

CHEERS! CARSPHAIRN BUYS ITS FORMER PUB

Carsphairn is celebrating the securing of funds to buy Greystones, the former pub in the village. Carsphairn Community Trust have been awarded funding to buy the building for use as a community asset.

Greystones, at the heart of the village, shut its doors as a public house in January 2007. The property has been decaying for more than three years and has been a concern for the village since the death of its last owner.

In 2011 Carsphairn Community Council decided, after an independent survey of community needs, to set up a committee to



Carsphairn residents toast the success of the new venture, and celebrate the handover of cheque from the Chairman of Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd to the Secretary of Carsphairn Community Trust.

research the potential. In 2012 a local company offered to purchase the building to give the community time to create the

appropriate body and apply for funding to buy the space.

Continued on P7...

Watson Bird Project Buys Barone

The Watson Bird Centre project has passed a key milestone with the purchase of part of Barone, the Watson family home.

This means that plans to create a centre in Dalry to celebrate the work of the famous bird artist Donald Watson and his son Jeff, a leading environmentalist who produced the definitive study of the golden eagle, can now go ahead.

This announcement comes four years after the project's director, Roger Crofts, first launched the idea of creating a focal point in Dalry. He believes that with two highly successful Watson Bird Festivals, the establishment of the academically respected Watson Raptor Science Prize and, now the purchase of part of Barone, the whole project is going from strength to strength: "This is a huge step forward for the project. Now we can start to

bring the old house to life with Donald's studio, almost as he left it, and create exhibition space and study facilities with the interesting Watson archives and a bird observatory in the garden."

Continued on P18...



Donald Watson

COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

Since the last edition of the Gazette, matters have moved on apace with the Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry.

Papers have now been signed with Dumfries & Galloway Council that puts the centre into a transition period where the council still owns the building but the centre pays many more of the bills. Because of this, the rents have had to be increased, but the centre remains a viable

and vibrant community facility.

The transition period lasts until June 2014 when the management committee will either have to buy the centre for a nominal sum or allow the council to close it.

The management committee remains committed to our user groups' clear mandate to keep the centre open if at all possible and has therefore commenced exploring options for the long-term future of the centre. In doing so, they are bearing in mind all the other public buildings in the Glenkens and

hope to work with all concerned to find the best solution for the community and individual user groups.

To this end, there will be an **Open Meeting at the community centre at 7:30pm on Monday 13 January**, to which all interested parties are cordially invited. Please do come along if you'd like to help us form a plan that is right for the community.

Thanks to everyone for their support so far,

*Helen Keron, Chair,
Glenkens Community Centre*

Hard of Hearing Group Glenkens Drop-in

The Dumfries & Galloway Hard of Hearing Group would like to set up a drop-in clinic in one of the Glenkens villages.

They are a voluntary group, funded by Putting You First, and have drop-ins across Dumfries & Galloway where people who have hearing aids can come along and get their aids maintained, get advice and support.

Currently the local drop-in is in Castle Douglas Town Hall on the 2nd Thursday of the month between 11am and 12noon. The group has been investigating venues in the Glenkens to make it easier for local residents here to attend, but they need volunteers. If you have a couple of hours a month to spare and would like to gain skills to be able to maintain hearing aids, get in touch with Julie Turner on 07896 342 878 or juliedghhg@gmail.com or visit www.dghhg.org.uk

Rosy Glow

The Rosy Glow section is a space for people to include, anonymously if they like, their thanks, admiration and general positivity about something a local person or organisation has done that has made them feel good.

"Well done Gill! Your 'Rosie Glow' section is a splendid positive idea. It gives me an opportunity to say many thanks to the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) and the volunteer drivers who give up their time to transport us to some interesting venues." Libby Ritchie

"I am leaving the Glenkens to move to the coast at Sandy Hills and would like to say goodbye to everyone. I will miss the light on the hills, the chats in the street and the waves through the windows!" Gill Stanyard

You can text or email your Rosy Glow comments to the Gazette (contact details on back page).



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**Creative
STATION**

Photo of the Issue: 'Changing Seasons'

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is Andrew Mellor with a striking shot of a waxwing.

Competition judges Dave and Sue of the Ken Bridge Hotel said: "There were some wonderful submissions again, but one clear winner... There was a photo from the Ken Bridge which was lovely, and a great shot of autumn leaves which showed the spectacular range of colours that make autumn in this area a joy, but the photograph of the waxwing feeding is something that few people will have seen, and therefore we have chosen this."

Andrew will receive a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel Sunday Carvery. Send in your entries for the next issue and it could be you next time!

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



Abbas Rest Orphans

A very successful coffee morning was held in Dalry on Saturday 5 October in aid of the Abbas Rest Orphans in Malawi.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us with their presence as well as help on the stalls, serving teas, baking and donations, which raised a wonderful total of £626.

We were very pleased that the three trustees for Abbas Rest Orphans - Richard Willis, Jim Walsham and our new trustee Madge Irvine - were able to attend and talk to people individually about the work of Abbas Rest. It was good to hear that the building of the new orphan centre at Muona has now begun although the cost has risen steeply, so our effort is very acceptable. Thanks again to everyone for your help.

Avril Brown & Barbara Colbenson

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Glenkens Freecycle

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

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

Box of random books if anyone would like them on a variety of subjects from running to chess etc. Contact: Gill on 07971 769 785

Furniture

Armchairs (two) a bit battered but comfortable. Covered in yellow damask. Contact: 430 218.

Swivel office chair, grey fabric, (armchair type). Contact: 460 516.

Small blue square shelf unit

on wheels; suitable for coffee table/bedside table/media unit. Contact: Sarah on 07727 127 997

Electrical

HP laser printer 5P. Contact: Ken on 460 0516

Chest freezer; 50", 141 cubic feet. Contact: Neville on 450 685

WANTED

Any spare pots - terracotta and glazed, for my new garden. I am also looking for

a microwave, any spare rugs, a double mattress, in good condition, and a tall standing lamp. Contact: Gill on 07971 769 785

Drums; snare drum, symbols, stands, etc. Contact: 07500 556 014

An iphone4; will pay cash. Contact: 07500 556 014

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Sue Wiseman

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Eco Feature

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APOLOGY

The Gazette would like to sincerely apologise for any implied association between the Eco Feature article in the October/November issue of the Gazette and the page's sponsor, Natural Power. The article was purely an opinion piece attributed to a reader, and in no way reflected the views of the Glenkens Gazette or of Natural Power Consultants Ltd.

THE GREAT HEATING FUEL DEBATE

Most households have had this heating debate from time to time; oil, gas, coal or wood?

Here in the Glenkens most of us don't have access to the most economic option of mains gas, so are pretty much locked in to oil as a main heating fuel. The challenge is how to use as little of this expensive fuel as possible.

After addressing the essentials of insulation and draft-proofing, the next item on the 'tick box' is supplementary heating. Most of us have a chimney, and sadly most still have open fires. Open fires are massively inefficient; the average open fire wastes approximately 80% of its generated heat straight up the chimney. This effectively means that about £8 in every £10 of fuel is wasted.

Given that you have an existing chimney, fitting a good quality wood or multi-fuel stove should be considered. By using a stove rather than an open fire you will more than halve your fuel use, and much more than double the heat generated within your home. The downside of course is the cost of purchase and installation. Even so, given the long life of a good quality stove (20 to 40 years) and the astonishing increase in heat output over an open fire, it is an option worth considering.

Running a single wood or multi-fuel stove in your house should vastly decrease your spend on expensive oil or gas. Of course there is also a cost to running a stove, but kilowatt for kilowatt this is well below burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

Here are the options for fuelling a multi-fuel stove...

- Coal-based products: high calorific value of around 6-8,000kWh/tonne. Tends to be expensive, dirty to handle and the cheaper coals leave a lot of unburnt 'clinker'.

- Traditional Logs: lower calorific value of around 3-4,000kWh/tonne. First choice if you can get a good reliable supply of dry hardwood logs of the right size and at a reasonable cost. You need decent dry storage and logs can be messy and awkward to handle.

- Wood Briquettes: medium calorific value of around 4.5-5,500kWh/tonne.

Briquettes have the advantage over logs of being clean, consistent, easy to handle, carry, stack and store.

Modern high-performance wood briquettes have improved massively from the early days. Of course you can still buy cheap rubbish, but the best quality briquettes are made with modern, high-compaction equipment. These high performance briquettes exceed traditional logs in terms of calorific

value (heat generated) and can be lower in price. They also come in several different forms; some light easily and come to temperature quickly, others burn slower and generate a steady heat, while others are perfect for overnight burning.

If you can get dry, locally-produced logs at the right price, then of course that's your first choice. But if your local logs are damp, dirty and difficult to handle why not give briquettes a go? Like many hundreds of others who have been converted, you may be pleasantly surprised.

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Successful Season at the Golf Club

New Galloway Golf Club celebrated the end of the 2013 season in style with their Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation Evening at the Ken Bridge Hotel.

The dinner was well attended with Gerry MacKechnie (Lady Captain) & Jeff Sutcliffe (Club Captain) hosting the evening which consisted of a pictorial review of the season and the presentation of prizes. The major prize winners were:

Anne McQueen - Ladies Club Champion, Jonathan Dale - Gentlemen's Club Champion, Stuart Jamieson - MacMillan Cup Champion, and Scott Jamieson - Coronation Cup Champion.

The Winter Programme is now in full swing and the drainage work undertaken on the course during the summer appears to have been successful. The Senior Section meets on a



Prize winners with their trophies.

Thursday morning at 9.30 and plays over the 15-hole course. Wigtownshire County was the course played on the first of the Senior Outings and there are further outings scheduled to be played at Portpatrick and Stranraer in the New Year. There is a Coffee Morning arranged for Saturday 7 December from 10am to 12noon at which there will be gifts for sale together with information about the club for anyone who would like to

take up membership. Winter memberships are available and anyone interested should contact the Club Secretary, Ian on 01644 420737. All the Club's results can be found by visiting either the Club website www.nggc.co.uk or www.masterscoreboard.co.uk. The Club's Annual General Meeting is to take place on Thursday 5 December at 7.30pm in the clubhouse.

*Jeff Sutcliffe,
Captain & Match Secretary
New Galloway Golf Club*



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CLACHAN FAIR UPDATE

It seems a long time since Dalry Clachan Fair but you may be interested in how much money was made.

The profit for the week was £1500. Grants are being made to the Town Hall and other organisations which support activities in the Glenkens. An amount has been held back to help with expenses for the 2015 Fair.

Financially there have been more successful Clachan Fairs but we're sure everyone who joined in the events had a good time! New ideas are always welcome to make the next fair even better. *Sally Hooker*

Cllr Finlay Carson
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CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY PURCHASE

Continued from front page...

A group of highly motivated people in Carsphairn, led by David McMillan, created the Carsphairn Community Trust which came into being earlier this year.

The purchase and development of Greystones as a sustainable community hub for the benefit of all is their first project. Within months of their creation the Trust had already applied for the funding for Stage 1.

Steve Cowley, Chairman of the Trust, told the Gazette: "The trustees of the Carsphairn Community Trust are delighted that our primary objective has been achieved. We have managed to secure funding in order to purchase the old 'Greystones'

building for the use and benefit of the Carsphairn community. We would like to thank everyone for their support and patience so far, and hope that the community as a whole will share our anticipation of the exciting challenges and achievements which lie ahead."

Steve continued to say that the funding was sufficient to ensure that the building can be made both wind and water tight. Carsphairn resident and former Chairman of the Community Council,



Matt Hickman said: "It is so exciting to hear such good news. I can honestly say that as someone that was involved in the very early stages of the project that I am aware of the hard work, effort, and tenacity that was required to see it through. A round of applause to everyone concerned. Well done!"

Sara McNeill

Xmas Coffee Morning

Following last year's successful event Balmaclellan & Kells Guild together with St Margaret's Ladies' Guild are holding a Christmas Coffee Morning.

This will be held in New Galloway Town Hall on Wednesday 11 December from 10.30 am to 12 noon. In addition to coffee, shortbread and mince pies there will be stalls, a lucky dip and tombola. Please come along and support this joint venture.

JEFFERS THE GARDENER SAYS...

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MANAGING THE WINTER BLUES WITH MINDFULNESS

Bringing light into the darkness - the mindful way to avoid winter S.A.D. -ness and depression.

It was a wonderful summer of sunshine. Happiness came easily. As winter approaches, however, and the days draw in to long, dark nights, this is the time of year when the black dog of depression is most likely to visit and can be very difficult to shake off.

One in three people, two thirds of whom are women, will suffer from some form of depression, anxiety or panic attacks during their lifetime. According to the World Health Organisation it afflicts about 120 million people worldwide.

Depression is a terrible thing to feel and the fact that mental health is still such a taboo subject means that sufferers often feel very lonely and isolated. There can be a sense from those around that they just need to 'pull themselves together' or from themselves that they just need a 'good kick up the backside'. I have heard these words many times, but never seen this approach work. When you are in the quicksand what you actually need is for someone to throw you a rope, something that is actually going to work and the sooner the better.

Currently the most commonly used treatment for depression is antidepressant medication. However, once the episode has past, and a person has stopped taking the antidepressants, depression tends to return and understandably one of the biggest fears for anyone who has been depressed is the dread

of it coming back.

Oxford Mindfulness Centre Director Professor Mark Williams and his team in Oxford University's Department of Psychiatry are responding to the pressing need for new ways to prevent depression. They are world leaders in research into the prevention of depression through mindfulness. They assert that Mindfulness can be a true life-saver and the evidence base is there to prove it.

The results of trials are striking. They show that in patients with three or more previous episodes

...Oxford University's Department of Psychiatry ... are world leaders in the field of research into the prevention of depression through mindfulness.

of depression, mindfulness is as effective as antidepressants in preventing new episodes but has none of the side effects.

New research shows that during any episode of depression a connection is formed between the mood that was present at that time and negative thinking patterns, so even when people feel well, the link between negative moods and negative thoughts can be sparked off by relatively small events. For example, you could find out your account is overdrawn or you didn't get an interview for a job you weren't originally sure you wanted anyway and the next thing you know your mind is telling you you're a failure, etc.

This sounds unlikely but because the mind has a tendency towards negativity, catastrophising and black-and-white thinking it is actually very common and is of enormous

importance because it means that sustaining recovery from depression depends on learning how to keep mild states of depression from spiralling out of control.

Mindfulness is certainly not a quick fix. It takes time and patience to change negative thought patterns permanently but with a bit of know-how and training you can turn the tide. Simple methods to calm the mind and repair mood can be learnt and improvements experienced quite quickly.

The charity Anxiety UK urges anyone who suffers from anxiety and panic attacks to cut out caffeine and sugary 'energy' drinks and increase hydration levels with drinking more water. Trying to establish good sleep patterns and reducing 'screen-time' can also be extremely helpful. Getting out into nature and taking some form of exercise which naturally releases dopamine, the neurotransmitter responsible for happy mood states, is also extremely important.

Savouring happiness by consciously reflecting on all the things you feel appreciation and gratitude for in your life by keeping a gratitude journal by your bed and writing or drawing the positive things that have happened throughout the day, however small, can also be extremely helpful. Then the natural processes of stilling and deepening and turning inwards, which are all winter's gifts, can be fully savoured and enjoyed.

If you would like to find out more please contact Debra Hall ('True Nature'), a practitioner with 23 years' experience in the field of mindfulness, on debra.ha@hotmail.co.uk or 01644 430 013.

CatStrand Highlights

Over the past couple of months we have enjoyed the phenomenal **Rapture Theatre, Lunasa** and **Son Al Son**, and this high standard of act is set to continue throughout Christmas and the New Year.

Highlights not to be missed include a special festive concert from **Heidi Talbot & Friends** on Wednesday 4 December. The line up will feature **John McCusker, Andy Cutting, Ian Carr and Ewan Vernal** and it is taking place in Dalry Town Hall. Other Christmas celebrations include a return of the popular **Feral Choir** with their atmospheric carols

and readings on Friday 20 December and, giving a classical selection of festive favourites, are the **Grayfriars Christmas Ensemble** on Friday 13 December.

The **Youth Players** return with their latest Pantomime - Aladdin. Prepare to boo, hiss and split your sides on Friday 6, Saturday 7 and, a special added matinee performance on Sunday 8 December. This really is one of the highlights of the year!

Pick up some unique gifts at the **CatStrand Christmas Shopping Day** on Saturday 30 November. Browse local crafts and unique gift stalls while enjoying a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

Brighten up the January evenings with the massive



Heidi Talbot

hit film **Sunshine on Leith** screening on Thursday 17 January; this film is a must-see and full of feel-good fun.

Of course January wouldn't be complete without a **CatStrand Burns Supper**; enjoy traditional haggis neeps and tatties in the company of friends - book your place early to avoid disappointment.

For full listings see our latest brochure or visit www.catstrand.com, and to book tickets call the Box Office on 01644 420 374.



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

WATSON BIRD FESTIVAL 2013

Everyone who attended this year's Watson Bird Festival was thrilled by the quality and variety of the programme.

Indeed, there were so many events to attend, participants needed to plan carefully to ensure that they fitted them all in. Dalry Town Hall displayed excellent bird paintings from local school children showing that there are many talented budding artists in the Glenkens. They stood alongside a variety of paintings from professional artists, some old favourites returning and new ones joining us for the first time. Anne Errington showed her

superb shadow puppets and told stories to all who would listen, entralling young and old alike.

Two science lectures demonstrated admirably the quality of research being undertaken to elucidate some of the complexities of raptors and their past and present environments.

Those who could not join us

Chris Rollie deserves special mention for opening eyes to the way that Donald Watson looked at the landscape as preparation for his paintings.

at the CatStrand for Laurie Campbell's visual extravaganza of his wildlife photographs missed a rare treat. The quality of the photography was quite

outstanding. Those attending the photographic master class with Laurie, Morag Patterson and Ted Leeming learnt so much and we plan more workshops in the future.

The festival always has its music. On Saturday evening we were treated to the magical sounds of the well-known Scottish folk group The Whistlebinkies. And we ended

on Sunday in The Clachan Inn with a session of young and old musicians with a splendid variety of instruments.

Chris Rollie deserves special mention for opening eyes to the way that Donald Watson looked at the landscape as preparation for his paintings. He guided groups around the walking trail at Dalry and the longer art trail around the Glenkens to formally launch them and the brochures we have produced. Please pick up a copy at local shops or from the CatStrand.

Although numbers were down on last year, we had a successful festival. We are reviewing what we learnt so that next year's festival will be even better in content and attendance. So if you have any thoughts and ideas please let me know.

Roger Crofts,
Watson Birds Director
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Darren Woodhead giving a talk and demonstration in Dalry Town Hall.

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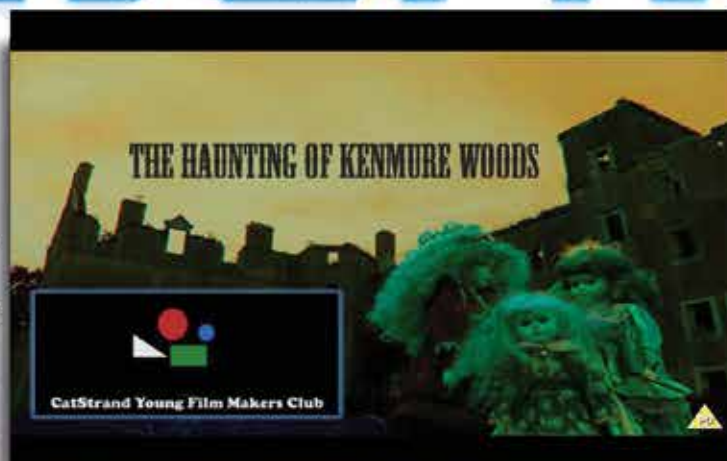
YOUTH BANTER

It's
Winter!

Its Winter! The days are getting shorter, the nights are getting colder, and the party season is getting into full swing! Thankfully the CatStrand is hosting plenty of exciting activities for young people to get involved in, including a brand new film making project and a Christmas ghost story night. Interested? Read on!

Movie Debut for CatStrand Young Film Makers

The CatStrand Young Film Makers Club had the premiere of their first movie on Thursday 31st October as part of the CatStrand's Halloween festivities. The much lauded *Haunting of Kenmure Woods* was a 30 minute comedy horror film which was written, acted, and filmed entirely by members of the club, aged 8 - 17. The film's plot was centred around a horde of stolen toys which come to life in order to scare people out of the woods. The idea for the story came from Eilidh Thomson and Lauren McKinna. **Eilidh Stalker**, who starred in the film, was surprised that it turned out so scary. "It was really good fun to shoot" said Eilidh "especially the location stuff in the forest which we filmed in broad daylight. It didn't feel scary at all!" Co-star **Kirstin Stalker** agreed: "The final film was much better than we expected and it was actually pretty frightening in places! It was great fun to make though and we were amazed that we could make something like that in such a short space of time."



The club is now working on a series of filmed sketches for their Ghost Story for Christmas evening on Thursday 19th December at The CatStrand. The free event will also include live stories, sketches, music, and mulled wine to get everyone in the festive mood.

Useful Info

To get involved with **The CatStrand Young Film Makers Club**, contact simon@catstrand.com

Due to popular demand, *The Haunting of Kenmure Woods* is set for another screening in the New Year.



Christmas Ghost Story Night

The CatStrand is hosting its first traditional **Ghost Story for Christmas Night** on Thursday 19th Dec @ 7.30pm. The event will include live short story readings from both older and younger generations, live music, music written and recorded by the children of Dalry school, filmed sketches including shadow puppetry, and live comedy sketches. There will also be mulled wine and mince pies! Forget the cold winter and come and join us for a night of festive fun by the fireside. The event is **FREE** and open to **Ages 6+** though you are advised to book a seat in advance through the CatStrand box office.



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Background image
by Josie Oliver

GCAT (Glenkens Community & Arts Trust)
YOUTH:TEAM

GET INTO... **FILM AND MEDIA**



NEW in 2014! The CatStrand Guitar Club

Whether you like acoustic folk or thrash metal the all new Cat-Strand Guitar Club is open to anyone wishing to learn guitar from absolute beginner up to intermediate level. Come along, meet other budding guitarists and learn this versatile instrument with an experienced tutor to develop your own style.

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YOUTH TUNES



SLEEPING WITH SIRENS *Feel* (2013 Rise Records)

New album from Post-hardcore Florida band reviewed by
Amber Brett.

"I first heard about Sleeping with Sirens in May after discovering them on YouTube and I loved them instantly. This is their third album and is definitely their best yet. I like the dynamic singer (Kellin Quinn) who can be singing quietly one minute and screaming the next. SwS are usually high energy and upbeat, but *Feel* has more variety than their previous albums. My favourite track is 'These Things I've Done' where Quinn really goes for it. The album as a whole really brings my mood up and I listen to it all the time. I saw them live in October and they were even more intense. I would recommend them to anyone who likes Pierce The Veil or screamo in general." (5/5)



LILY ALLEN 'Somewhere Only We Know' (2013 Universal)

Owen Glasby reviews the new cover version of Keane's damp lament by pop yob Lily Allen which also features in the current John Lewis ad.

"Lily Allen was once declared a 'pop sensation' due to her YouTube hits but she always left a sour taste in my ears. Like many, I celebrated when I heard that another talentless pop act had decided to hang up her mic stand. But alas, good things never last. Lily Allen has returned and the time away has done little to improve her musical ability. I had the displeasure of hearing her new song on TV and it spoiled a perfectly good advert break. I was appalled that a once beautiful song by the talented Keane was allowed to be mutilated by someone trying to sound edgy and street. Sorry Lily, but do us all a favour and retire again." (0/5)

BYTES

MOVIES

Teen Spirit Youth Crew tell us what is hot and what is not in the world of music and movie



NOW YOU SEE ME (2013 Lionsgate/Dir. Leterrier)

A new French-American caper thriller film reviewed by **William Sainsbury**.

"I saw this film advertised on TV and immediately bought it on iTunes. It stars Jesse Eisenberg, Melanie Laurent, Woody Harrelson, Michael Caine and Morgan Freeman. Its about four street magicians who get together as one act in order to join a secret magic society known as The Eye who steal from the rich and give to the needy. Its fast-paced and action-packed but its also psychological and keeps you guessing to the end. The lead actors gelled really well, the story was believable, and the futuristic technology on view was incredible. The film does require some concentration to keep up with all the twists and turns but its worth the effort. I love conspiracy films and would certainly recommend this to anyone who enjoys action, sci-fi, or psychological thrillers such as *Inception* or *Shutter Island*." (5/5)

OBLIVION (2013 Universal/ Dir. Kosinski/12A)

New post-apocalyptic sci-fi based on the comic of the same name, reviewed by **James Jardine**.

"The adverts made this film look really appealing so I started watching. 45 minutes in, I turned it off - I realised it wasn't what I thought at all. The adverts made it look full of action but the film itself was pretty slow to start and the plot was boring. Basically Tom Cruise is a repairman sent out to fix drones in the year 2077 and finds more than he bargained for. In its defence, the sets were believable but on the whole it wasn't a patch on the similar *After Earth* (2013). I wouldn't recommend this film to anyone and I don't think I'll be watching the second half anytime soon." (2/5)

CAN YOU HELP?

The **Young Film Makers Club** and **Teen Spirit** are currently **looking for volunteers** to help out with evening sessions.

If you are between 16 - 25 years old and would like some experience of youth work in a professional environment, please contact Wendy Leach at the CatStrand
wendy@catstrand.com

WHAT'S ON



YOUTH APPROVED @ CATSTRAND

www.catstrand.com

CatStrand Youth Players Christmas Panto
Aladdin

Fri 6th & Sat 7th Dec @ 7.30pm

Sun 8th Dec 2pm £6/£4

Open Stage Christmas

Wed 11th Dec 7.30pm £3

Ghost Story for Christmas

Thu 19th Dec 7.30pm FREE

Please book in advance to ensure a seat

Forgotten Carols: The Feral Choir

Fri 20th Dec 7.30pm, £10/8 Age 6+

Access All Areas

Recording Sessions: Thurs 9th & 23rd Jan

7pm - 9pm

FREE

ELSEWHERE

Toytown Comes to Threave

6th - 8th Dec 10.30am - 4pm £5/£2

Threave Estate

www.nts.org.uk

Christmas in Galloway Forest Park

7th/8th Dec Kिरroughtree Visitor Centre

galloway@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Big Burns Supper

25th - 27th Jan Dumfries [various locations]

www.bigburnssupper.com

Homecoming Burns Night Parade

25th Jan [various locations]

www.visitscotland.com

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GET AROUND!

Mon - Sat Buses

Glenkens to Castle Douglas (520)				Back:			
There:							
Carsphairn	10.35	14.35	-----	Castle Douglas	08.54	12.54	14.44
Dalry	10.50	14.50	18.20	Crossmichael	09.06	13.06	15.00
Balmacellan	10.55	14.55	-----	Parton	09.11	13.11	15.15
New Galloway	11.00	15.00	18.26	New Galloway	09.25	13.25	15.29
Parton	11.12	15.12	18.40	Balmacellan	09.30	13.30	-----
Crossmichael	11.18	15.18	18.45	Dalry	09.37	13.37	15.35
Castle Douglas	11.28	15.28	18.53	Carsphairn	09.52	13.52	15.55

Glenkens to Dumfries (521)					
There:		[Not Sat]	[Wed/Sat]	Back:	
Laurieston	07.15		09.15	Dumfries	13.35
Mossdale	07.25		09.25	Crocketford	13.53
New Galloway	07.38		09.38	Corsock	14.03
Dalry	07.43		09.45	Balmacellan	14.16
Balmacellan	07.52		09.52	Dalry	14.23
Corsock	08.05		10.05	New Galloway	14.30
Crocketford	08.15		10.15	Mossdale	14.40
Dumfries	08.40		10.33	Laurieston	14.50
					17.05
					17.18
					17.28
					17.41
					17.48
					17.55
					18.05
					18.15

GTI BUSES



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

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CAN YOU SPONSOR US?

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 possibilities contact

simon@catstrand.com /
01644 420 374.

Kells Primary's Fantastic Fundraising

Since 1993 Kells Primary has raised a staggering £10,671.80 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

This year P7 Kells pupils raised £1,235.33 for the charity with a coffee morning at the Cross Keys Hotel in New Galloway.

Pupils planned and advertised the coffee morning and served parents

and friends of the school on the day. They also made collection tins for local businesses to collect donations for the charity.

The children invited the charity's fundraising manager, Angela McCormack, to the school recently to receive the cheque.

The school would like to thank the Cross Keys Hotel and all the members of the local community who supported the coffee morning.



Kells pupils handing over the cheque to Angela McCormack.

ALL ABOARD THE BOOK BUS

Pupils at Carsphairn make the most of the mobile library when it stops in the village every third Tuesday morning.

As well as the usual returning and borrowing of books, mobile library man Graeme Cartner welcomed pupil librarians Reuben, Caitlin and Rachel (and the school library cat Dewey!) for a training session on the Dewey classification system.

They learnt how the non-fiction is organised on the shelves and found all sorts of interesting books - well worth a look.

To find out the mobile library rota of times and places in the Glenkens contact 01387 253 820.

Carsphairn Castle Visit

On the last day before the October break, the boys and girls from Carsphairn Primary took a trip to Stirling Castle.

After learning all about the Scottish Wars of Independence, the children were keen to see the location of the Battle of Stirling Bridge.

We had learned about the weapons used to attack castles, such as a battering ram, trebuchet and a siege tower; and were able to have a first hand look at how the castle defended itself.

We learned all about how people living inside the castle would try to survive while the castle was under

siege, and how Stirling Castle itself had changed hands several times. The views from the castle were brilliant and we were able to see the location of the Battle for Stirling Bridge and the Battle of Bannockburn, as well as the Wallace Monument.

All in all, we had an excellent day and the children were able to have a lot of fun while they were learning about the history of Scotland.

We would like to thank Keith Cooper and the Glenkens Transport Initiative for getting us safely to and from Stirling; we think he enjoyed the castle as much as us!

Carsphairn Primary





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Community Transport Initiatives Receive Deserving Recognition

At the recent Community Transport Association (Scotland) conference in Edinburgh, a £1million boost for Community Transport was announced.

This was the result of a parliamentary enquiry and debate into the work done by Community Transport Initiatives across Scotland. This enquiry had received 80 written submissions, including one from the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI), and it had become apparent there was a pressing need to replace old and worn out vehicles. This cash injection will be used for this, and whilst GTI will not qualify for any funding at this time, it was very obvious that the profile

and work done by Community Transport has been heightened considerably.

DRIVER TRAINING:

We are very lucky to have our own qualified Midas Trainer, Jon Nimmo, who recently attended a refresher course in Edinburgh to allow him to continue this training. If you would like to attend one of his courses please contact either Jon or myself on 01644 420 374 or gti@catstrand.com

SPRING PLANNING: As you will know we run very few trips in January, February and March as it's often not a good time of the year to be travelling, but if you have any ideas for trips in 2014 please let me know.



Trip to Peebles; despite some heavy rain the trip was enjoyed by all.

NEW BUS: By the time you read this the new eight-seater mini bus will be available!

Finally, to all our travellers and helpers, thank you for your support during the past year - have a happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

*Best Wishes, Keith Cooper,
GTI Administrator*



**ALEX
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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

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Galloway

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Watson Bird Project

continued from front page...

The purchase of one half of the property has been made possible by a major donation from Viscount Gough who has been a patron and admirer of Donald's work for many years. Andrew Mellor, Chairman of GCAT, paid tribute saying; "without Lord Gough's very generous donation, the project would not have been able to proceed."

Speaking on behalf of the Watson family, Donald's daughter Louise said that seeing her childhood home becoming the focus for activities relating to the study and appreciation of birds was a fitting tribute to the work of her father and brother. "We are also selling part of the property to the Pamela Young Trust which has pleased the family greatly. This separate project will see the provision of two social housing units for local people."



Following the sale of Barone, the development of the capital funding plan and working with the design team under Architect John Murray from Moniaive, will be the next step. Andrew Mellor believes that the creation of the Watson Bird Centre has the potential to bring lasting benefit

to the Glenkens. "If you would like to get involved in any way or would like to make a donation to the project, please contact me, Roger Crofts or Brian Edgar." For further information on the Watson Bird Project visit www.watsonbirds.org

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CARSPHAIRN IN 2013

In the next few issues the Gazette will take a look back over the past year for each of the Glenkens villages and applaud some of the achievements of dynamic individuals and communities.

Carsphairn has blossomed this year, showing its trademark fighting response to what initially looked to be a fairly dire set of events.

The village shop and tearoom sadly had to close, but due to the hard work and determination of Carsphairn Village Shop Ltd (CVSL) a new tenant was found quickly and it has reopened with new, bright livery and loads of fresh ideas.

The Post Office too saw a temporary closure, but is now open every Thursday morning in the Lagwyne Hall. The relocating of the Post Office gave rise to another bright idea; a community craft morning where all those interested in local and traditional crafts come together and work on their various projects; a definite silver lining to what initially seemed a very dark cloud.

For some years the closure of the Greystones pub has been a loss for the village but as reported on the front page, action is now being

taken to bring Greystones into community use.

Business too is booming in this small village, successfully bringing in visitors from far and wide. Carsphairn now has two B&Bs in the heart of the village. Interestingly, Kirkholm and The Knowe B&Bs are housed in former church properties. Kirkholm, with its views of the Crogan and over to Carnavel hill topped by the King's Burial Cairn, is the former Free Church of Scotland kirk. The Knowe,

Carsphairn's glorious hills provided a backdrop for BBC Alba's filming of working-dog trials.

which contains many of the rather beautiful original features of buildings from this age, is the former Free Church of Scotland manse. The B&Bs are run by new-comers to the area who fell in love with both Scotland and the village.

The biggest boon for Carsphairn, though, is that there is now somewhere to stay for the many people who are discovering the delights of this wonderful little village.

area, but it is beginning to gain an excellent reputation further afield. Those interested in family history, and in Carsphairn's place in Scottish history, are becoming visitors to Centre. D&G Family History Centre recently published a booklet of memorial inscriptions in the churchyard as amended by Mrs Jean Gibbon of the Heritage Centre. One of the most visual displays of the value of the centre can be seen in the kirkyard itself; the Jamieson family from Australia contacted the Heritage Centre to discover information about their family. The result was that the memorial to the Jamieson family in Carsphairn's kirkyard was renovated and once again stands as a proud monument to the lives of their ancestors.

Once again the Knockengorroch Community Interest Group (Carsphairn's biggest employer) staged the Knockengorroch World Ceilidh, a great selection of music and entertainment for all. This year 3000 people attended another successful event.

Carsphairn's glorious hills provided a backdrop for BBC Alba's filming of working-dog trials. The blustery winds... blustery winds did spook the competitors a little but the programme will have introduced many more people to the area's wonderful scenery.

All in all 2013 has, despite the various challenges, proved a great year for Carsphairn. The opening of the Core Paths has also brought in many new visitors. Carsphairn's enterprising and dynamic community have again worked hard and made it an even better place to live and work. Here's to 2014!

Sara McNeill



View over the village from the Community Garden.

The Heritage Centre, a fabulous resource of local history and knowledge, has had its busiest year yet. The creative and informative exhibitions have always drawn in those from the local

The Road to the Gallows

In the final hour of 13 January 1862 a horse drawn omnibus made its way along the main street in New Galloway: the only passenger was a young mother with her baby, a boy just over a year old.

The woman, who had been forced to leave her three little daughters with their grandmother in Dalry, was being taken to the police house following her arrest for the brutal murder of her neighbour.

The wife of PC John Robson welcomed the prisoner, despite the charges against her, and made tea. Meanwhile the officer travelled to Kirkcudbright to get instructions from the chief constable. PC Robson was out of his depth, used to dealing with petty crime and debtors, the usual occupants of the small New Galloway gaol. No-one had been charged with murder in the whole of south west Scotland for more than a generation, but by morning rumours of the death of Anne Hannah as she went about her washing on a cold winter morning would be the cause of shock and horror across the region.

Unaware of the storm that lay ahead, Mary Robson sat with 27-year-old Mary Reid, or Timney as she'd been known since her marriage to an Irish labourer a decade before. As the baby slept on her knee, Mary Timney talked about the arguments she'd had with her older neighbour, Anne Hannah, who kept house for her two brothers at Carsphad farm, three miles north of Dalry. In recent weeks the two women had fought over wood-collecting and the theft of turnips from the farm but Mary denied, and would continue to deny, that she had killed Anne Hannah.

But Mary Timney was a young woman with a reputation for being volatile; some claimed that she drank and had been seen with men other than her husband, a man 20 years her senior. When a reporter arrived at Dalry from Dumfries only days later there were many people who were only too happy to

share the gossip and rumours that abounded in the small community. When Anne Hannah had been discovered dying from horrific head injuries on her kitchen floor, her friend had not sought help from Mary, although her house stood only 60 yards away. Instead, Agnes McLellan had turned south to get help from the lodge at Knocknalling. When Anne Hannah died later that day PC Robson went straight to the one room cottage that was the home of the Timneys and arrested Mary, despite her protestations that she was innocent.

No one believed Mary Timney and as the stories of the murder reached the newspapers across Scotland,

...by morning rumours of the death of Anne Hannah as she went about her washing on a cold winter morning would be the cause of shock and horror across the region.

soon everyone had just one opinion of the young woman. She was depicted in black and white as a "savage and implacable monster." Living in poverty, the family had no money for legal advice and after several weeks in Kirkcudbright prison, and after her baby was taken from her, Mary made a wild accusation blaming her own mother for the murder.

The evidence against her, though circumstantial, was seen as damning; a bundle of bloodstained clothes discovered in the rafters of the cottage, and a wooden beetle (a heavy tool used for beating material) found hidden beneath a press. Despite the fact that the key witnesses had been four young girls, including Mary's eldest daughters aged just nine and seven, it took only twenty minutes for the jury to find her guilty of murder; but what shocked people most was the sentence given by the Edinburgh

judge, Lord Deas. Living up to his nickname of 'Lord Death', given to him by his colleagues, he told Mary that she would be hanged. Her desperate pleadings did nothing to change his mind, but they had an effect on the public. In the following weeks many backed a campaign for a reprieve as details of Mary's difficult life became known and she admitted to a struggle with her neighbour that had resulted in Anne's death.

Thousands signed petitions across the region in an attempt to change Mary's sentence to one of imprisonment. Despite backing from several members of parliament, and the victim's own twin brother William, the Home Secretary refused to interfere with the sentence and on 29 April 1862 Mary was hanged on a gallows at Dumfries prison in Buccleuch Street, before a crowd of more than 3,000 onlookers.

Mary's distressing and public death prompted outrage across Scotland. Dumfries MP William Ewart, a life-long abolitionist, made another attempt to change the law on capital punishment with the resulting Royal Commission bringing an end to public executions. Mary Reid or Timney, who spent most of her life living quietly in the remote community of the Glenkens, went down in history as the last woman

Jayne Baldwin has written the first book examining the Glenkens Murder *Mary Timney, The Road to the Gallows*, available priced £7.95 from independent booksellers and online retailers.

Jayne will be doing a talk about the case at the CatStrand on Saturday 7 December at 2pm, hosted by the Carsphairn Heritage Group; please contact the CatStrand for further details and to book on 420 374.

Two poems written in the Glenkens about the Carsphad or Glenkens Murder are available to see at the Carsphairn Heritage Centre, along with a file of information about the case.

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

The Glenkens Rebellion: The Road to Rullion Green



The covenanters had endorsed their rebellion at Dalry by capturing the Governor of the South-West, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Turner, at Dumfries.

They then continued, marching up the Cairn to Glencairn Kirk at Kirkland, and on 16 November 1666 returned to the Old Clachan of Dalry where the whole sad escapade began.

Andrew Symson, episcopalian minister of Kirkinner and author of *A Large Description of Galloway* (1684), cited a witness's manuscript journal. "At night Andrew Gray and Sir James were lodg'd at Mr Chalmers of Waterside's house, being on the other side of the river of Kenn, not far from the Old Clachan". About eleven at night, fearing that the Earl of Annandale and Lord Drumlanrig were approaching, "Gray march'd immediately, though the night was very dark and raining, and the way very bad, eight miles to Carsphairn", where Turner was lodged for one night in a country house which also quartered 16 horsemen and another night at the house of Gordon of Knockgray, who was then a prisoner in Kirkcudbright. The mysterious Gray absconded with Turner's hoard never to be seen again. The question of whether Gray, described in one source as an Edinburgh merchant, was an agent provocateur, has never been satisfactorily answered. What was certain was that the outlook for the rebels was as grim as the wet November weather.

They moved on to Dalmellington as Turner was deaved with promises of his imminent demise and a tedious lecture on the covenant by the radical minister, John Welch. At Ayr they were joined by James

Wallace of Auchans who was appointed commander. Next day, 21 November, a royal proclamation pronounced the insurrection to be an 'open, manifest and horrid rebellion, and high treason'; the rebels faced the ultimate penalty if they failed to submit within 24 hours, much too short a period for the word to travel throughout Galloway where the covenanters were attempting to recruit. At Lanark the force, now numbering around 800, subscribed anew the Solemn League and Covenant of 1643, declaring that they were acting in self defence. The whole world knew that Charles II had sworn to adhere to the covenants and to defend the Church of Scotland but instead had established episcopal government,

... "Gray march'd immediately, though the night was very dark and raining, and the way very bad, eight miles to Carsphairn"...

'in its height of tyranny', with subsequent fines, imprisonment, quarterings of soldiers and abuse of the people.

At Lanark the ragged little army split with the main body heading for Edinburgh while the rest made for Glasgow. Wallace seems to have hoped for some kind of parley with the authorities but Edinburgh was fortified and barred against him and worse, the "Muscovite Beast", Lieutenant-General Tam Dalyell of the Binns was in close pursuit, a man who refused to cut his long beard after the execution of Charles I, 17 years earlier and who, in covenanting mythology, beat the Devil at cards by cheating! In desperation Wallace led his diminishing force – deserters outnumbered recruits – along the edge of the Pentlands to make a stand at Rullion Green near

Penicuik.

The rebels had tried to persuade Turner to adopt the covenant to no avail; he retorted that Turner was not for turning! But he did promise some of the covenanters that if they protected him during the ensuing battle he would ensure their lives were spared, only to later betray his cynical pledge. The outcome was not in doubt. Psalm-singing and the pious utterings of preachers were no defence against government weaponry and an estimated 3,000 troops. The whigs charged and for a time all was confusion as the troops engaged hand to hand. 'They mixed like chessmen in a bag' wrote one witness. The ill-armed peasant army was demolished.

'Whig' originating in Galloway and Ayrshire as a term for a

rural buffoon, and later a Presbyterian or covenanter is thought to have derived from the Old Scots verb, 'whig', to drive horses, 'whiggam' being the cry the driver used.

A contemporary poem stresses its inadequacy. The weapons included halbards, dirks, slings, flails, spears, pikes, spades, plough coulter, scythes, arrowless bows and rusting guns.

*The cleverest men stood in the van,
The Whigs they took to their heels and ran,
But such a raking ne'er was seen,
As the raking o the Rullion Green*

To be concluded...

Ted Cowan

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DECEMBER & JANUARY

DECEMBER

Mon 2, Bus Trip – Hetland Hall Garden Centre and Moffat

Wed 4, Heidi Talbot & Friends, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thurs 5, New Galloway Golf Club AGM, 7.30pm, the

clubhouse, see p6

Fri 6, Sat 7 (7.30pm) & Sun 8 (2pm), CatStrand Youth Players Pantomime: Aladdin by John Morley, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 7, Bus Trip – Glasgow

Sat 7, Mary Timney Talk by Jayne Baldwin, 2pm, CatStrand, see p20

Stage Christmas, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 11, Open Stage Christmas, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 20, Forgotten Carol's: The Feral Choir, 7.30pm, CatStrand

JANUARY

Mon 13, Glenkens Community Centre Open Meeting, 7.30pm, Community Centre, Dalry at 7:30pm, see p2

Fri 17, Film: Sunshine on Leith, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 31, CatStrand Burns Supper, 7pm, CatStrand

Wed 11, Xmas Coffee Morning, 10.30am-12noon, New Galloway Town Hall, see p7

Wed 11, Open

CARSPHAIRN SHEEPDOG TRIALS

Sheepdog trials filmed in Carsphairn will be shown on BBC Alba each week until Tuesday 4 March.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The weekend of Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 April 2014 will host a variety of events celebrating the life and works of SR Crockett.

Contact the CatStrand (420 374) and the Ken Bridge Hotel (420 211) for further info, and look out in the next issue of the Gazette for more details.



Fri. 6th & Sat. 7th Dec.

at 7.30pm

Sun. 8th Dec. at 2.00pm

Adults £6 Children £4

[Booked 2 weeks in advance at CatStrand](#)

Contact CatStrand for tickets

01644 420374

CARSPHAIRN BURNS SUPPER

Friday 17th January
7.30 for 8pm

"Immortal Memory" to be proposed by Mr Ted Cowan

To reserve tickets (£10) phone Jean Gibbon on 01644 460 244

(please note change to a Friday)

GTI WEDNESDAY BUS SERVICE

(registered route)

Outward Journey:

19:00 Dept. Dalry (Underhill)
19:05 New Galloway
19:15 Mossdale
19:25 Laurieston
19:30 Townhead of Greenlaw
19:37 Castle Douglas (Market St)
19:40 Castle Douglas (Tesco)

Return journey:

20:35 Dept. Castle Douglas (Tesco)
20:37 Castle Douglas (Market St)
20:47 Townhead of Greenlaw
21:50 Laurieston
21:00 Mossdale
21:10 New Galloway
21:15 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

Ukelele Group, Mon, 11.15am, 60+

Ukelele Improvers, Mon, 1pm, 60+

Free Computer Training;

Beginners & Improvers, Mon (starting 4 Nov), 1.30pm

Margaret Morris Movement Adult

Dance Class, Mon, 2.30-3.30pm, contact Sara on 01556 612854

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

Let's Cook, Tues, 10am

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

Let's Cook, Tues, 10am

Teen Spirit: Tues during term time, 7-8:30pm (P7-S3) and 8-9:30pm (S3+)

Gentle Tai Chi, Wed, 10am, 60+

Sing it Out: Thurs, 11.30am - 12.30pm

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

Knit & Blether Club, last Fri each month, 2pm, 60+

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

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

GCC Playgroup, Tue & Thurs, 9.20-11.50am, contact keronh@me.com

Good Neighbours' Club: Tues, 2pm

Kickback Martial Arts: 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

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, Ringford Village Hall, runs Wed 11 Sept till end Mar

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

Carsphairn Post Office & Craft Morning, Thurs, 9.30-11.30am, Lagwyne Hall

Hard of Hearing Group Drop-in, 2nd Thurs each month, 11am-12noon, Castle Douglas Town Hall

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

To hire the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) behind Dalry School call Sonja Tranter on 430 244 or Nicolette Wise on 430 218.

Dalry Library

Tue: 2-4.30pm & 5.30-7.30pm

Fri: 11.15am-1:15pm & 2-4.30pm.

There are 23 mobile library stops - to find out where and when please phone 430 234.

Glenkens Community Councils

Balmaclellan Community Council Meetings: 3rd 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, 2nd (Jan), 3rd, 4th. Kells: 10.30am: 2nd (Jan), 3rd, 4th

Special Services/Events:

8 Dec, 10.30am: United Family Service, Dalry Church

8 Dec, 6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight in Kells Church, with Glenkens Church Choir

21 Dec, 5pm: Carsphairn Church Community Christmas Service and Children's Party

24 Dec, 11.30pm: Watchnight Service, Carsphairn Church

25 Dec, 10.30am: Christmas Day Family Service, Balmaclellan Church

29 Dec, 10.30am: United Service with Choir, 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

20 is the Limit

The villages of the Glenkens could be transformed by this simple measure, enabling safer walking and cycling.

The council has drawn up a list of priorities to limit the speed of motor traffic in some of our communities (see p24 of Broadcast magazine, recently distributed to all D&G households and available online). 20mph zones will be considered in locations where 'need and support' can be demonstrated by the community (with a minimum of five residents showing support).

Reducing the large number of short journeys by car and replacing them with journeys on bikes or walking can improve our

fitness and health. Cycling can also improve our communities by reducing congestion, improving air quality and reducing the amount of carbon we produce.

The Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (2013) from Transport Scotland included key points on extending and improving cycling infrastructure, together with more 20mph areas and greater support for vulnerable road users (which includes the children of the Glenkens).

Cycling means different things to different people. For a child, it may be a fun activity to do with friends, for an adult it may be a cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to get to work.

At the National Access Forum recently, Professor R Mitchell, of Glasgow University's Institute of



Health & Wellbeing, pointed to evidence on the restorative effect of being out of doors in natural surroundings, with rates of healing increased and stress and fatigue reduced.

Next year a National Walking Strategy will be published with January 2014 seeing consultation with stakeholders, and at a recent Planning, Housing and Environment committee confirmation of a £158,000 grant from Transport Scotland for Cycling, Walking & Safer Streets projects was accepted by D&G Council.

Can we in the Glenkens do some of this?

June Hay

CHRISTMAS TREES & Venison For Sale

Norman trees - no needle drop

- Open House Sale -

**Saturday 14 December
between 10am and 4pm
or by appointment**

*Free delivery within
the Glenkens area.*

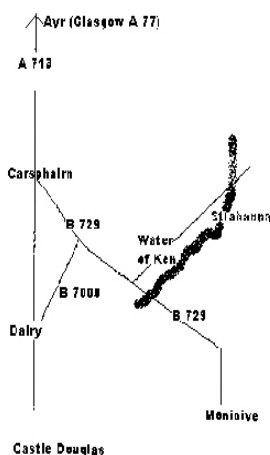
**We also have venison
bags ready to go...**

*We are situated off
the B729 between
Moniaive and
Carsphairn.*

**Strahanna Farm,
Water o' Ken**

Tel: 01644 460 660

Email: strahannastalking@gmail.com



LOCAL GRANTS AVAILABLE

**The deadline for applications
for Glenkens Community Shop
grants is Saturday 14 December.**

*The volunteers at the Glenkens
Community Shop wish all our
customers and donors a merry
Christmas and a happy New Year
- thank you!*

The association's objectives are:

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

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

Both organisations and individuals can apply for a grant.

**Application forms are available from
Glenkens Community Shop, 34 Main St,
Dalry and should be addressed for the
attention of Shirley McNaught.**

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

FEB/MAR COPY DEADLINE: MON 6 JAN



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