for haggis, neeps and tatties.

Join us for Burns Supper at the CatStrand on Saturday 9 February for a dram, a poem, and the full traditional fayre.

On the menu for fans of Gershwin, Cole Porter, or Irving Berlin there are some jazz highlights for you; on Friday 8 February Gentle Jazz return to the CatStrand (where they last played to a full house in 2008), and award-winning saxophonist-composer Tommy Smith will perform on Saturday 30 March.

On Friday 1 March the CatStrand Youth Players proudly present their Scottish Community

Drama Association (SCDA) Festival entries for 2013. We wish them continuing success in the competition!

Highlights in music continue with one of the world's most highly respected classical guitarists, Eduardo Catemario, and Grammy award winning Americana star Mollie O'Brien, all the way from West Virginia.



Eduardo Catemario

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

A WORTHY CAUSE

Most readers will have attended an event at the CatStrand.

Some of us will be regular supporters, paying £8 to £12 for a ticket. But how many of us

really appreciate the fantastic value offered?

We would probably have to pay more than twice as much in a city venue for the shows we see on our doorstep.

With an audience capacity of less than 90, all these events

are heavily subsidised; usually the takings do not cover the cost of the performers, and certainly do not contribute to the cost of running the building or staffing costs.

The CatStrand has brought many benefits to our Glenkens communities; there really is something for everyone, young or old or inbetween. Some examples of what's on offer are: Family and children's events, music, comedy, drama, films, lectures, fitness activities, art and craft exhibitions, a

shop, café, meeting place and computing and internet facilities with wifi.

Despite the many generous grants from public bodies and various family trusts, and invaluable help from an army of volunteers, the CatStrand makes an operating loss, which obviously cannot continue forever. Nor should we assume that in these times of financial constraint grants will continue at their past rate.

Much thought and effort is being applied to find ways of meeting this annual shortfall, but I would suggest to anyone who can afford it that this is a worthy cause, and we need to dig a bit deeper into our pockets to ensure that the CatStrand continues to thrive.

I know that many of you help raise funds for other longer-established community facilities in the Glenkens, and the CatStrand is the 'new kid on the block', but it has quickly become a major focus of community activities, and certainly offers value for money.

If you would like to help, why not sign up with the 'Friends of the CatStrand' - membership forms are available at the CatStrand reception desk, or call 420 374 to find out more. I promise you the fees will not break the bank. *Gerry Cinderby*

JOIN THE TEAM...



VOLUNTEER AT THE CATSTRAND

Could you spare a bit of time to volunteer with us?

We are looking for enthusiastic people to join our fantastic team of volunteers. There are lots of ways to get involved. You could help out with:



- Stewarding at events
- Front of house
- Café
- Bar
- Shop
- Minibus driving
- Gardening
- Technical support
- Administration

Contact Wendy Leach for an informal chat: wendy@catstrand.com / 01644 420 374

Age 13 – 19? Join our Youth Team

As well as getting training and volunteer experience you could:



- Help to plan and run events
- Set up your own club (e.g. film, music, art, games)
- Plan a trip
- Design or write for the Glenkens Gazette youth pages
- Suggest other activities you'd like to do

Contact Rebecca Goldsmith to find out more: rebecca@catstrand.com / 01644 420 374

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

www.catstrand.com

// YOUTH Banter //



It's a brand new year and time to catch up with all the latest banter. Remember, if there's something you want and you don't see it in here, tell us for the next issue! Writers, photographers, designers, enthusiasts...everyone's welcome.

To get involved, contact Rebecca Goldsmith:

rebecca@catstrand.com / 01644 420 374

PREPARE FOR BATTLE!

BATTLE • of the • BANDS

DATES :

23/03/13

Deadline for entries

19/04/13

Battle of the Bands @ CatStrand

23/05/13 - 26/05/13

Knockengoroch Festival

www.catstrand.com

www.knockengoroch.org.uk

There's a slot at the Knockengoroch Festival up for grabs and YOU could be playing it. Here's how...

1) START A BAND

You need at least 3 people to qualify, so see who you can get together. Do you know anyone who plays an instrument or sings? If you already have a band, fantastic - move on to Stage 2.

2) GET REHEARSING

Practise until your songs are really tight. You need to impress your audience and the judges. Need a rehearsal space? Ask CatStrand!

3) RECORD A DEMO

You can do this from home if you have a microphone and some computer software (e.g. Garageband). If not, ask at CatStrand. We can help! Contact rebecca@catstrand.com / 01644 420 374.

4) ENTER THE COMPETITION

Send your demo in online. Keep an eye on these websites for details: www.catstrand.com : www.knockengoroch.org.uk

5) BE THE BEST

If the judges like your demo, you'll be asked to perform at the Battle of the Bands event on **Friday 19 April at CatStrand**. Then it's over to you to BE THE BEST and win that slot at Knockengoroch.

6) PLAY THE FEST

The lucky winners get to play Knockengoroch 2013 on the weekend of 23 MAY...MAKE SURE YOU'RE FREE!!

You must be aged 14 - 26 and have at least 3 people in your band



Supported by:

The Holywood Trust

GCAT (Glenkens Community & Arts Trust)

YOUTH:TEAM



TIME F CLO

They scooped two a
Festival, had us green
and sold out twice
Now they're getting
with two n

Meet the Glenkens
(Ok, the Glenkens '73



RECAP! HANNAH

On the 6th and 7th December 2012 I took part in the youth drama pantomime "Old Mother Hubbard" by Paul Reakes. I played the parts of the Good Fairy and one of Matt Vinyl's henchmen. I really enjoyed playing these parts because it gave me an experience of learning two completely different parts and having to learn how to do an American accent which I found hard at the start.

I am also taking part in the drama festival which takes place all over Scotland. I think that the two plays which we are doing are going to be very good, as one of them is a comedy play (Ghost Writer) which will get the audience laughing. The second one is a more serious play which is about a brother and sister whose parents have left them (LittleBro Morning, BigSis Afternoon).

Favourite thing about the panto:
Being the good fairy twice in a row as I was the good fairy the year before!

Biggest laughs:
Dylan (Old Mother Hubbard) ended up doing a lot of ad-libs which made it more funny.

Most looking forward to:
Being in both plays in the festival as I have never done that before.



THE BIG Q & A

EILIDH



ZOE

Q) How did the pantomime go?

A) Eilidh: It went well! The first night the audience were more receptive, but performance-wise the second night went better.

Zoe: The audience were really good. They booed and cheered at all the right points!

Q) What can you tell us about the festival plays?

A) Eilidh: I think my play (Ghost Writer) will look really good. There are two different sets on stage at once. And it's funny!

Zoe: I'm looking forward to trying to be sad on stage! It's a really powerful play and I think it will move a lot of people (LittleBro Morning, BigSis Afternoon).

Q) Why do you go to Youth Players?

A) Zoe: It's so FUN!

Eilidh: Yeah, it's fun! I like doing all the different plays and competing in the festival.

Zoe: There's a BIG audience! It's more pressure but it's exciting.



CAMERON

Likes: Reading horror, esp
Dislikes: Exercise and brus
Best thing about Youth Pl
Say the first words that co

FREDDIE

Likes: Fish, haggis, steak p
Dislikes: Rugby. Won't try
reputation).
Best thing about Youth Pl
lines when you forget th
First words that come into

OLIVER

Likes: Football and food.
Dislikes: Rugby, cricket and
plays croquet!")
Best thing about the You
First words that come into

TELL US A JOKE

A snail goes into a bar. The barman says "we don't serve snails in here" and chucks him out the window. Two months later, the snail goes back in and says "what did you do that for?"! **LOWENA & ELEANOR**



KEEP CALM AND C

See the Youth Players perform their two
'LittleBro Morning, BigSis Afternoon':

Thursday 21 - Saturday 23 February @
Friday 1 March @ CatStrand, 7:30pm,

FOR YOUR SE UP

awards in last year's Drama
ting at The Benares Incident
with their Christmas panto.
g ready to impress us again
new festival plays.

'very own Youth Players...
Club CatStrand Youth Players!)



WHO ARE YOU?

CAST MEMBERS ON PAPER

pecially Darren Shan.
sel sprouts.
ayers: The performances.
ome into your head: "Jaffa Cakes"

ie and playing for Threave Rovers
sprouts (they've got a bad

ayers: Having fun and making up
em.
o your head: "Fluffy Mountains"

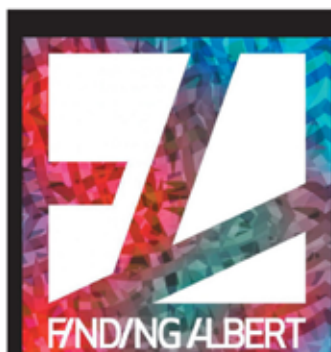
d croquet. (Freddie says: "No-one
h Players: Acting, meeting people.
o your head: "Fudgicles"

CURTAINS UP

new plays, 'Ghost Writer' and

Lochside Theatre (details tbc)
£5/£3 (01644 420 374)

WHAT'S ON?



BATTLE!



EVENTS

CATSTRAND YOUTH PLAYERS - ONE ACT PLAYS
Friday 1 March, 7:30pm
The CatStrand, £5/3
www.catstrand.com

FINDING ALBERT ALBUM LAUNCH SHOW
Saturday 30 March, 7:30pm
DG One, £10
www.dgone.co.uk

BATTLE OF THE BANDS
Friday 19 April, 7pm
The CatStrand (with Knockengoroch Festival)
www.catstrand.com
www.knockengoroch.org.uk

FILMS

LIFE OF PI (PG)
Wednesday 23 & Thursday 24 January, 7pm
Newton Stewart Cinema
www.nscinema.co.uk

THE IMPOSSIBLE (12A)
Saturday 16 February, 7:30pm
Lochside Theatre, £6/£5
www.lochsidetheatre.co.uk

SKYFALL (12A)
Thursday 21 March, 7:30pm
The CatStrand
www.catstrand.com

GET INVOLVED (YOLO!)

GCAT (Glenkens Community & Arts Trust)

YOUTH:TEAM

FREE TRAINING

STARTS 06/02/13

Sign up for the GCAT Youth Team and get FREE training opportunities including:
Food Hygiene - First Aid - Stewarding - Live Sound and Technical - Box Office
Then get experience as a volunteer, backstage crew or even running your own activities and events. Contact rebecca@catstrand.com / 01644 420 374 for info.

* TRAINING DATE: 06/02/13, 6 - 8pm, open to anyone aged 13 - 19 *



YOUTHBANK

CASH FOR GOOD IDEAS

Got a good idea for a project? Want to make a difference for young people locally? Apply to YouthBank and you could get up to £750 to make things happen. Contact Rhona Norris, D&G Community Learning and Development on 01776 70 2151 (ext 61345) or email rhona.norris@dumgal.gov.uk.

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 9 MARCH: GLASGOW

Visit the craft exhibition at the Science Centre, the nearby Transport Museum or head into the city centre.



MONDAY 25 MARCH: FALKIRK

Take a trip to Callendar House; a mansion in the style of a French chateau! (It's a bit like Hogwarts.) There's a gallery, parkland and an 'interactive Georgian kitchen'.



WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL: LAKE DISTRICT

Need to escape? Jump on the GTI bus to the Lake District and get outdoors for fantastic scenery and hikes.



For info on times and pickup points contact CatStrand...



- * £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

TO ADD A LISTING TO THE NEXT ISSUE OR TO SPONSOR/ADVERTISE IN THE YOUTH PAGES, CONTACT:
rebecca@catstrand.com / 01644 420 374

Dalry School Christmas Concert

On Thursday 13 December, children from Nursery to S4 performed at the Dalry School Christmas Concert.

The P5/6/7 class began the night off by singing some festive songs to get everyone in the Christmas spirit. Children from Nursery to P7 then performed the show 'It's a Party', which told the story of the angels organising a party for the birth of Jesus.

After the interval the secondary pupils took to the stage to perform group and individual items, from reggae to traditional Christmas songs. There was a guest appearance by some of the staff members too!



The whole school then returned to the stage for the grand finale of the jubilee song 'Sing' and a Christmas Medley. Depute Head Teacher Annette Craig said: "This was a fantastic night for all the children, from ages three to sixteen, and it was a whole school effort to produce a performance of such a high standard. The children all performed outstandingly and were a credit to the school."

Kells Primary Christmas Concert



The annual Christmas Concert at Kells Primary was held on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday 19 December.

P1-4 opened the concert by playing a tune on their recorders and then singing 'Jingle Bells.' P5-7 then performed 'The Angry Hotel Man.' The pupils told the story of the Nativity through the eyes of the innkeeper, who was angry as a result of the numerous people coming to his door to visit the baby Jesus.

The raffle for the Christmas Hamper was drawn at the end of the performance by the PTA, the winner of which was Miss J McQueen. The evening was concluded with the parents and friends enjoying refreshments, mince pies and shortbread. Well done to all the pupils who performed!

Zarah Groves would like to congratulate her talented piano pupils on their achievements in 2012.



Zarah says: "I think it's an amazing feat that these children do so well in their piano exams. It's jolly hard to pass; it's the Royal Schools of Music and their standards are very high indeed. Children fail all the time - but not these pupils...they really are brilliant and work really, really hard."

In March 2012: James Jones Prep Test; Evie Mair Grade 1 112 Marks, Finlay McGaw Grade 1 112, Marks, Erin McGaw Grade 2 117 Marks, Hayley McGaw Grade 2 120 Merit, Yelena Woolfe Grade 2 113 Marks, Bronnen Pears Grade 3 105 Marks, Emily Jones Grade 4 117 Marks, Jordan Pears Grade 4 111 Marks.

In June 2012: Anne Margaret Errington Performance Assessment; Ellen Bielinski Grade 1 120 Merit Kirsten Wallace Grade 5 110 Marks.

In December 2012: Daisy Hickman Grade 5 115 Marks, Bryher Pears Grade 6 124 Merit, Sorsha Woolfe Grade 1 126 Merit.

Theory of Music Grade 5 was achieved by: Bryher Pears 94% Distinction, Sarah McKee 87% Merit, Eleanor Jones 80% Merit, Kirsten Wallace 87% Merit.

Carsphairn Burns Supper



Carsphairn started the Burns Supper season rolling on Thursday 17 January with a hugely enjoyable evening with guests, friends, poetry and music.

As tradition dictates, the fare was Haggis, neeps and tatties followed by trifle, tattie scones, oatcakes and cheese. Funds raised are going towards the extension of Lagwyne Hall, and David Gibbon from the Committee thanked the artists and guests for their attendance at this popular annual event. *Jean Gibbon*

Photograph - The Top Table: Graham Bell (Immortal Memory), Rev David Bartholomew (Selkirk Grace), Gordon Hennessy (Address to the Haggis and Recitations), Andrew Dunlop (Toast to The Lassies) and Andy McCartney (Piper). Seated are Susan Muir (Reply to the Toast to The Lassies), Robert McTurk (Chairman) and Andy McClymont (Singer, Burns Songs).



ON THE BUS

In December 2012 George Colbenson, from Dalry, arranged for fellow Dalry resident, 101 year old Bella Wood, to take a ride to Ayr on the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) minibus.

Bella's son lives just outside Ayr so the bus dropped her off there while the other passengers did some Christmas shopping. George, who visits Bella each week, says: "Bella thoroughly enjoyed her trip - it had been over two years since she had last visited her son. She liked being on the bus as you're high up, so get a great view, and is already wondering when the next trip is!"

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Galloway

Surprising experiences!
Eucharaid iongantach!

Visit our **new and improved** Visitor Centres across Galloway Forest Park opening during 2013. Join us on one of our many great events in the Year of Natural Scotland. Pick up an events guide or check online at: www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark

Call us on 01671 402420

Year of Natural Scotland 2013



**ALEX
FERGUSON
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

Stewartry Camera Club (SCC)

The Stewartry Camera Club's second competition of the current season was based on the theme Urban Landscape.

The competition was in the format of digital images, and the judge was the respected Dalbeattie-based photographer, Roger Lever.

In his opening remarks, Roger advised that he had experimented with the Urban Landscape theme and was interested and impressed with the different approaches taken by club members within the fifty images presented to him for judging. First place was awarded to Alec Blackadder for his photograph entitled 'Urban Decay', with Glenkens photographer Mary McIlvenna coming in second with her photograph titled 'Oban'.

The SCC meets every Wednesday at 7.30 in the Tolbooth Arts Centre, Kirkcudbright - new members are very welcome.

The SCC course, 'Photography - The Next Step' will be held on Saturday 9 February. To book, or for further details, contact Mary McIlvenna on 01644 420 613.

Photo of the Issue



Picking a winner was a difficult decision this issue as we had so many great entries. In the end we opted for a wintry scene by Duncan McNaught, snapped near his home in Glenlee, to suit the time of year.

Duncan wins a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel. Next issue's prize will be a meal for two at Pringle's in Corsock (up to the value of £30), so keep sending in your photos!

We will keep entries on file and if they suit a future theme/season, they will be re-considered next time.

"Since advertising in the Glenkens Gazette we have reached customers in the Glenkens area that we were unable to reach with previous adverts elsewhere. The ad has been a complete success and we are receiving more enquiries through this advert all the time. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sarah and all concerned for their professional work, and we will definitely continue to advertise with you."

*Jimmy and Hilary Mair,
Bargatton Sand and Gravel Quarry*

T: 01644 460 670  Real Dog Training Scotland



Dog Training & Dog Training Courses at Dalry Town Hall

- ★ Eric Broadhurst (NDOA Advanced Instructor)
- ★ One of the country's leading dog trainers
- ★ Trainer to the TV & film industry

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

Splash BATHROOMS

for all your bathroom & showering needs at competitive prices

01556 504978



Leeming + Paterson Photography

Fine art prints, workshops, one-to-one tuition
Photographic Holidays and Tours

t: 01644 430 004 m: 07917 102693

www.leemingpaterson.com



AGNES COOKS...

Fish with a Nip in the Tail

After moving here from the city we bought two huge chest freezers, as I imagined access to the shops would be difficult.

This turned out not be the case but having purchased the freezers I realised I needed to fill them. The problem I have is that I am a hopeless 'batch' cook. I recognise the sense in cooking two or three cottage pies at a time, or making extra cakes, but I just prefer cooking most things from scratch and having them fresh from the oven. So what do I fill my freezers with? Well, one is kept mainly for meat and fish and the other with everything else. I do freeze a large amount of stocks (mostly chicken and game as I think fish and vegetable stocks are best used fresh).

The recipe I am using today is based on an experience I had when using some fish from the freezer. Fish doesn't freeze well for long. I find vacuum-packed is best, but even then three months is really the limit for keeping. The fish will not go off after this time, but the texture will have changed and the taste will not be at its best.

On a whim one day I purchased a whole salmon. It was a huge beast of a fish. Unfortunately it

was the day before going off on holiday and so I froze it whole, and there it remained for more months than I care to say. The problem was that it needed a large family gathering to do it justice and, as I also recognised the amount of prep involved, I always seemed to find an excuse not to use it. Finally at Christmas time I faced my demons and got the monster out of the freezer. Although the fish was fine to eat, the texture was a little soft and so not suitable for cooking as fillets or presenting as a whole salmon (a whole salmon frozen for up to three months is fine to cook as a whole fish).

This is the recipe I came up with - they are Thai inspired fish cakes, but have no added bread crumbs or potatoes. They contain no flour so are suitable for gluten intolerant diets. I have listed smaller quantities of the ingredients than I used but you can multiply the proportions if needed. You will need a food processor to obtain the right consistency.

Ingredients:

Approx 500g salmon fillets, skinned (or any combination of 'meaty' fish that you have)

½ bunch of spring onions, roughly chopped
1-2 red



chillies, roughly chopped (seeds removed)

2 cloves of garlic, roughly chopped

A piece of fresh ginger (about the size of a big toe!) peeled and grated

Handful of fresh basil

Handful of fresh coriander (parsley if you prefer)

2-3 tablespoons fish sauce

Juice of 1 lime

1 teaspoon sugar

Salt and pepper

Method:

Put everything into a food processor and blitz until the mixture forms a paste. It needs to have a really sticky texture or it will break up when frying. Form into round, flattish cakes. This mixture will make 4 -6 large cakes or 12 -16 smaller bite size ones. The cakes then need to be chilled to firm up for at least one hour. Shallow fry in sunflower oil or a light olive oil until brown on each side. Serve hot with a chilli dipping sauce.

Agnes Holden

"It's wonderful having Agnes' cookery page in the Glenkens Gazette. After having had the pleasure of tasting samples of her cooking over the years, it is great to be able to try her recipes at home." Aletta

Quality Fresh Fish and Fruit & Vegetables

Delivered to your Door

The Fleet Fish

Phone & Fax 01557 814906
Mary 07767 407814 - Eric 07719 958757

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)

Dalry Community Council Update

The forthcoming meetings of Dalry Community Council are: Monday 4 February and Monday 4 March; I'm not sure what we're doing for April yet as Monday 1 April is Easter Monday...

All meetings are currently in Dalry Town Hall at 7pm, and they are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

If anyone of Dalry Parish is interested or curious about what we get up to, and would like to come along and see for themselves, please do. We're an informal bunch doing our best for the local affairs of Dalry and welcome the views of Dalry citizens on issues that face them. The more people that take an interest in local affairs, the more we can achieve.

Local information is regularly posted on the notice board beside the Post Office, and past minutes of meetings can be viewed in Dalry Library.

Dalry Community Council would like to give a public thank you to DGHP and Armstrongs for the kind donation of a Christmas tree for the village. In the current economic climate, keeping our local traditions going is proving ever harder and such help is much appreciated.

*Andi Holmes,
Chair, Dalry Community Council*

Balmaclellan Community Council Update

The first meeting of 2013 for the recently elected members of Balmaclellan Community Council (CC) took place earlier than usual due to Balmaclellan Village Hall Co. hosting their popular Burns Night dinner on Saturday 2 February (only a few tickets remain so get yours while you can!).

Letters of appreciation for the Children's Christmas Party and Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner were shared with pleasure.

Among items on the agenda were power cuts in the village, subsequently found to be linked to efforts to identify 40-year-old cables for sinking underground; work going on UK-wide.

Initial talks on community windfarm benefits led to the proposal that this be a main item at the next CC meeting which will be held on Monday 25 February at 8pm - all welcome.

June Hay

marr financial services
independent financial advisers & mortgage consultants

- Pensions • Savings • Investments
 - Retirement Options
- Inheritance Tax Planning
 - Life Assurance
- Income & Critical Illness Protection
- Mortgages • Home Insurance

***Free Confidential
Initial Consultation***

Tel: 01671 403080 Fax:- 01671 402549
Email: brian.edgar@marrfinancial.co.uk
Web: www.marrfinancial.co.uk

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

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

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

 *The*
CLACHAN
Inn

What's On:

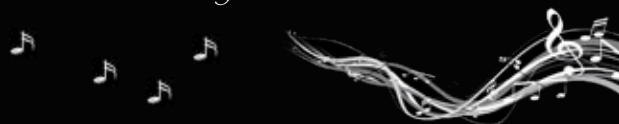


Thursday 14 February: Special Valentine's menu



Friday 15 February: Mr and Mrs Competition

St. Patrick's Day weekend: live folk music



Our new menu will be available from the end of the January, so come along and try something different.

To find out more about these and more, call us here at the Clachan on 01644 430 241.

Email: mail@theclachaninn.co.uk
www.theclachaninn.co.uk

GREEN LIGHT FOR TRANSPORT PROJECT

Plans are well in hand for extending the Rural Transport Project to the Stewartry in April 2013.

This is a project originally successfully piloted by Dumfries & Galloway Council in Wigtownshire, and is aimed at making better use of transport facilities in the area.

Initially transport arrangements for adult recreation and day centres will be reviewed, with the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) being the service provider for this new project, using a vehicle provided by the Council. To be asked by the Council to provide this service is a great compliment to GTI, and also a good opportunity to secure our financial future, allowing us to continue to meet the demands of the people of the Glenkens.

Cathy Agnew attended her final GTI Committee meeting in her role as GCAT Chairperson in December, and was praised and thanked for the support she had given GTI over the last ten years. She responded by saying how pleased she was that GTI had progressed so well during that time.

At the December meeting, the Committee considered all the available information about the Rural Transport Solutions Project before agreeing that it would be in the best interests of the people of the Glenkens for GTI to be involved with this

- another big step forward!

UPCOMING TRIPS

By the time you read this, trips will hopefully be under way again. We will be visiting **Glasgow** on Saturday 9 March, to coincide with the Craft Fair at the SECC; if you wish to attend this please make your own arrangements to buy tickets, or perhaps just use the trip as a means of getting to Glasgow and visit the Transport Museum (nearby) or do your own thing in the city centre. On Monday 25 March we will re-visit Callender House, near **Falkirk**; there is free entry to this interesting property which is situated in its own grounds with good catering facilities available. It is planned to visit Mire House, overlooking Bassenthwaite in the **Lake District** (see their website for full details) on Wednesday 17 April; a good time of year to visit an area of outstanding beauty.

GTI have been asked to provide two buses each day for this year's **Spring Fling** which runs from Saturday 25 May to Monday 27 May. Services will be available to all parts of Dumfries and Galloway, and with the buses setting off from the Glenkens you won't even have to make your way to the official pick-up point. Tickets will be sold this year through the CatStrand, so watch out for full details nearer the time.

Finally, you will be interested to learn that last year the

two minibuses travelled 26,098 miles, carrying 4,365 passengers.

This involved 937 hours by voluntary drivers, and I would like to thank the drivers, passengers and all those people who have supported GTI during this time - we look forward to another busy year ahead, hopefully with better weather!

Keith Cooper, GTI Administrator

Pancake Lunch

Balmaclellan and Kells Guild will be holding their 16th annual Pancake Lunch on Shrove Tuesday, 12 February, in New Galloway Town Hall from 12noon to 2pm.

This has become a very popular event in New Galloway over the years. This year the money raised will go to The British Red Cross. Please come along for your pancakes and support this charity. £5 will give you a filled savoury and sweet pancake plus a cup of tea or coffee. There will also be a sales table and Tombola in aid of Guild funds.

At the Guild Meeting in the Lower Town Hall on Wednesday 13 March, a speaker from the British Red Cross will be coming to receive the cheque and to give a talk about their work. This will be an open meeting for anyone who is interested in this vital work.

Cllr Finlay Carson

Castle Douglas & Glenkens

for an appointment

Tel: 07825 633 185

or email:

finlay@finlaycarson.co.uk

www.finlaycarson.co.uk

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

*The Surgery
High Street
New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

☐ **01644 420234** ☐

W BONE

WHB JEEPS

THE GARAGE, DALRY
PETROL & DIESEL SALES
SERVICE & REPAIRS
MOTs, TYRES, BATTERIES

ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES
OPEN 8.30AM - 6.00PM (SIX DAYS)

10AM - 6PM SUNDAYS

- FUEL 24 HOURS -

SHOP • SANDWICH BAR • LOTTERY

Tel: 01644 430208 Fax: 01644 430669
jeeps@whbjeeeps.co.uk www.whbjeeeps.co.uk

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

The 'Muir Doctor' of New Galloway

In my last Gazette contribution there was mention of Alexander Trotter of Dalshangan.

His grandfather was one of many Glenkens residents who deserves to be much better known. He was Robert Trotter, a medical doctor (c.1736-1815) and associate of the Kenmures and Robert Burns.

Educated at Dumfries Grammar School, he proceeded to study medicine at Edinburgh University. Plans to emigrate to the West Indies were foiled when he missed his ship, and instead he headed for the Glenkens where his father, John of Burnfoot, Tynron, had gained some reputation as a surgeon and a wastrel who squandered the family fortune.

On arrival, Robert was so fortunate as to cure Margaret Murray, of the prominent New Galloway family, of a long-standing but unnamed disease. Other achievements involved sewing a man's nose - severed by a cutlass - back onto his face. He was also credited with eradicating from the south of Scotland the disease of yaws or 'sivens', which caused painful bodily lesions. He thus acquired a reputation beyond Glenkens, attracting patients from as far away as Edinburgh, Ayr and Stranraer. On one occasion he

is known to have personally consulted in Portpatrick, but he appears to have operated mainly through a system of apprentices based at strategic stations such as Moniaive.

Such individuals were not hard to find since, at this period, those intent on a medical career were often apprenticed to established doctors before undertaking university courses. Also there was an overproduction of medical graduates who found difficulty in obtaining suitably lucrative practices, which is why Trotter was remarkable in gaining such success while based in the wilds of Glenkens.

His treatments seem to have been a mixture of the scientific and the traditional.

He regularly referred patients to the Physic Well in the New Galloway parks and when his own children caught whooping cough at school in Balmaclellan, "they were sent in a cart to be ground in the hopper at Gordonstone Mill, which was expected to cure the complaint"! This practice was not as alarming as it appears. In his Gallovidian Encyclopedia John MacTaggart explains that children suffering from 'kenkhoast' were put through the hoppers of the mill by their mothers who fancied the disease left them.

Elsewhere the mill was simply set in motion in the presence of the children, so it was the cartload of grain that was ground rather than the kids.

The doctor was an energetic, somewhat restless individual who moved around a lot within

the district.

He first lived in Balmaclellan and then at Glenlee Park. Kenmure offered him the rent of Viewfield where the doctor built a new dwelling house, but a subsequent falling-out led him to lease Trolane, Dalry, owned by the Earl of Galloway. For a while he resided in Dalry, until Kenmure persuaded him back to New Galloway.

Trotter had obviously inherited some of his father's bad habits for he died a bankrupt. Throughout his life he kept racehorses, always an expensive proposition.

He was a talented curler and played at quoits, as well as stone-putting. But his greatest weakness was cock-fighting, something of a passion among gamblers in Galloway in general, and Glenkens in particular. Three days before he died he was carried to Dalarran Holm to witness a cock-fight. Fellow aficionados were Rev M'Kie of Balmaclellan, Lord William Gordon, Willie Sinclair who emigrated to Canada, William Corson of Cubbox and James Wylie, the Beadle of Kells.

Trotter's wraith was seen in New Galloway shortly before he died.

His son recalled that during the doctor's last illness, in the midst of his family there was a rap on the table. "That's a call for me", he said, "my time here will not be long".

Families continued to believe into the late nineteenth century that such a rapping at table or door heralded the death of a family member. The Muir Doctor's grave is in Kells kirkyard.

Ted Cowan



**Gordon
McAdam
Plumbing
&
Heating
Engineer**

22 Kirkland Street

St. John's Town of Dalry

☎ 01644 430393 ☎

☎ 07834 321789 ☎

FEBRUARY & MARCH

FEBRUARY

Sat 2, Launch Night for Yird Muin Starn (Old Scots for Earth Moon Stars), 7pm, CatStrand

Thurs 7 (* Change of date; no longer 27 Jan), Film: Anna Karenina, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 8, Glenkens Art Workshop Exhibition Preview, 6pm, CatStrand

Fri 8, Gentle Jazz, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 9, Hannah McAndrew Open Studio, 3-8pm, see p6

Sat 9, The CatStrand Burns Supper, 7pm, CatStrand

Sat 9, SCC course: 'Photography - The Next Step', see p17

Tue 12, Pancake Lunch, New Galloway Town Hall, 12noon - 2pm, see p20

Tues 12, Film: Brave, 2pm, CatStrand

Wed 13, Open Stage, 7pm, CatStrand

Thurs 14, Special Valentine's Menu, Clachan Inn, Dalry

Fri 15, Mr & Mrs Competition, Clachan Inn, see p19

Fri 15 - Sun 17, St Patrick's Day Weekend: live folk music, Clachan Inn, Dalry, see p19

Fri 15, Valentine's Disco for Primary Pupils, 3.35-5pm, Dalry School (music, games & refreshments)

Thurs 21, Film: Ruby Sparks, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 22, Race Night; Friends of Dalry School hosting a Race Night evening with cash bar, to raise funds. Please see posters around the Glenkens for further details.

MARCH

Fri 1, Youth Players: Little Bro Morning Little Sis Afternoon, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 2, The Smithy re-opens, New Galloway, see p3

Fri 8, Eduardo Catemario, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 9, GTI Bus Trip to Glasgow (see p20)

Wed 13, 1st of Glasgow University's 'Talk' series: Remembering People, Remembering Place - Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust, 2-4pm, CatStrand

Fri 15, Cookery Demonstration, Cream o' Galloway, see p9

Sat 16, St Patricks Day: Irish Comedy Night, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 20, 2nd of Glasgow University's 'Talk' series: Remembering People, Remembering

Place - Walter Scott's Galloway: Guy Mannering and Redgauntlet, Margaret Elphinstone

2-4pm, CatStrand

Thurs 21, Film: Skyfall, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 22, Forrest Estate Experiences Open Day, Forrest Estate, see back page

Sat 23, Forrest Estate Experiences Open Day, Forrest Estate, see back page

Sat 23, Mollie O'Brien Trio, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Mon 25, GTI Bus Trip to Falkirk (see p20)

Wed 27, 3rd of Glasgow University's 'Talk' series: Remembering People, Remembering Place - Witches and Charmers of Galloway, Dr Lianne Henderson, 2-4pm, CatStrand

Sat 30, Easter Saturday Activities with Watson Birds, see back page

Sat 30, Tommy Smith, 7.30pm, CatStrand

"The Scottish Child Minding Association (SCMA) has attempted to generate interest in registered childminding in the Glenkens area for some time with little response, so I am delighted to say that after our advert and advertorial in the Glenkens Gazette, we have already received four enquiries." Ann

Registered childminding... Your community needs you!



Scottish Childminding Association is holding an information evening. Come along and find out more about childminding.

Monday 18 March
7-8 pm

Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry

Contact Childminding Development Officer Ann Hadland on 01581 300659

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 Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) bus or for more information please contact Keith Cooper, GTI Administrator, on 01644 420 374.

...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, 7-8:30pm (P7 - S3) and 8-9:30pm (S3+, Duke of Edinburgh)

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. 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.

Dalry: 12noon: 1st, 3rd, 4th. Dalry:

10.30am: 2nd(Feb), 5th. Kells: 10.30am:

2nd(Mar), 3rd, 4th

Special Services/Events: Sun 10

Feb, 10.30am, United Family Service for

Dalry, Balmaclellan and Kells Churches

in Dalry Church. **Fri 22 Feb**, 7pm, Beetle

Drive, Dalry Town Hall. **Fri 1 Mar**, 7pm,

World Day of Prayer Service, Balmaclellan

Church. **Mon 4 Mar**, 7.30pm, Fellowship

Dinner on Israel/Palestine at Kenbridge

Hotel. **Sun 10 Mar**, 10.30am, United Family

Service for Dalry and B & K Churches

in Kells Church. **Fri 15 Mar**, 5.30pm, Church

Ceilidh, Dalry Town Hall. **Fri 29 Mar**, 7am,

Good Friday Service, Kells Church. **Sun**

31 Mar, 7am, Easter Dawn Service, Dalry

Church. **Sun 31 Mar**, 10.30am, United Easter

Service with the Choir, Dalry Church.

Communion Services: Sun 24 Feb,

10.30 am, Kells Church. **Sun 17 Mar**, 10.15

am, Carsphairn Church. **Sun 17 Mar**, 12

noon, Dalry 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

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

(price per issue incl VAT)

SMALL: 6cm x 6cm, £37.80 (+ 10% off with series discount)

1/4 PAGE: 9cm w x 13cm h, £81.90 (+ 25% off with series discount)

1/2 PAGE: 18cm w x 13cm h, £151.20 (+ 25% off with series discount)

FULL PAGE: 18cm w x 27cm h, £252 (+ 25% off with series discount)

Call 07727 127 997

VAT Reg. No. 882 8361 87

USEFUL NUMBERS:

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

Forrest First in UK

Forrest Estate have recently developed a clay pigeon shoot and are pleased to announce that they have been granted full planning permission to shoot up to 365 days a year.

The shooting ground, which was recently featured in Shooting Times magazine, has been created to supplement the many sporting activities that already exist in the region.

The primary objective of the Forrest Estate Experiences facility is to offer a first class country sports activity centre that provides an opportunity for anyone interested to come along and have a go - whether a complete novice or experienced shooter. The centre prides itself in providing access and

education for shooting, fishing and deer stalking at all levels, and has four fully qualified shooting instructors on hand.

The concept is the first of its kind in the UK and unlike anything else in the area, or indeed Scotland, offering multiple stands simulating real game shooting situations.

Over 30 stands provide the opportunity for visitors to test themselves on exciting targets, as well as offering the option of catching their first trout or experiencing the exhilaration of deer stalking.

Activities are currently by appointment only - single visitors as well as groups, including families, can be catered for.

"We believe this facility will be a



real asset to the Glenkens and the whole of the region. The feedback we have had so far from clients has been extremely positive. It's fantastic that we have been able to do this in Dumfries and Galloway, an area already renowned for country sports," says Andrew Case, Shooting Ground Manager.

Two open days are planned for Friday 22 and Saturday 23 March for anyone interested visiting the centre.

Alternatively, should you wish to visit at any other time please contact Andrew Case on 01644 430 015, 07747 691 447, or andrew@casesport.com.

For further details visit www.forrestestateexperiences.com

WATSON BIRDS

www.watsonbirds.org



Easter Saturday Events

*Join us on Easter Saturday (30 March)
in Dalry Town Hall for ...*

For further info
contact Aaron on
07917 034 450

- EGGS AND NEST EXHIBITION WITH HUGH BRYDEN AND LIZZIE FAREY
- DISPLAY OF DECORATED EGGS FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS
- CHOCOLATE EGG MAKING
- OPPORTUNITY FOR KIDS TO DECORATE THEIR OWN EGGS
- TALK ON NEST BUILDING BY PROFESSOR MIKE HANSEL OF GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.
- TEAS/COFFEES AND HOME BAKING PROVIDED



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

APR/MAY COPY DEADLINE: MON 4 MAR



Design & co-ordination:
Sarah Ade
sarah_ade@tiscali.co.uk

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