# **GLENKENS GAZETTE**

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

April/May 2013 ISSUE 75 FREE

# Are We Heating the Sky?

We may have the best Dark Skies in the country but are we also heating them?

Recently the plethora of TV adverts, newspaper articles and government initiatives have all brought 'green energy' to everyone's attention. Are our houses adequately insulated? What is renewable energy? Can I get a grant for solar panels? There are many questions we would all like answers to but where do we start and who can we trust?

Last September, Dalry Community Council, the Glenkens Business Association and LING (Local Initiatives in New Galloway) joined the Community Sustainable Renewable Energy Project which is run by D & G Council with input from Community Energy Scotland. The aims of the project

are to ease the reliance on utility companies, reduce the carbon footprint and to tackle fuel poverty.

As a first step, Dalry Community Council last month hired the services of a thermal investigator who with the aid of a sophisticated FLIR thermal image camera was able to do an initial assessment of some of Dalry's houses and buildings. The results can be surprising: even a house with an insulated roof and double glazing can have heat escaping just because of a poorly fitted seal. And with the price of heating it is madness to be heating the Galloway skies!

Andi Holmes, Dalry Community Council chair, comments "At

Photo: Antony Berretti (01671 404 400)

this stage we are keen to raise awareness of the importance of insulation and the benefits of regularly inspecting our properties to prevent heat loss. We all chose to be involved with this Renewable Energy scheme because we want to seek the best for our residents and help them keep warm in these financially challenging times. The three year programme provides education and assistance with 'green' projects which we hope will lead to a show later in 2013 with information on many aspects of alternative energy and insulation specifically geared to Glenkens residents".

# LOCAL SINGER'S CELEBRITY VOICE

A trailer for a BBC programme has brought overnight acclaim for a local singer. Rebecca Goldsmith's rendering of "I vow to thee my country" was widely broadcast on television and radio to promote the new historical drama series, 'The Village", on BBC1.

Rebecca, who is the Youth Arts Development Officer at the CatStrand, sang and played cello on the trailer with guitarist/producer Jon Dix. The BBC had invited musicians to pitch for the trailer with a modern interpretation of the traditional hymn. Rebecca and Jon won the contract against much competition.

As soon as the trailer was broadcast there were requests to hear the full version on U-tube. "People were quite indignant," says Rebecca, "but we had only recorded a couple of lines. We had still to record the full song!" Rebecca - who performs as Beck Goldsmith - has already released two albums. Her next live performance will be on 24 May at Kirkcudbright on Song. She has plans for more music at the CatStrand and is about to launch the "Big Youth Music Project" as well as a film festival. Rebecca lives in Castle Douglas with her husband, Simon, who is also a musician.



# **Editor's Note**

Sorry we're a bit late...but it all came together in the end!

Many thanks to Jonnie Dowswell for helping out with the Gazette during this rather intense time.

Baby Finn was born on Wednesday 6 March; he weighed 8lb 13oz, and is a very happy and healthy little boy.

Sarah

# A Big Thank You

The Glenkens Gazette would like to thank the Glenkens Community Shop for their generous donation towards to running costs of the Gazette. Without support such as this from local charities and businesses, the Gazette would not be able to continue.

Many thanks for your help with my Mindfulness article and advertisement. The editorial input and proof reading input you and your team at the Glenkens Gazette gave me and all your attention to detail was fantastic. I've had a lot of interest for both the article and for the 1-1 mindfulness coaching and 8 week training courses. I think you are running a great community newspaper and for anyone who provides a local service or product, advertising with you is a very effective way of generating interest and business. Thanks again.

Kind regards, Debra Hall

# **COMMUNITY SHOP SUCCESS**

Some would be doubtful that a charity shop could be sustainable in such a small area.

However, our community has proven that good things do come in small packages as the success of the Glenkens Community Shop has proven over the past year.

On behalf of the Volunteers - Anne, Andy, Avril, Betty, Cath, Helen Gill, Libby, Sarah and myself - we thank you for your custom and your wonderful donations during the shop's first year in business. They have enabled us to raise over £6000 for local good causes, with £3760.14 already having been given out in grants to individuals and organisations within the Glenkens. We will be inviting more grant applications at the end of June - forms will be available from the shop at that time.

We have applied for charitable status and are awaiting a decision from OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator), but more of your generous donations are required for us to keep up the good work; we need craft items - wool is a favourite of many a customers, and patterns are also popular - books and bric-a-brac, clothes, and with the little ones the toy department is a must. We have had some wonderful clothes donated,



with many designer labels, so next time you're looking for a trend-setter or a comfy sweater, pop in and browse our rails. Or if you fancy a natter come on in - we always have time for some chatter. We have community notice boards which we try to keep up to date with things to see and do in the local area. Once again, thank you for all your support.

Shirley and the wonderfully versatile Volunteers of the Glenkens Community Shop

If you would like to volunteer in the shop, then please get in touch with Shirley on 430182. Volunteering has been proven to be good for you; it's free, fun and you get to meet lots of new people. So if you have a few hours to spare, please join our team!







# **Top Prizes at Carsphairn Show**

Carsphairn Pastoral and Horticultural Society recently held their Annual General Meeting.

Hugh Clark Kennedy was elected as new President, taking over from Peter Hunter Blair, Vice Presidents are Jimmy Wallace and Andy Sinclair, Neil Sinclair has been appointed Assistant Showground Convenor and Ann Finlay is Assistant Secretary.

The date of the Show was confirmed as Saturday 1 June, to be held as usual at The Crofts, Carsphairn by kind permission of the McMorran Family.

The Secretary reported a successful Show in 2012, with a reasonable Bank Balance to start 2013.

Due to an increase in sponsorship from our generous patrons, it was decided that the Society would increase the prize money and award each Sheep Section Champion £50, and the Interbreed Champion £250. The place prize money for the Sheep Classes will also be more than doubled.

The Dog Trial Champion and reserve prizes will also be increased to £100 and £50 respectively, and a new prize of £50 has been donated to the winner of the Senior Hill Race.

Schedules for the Sheep Classes and Industrial Section will be available soon on the Show Page on the Carsphairn website at www.carsphairn.org

Jean Gibbon, Secretary

### SHEEP AND SHORTBREAD

This year the Exhibition in Carsphairn Heritage Centre is 'A History of Carsphairn Show', from its origins as Carsphairn Fair, back in the mists of time, through the formation of Carsphairn Pastoral and Horticultural Society in the 19th Century up until the present day.

The first Show, on 2 June 1876, held classes only for Poultry, Dogs and Flowers. This has evolved over the years into today's important show of Sheep with Sheepdog Trials and Sports, and a show of Sticks, Handicrafts, Baking and Flowers.

Carsphairn Heritage Group's committee would love to exhibit some of the prizes presented outright in former years. For instance, where is the Case of Carvers presented in 1903 for the Best Male Blackface Sheep, or the 1907 Oak Mounted Spirit Stand "for the best-wooled sheep suitable for high districts"? Could anyone lay their hands on one of the "engraved trophies" presented in 1953 to mark the Queen's Coronation?

Should anyone be willing to lend us such treasures, or indeed any historic photographs (which we would copy and return) please contact a member of the committee or email info@carsp hairnheritage.org . The exhibition opens on Good Friday, 29 March and is open at weekends and public holidays.

\*\*Joyce Hunter Blair\*\*

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# 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 glenkens gazette@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 lookedafter. 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

Child's booster seat (Kangaroo), really comfortable. Contact: 430 218

Chimney cowl - metal, hardly used. Contact: 430 218

## **Furniture**

Two 4-drawer filing cabinets.
Contact: Diana on 07796 911 569
Small brass kindling/log box.
14" w x 12" d x12" h. Contact:
Fiona on 07789 903 127.

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

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).

garden cloches - long corrugated plastic on metal frames. Contact: 430 218

#### 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

Car/garage jack and any old tools. Contact: Gareth on Small plastic tube about 4" long used to show pansies and violas at flower shows. Usually shown six in a pot of sand. If you have any of these to sell, please contact Louise on 07901 696 694.



Pansy/viola showing tube

I am looking for chains small and large lengths, winches, hand winches, cables, pulley systems. Would help me greatly as I only have full use of one arm, and pulleys, etc. will help me with things like logs and bags of coal, etc. Contact: Dave on 07547 134 276.

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# More about wood; what is calorific value and how does it effect us and the wood we burn?'

# The mystery that is calorific value!

More and more of us are turning to wood fuel for our heating needs, and along with our choices of hard wood or soft wood, buying by the cubic meter, or the ton: a new term is being bandied about that should also inform our choice of purchase and that is 'calorific value'. So what is it, what does it mean, and how should calorific value inform our purchase.

At its most simple calorific value is the amount of heat produced when a substance, any substance be it oil, coal or wood, for example, is burnt in its entirety. The calorific value is usually expressed in kilojoules per kilogram. Each substance has its own calorific value. The calorific values of most substances are an approximation as many of the substances that we use on a daily basis to produce heat cannot be 100% pure and unadulterated. There is also further difference between the gross calorific value and

the net calorific value of any substance. The difference, for the main part, is the water content factor. The gross calorific value includes the weight of the water content in the overall weight of the substance, whilst the net calorific value does not.

What then does calorific value mean in real terms? Well, the calorific value of any substance is affected by its own natural moisture content. Just as man is 99% water, wood too is comprised of water. Each species of tree has different natural percentages of water content: at no time is the different water content more significant then when it is freshly cut. The result is that the average newly cut log has twice the water content, and therefore, obviously, half the energy producing capacity of a well seasoned log. If you are buying green (freshly) cut timber by weight you should be aware that a percentage of the weight will be the moisture (water) content of the species of the tree, and that this will represent less heat energy

if used as is. The moisture content of each species differs significantly, for example, ash has one of the lowest moisture contents whilst poplar, although not the highest, has twice the natural moisture content of ash. The species of tree and the resulting moisture content will also have an effect on both price and the length of time at which logs should be considered seasoned. If you are considering harvesting your own wood, then remember that standing timber is driest in winter.

So what of seasoned timber? It is interesting to note that research shows that the difference between calorific value of the seasoned timber of different species of trees is negligible. If you purchase 1 ton of softwood and 1 ton of hardwood the volume (or amount of room that they take up) will differ, but if different species of wood are dried to the same moisture content they will have the same calorific value.

Sara McNeill

# A junior class (6 years to 14) and a senior class for the martial art of Tai Jitsu has started at Carsphairn Community hall. Junior is 6pm till 7pm Wednesday evening and Senior is 7pm till 8-30pm.

Classes focus mainly on developing self respect and respect for others. It is essential that good character and self confidence is uppermost at any class, and that the self defence/self protection always is secondary. Self protection is different from self defence and they are both taught by me, David Birdsall. I have trained and taught for over 36 years. I also have a severe disability which developed ten years ago.

The students will learn the basics of good natural posture and agility. No one is expected to be super strong or super agile. You just have to be who you are. Fitness will increase over time and regular gradings will take place. This also includes self assessment at each class, and will also apply to progress in real life. Aggression is not tolerated; neither is any form of bullying or racism/discrimination. Students are expected to excel progressively within themselves alongside their ability and technique.

All that is expected is that the person who comes to the class does so with an open mind, and is ready to learn a simple yet profound system that relies only upon natural strength and agility.

I have published a book entitled the self defence manual. This is sold out and is now going to become an ebook available soon on the Internet. If you need any further information then please contact me on 07547 134 276.

David Birdsall

# A Good Catch



Stuart Benson caught this enormous pike on Saturday 8 December on a still and frosty morning at Loch Ken.

The fish weighed 25lb 11oz, and it is Stuart's new personal best. Quite a catch!

#### **Book Review by Serafina Green (6)**

I've just been reading an AMAZING book called **Penny Dreadful Cooks Up A Calamity**. I think 6 to 9 year olds would like this book by Joanna Nadin. It is about a little girl called Penelope and her plans never work the way she expected, but she never means to be naughty. One day Penny tries to saw Bridget Grimes in half but she gets stuck. Will Penny be able to turn over a new leaf? Will she be able to saw Bridget Grimes in half? Well read this book and you'll find out. GO ON THIS BOOK WILL MAKE YOU SMILE!

#### **Cosmas Green's Book Review**

Are you a 7 to 12 year old who is a fan of cartoon features, doodle drawings and stories about annoying teachers? Then you'll love *Tom Gates Everything's Amazing (sort of)* by a talented author and illustrator, Liz Pichon.

The book is about a school boy called Tom Gates who's feeling embarrassed and annoyed by his arch-enemy Marcus. Tom uses his drawing skills and imagination to get him back. It's such a funny story that you will laugh your head off. One bit of the book is really funny because Tom notices his teacher has a moustache; but his teacher is a woman! So go on read this book, now! And guess what? It's a rib tickler.

Cosmas Green (7)

**Mossdale Hall is delighted** to have received a grant of £8243 from the lottery fund "Awards for All" The money is to be used to construct a landscaped picnic area near the Red Kite car park together with a slightly meandering path to connect this car park with the Village Hall car park. It is hoped that work will begin in April so that it can be in use for the summer season. The idea was originally thought up as a way to mark the Queen's Jubilee but it proved impossible to go ahead with it last year. It is expected that there will be an official opening later in the year.

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# **Spring Fling 2013**

Spring Fling returns on the weekend of 25-27 May with a record 95 artists and craftworkers opening their studios to visitors across the region. The Glenkens are well represented both on the official programme and in the innovative Spring Fling Fringe.

Among local artists inviting the public into their studios are photographer Allan Wright, at Parton Stables, Parton Estate, and photographer team Leeming Paterson, at Glenhoul Brae, Dalry. Alan specialises in classic and abstract landscape, advancing his craft by honing his "seeing eye". At Dalry Ted and Morag are working on experimental landscape projects and offering miniworkshops.

In Corsock glass worker Amanda Simmons and jeweller Natalie Vardey are opening their studios at Rosebank, Corsock. Amanda will have glass vessels, work in progress, and prints on show. Natalie will demonstrate how she uses traditional tools and skills to create functional jewellery.

At Auchenhay Cottage, outside Corsock, two painters, Suzanne Stuart Davies and Malcolm Davies, will be showing through notebooks and work in progress how they are inspired by wildlife, archaeology and history.

Many of the venues offer light refreshments, homebaking or picnic opportunities

#### Meet the neighbours

The "Neighbours" scheme introduced this year invites artists from neighbouring regions to join Spring Fling. Willow weaver Geoff Forrest will be making the short trip through the hills from Ayrshire to display his work and demonstrate his skill at The CatStrand, New Galloway.

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#### **Events on the Fringe**

Every festival these days has its Fringe and now Spring Fling has its satellite programme too, with several events being staged in the Glenkens.

On Friday evening 24 May, at Dalry School, D&G Arts Festival and The CatStrand present Shooglenifty, "A supremely dexterous and witty band - a wild mix of trad talent and super funky phonics melding heritage and hedonism." On Saturday 25 May The CatStrand will stage an evening of Wine, Cheese and Art Conversation in the company of artists and practitioners, covering such topics as how the landscape and culture of D&G inspires artists. Booking Essential.

The Margaret Morris Movement group will stage a performance of "Aye Waulkin O" on Sunday 26 May 6pm-7.15pm (approx.) at Waukmill, 1 mile out of New Galloway on the A712 featuring choreography inspired by a softening of tweed song by Robert Burns, sung by Eddie Reader. This will be followed by a dance/movement workshop. Booking essential.

In "Song of the Oak and the Ivy" and "Words AT the Edge" Wendy Stewart presents Corrina Hewat's harp suite for 6, on Sunday 26 May, at 7pm in Corsock Village Hall. Lucy Harper, Angus Macmillan and Davie Douglas offer an innovative evocation of the River Urr in an interlinking cycle of songs and poems. Presented by D & G Arts Festival. Booking essential.

#### Take the Spring fling bus!

Mystery Bus Tours! Hop on at 10am at one of the designated locations and hop off again at the same location at around 5pm having visited at least five Spring Fling studios en route.

Six tours will operate over the weekend. Early booking is recommended as tickets are limited. All tours start at 10am. Starting points include the CatStrand New Galloway.





#### New!

Cleaning service based in New Galloway and covering the Glenkens area.

For a reliable service at a reasonable price, call Laura on:

07936219514

# **Dalry's Complementary Health Fair**

In mid January Dalry Town Hall hosted its first complementary health fair "to cheer up the winter blues", which it definitely succeeded in doing.

Despite bitterly cold conditions, it was very well attended and everyone who came along enjoyed the informal, welcoming atmosphere and the interesting range of affordable therapy tasters. Community information groups who were there included Indian

head massage, reflexology, facial massage, Reiki, nail art, henna hand painting, shiatsu, Building Healthy Communities and Moxafrica. There were healthy refreshments and 'naughty' refreshments all made with love. The start up costs of the event was sponsored by the Glenkens Community Shop who offer grants to individuals and organisations for community development projects.

By popular request the next Fair is planned for Saturday 20th April 11am - 3pm "to celebrate the joys of spring." New therapists are already offering to join the existing team so there will be lots of choice. There will also be a range of health products on sale and an information table. There is no obligation to try a therapy. Admission is free, just come along and have a cup of tea, a chat, a cake and a look. Everyone warmly welcome.

If you would like to participate as a therapist or would like more information contact Debra Hall 430013 or Jean Lockerbie 430454.

### **Stewartry Self Management Programme**

# Mindfulness for Health & Wellbeing

A 10 week course, starting Tue 16 April, will be run in Dalry.

The course is aimed at those over 50 with longterm health conditions, and those who care for someone over 50.

To book a place call Morag on

01556 505 724 or email



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# DALRY CLACHAN FAIR 9- 15 JUNE 2013

The details for the events for Clachan fair week this year have still to be finalised but this gives an indication of what will be happening; hopefully there will be something for everyone.

Sun 9 Jun - Fun Show for Dogs Newfield, Clay Pigeon Shoot Competition, Fly Fishing Competition, Songs of Praise, Crowning of Lad & Lass.

Mon 10 - Treasure Hunt.

Tue 11 - Bingo Supper.

Wed 12 - Quiz Night.

Thu 13 - Pet Show, Bowling Club Competition.

Fri 14 - Party in the Field, Water Fights/Custard Pie Fights and Fun games.

Saturday 15: Parade Day -12.30pm, Car Boot and Variety of Stalls on Main Street: £5 and £15 (for Commercial stalls), Parade entries start assembling at Dalry School, 1pm: Judging of parade entries then parade sets off! 2pm: Field Events: Jim Hume MSP, Various fun and game stalls, Magician, Fire Brigade Display and Tai Jitsu Demonstration, Fun Team Games Competition and Tug O War, Mulloch Race and Beat the Goalie, Pony Rides. PM: Raffle Eve: Scottish Night, William Williamson and

Friends, Dalry Town Hall.

Running Throughout the Week: Tennis Competition - prize-giving on Saturday.

This information is subject to change so make sure you watch out for posters nearer the time. We're always on the lookout for volunteers so if you feel you can help in any way, however small, or if you'd like to know more please contact Mike Kaye on 01644 430 162.

# Green is fo

The long winter has played havoc with the fixtures at New Galloway Golf Club, with the course being closed on a number of occasions due to heavy rain and snow.

However, this didn't stop Scott Jamieson from beating his elders as he became Winter League Champion 2013. There has been lots of work taking place on the course recently to improve the drainage which it is hoped will mean less closures of the course. The work has been done with grants from the Scottish Golf Union and the Kirkcudbrightshire Golfers Association. Although suffering from the bad weather, the course has actually come through the winter in a good state

and the greens are excellent for this time of year. Golf is a perfect holiday sport and New Galloway Golf Club welcomes visitors. However, we are a small club and need more members and visitors to survive in these severe financial conditions, so we are offering a day to 'Give Golf a Go' on Saturday 1 June from 10 am to 3 pm when anyone can come and experience what golf is all about - FOR FREE.

Members will be on hand to help and explain the game of golf and refreshments will be available. You don't have to bring any clubs as the club will provide them. Further information about the Golf Club and membership can be seen on the club's website www.nggc.co.uk, or phone the Club Secretary on 01644 420 737.

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- Friday 26th April Loch Arthur - the story so
- Friday 24th May~ The Finlays are making cheese again!

Free weekday entry for adults outwith UK school holidays.

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# GET INTO ... VOLUNTEERING



# MY EXPERIENCE

I've been volunteering at The CatStrand for the past school year, doing a variety of activities such as helping in the shop, kitchen and café, designing posters and logos as well as helping with set design for productions. I hope to go to art college next year and I've found that it's more of an expectation now to have work experience or do some volunteering. Getting into any university is more competitive than ever before, so to make sure you really stand out it's vital to get some experience like I have at The Catstrand. I feel that I've been able to develop good communication skills, the ability to work with others, and learn a lot about how an arts and community centre is run, which is useful knowledge to have for my future. You can also earn an award for volunteering; it's called the Saltire Award, and it's really easy to complete, by just logging the volunteering hours you have achieved on The Saltire Award website. A lot of my Saltire Award has been completed at The Catstrand, and it's surprising how many hours can build up! The CatStrand also provide free training sessions. I've been to one so far, for working the box office, stewarding at events and using the till. This is really worthwhile experience to get as I now have skills which I may be able to use in the future. Coming to these training sessions also increases the variety of events you can volunteer at, such as for films and theatre events. Overall, my experience at The Catstrand has been very positive and I've really enjoyed earning such valuable skills and experience.

CLAIRE BELL



Claire designed the 'thumbs up' for the Youth Approved logo.
Look out for this in the CatStrand brochure by events that stood out to the Youth Team, Teen Spirit Youth Group and other young people in The Glenkens.

# You're busy. You've got homework, exams, a social life. We get it. BUT..

Giving up a bit of your spare time to help out a project or a good cause can help you out too! You can get skills and experience, improve your confidence and chances of getting job, meet new people and know you're doing your bit to make your ommunity (no, the world!) a better place.

But don't just take our word for it.

Over to the GCAT Youth Team...



#### AWARD WINNING

Lowena got the Youth Team's first Saltire Award for a massive 50 HOURS of volunteering. Congrats and thanks for all your hard work!



#### TEAM BUILDING

Hannah, William,
Alexander and Claire tried out these stargazing spacesuits at a Youth Teatraining session. They're made from fabric designed by NASA! It keeps y really warm, so you can stay out an look at the stars on a cold, clear nig Find them at CatStrand!

YOU CAN BORROW THE SPACE SUITS TO GO STARGAZIN (They're like the cosiest onesies ever!)



### FREE TRAINING

The CatStrand shop is a great place to learn cash handling, stock management and customer service skills. It's just one of the ways to volunteer with the Youth Team. Here's Wendy showing William the ropes...

GCAT (G



Join FR

Box O

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exhibited some fantastic work at The CatStrand. Visitors said they thought it was really imaginative and colourful. Kells Primary School came and designed their own outfits inspired by the exhibition. Well done to artists Kirstin Stalker, Lowena Lindsay, Becky Clayphan, Kirstie Clydesdale and Ronan Halliday.







#### MOUTH APPROVED @ GATSTRAND www.catstrand.com

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (12A) Wed 10 April, 7:30pm, £5/4

**Battle of the Bands for Knockengorroch** Fri 19 April, 7pm, £3/2

King Creosote (Duo) Sun 5 May, 7:30pm, £12/10

Shooglenifty (@ Dalry School) Fri 24 May, 7:30pm, £12/10

Les Miserables Fri 21 June, 7:30pm, £5/4

#### **ELSEWHERE**

Finding Albert @ DG One Sat 30 March, 7:30pm, £10 www.dgone.co.uk

Lochside Film Festival @ The Fullarton Sat 30 March, 7:30pm, £5 www.lochsidetheatre.co.uk

Oz the Great and Powerful @ The Fullarton Sat 6 April, 2:30pm, £5 www.lochsidetheatre.co.uk

Solway Orienteering @ Cream O' Galloway Sat 27 April, 10am, £3 www.creamogalloway.co.uk

**Knockengorroch Festival** 23 to 26 May www.knockengorroch.org.uk

lenkens Community & Arts Trust)

the GCAT Youth Team and get EE TRAINING and hands-on experience, e.g.

ffice: Events: Sound: Lighting

First Aid: Food Hygiene

tact: rebecca@ catstrand.com

# MEDIA SPARKS >>>

Our New Media Project kicks off with a three-day filmmaking session

TÜRN A LOCAL BAND'S

Wed 11 - Fri 13 April 2013 @ CatStrand 10am - 4pm / £10 per person / Age 13+

Book: info@ catstrand.com/ 01644 420 374

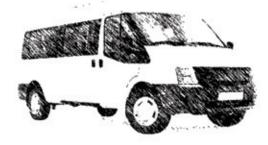
# GET AROUND

# SATURDAY BUSES

Glenkens to Castle Douglas (520)											
There:				Back:							
Cairsphairn Dalry	10:35 10:50	12:30	14:35 14:50	Castle Douglas (Swimming Pool)	14:44	15:30	17:09	20:47			
Balmaclellan New Galloway Parton Crossmichael	10:55 11:00 11:12 11:18	12:37 12:52 12:58	14:55 15:00 15:12 15:18	Crossmichael Parton New Galloway Balmaclellan	15:00 15:15 15:29	15:48 15:53 16:07	17:21 17:26 17:40 17:45	21:25			
Castle Douglas	11:28	13:08	15:28	Dalry	15:35	16:14	17:52	21:35			

Glenkens to I	Dumines			
There:	521	Back:	521	503
Laurieston	09:15	<b>Dumfries</b> (Loreburn Centre)	13:30	21:57
Mossdale	09:25	Dumfries (Whitesands)	13:35	22:00
New Galloway	09:38	Crocketford	13:53	22:21
Dalry	09:45	Corsock	14:03	-
Balmaclellan	09:52	Balmaclellan	14:16	
Corsock Crocketford Dumfries	10:05 10:15 10:33	Dalry New Galloway Mossdale	14:23 14:30 14:40	Ask the driver Ask the driver
(Whitesands)		Laurieston	14:50	-

# GTI BUSES



# where do you want to co?









# Guess what ? You can!

Thanks to the GTI...

\* Get a group of 8 or more together, pick a date and get cheap fares \*

Contact rebecca@catstrand.com to book a bus or find out more

# CAN YOU SPONSOR USP

We love bringing you Youth Banter. It's a great chance for young people to share news and ideas, and have an outlet for writing, design work and showcasing achievements. The sad truth is, it costs money to print.

Do you know a company, organisation or individual who might be willing to sponsor us? We can offer advertising or editorial space in the youth pages, plus it would make us smile. A lot. (We would be eternally grateful.)

For an informal chat about possibilties contact rebecca@catstrand.com / 01644 420 374.

# YOUTH BANTER



The days are getting longer, and there's loads more time to get out and DO STUFF.

So what are you going to do? Pick something. Get on it. No excuses!

Remember, if you want to add something to the next issue of Youth Banter, contact rebecca@catstrand.com. These are your pages and we'd love to hear from you.



# TEEN SPIRIT YOUTH GROUP (GET INVOLVED!)









Teen Spirit Youth Group is getting bigger and better, with two sessions each Tuesday:

7 - 8:30pm: P7 - S3 / 8 - 9:30pm: S3+

We've got **indoor sports** (like softball, badminton, table tennis, hockey), **creative workshops** (music recording, DJing, street arts), **films, big screen gaming** and **space to chill out**. We're planning to start **Duke of Edinburgh** sessions for the later group soon, and you can even set up your own trips and projects.

We meet at The CatStrand, but you don't have to live in New Galloway! Anyone from The Glenkens is welcome and if you need a lift from somewhere let us know - we can arrange for a minibus to pick you up and take you home.

If you want to know more, email **rebecca@catstrand.com** or come along and give it a go.



# GONGRATULATIONS YOUTH PLAYERS!

They did it! The CatStrand Youth Players sold out their show on home turf and wowed the crowds at The Fullarton (Lochside Theatre) for the SCDA One Act Play Festival heats. They won three trophies (Best Youth Play, Best Production and Audience Choice Award) and a place in the West of Scotland Finals. They'll be off to Giffnock in March, hoping to impress the judges and make it through to the Scottish Finals in June. Well done and good luck!





# CatStrand Highlights

# There are so many exciting events on the horizon over the next two months at the CatStrand.

The boys from Washington Irving are performing a special one-off show at the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory with Let's Talk About Space on Friday 5 April. There will be an interactive show followed by star-gazing with full use of the Observatory's facilities.

On Friday 19 April the nominees for our Battle of the Bands will be thrashing it out to win a place at this year's Knockengorroch World Ceilidh. It's a great chance to discover new bands - come along and you can say you saw them here first!

For fans of ragtime and country music, Rob Heron and the Tea Pad Orchestra will be performing a fusion of western and swing music on Friday 26 April.

May is as vibrant this year as ever with the CatStrand's involvement in established regional festivals. Shooglenifty will be thrilling us at

Dalry School on Friday 24 May, in association with Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival, and our Spring Fling artist-in-



residence Geoff Forrest will be on hand that weekend too, demonstrating his willow art and craftwork; you can even have a go yourself.

We are also delighted to welcome the highly anticipated King Creosote to the CatStrand on Sunday 5 May. Book your tickets early for your chance to see him at this very rare and intimate gig.

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

# **CatStrand Youth Players Report**

The Stewartry Drama Festival was held on 21-23 February and once again resulted in victory for the CatStrand Youth Players with their production of 'LittleBro Morning and BigSis Afternoon' by Mike Tibbetts. They not only won the Youth section of the festival but also the trophy for highest marks in production and were voted the audience's joint-favourite. The play now goes forward to represent the Stewartry District at the West of Scotland Finals at the Eastwood Park Theatre in Glasgow on 16 March. This is the third time in the last four years that the Youth Players have reached this stage of the Scottish Community Drama Association's national competition, and with a runner-up slot in the last two appearances everyone is hoping that it will be third time lucky this

year, and a first ever appearance at the Scottish Finals in June can be achieved!

'LittleBro' is one of the biggest challenges the Youth Players have undertaken but the cast certainly rose to the challenge. The play was written to be performed by a cast of adults but the young cast fulfilled all of the roles brilliantly with the adjudicator, Michael Emans, commenting that he had seen the play performed by adult casts before but they did not achieve the levels of intensity and emotion that was achieved by this young but very talented cast. The main roles were played by Zoe Kirkpatrick, Eleanor Jones, Lowena Lindsay and Oliver McTurk who was making his first appearance at a drama festival. They were ably backed up by Jordan Pears, Cameron Lindsay, Hannah Daly and Lauren McKinna in the supporting roles.



The other festival entry this year was 'Ghost Writer' by Nick Warburton which also received a very good adjudication. The cast included all of the younger members supported by some of the more experienced members, the main roles were played by Eilidh Stalker, Eilidh Thomson and Maia Smyth. Throughout the play, the audience were enjoying the comedy moments and the adjudicator praised the excellent teamwork and comedy timing on display from such a young cast. He felt that the cast were enjoying the play just as much as the audience were and that was just as it should be! Both plays were presented again at the CatStrand on 1<sup>st</sup> March to a very appreciative full house. The Youth Players would like to thank everyone for their support and for all the congratulations and good wishes received since the performances at the festival.

## **Kells pay tribute to Burns**

Kells Primary held the school's annual Burns Supper recently. The evening was hosted by the pupils of P7.

Invited guests, pupils, staff, parents and families were treated to speeches and entertainment that was provided by P5, P6 and P7 pupils. Erin McGaw and Amberleigh Hackwood – Williams delivered the welcome address and introduced the guests and speakers. The Selkirk Grace was then recited by Oliver McTurk.

Hannah Grieve then carried in the haggis to the skirl o' the pipes played by Mr Glen Cunningham. This was followed by Kyle Kirkpatrick and Oliver McTurk reciting the Address tae a Haggis.

P6 pupils helped serve the traditional meal of haggis, neeps and tatties to the guests. After the supper Poppy Brown and Mia Walker delivered the Immortal Memory. The Toast tae the Lassies was presented by Freddie Grimwood and Kyle Kirkpatrick. This was followed by the Lassies Reply, which was made by Kelsie Marshall and Hannah Grieve.

# **Dalry Primary Music Festival Successes**

Dalry Primary had a very successful week last week at the Galloway Music festival. In the Group Music Making category P5/6/7 took 1st place with their composition of Stomp Goes Green. This was a piece that the children had created themselves and added their own rhythms and instruments using recycled materials. The overall effect was highly praised.

P3/4 took part in the Creative Music Category with their composition of Farming Galloway. Again this was a

piece that the children created themselves, using their own poetry supported by very creative instrumental accompaniments to create the effect of the daily sounds on a farm.

P1/2 took part in the Action Song and Singing games category and were praised for their 'high quality singing'.

There were also a number of solo entries for voice and viola. Within the beginners vocal solos category P6 pupil James Wallace took 1st place.

Depute Head Teacher Annette Craig said "The children all performed to a very high standard and were a credit to the school."





After the traditional speeches the P5-7 choir sang Loch Lomond and Flower of Scotland. Florrie Newbery, Georgiana Grinmwood, Jasmin Adam and Yelena Wolffe then recited some Scots verse.

A very enjoyable evening was concluded with everyone singing Auld Lang Syne.

# Shared Reading, Sharing Books; Carsphairn P-1's Start Strong

With all the Christmas festivities over, the children at Carsphairn are starting the new term. Beginning this term the P-1's have begun their reading program with a bang, working with the Scottish National Book Trust! The P-7's have been trained up with special reading and drama skills that help make books more exciting for new readers.

Each P-7 has been paired with a partner in P-1, to introduce them into the fun world of reading. Siblings Jamie and Jessica Dovaston are already Pupil Librarians at Carsphairn and have been working very closely with school librarian Jane Banner. They were very excited to welcome Crawford King and Naomi McCreath into the fold. Three books, by three different children's authors, were selected by the Scottish National Book Trust to introduce to P-1's across Scotland to reading. In pairs, each book was read and discussed over January and February. Once all three books were read, the project concluded with everyone involved placing a vote for their favourite book. The votes from all across Scotland will be tallied up before World Book Day (March 7) to determine which book will be Scotland's new favourite Children's Book. As a final bonus, each of the P-1's was gifted all three books, to take home to add to their book collection. Everyone involved with the project has enjoyed it and will hopefully start the P-1 readers at Carsphairn off on the right foot, with a little help from their friends.



Dumfries & Galloway Canine Rescue tenth birthday celebrations

Dumfries & Galloway
Canine Rescue
celebrated its tenth
birthday by having ten
parties in different town
halls, Dalry being one
of them. As honoury
members of the charity
Helen & Eric Broadhurst
were delighted to host
the party.

Dalry village did not disappoint, local businesses, a local talented artist, villagers who no longer owned dogs and people who train their dogs at Real Dog Training classes who could not attend, all donated raffle prizes. The raffle raised £50.00

The party was well attended by people and dogs who know how to have a good time!

The Spud & Spoon race was won by Margaret & Katie the Westie (Dundrennan)

Hunt The sausage was won by Jackie & Mac the Lab cross (Dalry) - No surprise their Mac!



Musical chairs was won by Ewan & Cassie the Lab cross (Dalry)

Waggiest Tail was won by Gary & Shadow the Lab cross (Dalry)

Mike and his trio of labraddodles from Auldgirth won "Portrait of your pet" raffle prize.

On behalf of the charity Helen & Eric would like to thank everybody involved, especially Kathy who helped with the games, making it a fun and successful day. The total amount raised from this event was £120.57





ALEX
FERGUSSON
MSP
FOR
GALLOWAY &
WEST DUMFRIES

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You can visit Alex's website at: www.alexfergusson.org.uk

or contact him by e-mail at: alex.fergusson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

# Photo of the Issue This issue's winner is 'Dawn in the Glenkens' by



John McBeth.

John wins a meal for two at Pringle's in Corsock.

Next issue's winner will recieve a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel. We would like to thank all the local eateries who have generously donated prizes for our photo competition.

The Ken Bridge Hotel gets a special thanks, as it will be sponsoring the Gazette's Photo of the Issue competition from next issue onwards, and will choose themes and judge photos accordingly.

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

# Rosemary Gascoyne 1930 - 2012

Rosemary Gascoyne was a well known painter and personality in Dumfries and Galloway. Moving from Brighton twenty years ago she combined running a gallery, first in Creetown then in Gatehouse, with her own practice. Latterly she lived and worked in Dalry.

The memorial and selling exhibition in Castle Douglas Art Gallery 4th - 14th April 2013 is drawn from her own and her son Ian's collection. There are examples of Rosemary's work from all periods of her life.

She was a highly accomplished painter who exhibited regularly and had an appreciative following. Many of her paintings are in public and private collections. She had an important and well received retrospective exhibition of her work at the Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries in 2005.

Coming late to painting, she was in her mid forties before attending art school, she felt driven to work with unusual commitment and dedication. She was fortunate in her tutors at Brighton College of Art where she completed her degree. Jack Smith and Chis le Brun, two highly respected painters with international reputations gave her the support and confidence she needed to develop her skills and talents.

Key to her style was her understanding and awareness of colour and form. Each painting was a new adventure, she didn't repeat herself. Her paintings are broadly abstract but nature, the landscape and still-life were her sources of inspiration and you can see the rhythms and patterns of these phenomena underlying her work. The exhibition is a celebration of her artistic career and a unique opportunity to see the extent and range of her practice. A new website of her work has just been launched.

www.rosemarygascoyne.co.uk











# **CatStrand Burns Supper 2013**

Tickets were sold out for the Burns Supper on Saturday 9 February and the capacity crowd enjoyed a great evening's entertainment in honour of Scotland's bard.

Chairman Brian Edgar welcomed everyone and introduced the top table guests before asking everyone to stand to welcome the haggis which was piped in by George Galloway, carried by Aaron Edgar and enthusiastically addressed by the chairman himself. A traditional supper was then served and enjoyed by everyone.

Afterwards, the audience settled down to enjoy a wonderful selection of speeches and entertainment which you would have been hard pushed to better anywhere. Alex Fergusson MSP proposed the Immortal Memory in his own inimitable style, at times very humorous but heartfelt nonetheless. Many speakers treat the Immortal Memory as a lecture and their annual opportunity to 'educate' the masses but Alex has the knack of entertaining his audience first and foremost without losing sight of the ultimate aim



Photo - from left to right: George Galloway (Piper), Robin Wallace (Toast to the Lassies & Recitation - Holy Wullie's Prayer), Alex Fergusson MSP (Immortal Memory), Brian Edgar (Chairman & Address to the Haggis), Jane Davidson (Reply to of the speech.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all and was summed up by some of the comments received afterwards – "Thank you for a wonderful evening, certainly the best Burns Supper we have ever been at!" "An excellent supper, brilliant entertainment and great company" "Please book us in for next year"

# **What is Margaret Morris Movement?**

Margaret Morris (1891-1980) was a pioneer of modern dance and movement in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Margaret created a form of dance that addressed both the creative and health needs of her students. In its infancy it was a progressive dance technique and today it remains relevant in addressing many of the health and wellbeing needs of contemporary life.

Posture & Breathing: Good posture is essential for optimum health and many of the dance exercises are designed to promote body alignment. Footwork & Control: Travelling well across a dance space is key. This begins with normal walking-very free and transferring the body weight progressively forward. MMM walking exercises help development good foot control and skilled foot placement. We explore different rhythms and floor patterns, as well as developing our

pointe. We develop good abdominal muscles which are necessary for poise. **Balance & Co-ordination:** In MMM balance is taught progressively from the simplest co-ordination in lying, to sitting and standing till movements involving complex co-ordination can be performed at ease. **Relaxation:** Relaxation is also essential for well being. Some dance exercises are specifically designed to teach conscious and full relaxation.

**Dance & Creativity:** MMM is above all Dance. We dance at the same time as taking care of our bodies. Exploring music phrases and rhythms play an important role in each class.

MMM believes anyone who wants to dance can! New adult dance class begin on Monday 15 April from 2.30-3.30pm at the CatStrand, New Galloway. Contact Sara Lockwood on 01556 612854 or sara.lockwood@sky.com



please phone Mary on above mobile no.



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(Jonathan)

# **Moniaive Folk Festival**

May 10th -12th May 2013 Dumfries and Galloway

This brilliant weekend celebration of music, song and dance, set in the rural Scottish village with a big attitude, has gained a reputation over the years for punching well above its weight in line up, atmosphere and sessions, its intimate campus style setting being a unique feature.

The eclectic line up for this, its 12th year has an opening concert featuring village choir Cairn Chorus led by Ali Burns, followed by instrumental fireworks from local boy Pete Garnett and classical maestro Greg Lawson , better known to some as almost half of Moishe's Bagel. Making a welcome return to the festival is young Scots singer Alistair Ogilvy, this time with his band and the concert will be brought to a close by the sheer musical magic of Bring in the Spirit. This is a super group of some of the most talented and respected musicians in Scotland today including Rod Paterson, Pete Clark and Marc Duff along with Kirsten Easdale and Gregor Lowry. Their sparkling music will include everything from Burns songs to Neil Gow fiddle jigs and you can carry on jigging at the ceilidh in the Masonic Hall later .

This mix of visiting artists and committed festival goers will feed into the many sessions that carry on throughout the weekend in the pubs, cafes, around the campsite, under the cherry tree and in any available space that is unlocked!

Saturday is jam packed with workshops (from song to fiddle),

piping competitions, children's events (Michael Angelo, Stripey Dog), an open stage concert, the Green Tea Room rolling performance programme and a grand street parade.

Evening brings the main marquee concert starting with a short blast from another festival favourite The John Langan Band, who are really making a name for themselves in southern parts and have just recorded a new CD. Shelagh McDonald is a name some may recognize from the 70s when she recorded with members of Fairport Convention. After a long absence from the music scene Moniaive Folk Festival is honoured to hear her beautiful voice and distinctive songwriting skills again. Another wonderful woman is Corrina Hewat and her band line up features her own wonderful singing and harp playing alongside such luminaries of the folk/jazz world as Fraser Fifield and David Milligan. Our final act of the main concert are Session A9 who Dougle Maclean described as being 'The best band to have come out of Scotland in 100 years'. With not just one but three high energy fiddlers - Charlie McKerron, Gordon Gunn and Adam Sutherland backed by the legendary powerhouse of Brian McAlpine, Marc Clements and 'Chimp' Robertson, they have just been named ' Best Live Act' at the Scottish Trad Music Awards.

The legendary Late Night Extra at the Institute will feature a full set from the John Langan Band followed by World Beats from the fabulous Jo Hodges.

A few hours after the last dancers and sessioners drink up their cocoa it will be time for the Sunday Singaround Brunch hosted by Cairn Chorus and festival guests - bring along your brekkie and join in a chorus with crumbs! The rest of the day can be spent sampling a slow session, open stage, Sunday afternoon concert, taking in a shadow puppet show and workshop (Clydebuilt Puppets) before sampling a final festival curry and evening session up close to the John Langan Band.

Moniaive village provides the setting for a real community folk festival, come and hear it for yourself!

www.moniaivefolkfestival.oc.uk

# **Dalry Community Council Update**

At the end of January, Dumfries and Galloway Council published the proposed Local Development Plan.

Consisting of over 230 pages, the plan guides the future use and development of land in the towns, villages and rural areas of Dumfries and Galloway. Dalry's Community Council studied the plan in depth and made representations to the council in early March. It would be impossible to summarise the entire plan in this space, but it is worth noting that the plan's Vision of what Dumfries and Galloway will look like in 20 years time includes the following: vibrant towns and villages that have more businesses and people working from home, more opportunities to meet locally arising affordable housing needs, housing developments of a scale appropriate to their location, high quality, affordable housing, a range of services and facilities that help support the local community.

Information about Dalry Community Council is regularly posted on the notice board outside the Post Office, including dates of future meetings to which anyone interested is welcome to attend.



#### CONVENTICLE

In 1978 when the Forestry Commission were ploughing land in preparation for tree planting up in the hills to the south-west of Clatteringshaws Loch they exhumed the bodies of two presumed Covenanters buried side by side. A short distance away they unearthed the body of a soldier, recognised by his long military boots. At the time the discovery was not publicised out of concern that doing so could disrupt planting operations. The bodies were reburied and out of respect the area immediately around them was levelled off and left unplanted. In August 2011 I rediscovered this site, just south of the Palfern Burn, to the west of Loch Grannoch. Right in the centre of the unplanted area is an upstanding granite cobble which is presumed to mark where the two bodies were reburied.

A Conventicle is planned for Sunday 28th April at 3 pm at this site, to dedicate a small granite memorial stone inscribed 'Covenanter Martyrs'. To get to the service location it is possible to drive up a forestry track to the top of the hill with an ordinary vehicle, along a track starting immediately south of the car park for the Red Deer Park. But then there is a roughly 15 minute walk down a forest ride and then along the side of the Palfern Burn for a few hundred yards over rather rough tussocky terrain. The service is not recommended for those who are unfit or unsure on their feet. If some people would

**Cllr Finlay Carson** 

Castle Douglas & Glenkens

for an appointment Tel: 07825 633 185

or email: finlay@finlaycarson.co.uk

www.finlaycarson.co.uk

prefer not to take their cars off the main road, and to limit the number of vehicles gong up the track, it might be best to meet at the Red Deer Park car park at 2.30 pm so that we can share vehicles. For further information phone me on 430380.

David Bartholomew

### Pancake Lunch



Balmaclellan & Kells Guild held their 16<sup>th</sup> Pancake Lunch on Shrove Tuesday, February 12. As always, the event was well supported and everyone enjoyed their savoury and sweet pancakes.

This year the event was in aid of the Red Cross with a Tombola and Stall in aid of Guild funds.

At the Guild meeting on March 13 the speaker was Miss Anne Carstairs, Organiser for the Stewartry Branch of the Red Cross. Miss Carstairs gave a most interesting talk about the Charity with a summary of how it was founded and the various aspects of the work done today. Mrs Primrose Morrison then presented her with a cheque for £375. The Guild would like to thank everyone who supported the event.

# GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

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FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

# Yird Muin Starn: Earth Moon Star...

This original occasion was hosted by two artists, Mandy Mackintosh & Kaffe Mathews, from Glasgow and London respectively who had spent up to 2 years collaborating to create this work described by them as 'very simple..made..so that people might come out into a very cold dark place and look up. ..They made Space Suits, Sky gazers and an album of cosmological music. The idea for Dark Skies Galloway was from Keith Muir of Forestry Commission.

The Galloway Space suits are made out of Ventile, the toughest and most naturally durable weatherproof material available on our planet. Space is very cold. The design of the suits comes from a Samurai undergarment.....They can be seen and are for hire at Catstrand, for your star gazing expedition.

The Star gazers, cut from a single oak tree are jointed using traditional Japanese dwelling techniques. They are inspired by the angle and form of a Victorian astronomy chair in Greenwich Observatory.

White Laggan Bothy, grid ref. NX 466775, OS Landranger map 77, is where you'll find the Star gazers. If you have not yet been there, turn right past Clatteringshaws Loch dam wall, and keep going along a single track road until you can go no further. Then walk or cycle, beside Loch Dee. Note the road needs care at present, due to surface damage.

Have fun! June

# **LOCAL HISTORY** with TED COWAN

# Glenkens and the Daunting of the Douglases



Next year marks the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn.

For loyal service the victorious Robert Bruce rewarded his lieutenant, 'the good' Sir James Douglas with a grant of the regality of Buittle. In 1369, Bruce's son, David II granted to Douglas's son, Archibald the Grim, 'all our existing lands in Galloway between the Cree and the Nith'. He thus created the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright so called because Archibald appointed a steward to manage his considerable estates, an official who was also often the keeper of Threave Castle, When Archibald later purchased the earldom of Wigtown he became Lord of Galloway. The Gordons who had been resident since 1300 had already acquired lands in what are now the four Glenkens parishes. In 1358 they were granted the lordship, administration and safekeeping of the new Forest of Glenkenne., furthering their powerbase by becoming Douglas clients.

Scottish kings favoured a system of devolution by which powerful subordinates were given almost regal powers in areas considered remote or difficult to control, or

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both. The trouble was that the descendants of royal favourites might be at daggers drawn with their monarchs within a couple of generations. One such was Archibald the Grim, who acquired estates far beyond the south-west. Scots Law did not fully operate in Galloway until 1426 but Archibald repealed some of the old laws, while protecting others, which he could exploit to his own advantage. He became third Earl of Douglas, rebuilding Threave Castle where he died in 1400. 25 years later the 7th Earl of Douglas was James the Gross so named for his corpulence; when he died it was said that his body contained '4 stane of tallow and mair' that is, 56 pounds of fat, enough to make a fair batch of candles. He continued his family's insatiable appetite for land. His son, William succeeded as 8th Earl, marrying his cousin, Margaret the Fair Maid of

He grandly styled himself 'William, Earl of Douglas and Avondale, Great Guardian of the kingdom of Scotland, and Prince and Lord of Galloway'.

Galloway.

His power and possessions rivalled those of his young king, James II, who gave him safe conduct to visit Stirling Castle and then murdered him. By 1455 the Black Douglases were a lost cause. The king marched into Galloway to destroy Threave. According to tradition, McKim the blacksmith of Buchan Croft, Carlingwark, manufactured a huge cannon which he supplied with large granite cannonballs each the weight of 'a Carsphairn cow', to

reduce the castle. Another shot supposed ripped off the hand of the Fair Maid of Galloway as she drank her wine.

We are on surer historical ground in noting the many lands the Douglases lost when they were forfeited. It is not certain how many landholders, like the Gordons, survived, but it is probable that some, closely identified with the Lords of Galloway, lost out.

Andrew McCulloch in his History of Galloway has helpfully mapped the concentration of Glenkens properties included in the forfeiture. The names of these holdings still exist.

They include places well up into the hills such as Castlemaddy, Largvey, Clenrie, Largmore and Drumbuie. Closer to modern Clatteringshaws Loch are Garrary and Craigenbay. On either side of the Ken are Barskeoch and Earlstoun, and closer to New Galloway, Fintloch. Placenames with the element 'Bal' are now known to be 15th century. There is an interesting clutch in the then recently named, Balmaclellan parish, signalling a revival in the fortunes of the Maclellans (Clan Connan): Balmaclellan itself, Cubbox, Ironlosh, Lowes, Caldow, Bartaggart, Barlay, Cassenevey, Corse, Low Park and Craig. Many of these placenames are, of course, Gaelic in origin, and so much older than the 15th century, part of Glenkens' rich heritage.

Ted Cowan

# **APRIL & MAY**

### **APRIL**

**Wed 3,** Open Stage 7.30pm, CatStrand

**Thurs 4 – Sun 14,** Rosemary Gascoyne: Memorial and Selling Exhibition, Castle Douglas Art Gallery, see p17

**Fri 5,** Let's Talk about Space, 7.30pm, The Scottish Dark Sky Observatory

**Wed 10,** Film: The Hobbit, 7.30pm, CatStrand

**10 week course starting Tue 16 April,** Stewartry Self
Management Programme;
Mindfulness for Health &
Wellbeing, Dalry. See p8.

**Fri 19,** Battle of the Bands, 7pm, CatStrand

**Wed 17,** 2pm, Rural Meeting - Local History by Prof. Cowan, New Galloway Town Hall

**Wed 24,** Chrys Salt & Mary Smith, 7.30pm, CatStrand

**Fri 25,** Cream o' Galloway; 'The Story So Far', Loch Arthur, see p9

**Fri 26,** Rob Heron and the Tea Pad Orchestra, 7.30pm, CatStrand

**Sat 27,** Plant & Bake Sale, 10.30am, St Margaret's Church, New Galloway. Funds raised will go to Castle Douglas Hospital League of Friends.

### **MAY**

**Wed 1,** Geo Bus - Dr Kathryn Roper, 7pm, CatStrand

**Sun 5,** King Creosote, 7.30pm, CatStrand

**Fri 10,** Tricky Hat: Unusual Places to Dance, 7.30pm, CatStrand

**Fri 10 – Sun 12,** Moniaive Folk Festival, see p19

**Wed 15,** 2pm, Rural Meeting -Cities of South America by Peter Marsden, New Galloway Town Hall

**Thu 10,** Louise Welsh, 7.30pm, CatStrand

**Mon 20,** Bruce Molsky, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 23 - Sun 26,

Knockengorroch World Ceilidh Festival, see back page

**Fri 24,** Shooglenifty, 7.30pm, Dalry School

**Fri 24,** Cheese Making, Cream o' Galloway, see p9

**Sat 25 – Mon 27,** Spring Fling, various studios around the Glenkens and the rest of the region. See p7

**Sat 25,** Wine, Cheese and Art Conversation, 7-10pm, CatStrand

**Sun 26,** Margaret Morris Movement performance of 'Aye Waulkin O', 6-7.15pm, Waukmill (1 mile out of New Galloway on the A712), see p 18

**Sun 26,** 'Song of the Oak and the Ivy' and 'Words at the Edge' with Wendy Stewart pand Corrina Hewat, 7pm, Corsock Village Hall. See p7

**Fri 31,** Film: The Quartet, 7.30pm, CatStrand

## **JUNE**

**Sat 1,** Carsphairn Show, see back page & p3

**Sat 1,** 'Give Golf a Go', 10am-3pm, see p9

# SPRING FLING TOURS TO DEPART FROM THE CATSTRAND

The minibuses for visits to a variety of studios and exhibitions across Dumfries and Galloway in connection with this years Spring Fling will start and finish at the CatStrand, giving local people a great advantage as they will not need to travel to the designated 'pick-up' points. On Saturday 25 May one tour will be visiting the area near Portpatrick and the other Moniaive; on Sunday 26 May the Drumlanrig area will be visited, along with the Solway Coast around Rockcliffe. On Monday 27 May tours will be to Newton Stewart/Glentrool, with the second vehicle covering the Langholm/ Eskdalemuir area. Tickets for all trips are £10 per person, and this year *tickets will be on sale at the CatStrand*. Please support this event for which GTI now provide all the transport and drivers.

DATES FOR OTHER TRIPS: WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013 - THE LAKE DISTRICT. SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013 - GARDEN of COSMIC SPECULATION- near Dumfries - this amazing and unique garden is only open once a year and is situated at Holywood near Dumfries - (Details/pictures on website) admission is £6 in aid of Cancer Research. This trip will be an afternoon trip only and the charge for the transport will be £2.50 per person. FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013 - An evening trip to Hamilton Races with the Red Hot Chilli Pipers providing live after race entertainment. SEE LOCAL POSTERS FOR FULL DETAILS OF ALL TRIPS.

## **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.

# REGULAR EVENTS

#### CatStrand (New Galloway):

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am Margaret Morris Movement Adult Dance Class, Mon, 2.30-3.30pm, contact Sara on 01556 612854, see p18

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: Thurs, 7-

**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

**Tai Jitsu:** Wed, Junior Class (age 6-14), 6-7pm; Senior Class, 7-8.30pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, contact David on 07547 134 276, see p5

**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

Scouts: Thurs, 7–8.30pm, New

Galloway Scout Hut

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

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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. 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.

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

#### **CHURCH OF SCOTLAND:**

**Sundays:** Balmaclellan: 12noon: 1st. Carsphairn: 10.30am: 1st,2nd,3rd,4th. Dalry(Apr) 12 noon: 1st,3rd,4th. Dalry(Apr): 10.30am: 2nd. Dalry(May):9.00am: 1st, 3rd,4th. Kells: 10.30am: 2nd(May),3rd,4th,5th.

#### Special Services/Events: 26 Apr

7.30 pm, Quiz Night, Dalry Town Hall. **28 Apr,** 3 pm Conventicle (see p. )

# **Communion Services: 5 May**, 12 noon, Balmaclellan Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH: St Margaret's, New

**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

# Over £1,200 raised for charities

St Margaret's Church Ladies Guild organised a series of Lent Lunches in order to raise money for charity. With generous support from members and friends of the church, well over £1,200 was raised which will be divided between the following six organisations: Sports for Special Needs, the Alexandra Unit (DGI), ME Research UK, SSAFA, Crossroads and Combat Stress.

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

# **TO THE HILLS**

This year's Knockengorroch World Ceilidh is set to be another belter.

The renowned Glenkens-based roots music festival, established in 1998, has become known nation-wide for its friendly, family atmosphere and eclectic music line-up.

Some of the music on offer at the 2013 festival will be the unique sounds of world-renowned artists Asian Dub Foundation, Dizraeli and the Small Gods, Breabach (winner of the Scottish Folk Band of the Year at the 2012 Trad Awards) and four-time Grammy award nominated Texan Cedric Watson & Bijou Creole.

The well-established festival will

take place from 23 to 26 May in its usual stunning location among the hills and glens of Carsphairn, and will present not only music but also arts and activities

from all corners of the globe.

One of the organisers, Katriona Holmes, said: "We're really excited by the incredible array of talent we have joining us this year at Knockengorroch. As well as brilliant music acts there will be dance, theatre, multimedia and comedy; happy kids making things, workshops in all manner of new skills, good food, a healing area, a sauna, fire shows, world cinema and lots more.

"It's brilliant to have so many



inspiring artists join us in our wee glen, and we look forward to welcoming festy-goers from all across Scotland and the rest of the world to enjoy our exceptional event in the hills!" Advance tickets are available from the Knockengorroch website www.knockengorroch. org.uk - family and concession

And remember, the winner of the CatStrand's Battle of the Bands will be featuring at this year's festival, so keep your eyes and ears peeled!

tickets are available.



# Saturday 1st June Show opens at 8am with the Sheepdog Trial, Sheep Judging starts at 10am, Pet Show at 2pm followed by Dog Classes, Children's Sports and Hill Race, etc. Entries on the day for Sheep, Pet Show, Dog Show and Industrial Section (Sheep Dog Trial entry now closed). Entries for Sheep and Industrial Section must be received by 9.30am on the day. Schedules available from local shops or contact Jean Gibbon on 01644 460 244, email info@furmiston.co.uk or download a schedule at www.carsphairn.org/carsphairn-show Carsphairn Show Dance in Lagwyne Hall at 9pm

#### **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

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

JUNE/JULY COPY DEADLINE: MON 6 MAY







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