

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

February/March 2014

ISSUE 80

FREE

WET AND WILD IN THE GLENKENS

Monday 30 December 2013 saw flood levels in the Dee catchment area at their highest since records began in 1977, with over 2" of rainfall within 12 hours in parts of the Galloway hills.

Communities in the Glenkens were heavily hit all round with extreme wind, power cuts and severe flooding.

Across the area trees were blown onto power lines, causing power-cuts which for some lasted days. And just when things seemed to have settled down a bit, the rain came on. Homes, businesses, venues, farms and many roads were affected, with some properties under two feet of water. Worst affected by the water were Carsphairn and New Galloway, with the main road in Carsphairn becoming impassable and in New Galloway the road from the Ken Bridge to Quarry



This photo, taken by Jayne Grimwood, shows the extent of the flooding; it is looking over the main road by the Grennan, towards the Ken Bridge which you can see in the middle left of the picture.

Corner was more river than road with portions of the tarmac being swept away. More than eight properties in Carsphairn were flooded while New Galloway's CatStrand was also badly affected. The flooding has been the worst for many years - it was reported that the last time you could take a boat down the main road in

Carsphairn was 60 years ago, and if anyone had been inclined this time they could have had a good run!

Brian Edgar, New Galloway resident and general manager at the CatStrand, said: "It's the worst flooding I've seen in my lifetime (53 years), and everyone I've met says it's the worst that they have ever seen."

Glenkens Guides Win Top Award



1st Glenkens Guides enjoy a celebratory cake made by Kimberley who is working towards her Confectioner's Badge.

Two local Girl Guides have won Guiding's highest award.

Patrol Leaders Kimberley McAdam and Ellen Bielinski of the 1st Glenkens Guide Unit have achieved prestigious Baden-Powell Challenge badges after months of planning and hard work.

Kimberly and Ellen had to select and complete ten challenges covering a balance of five life skills - healthy lifestyles, global awareness, discovery, skills and relationships, and celebrating diversity. Ellen says her favourite challenge was helping at Brownie Meetings to fulfil a community service challenge.

Story continued on p8...

Support for Community Centre

The move towards transferring the Glenkens Community Centre from Dumfries & Galloway Council to community ownership continues apace.

At a very well-attended Open Meeting in January, those present showed unanimous support for keeping the Centre open. In

particular, strong enthusiasm was shown for creating a Trust or similar organisation that would own the community centre but could also be extended if requested to the other public buildings in Dalry such as the town hall, the library and of course the red phone box.

Helen Keron, Chair of the Community Centre, said: "We were delighted both with the high turn-out and the very positive feedback that the management

committee received for the work done so far and for their plans for the future. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed so constructively."

The next steps are to obtain a structural survey of the building, refine the business case for the running of the centre and to create the Trust that will form the backbone of the new structure. As ever, any and all offers of help are gratefully accepted.

Helen Keron

Glenkens Business Association (GBA)

The GBA has been taking a sabbatical over the last year! If you are a new business or organisation and would like to be included in the next issue of The Glenkens Directory just contact Alan Rumble (420 250) or Ros Hill (420 632)

Hard of Hearing Group

Hi Sarah,

Many thanks for getting our piece in the Gazette last issue - on the back of this, I have already met one potential volunteer!

I will keep you updated once I have recruited volunteers with a start date for a Glenkens drop-in.

*Thanks again,
Julie Turner*

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.

"I should like to mention Wright's shop, Dalry for the friendly welcome and helpfulness of lindsay and her staff." A Dalry Resident

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

Cllr Finlay Carson

Castle Douglas & Glenkens

for an appointment

Tel: 07825 633 185

or email:

finlay@finlaycarson.co.uk

www.finlaycarson.co.uk

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Constructive discussions are now being held with Dumfries & Galloway Council to work out how the community can take over management or ownership of the Town Hall. If you would like to be involved in this or have any ideas for using it or for other initiatives for New Galloway please contact Ros Hill on 420 632 or at ros.hill@rathanhouse.me.uk

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**Creative
STATION**

Photo of the Issue: 'Wild Weather'

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is David Bartholomew with *Bridge to Nowhere*.

The shot of the suspension bridge in Dalry really shows how high the water was. There were some other great photographs illustrating the level of flooding around the Glenkens so we thought we'd include some others too.

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



Photos, clockwise, are David Bartholomew's picture of the suspension bridge in Dalry, Ben Ade's shot of the road from New Galloway to the Ken Bridge, Nigel Martin's photo of the A713 in Carsphairn, Paul Goodwin's picture the Ken Bridge and a shot of mopping up at the CatStrand.

Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by natural power



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

If you would like to list something on this page, please get in touch with Sarah on 07727 127 997 or email glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk. **Please remember that people list their items in good faith that they will go to an appreciative home - items are not to be collected simply to sell on.**

Various

Ladies bicycle, 21 gears, quite old but good condition. Contact: 460 516

Upright piano. Contact: Sarah on 430 417

Two garden seats needing a new home and some TLC. Phone 460640

Child/Baby

1 large oval trampoline - excellent quality when new (bought in 2000). It no longer has a safety net.

Contact: Bryher on 430 039

1 baby newborn car seat. Contact: Bryher on 430 039

1 car booster seat. Contact: Bryher on 430 039

A selection of toy babies, clothes and equipment. Contact: Bryher on 430 039

Electrical

8 downlighters 50 watts. Contact: Ann on 420 445

Dell computer monitor, 15inch screen. Contact: Ann on 420 445

Dell keyboard. Contact: Ann on 420 445

Dell speakers. Contact: Ann on 420 445

Logitech QuickCam S7500 with box, software & manual (for Skype). Contact: Ann on 420 445

Panasonic Colour TV, 16.5" x 11.5"

CRT screen. Black with black stand.

Not HD but can be used with video tapes and DVDs. Contact: 420 632

Maxim 14" tv and built in dvd player with technica freeview box. Contact: 450 685

HP laser printer 5P. Contact: Ken on 460 516

Remington electric foot spa. Contact: Fiona on 07789 903127

Pifco electric facial sauna. Contact: Fiona on 07789 903127

Samsung 800w microwave. Looks good as new and works perfectly but a bit grotty inside.

Contact: Bryher on 07769 680938

FOR SALE

'Breyer' red jeep and horsebox set. They are large (traditional size) and Bronnen has decided to sell them! These cost £50 each new! Selling for £30 each/£50 for both. Contact Bryher on 430 039

Lovely old style Pram (new in 1996), with suspension, complete with hood, waterproof cover, cosy, nearly new wheels. £25 ono. Contact: Bryher on 430 039

Karate outfit - Blitz Sports white cotton, size child's 0/130. £7.50. Contact: Bryher on 430 039

Karate outfit - Blitz Sports red silky style top with black trousers size 2/150. £12. Contact: Bryher

on 430 039

Hamster cage, Rotastak - large cage with lots of accessories, levels etc.

(used for 1 hamster only, now clean and ready for new resident). £25 (bought for £40+). Contact: Bryher on 430 039

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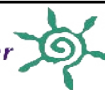
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Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power



PROS AND CONS OF WOOD AS A FUEL

Every fuel has its own pros and cons, and wood fuel is no different.

I use wood fuel, but I also sell it in its many different forms, so I get feedback from hundreds of customers which I will précis to help you choose the best fuel for your household.

Environmental Considerations

I know most of you will skip this and I fully understand why. I also have had enough of being preached at by the global warming lobby. Like the majority of you I just want to stay warm at the lowest possible monetary cost. However, if you want to factor in environmental issues, the beauty of wood fuel is that it is carbon dioxide neutral, in that it absorbs as much carbon dioxide during its growing life as it emits whilst burning to keep us warm. It is also fully renewable over a relatively short 40 to 100 year growing cycle. If the wood you are burning is a waste product or comes from FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certificated woodland, so much the better. So wood gets a big tick in the environmental box.

Wildlife Issues

In my opinion this is not quite so clear-cut. The proliferation of wood stove installations over the last decade looks set to continue into the foreseeable future. Lots of wood stoves require lots of wood and most folk want to burn only hardwood, which comes from our deciduous trees like oak, ash, beech, sycamore, elm and so on. Many of these tree species, like ash and oak provide highly valuable wildlife habitat whilst growing, and all provide invaluable habitat whilst they decay after death.

The forestry lobby want us to bring 'under managed' woodlands into management to help meet this market for wood

fuel. There is no doubt that good management of our woodlands for timber production is highly beneficial, but there is a danger that this will lead to naturally fallen timber being taken to feed this market for wood instead of being left on the woodland floor as a highly valuable habitat for a myriad of flora and fauna.

Of course, the wood has to come from somewhere, so where is best?

- FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) is an independent, non-governmental, not for profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. Try to make sure your timber started its journey to

Whereas you might put two or three logs on the fire at one time, you will only need one good quality briquette, any more and you risk creating a furnace!

your fireplace from one of these sustainably managed woodlands.

- Arboricultural Waste is wood generated as a result of woodland management professionals pruning or removing trees that have, for instance, grown to the stage where they are a potential danger to the general public using roads, footpaths, gardens and other public places. This is a very common source of logs and they are usually cheap because the arboriculturalist has already been paid for taking the timber down and can afford to sell cheap to clear it away. The problem is that it is rarely dry enough to burn right away.

What Form is Best?

- Traditional Logs are most people's first choice. They are readily available and if you are able to purchase 'late winter felled timber' (when the sap is down and newly felled timber

is relatively dry), and store undercover over summer ready for use the following winter, then traditional logs are also the most economic option.

- Manufactured Briquettes are the new kids on the block. These modern, high performance briquettes are consistent in size, moisture content and performance. They are clean and easy to handle, stack and store. Being less than half the moisture content and of greater density than traditional logs they generate more heat, more consistently and over a longer period, and are generally made from timber waste from manufacturing processes.

Whereas you might put two or three logs on the fire at one time, you will only need one good quality briquette, any more and you risk creating a furnace! Quality is the only proviso. There are plenty of inferior quality, poorly compacted, cheap briquettes out there. They give briquettes a bad name.

Price?

This you might find difficult to believe, but facts are facts. Most people pay about £60 for a builders 'dumpy' or 'tote' bag of logs. Many log sellers describe this as approximately 1 cubic metre. Measure it (height x width x depth) and you will find most tote bags contain between 600 and 700 litres, not 1,000 litres. If those logs are dried down to 20% moisture content (ready to burn without creating tar in your chimney) then the average 'builders bag' will weigh approx. 200kg. That means you require five bags to equal one tonne. 5 x £60 = £300. Good quality briquettes cost between £250 and £350 per tonne. No wonder there is a massive movement by enlightened folk to burning briquettes instead of logs.

Rowland Parke
Wood Fuel Co-operative

Originating in the United States in the 1980's, the concept behind Neighbourhood Watch was simple; working together can help to improve your community.

Currently, Dumfries and Galloway already has a significant number of active Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Whilst many schemes are long-established, there are new schemes being established all the time. Some areas of Scotland - Fife and Grampian, for example - have formed Regional Associations to provide focus and support for local schemes and to share good practice.

Following discussions by a group of Dalry residents and the Stewartry Crime Reduction Officer, it has been decided to look at the re-instatement of a Neighbourhood Watch group in Dalry, open for all present and

future residents to join.

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is designed to bring local people and organisations together to address community safety and security issues. It is not just about local crime or anti-social activity but helps tackle issues of cyber-crime, internet fraud and unsolicited cold callers or visitors.

Some of the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch include:

- Local issues can be shared and addressed.
- Support and practical advice given to those affected by identified issues.
- Residents work together to make their community better.
- Opportunity to bring the residents and the other community organisations of Dalry together.



**Neighbourhood
Watch** SCOTLAND

- Being a member may qualify you for a discount on your home insurance (speak to your insurance provider)

The first meeting of the proposed Dalry Neighbourhood Watch, to which all residents are invited to attend, will take place on Monday 17 February in Dalry Town Hall at 7pm. Anyone who lives in the village and is interested in finding out more is urged to come along to discuss the need for and the benefits of having a Neighbourhood Watch group for Dalry.

For more information about Neighbourhood Watch in Scotland, please visit www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

CELEBRATING SR CROCKETT

Here's a date for your diaries: the weekend of Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 April 2014 will be a variety of events celebrating the life and works of S R Crockett.

The weekend starts on Saturday 5 April with the CatStrand hosting *A celebration and commemoration of the life and work of Samuel Rutherford Crockett*. The work of Galloway's best known and best-loved storyteller, on the 100th anniversary of his death, will be remembered through speakers such as Margaret Elphinstone, Alison Burgess, Douglas Gifford and Ted

Cowan. Tickets are £10 per person, and are available from the CatStrand on 01644 420 374.

On Saturday evening at 7.30pm at the Ken Bridge Hotel there will also be an *S R Crockett Celebratory Dinner*; an evening of excellent food, poetry and song. A three-course meal will be served and period costume is optional. Advance booking and payment is essential - tickets are £25 per person, and are available from the Ken Bridge Hotel on 01644 420 211.

And to round-up the weekend, a tour of Crockett sites in the Glenkens is planned for Sunday 6 April; look out for further information about these events.

Ted Cowan




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CatStrand Highlights

February and March are set to bring in 2014 in style at the CatStrand with a world-class selection of music, film and theatre.

The MOO Man documentary by A Heathcote and H Bachelier tells the story of a dairy farmer and his attempt to save his family farm. Described as heartwarming, a tear-jerker of a movie about the incredible bonds between man, animal and countryside, it is definitely one to see.

Thinking of something to do for Valentine's Day? How about treating your other-half to an evening of fiesta romance! Enjoy a pre-event supper with a Mexican wist as

Rapido Mariachi serenade you at your table. After that there is a full mariachi concert in the auditorium led by the stunning vocals of Venezuelan Carmen Moore. Tickets are available with or without the meal.

Other very special musical offerings are from the Dave Donohoe Band on Friday 21 February, and the James Brothers on Saturday 22 February; these local acts are not to be missed. And the musical highlight of the spring season is sure to be the talents of duo Kris Drever (Lau) and Eamon Coyne (Salsa Celtica, Treacherous Orchestra).

Don't miss the CatStrand Youth Players as they present their SCDA Festival plays on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 March. This year they will present *Sing When You're Winning* by Mark Rees and *Bar & Ger* by



Drever & Coyne

Geraldine Aron. Fingers crossed for another prize this year!

If you attended Rob Heron & the Tea Pad Orchestra last April you will remember what a foot-stomping show it was. This talented bunch return to the CatStrand on Saturday 15 March as part of their UK tour of their new album. Come along and enjoy - you won't be disappointed.

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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A Soggy Draw



The draw must go on: Fire fighters came to the CatStrand's rescue during flooding at their final event of 2013. Unfortunately the Feral Choir concert had to be abandoned as the CatStrand was bailed out, but they are due to make a return in 2014. The CatStrand Christmas hamper still had to be won so Fire Fighter Lee Cawthorne did the honours; well done to the winner, CatStrand volunteer Marie Davie!

Guides Receive Award

Continued from front page...

Kimberly's favourite challenge had been taking up a new interest - horse riding - and pursuing it over a length of time.

The two fourteen-year-olds also had to attend the Baden Powell Adventure weekend in Edinburgh. Kimberley says she enjoyed making new friends among many other Guides from around Scotland and working in small groups to explore Edinburgh and complete challenges.

Both girls undertook fundraising to help with the cost of their adventure, and involved their Patrols in some parts of their

challenges. This included planning all aspects of a patrol outing to Edinburgh Zoo. Mrs Barbara Murray, the Girl Guide County Commissioner,

...both girls gained their awards because of their willingness to take on a challenge, their ability to plan their own activities, and their determination to be reliable and to do their best at all times.

congratulated the girls and presented them with their Baden-Powell Challenge badges at a ceremony in December. Their unit leaders say both girls gained their awards because of

their willingness to take on a challenge, their ability to plan their own activities, and their determination to be reliable and to do their best at all times. Although many of the challenges can be built into the Patrol programme, quite a lot

has to be done outwith Guide time which requires more willpower and determination.

The 1st Glenkens Guide Unit meets on Wednesdays in Glenkens Community Centre and would welcome new members. Guides are aged 10 to 14 years old.

Contact Mrs Peace on 01644 430281 for more information, or go on-line to GGUK to register your interest and someone will then contact you.

TIME FLIES FOR RETIREMENT PROJECT

As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun as the Big Lottery funded Connecting in Retirement project has completes its first year.

Numerous activities, events and regular groups have taken place or continue to thrive. The Ukulele groups - there are now two, beginners and improvers - are thriving and to date and a few of the group members have now performed in public at both the Christmas Shopping Day and the December Tea Dance.

There are now two sessions of Tai Chi taking place weekly, Tuesday for improvers and Wednesday for a more gentle form and those folks who may suffer from a long term condition. Getting really good feedback on how this has been having a positive effect on peoples' health and wellbeing.

We are now looking to start a new yoga class so keep an eye open for news on that in the next few weeks.

As mentioned a number of afternoon Tea Dances have taken place which have been well-attended and supported. We are looking to start a regular dance

group where you can learn or improve your ballroom skills; watch this space. Also Adult Dance/Movement sessions take place every Monday afternoon. This is based on the Margaret Morris Movement theme.

Another *Lets Cook* session took place, again well supported. There is another session booked, starting in March to take place in Dalry Community Centre. Some of the original group members were involved in the making of a film called *Age is but a Number* check the CatStrand website to view (www.catstrand.com).

A *Knit & Blether* group meets every two weeks on a Friday afternoon and a potography course took place, run by local photographer Phil McMenemy, with an exhibition of pictures taken by participants planned for February/ March. We are looking to start a digital photography group with the aim of having regular trips out and guest speakers.

Also planned for 2014 are

a *Shared Memories* group who will discuss and write about memories of the past, *Heartstart* course training which teaches you what to do in a life threatening emergency, *Beginners* and *Improvers Computing* courses, an *Art Workshop* for bcginners run by local artist Pam Grace, and an *Over 60's Benefit Reform and Entitlements* seminar.

By popular demand a second *Start to Write* course run by local author Margaret Elphinstone is scheduled for early February.

If you are interested in any of the above activities or events or have other ideas in mind Brian would love to hear from you - call into the CatStrand for a cuppa and a chat with him or get in touch on 420 374 or brian@catstrand.com



Phil McMenemy photography group participants

Enterprising Pupils Raise Funds

Three enterprising young pupils from Kells Primary School have been raising money for the Philippines Typhoon Appeal.

Bronnen Pears, Jasmin Adam and Rory Newbery worked together and without any adult support to raise the astonishing sum of £229.85. They placed collection jars in local shops and also recently completed a sponsored bike ride. The children would like to say a big thank you to everyone from the Glenkens who sponsored them.



Christmas at Dalry

On Friday 6 December Dalry School held their annual Coffee Morning. Stalls included, baking, bric-a-brac, tombola, holly bunches and lots of games.

A total of £513.98 was raised and the school would like to say thank you to everyone that helped make the day a success.

On Wednesday 10 December Dalry School held their concert. Performances included P6/7 singing the opening songs *Christmas Samba* and *This is what Christmas mean to me*. P1-5 then performed

the Christmas show *Tinsel and Tea- Towels*. This was a story about the school being inspected the week of the School Nativity play and the teachers and children getting organised for the big event. The second half of the evening was filled with a variety of performances from the Secondary music classes. The whole school then returned to the stage for the Christmas finale, a medley of traditional Christmas songs.



Primary Children performing *Tinsel and Tea Towels*

A BREATHE OF FRESH AIR

Dalry School has a new outdoor shelter/classroom in the playing field which will be used both by pupils during break times and also during class times as a 'breakout' space and outdoor classroom.

The structure has been designed, built and erected by Sandy Harvie, School Technician, and was made possible due to funds raised by Friends of Dalry School (FoDS) over the past few years at various events and activities.

Pupils are already using this shelter at breaks and "loving it" and teaching staff are "very impressed with the design and workmanship and are really looking forward to using it".

The aims of Friends of Dalry school are to raise funds towards school funds to assist with new equipment and resources, school transport costs for trips and visits out with the school, and to provide fun activities for pupils. Their next fundraising event is a Table Top Sale in the Glenkens Community Centre on Sunday 26 January from 12noon to 3pm. For more information on FoDS get in touch on friends of dalry school@icloud.com or like their facebook page to stay informed of future events.

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CATSTRAND YOUTH PLAYERS PANTOMIME

Aladdin by John Morley, the third annual Youth Players pantomime played to three full houses at the CatStrand on 6th, 7th and 8th December.

All of the audiences seemed to thoroughly enjoy the traditional story brought to life on stage by Aladdin, Widow Twankey, Wishee Washee, Abanazar and a host of other colourful characters.

The principal characters were in safe hands with some of the 'veteran' youth players taking the main roles, Lowena Lindsay ably anchored the whole show in the title role of Aladdin and of course ended up living 'happily ever after' with the Princess, beautifully played by Maia Smyth. Abanazar, villainously portrayed by Eleanor Jones, thought that he should marry the Princess too of course but with the aid of the mischievous Genie of the Lamp (Freddie Grimwood), Aladdin won in the end. The comedy characters kept the laughter going throughout with accomplished performances from Zoe Kirkpatrick as Widow Twankey, Jordan Pears as Wishee Washee and Mathew Godridge and Eilidh Thomson as the Emperor and Empress of China.



The supporting roles were played by Eilidh Stalker, Rory Newbery, Hannah Grieve, Emma Olley, Lucy Olley, Laura Edington, Georgiana Grimwood, Toby Wise, Florrie Newbery, Lauren McKinna and Anna Hodson.

The pantomime was directed by Brian Edgar and Nancy Plummer with music & sound by Simon Davidson and set design by Lauren Glasgow, Jimmy McKenna and Keith Birkhead.

Another hugely successful production with everyone already looking forward to the next panto which is scheduled for 5th, 6th and 7th December.

However, the next productions for the Youth Players will be for the SCDA Drama Festival at the end of February. This year the entries are 'Bar and Ger' by Geraldine Aron, a challenging

two-hander telling the story of a brother and sister as they grow up and 'Sing When You Are Winning' by Mark Rees, a humorous musical story of the trials and tribulations of a girls football team. The plays will be performed in the festival at The Fullarton in Castle Douglas on Wednesday 26th February and Saturday 1st March respectively. Then both plays will be staged again at the CatStrand on 6th and 7th March at 7.30pm.

The Youth Players are hoping to follow on the success of last year when they won the Stewartry Festival and then narrowly missed out on a place at the Scottish Finals when they came a very close second at the Western Finals in Glasgow with their production of 'LittleBro Morning and BigSis Afternoon' by Mike Tibbetts.

Kells School Musical Cafe

Kells PTA held a Muscial Cafe afternoon recently which raised £517 towards school funds.

The pupils performed a few songs to entertain the parents as they enjoyed a cup of tea and some home baking. The Parents and friends also had the the opportunity to participate in some competitions plus purchase some homebaking. The PTA would like to thank all those who attended the event.



YOUTH BANTER

Spring is Coming!

Spring is just around the corner and the stormiest winter in decades is nearly behind us. Phew! To help you over the winter blues, the CatStrand is hosting plenty of exciting new activities for young people to get involved in, including film making workshops, CatStrand TV, nature photography workshops, as well as our Access All Areas music project. Interested? Read on!

CatStrand TV has first broadcast



CatStrand Television

On 19th December, The Catstrand Young Film Makers Club had a pilot airing of their first **Cat-Strand TV** broadcast at the Ghost Story for Xmas night.

The 16-minute segment consisted of three festive sketches including the **Glenkens News**, pop music show **Top of the Hits**, and the shadow puppet cartoon **Gunther the Christmas Dragon**. Written, acted, and filmed entirely by members of the club, aged 8 - 17, the showing went down brilliantly with the crowd. Simon Davidson who runs the club said "we hope this will be the first of many CatStrand TV broadcasts. We are currently looking for ideas that we can turn into short films or sketches and we are open to ANY suggestions, so if anyone has an interesting story they'd like to share, they should come and get involved."



For those who missed the first CatStrand TV broadcast, there will be another chance to see it, and the much-lauded *The Haunting of Kenmure Woods*, in early February. Keep an eye on the new CatStrand website for details: <http://www.catstrand.com>

Useful Info

To get involved with **The CatStrand Young Film Makers Club**, contact simon@catstrand.com
The Club meet on Monday nights 7pm - 9pm @ The Cat-Strand.



More studio trips planned for Access All Areas students

Young people from the Glenkens will have another opportunity to take part in studio sessions at **Chem19 Studios** in Glasgow as part of the ongoing **Access All Areas project**. The previous trips back in October were so popular that a further two trips are being planned for April 2014. Studio manager **Emma Pollock** of **Chemikal Underground Records** said "it was great to give these young people an opportunity to record their own music in a professional studio. It can be a daunting place so having a positive experience early on is important." If you're interested in getting involved with the project, contact simon@catstrand.com



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Background image
by Josie Oliver

GCAT (Glenkens Community & Arts Trust)
YOUTH:TEAM

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



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. **Guitars are provided** and you can choose from acoustic, electric, or bass. **No experience necessary** and it's **FREE!**

Wednesdays during term time @ The CatStrand 7 - 8pm
Sign up now by contacting: simon@catstrand.com



YOUTH

TUNES

UPDATE The CatStrand's **Rebecca Goldsmith** is already causing quite a stir in the music world. Her beautiful version of 'I Vow To Thee My Country' which was used in the advert for the BBC series *The Village* last summer, became a favourite of BBC presenter Clare Balding who selected it as one of her **Desert Island Discs**. Rebecca also had a track she wrote used in the soundtrack to the acclaimed French film *Blue Is The Warmest Colour* [2013]. The film won the coveted Palme d'Or at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival and has been nominated for a BAFTA. Her new album is due to be released soon. For updates visit: <http://www.beckgoldsmith.co.uk> or follow Beck Goldsmith on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.



ONES TO WATCH IN 2014



Liam Brook, drummer of Castle Douglas band **Cloud Nine**, gives Youth Banter his top six Up and Coming bands and acts to watch out for in 2014. Looks like it is going to be a good year for music!

1. YOUNG KATO

6-piece indie pop band from Cheltenham, their new single "Break Out" (BMG) has been hailed by the likes of Zane Lowe. For fans of Two Door Cinema Club, Foals, Bastille.

2. ROYAL BLOOD

2-piece noise rock band from Brighton, they have already been championed by BBC Introducing and BBC Sound of 2014. For fans of The White Stripes and Queens of the Stone Age.

3. SAMPHA

London soul-singer who has already racked up some major collaborations with the likes of Drake and SBTRKT. For fans of Tracy Chapman and Michael Jackson.

4. LUKE SITAL-SINGH

25-year old Londoner, singer-songwriter Singh has been lauded by Lauren Laverne as "unbelievably good". For fans of Villagers and Kodaline

5. SAM SMITH

24-year old singer from Cambridge best known for his collaborations with Disclosure and Naughty Boy. Just won the BBC's Sound of 2014.

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BYTES

Hot News from the worlds of
film and music

MOVIES



GLASGOW YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL 2014

Glasgow Youth Film Festival 2014 kicks off on 2nd February and if you find yourself at a loose during the month you might want to take advantage of some of the fantastic films on offer. All age groups are catered for from certification **U** up to **15**. Highlights include **We Are The Best** (15) about three 13-year old anarchists living in Sweden who form a punk band and **Stand Clear of the Closing Doors** (12) which is about a 13-year old who runs away and lives in the New York subway. Meanwhile **The Dirties** (15) is about a pair of film geeks who are bullied at school and decide to make their own Tarantino-esque style revenge movie which spirals out of control. For younger viewers, the brilliant **Mr Peabody and Sherman 3D** (U) is an animated film about a super-smart talking dog who travels back in time with his friend Sherman to experience world-changing events first-hand. The GYFF also has a host of masterclasses and workshops on offer from stand-up comedy writing with **Robert Florence**, a movie poster design class, documentary making skills with **David Street**, a zombie make-up workshop, and even a game jam with all the latest new games. The CatStrand will be running trips up to the festival throughout February as part of the CatStrand Young Film Makers Club so contact simon@catstrand.com if you'd like to come along.



We Are The Best (Mon 3rd Feb)



The Dirties (Sat 8th Feb)

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

The James Brothers

Folk & bluegrass from New Zealand & Australia
Sat 22nd Feb @ 7.30pm £10/8

CatStrand Youth Players Festival Plays 2014

Thu 6th & Fri 7th March 7.30pm £5/3

Rob Heron & The Tea Pad Orchestra

6-piece Americana band from Newcastle
Sat 15th March 7.30pm £10/8

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug

Sequel to The Hobbit movie [12A]

Thu 27th March 7.30pm, £5/4 Age 12+

Access All Areas

Recording & Rehearsal Sessions:

Thurs 6th & Thurs 20th Feb

Thurs 6th & Thurs 20th March

7pm - 9pm FREE

ELSEWHERE

Glasgow Youth Film Festival

2nd - 28th Feb

Various Locations

www.glasgowfilm.org/festival

Maryleborne String Quintet

13th Feb St John's Church, Dumfries

<http://marylebonewindquintet.com/>

Mid Term [Bat] Mischief @ Threave

19th Feb 2pm - 3.30pm Threave Bat Reserve

<http://www.nts.org.uk/newsletter/bats10.php>

Tinkerbell: The Pirate Fairy

15th March, The Fullarton, Castle Douglas

<http://www.thefullarton.co.uk/events>

GCAT (Glenkens Community & Arts Trust)

YOUTH:TEAM

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Contact: simon@catstrand.com

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

GTI BUSES



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

Glasgow Ayr Gig BMX trail

Cinema Skatepark Shopping

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

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

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.

Laurieston in 2013

2013 has been a great year for Laurieston. This year the village has been both celebrating and securing its past for future generations, as well as embracing its present with a variety of community events.

The Memorial to one of Laurieston's most famous sons, Samuel Rutherford Crockett, has been tidied up and given a new face lift. SR Crockett (1859-1914) was a novelist and poet, and probably most well-known for his work, *The Raiders*, published in 1894, a novel still considered a 'must-read' for those living in or visiting Galloway. Crockett was a contemporary of both Robert Louis Stevenson and JM Barrie,

the latter of whom often stayed with

him at his home when he served as minister for the Free Church of Scotland in Penicuik, near Edinburgh. The writer, whose works are full of both elements of Scottish history and of his native Galloway, was born at Little Duchrae, Balmaghie, Laurieston; the son of a Galloway farmer. On the weekend of 6 April, a series of Crockett-related events is planned - see p6 of this issue of the Gazette for details of this. A year of austerity hasn't held back this little community with their village hall being a venue for many events. Events included;

Laurieston is not the last in raising funds for those in need either with the 2013 annual Duck Race, being held on the river 8888 and marshalled by Des Hadnet; it raised both smiles and funds.

One shouldn't forget the annual

Laurieston Flower show either which is gaining a reputation, and saw the amount of entries significantly up.

Local businesses are seeing more and more visitors and holiday makers discovering the delights and scenery of Laurieston. Spring Fling and other exhibitions this year by artists and photographers such as Phil McMenemy have brought many to the area. Phil's exhibition at *The Gallery* has seen visitors from as far as way as Edinburgh and the north of England making a point of pulling off the well-trodden routes and venturing further afield. The Earth's Crust bakery originally set up in 2011 by Tom & Pavlina van Rooyen has seen another successful year. Tom has seen his baking courses and involvement in the *Flavour Fortnight* take off with a lot of courses fully subscribed. 2013 has been another great and positive year for this little Glenkens' community. Laurieston hopes that more of both, their

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for regular surgery, constituency
and parliamentary updates**

HAPPY NEW BUS

The Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) has another busy year to look forward to with a probable extension of the Rural Transport Solutions Project and the Stewartry Sports Council recommending GTI to their members as an alternative transport provider.

In addition the new smaller minibus now available for use and gives another option for transport to people in the Glenkens.

It has already been used for two GTI trips when there was not enough demand for the larger vehicle – once to Glasgow before Xmas and then to Ayr on Thursday 2 January and it is anticipated it will be a great asset to the community. The amount charged for fuel for the minibuses

has been amended to take into account the different sizes with the smaller vehicle (eight seats) being charged at 40p per mile and the larger vehicle (16 seats) at 50p per mile.

We have received a number of suggestions for trips during the coming year including the Falkirk Wheel, Loch Lomond and Deny Museum, Dumbarton, Dumfries House, Strathclyde Park for the Commonwealth Games Triathlon, Antique and Collectors Fairs in Ayr and a Farmers' Market in Dumfries – the more suggestions we get the better. Two trips that are already arranged are to Dobbies Garden Centre in Ayr on Saturday 22 March and to Wigtown during the Easter school holidays on Wednesday 9 April for a brief talk by the Countryside Ranger and a visit to the nearby Nature Reserve.

Tickets for trips will once again



be available approx. Four weeks prior to each trip and must be paid for when booking – unfortunately no refunds will be made unless the trip is cancelled by GTI.

Eye-catching posters are being printed giving details of trips and new leaflets for distribution at local shows designed, but the best publicity is word of mouth – please remember to tell new neighbours or your visitors to the area about GTI and what we offer, as more passengers are always welcome.

Keith Cooper
GTI Administrator

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Galloway

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Call us on 01671 402420

NEW GROWTH FOR NATURAL POWER

A team of 30 staff from international renewable energy consultancy Natural Power's Dalry and Stirling offices hung up their razors in November to raise awareness of men's health, raising £1,800 for charity in the process.

Movember is an annual campaign which encourages men (dubbed Mo Bros) to grow moustaches and encourage their surrounding communities to support them. The campaign aims to fund men's health programmes; the Movember campaign's long-term vision is to have a lasting impact on awareness of prostate cancer, mental health and other men's health issues.

Natural Power's team of Mo Bros, supported by many of their Mo Sista colleagues, started the month of November fresh-faced and all ended the month with some very

interesting upper lip topiary.

Ted Leeming, Managing Director of Natural Power, commented: "I am delighted that so many of Natural Power's staff took on the Movember challenge. Not only have the team raised an incredible sum for a fantastic cause, they also showed great team work – something I am very proud of within our company. A special thank you goes to Natural Power's IT Assistant, James Wilson, who organised the team and provided vital weekly encouragement to all involved."

Natural Power would like to thank all of those who supported the team in their efforts to raise such a great amount of money for Movember.

Natural Power is a leading independent renewable energy consultancy and products provider with its headquarters, The Green House, situated at Dalry's Forrest Estate.

The company offer consultancy, management and due diligence services across the onshore wind, offshore wind, wave, tidal, biomass, pv and hydro sectors. Established in the mid 1990s Natural Power has been at the heart of many groundbreaking projects and products for more than two decades, and has expanded internationally to employ over 270 renewable energy experts across Europe and North America.



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What's Happened in Dalry in 2013

2013 saw more and more visitors homing in on this attractive and energetic community.

Enterprises set up to showcase the best of Dalry's assets have succeeded in engaging those within the community and drawing in guests from further afield.

The Watson Bird Festival held four ticketed events last year using a variety of venues in Dalry as well as New Galloway's CatSrand. The programme of events was well-received with high numbers attending each event. The ultimate triumph for the project was the purchase of Donald Watson's former home. Roger Crofts, Director of the project, said: "I am delighted with the progress being made at achieving our ambitions for Watson Birds."

Another successful local enterprise serving the community is the Dalry Farmers' Market. The market, held on the 2nd

Saturday of each month, has grown attracting vendors from both Castle Douglas and Dalbeattie as well as Glenken producers. They now have a well-known butcher, baker, and grocer at the market, and the range of products available also include smoked fish and cheeses, fresh vegetables, jams, jellies, chutneys, and a variety of arts and crafts. Jean Lockerbie of the Dalry Town Hall Committee

Such enterprises not only succeed as an attraction, but they also bring revenue in to the community.

said: "The Farmers' Market has proved very popular and has a following of people that buy enthusiastically. It has also managed to draw in a range of visitors to the village." Such enterprises not only succeed as an attraction, but they also bring revenue in to the community. The younger children of the

Glenkens have had something to shout about too.

The Glenkens Children Club (GCC), aimed at children from birth to three-years-old, celebrated its first anniversary in July 2013.

The unique facilities that are offered have proved very popular and are bringing in children from all round the Glenkens, and as far afield as Castle Douglas. The Club is held in the Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry and focuses around three rooms. The first room provides a carpeted play area for babies

and toddlers, whilst the second provides an activity room with sand pit, water-play, mini-library, arts & crafts, wendy house and much more. The third room is a large hall given over to physical activities with bicycles and a climbing frame. For older children of two to four years, August 2013 saw the start of the GCC Playgroup. At this age family members and carers do not have to stay with the children, and the facility is run by Lucy and Gemma. Helen Keron, GCC chair, said: "It was a great year for both the Children's Club and the Playgroup. The Club has gone from strength to strength and it has been great to see the

Playgroup take off, with both the children and their families enjoying the facilities provided." The now bi-annual Clachan Fair always proves a big draw, with a range of activities for young and old.

Two local businesses saw big changes this year: The village shop, previously *Newton's*, is under new ownership and is now *Wright's Shop*; Lindsay Forbes, nee Wright, is originally from Dalry and has taken on the shop as a family business. The *Clachan Inn* is under new management; Laura Burnie, originally from Parton, and her partner Phil Papworth took on the pub at the end of October.

Watch this space for 2014. ***If you have anything you would like to add about something that has happened over 2013 in Dalry, or any of the Glenkens communities, please get in touch.***



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The new series of the BBC Alba's programme, *Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach*, featuring the Carsphairn Dog Trials, was aired on Monday 7 January.

Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach is a successful series that showcases Sheep Dog Trials and competitions. The programme begins each series by filming 2 or 3 Open Sheep Dog Trials across Scotland, and follows some of the competitors up through the ranks to the National Sheep Dog Trials, where 150 dogs compete for the title of Scottish Champion. It is out of these competitors that 15 dogs are chosen to represent Scotland in the International Sheep Dog Trials held annually between England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

The programme featured well-known competitors in the Dog Trial world and was won by Peter Hetherington and his dog, Pete. Many of the competitors had connections with Carsphairn including the competition judge, David Armstrong, who worked as a shepherd at Lamford and Brown Hill.

The episode included footage of the Carsphairn show, the Heritage Centre and the village. It included interviews with



Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach presenters

Secretary of the Carsphairn Show, Jean Gibbon, and Chair of the Heritage Centre, Anna Campbell. Many well-known faces from Carsphairn and the Glenkens can be seen. The Wallace family of Fingland were singled out for a special feature by the programme, focusing on their families' famous dog, Loos, who damed 4 Supreme International champions. The filming of the Carsphairn Sheep Dog Trials was brought to the attention of BBC ALBA by the International Sheep Dog Trials Society. Life-long member of the Society and local Carsphairn shepherd, David McMillan, met with the programme makers to show them the venue. Davy said, "It was a very misty day when they drove down to view the location and learn about the show and the village. I told them

about the history of Carsphairn, and the show, and explained that it was one of the oldest agricultural shows in Scotland. Just as the meeting was about to end the mist lifted, and the hills came into view. I think that it was the stunning scenery that sold it to them in the end". Carsphairn school teacher, Walker McKenna, told the Gazette: "It was great to show off our little community and have it show-cased to a wider audience."

2014 is a very special year as Scotland hosts the World Sheep Dog Trials in Tain, Ross'shire, and 2015 will see the International Sheep Dog Trials brought to Dumfries & Galloway, and held at Mickleholm Farm, Parkgate.

Sara McNeill

Dalry Community Council Update

Dalry Community Council has been working with Dumfries & Galloway Council to develop its Winter Resilience Plan, so it can help Dalry residents to be better prepared for whatever the winter weather throws at us.

Last year's March snow and recent high winds, heavy rain and flooding this year highlight how quickly changing weather patterns can

cause difficulties for people.

Thanks to a donation from the Glenkens Community Shop, Dalry Community Council is now in a position to make its first purchases of equipment for handing out in an emergency to Dalry residents.

This includes hot water bottles, battery-powered lanterns and hot drink/soup thermos flasks.

The Community Council plans to expand its emergency stock pile as additional funding is obtained.

In addition, snow clearing equipment has been requested from Dumfries and Galloway Council to help improve our ability to deal with heavy snow fall.

Thanks are due to Community Councillor Jim Reid for his hard work on this project.

The Community Council would appreciate hearing from any Dalry residents who are experiencing weather related problems, so we can gather information about flooding hot spots, blocked drains, sewers etc. so it can be passed onto Dumfries and Galloway Council for attention. In the first instance e-mail Jim Reid at: jamescreid666@gmail.com, or letters to 52 Main Street, Dalry, DG7 3UW.

*Andi Holmes, Chair,
Dalry Community Council*

NEW GALLOWAY GOLF CLUB

2014 is off to a good start for New Galloway Golf Club despite the wet weather.

The Annual General Meeting of the Golf Club took place in December when the following officials were elected for the 2014 season: Captain - Jeff Sutcliffe, Vice Captain - Ian Brown, Treasurer - Iain McQueen, Secretary - Ian Brown, Match Secretary - Jeff Sutcliffe, Webmaster - Wave Tyrrell, Committee - Dick Tulloch, Terry Haine, Elena Rogers, Tony Graham, Dave Nielsen, Neville White, David Aitken, Ladies Representative - Gerry MacKechnie. The Club for a number of years now has suffered from the lack of visitor numbers which have declined over the past four or five years. The decrease has meant that the Club has not met its budget. The Committee therefore

has made the decision to increase subscriptions in order for the Club to continue for the foreseeable future. More members, particularly young members and ladies, are also needed as the current membership are getting older. The Club offers the chance of playing on a superb nine-hole course with fantastic views of the Glenkens and Loch Ken. Whether you just want to come and play socially or like the competitive aspect, the Club is for you. You don't have to play 18 holes as the course offers the chance of 9, 15 or 18 holes so it can be fitted around the time you have to spare. Please contact the secretary for more information or membership. The first competition of 2014 was played on New Years Day - the Ne'er Day Trophy.

This competition had not been played for many years due to the weather; however this year, although very wet, the competition was played and the winner was Dave Nielsen. Sunday 30 March sees the start of the season with the annual Captain v Vice Captain competition followed by refreshments in the Clubhouse.

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



THE SCHULE AT BALMACLELLAN

This poem was contributed by Bill Blyth. It was written in a local Galloway dialect which is fast dying out. Written around 1850-1860 by someone who immigrated to America.

The Schule at Balmaclellan
Twa score o' years hae past awa
Syn a at first a hae mine
When tae the schule as boys we gaed
Nae days like thae syn syne.
For whiles our hans were blue wi cauld
Our heids were fu o spellin
As up the braes and roon the turns
We gaed to Balmaclellan.
O'er Greenhead heicht doon bye
Troquain
And on bae Scroggieha
Frae every cot and fermtoon
Cam bairnies big and sma.
Barmorrow, Bogleknowe, Toonhead
and oot frae every dwellin
Wae slates & books & glossy looks
A gan tae Balmaclellan.
And doon bye Babby Bairdo, they cam
Frae Ewanston & Barlay

Lochside & Corse & Barnwaas
As far as Cassenvey
Frae Killochy & Mavisgrove, their
Numbers ever swelling,
Up by the Towe, Gateside, Knocklae,
and into Balmaclellan.
Fae far off moorland Corriedoo
Drumanister, Knockman
Wae whangs o cheese & soda scones
Tin flasks & billy cans
Thae sonsie lads and lassies braw
The cauld bleek winds dispelling
A tae the "swat of learning" cam
At Bonnie Balmaclellan.
The schule hummed like a hive o' bees
We grammar, coonts, dictation
But this we never heard oorsels
We made sae mush moration
The maister wad put in his gaf
The taws did some compelling
For some had little in their paws
That gaed tae Balmaclellan.
And when at history and dates
They'd glower & fidge & claw
Their bubbly nose wipe on their cuff
They couldna dae it ava
A whistle frae the maister's luif
His glare disaster spellin
And yet the best of scholars cam
Frae the schule at Balmaclellan.
Some had buits & other clogs
And when were barefoot too
ome were snod & weel put on

Wi open manly broo.
Noo far & wide o'er sea & tide
They're found a hame tae dwell
Tho lost to sight, tae memory dear,
Ever is Balmaclellan.
Roon "Faimey's panshon" escapade
Wae Billy, Dod and Tot
And Toper, Piefer, Vulcan Queen
But Dickie crooned the lot
The Aqua Vitae still runs doon
The primrose sweetly smellin
But gone is mony a weel kent face
Far, far frae Balmaclellan.

attributed to 'Whinnie'

Aqua Vitae = name of the burn
which runs through Balmaclellan;
Vulcan = Blacksmith. McQueen
was the blacksmith at this time.

**If anyone knows where Babby
Bairdo is, please get in touch
and let us know.**

Footnote by Bill Blyth, Blowplain:
"I walked to school in Balmaclellan
with other children in 1940. With my
gas mask slung over my shoulder
and carrying a piece bag as there
were no school dinners in those
days. Walking to school taught us
self-reliance and resilience. A school
car was put on later in the year
driven by Mrs Watret of Midpark who
drove very conscientiously for many
years.

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

The Glenkens Rebellion: Aftermath

Estimates of the numbers killed at the battle of Rullion Green differ widely.

It was claimed that only four or five died on the government side while fifty of the rebels perished. Some suggested that 100 covenanters were slaughtered on the field, including some forty of 'the westland men', while 300 were dispatched as they fled by the peasantry of Lothian. Upwards of 130 were captured and imprisoned in Edinburgh. The victorious General Tam Dalyell preached a gospel of extermination; all rebel supporters were to be removed or destroyed. Scotland's Royal Commissioner, the Duke of Rothes, opined that those 'damd incorrigible phanaticks' whom he characterized as 'nyaffs', must be suppressed and he set off on a progress to pacify 'those parts where the frenzy first took its rise', namely the Glenkens and Galloway.

It is always difficult to ascertain exactly what happened in history but this period is particularly difficult because covenanting apologists, understandably, took a completely biased and one-sided view of their heroes while supporters of the Crown exaggerated enemy atrocities and motivations. We cannot always be sure that the 'martyrdoms' depicted by Robert Wodrow in his History of the Sufferings actually happened because we often lack corroborative evidence. He argued that the covenanters were not guilty of treason because they acted in self-defence, which is rather a stretch, while government officials were none too picky about their victims, often accusing people who were nowhere near Dalry or Rullion Green. What cannot be doubted was the vindictive punishment inflicted on these 'poor naked country lads who had never seen war' and their families, following

the battle. Many of those who escaped execution were hounded for the rest of their lives.

An example was to be made of two rebellious participants: Hew McKail a 26-year-old minister from Edinburgh who suffered from tuberculosis and who pulled out of the march before the battle to be subsequently arrested by Dalyell, and Neilson of Corsock who had promised protection to the captive Turner, who, in turn, attempted unsuccessfully to intercede on his behalf. Both were brutally tortured, their legs shattered by the vicious 'boot', an iron contraption into which the leg was inserted, followed by the hammering in of as many wedges as were required to produce a result. Both went bravely to their deaths. Alexander

Many of those who escaped execution were hounded for the rest of their lives.

Robertson, minister of Urr, was also executed. Remarkably Maclellan of Barscobe eluded capture until 1682 when Claverhouse allegedly planned to have him hung drawn and quartered, a fate he averted by rejecting the covenant. A year later he was murdered as a traitor to the cause by fellow-covenanter Robert Grierson of Mylnemark. Among those sentenced to death at Ayr on Christmas Eve 1666 were John Graham, James Smith and John Short of Old Clachan of Dalry, and, from Carphairn, Alexander MacCulloch and John McCoull. In 1667 the quartering of troops led to further atrocities at the properties of Gordon of Holm of Dalry and Gordon of Earlstoun. Specifically named in commissions were the Cannons of Barnchalloch and Barley, Gordon of Garrery in Kells, Henry Grier in Balmaclellan, Gordon younger of Holm and Dempster of Corriedoo. Even after the Duke of Lauderdale introduced an indemnity the persecution continued.

In 1668 the authorities still sought

sixteen people in Dalry, among them, unusually, two women, Margaret Tod and Bessie Gordon. The wanted list included Robert Gaa, smith in Clachan, and one each of McCall, Chapman, McMichael, Douglas, McAdam, Girvan, McCutcheon and McNaught. Listing such things may appear boring but many of the personal and place-names of those sought have survived, a circumstance which, I would argue, brings those folk of the past, and the terrible fears they must have faced, much closer to us. Thus wanted in Dalry were: (original spelling retained) Crichtoun in Knoksting and in Fingland, Ferguson in Trostan, McCall in Craigincore, Roan in Stroanpatrick, Neilson in Clachan, and Gordon and MacMillan there, MacMillan in Ardindarroch, McQuhannel in Kirkland of Dalry, Miller in Auchinshinloch and Cannon in Blackmark. In Kells were Bennoch in Strangfastnet, McLeive in Barskelloch, McCall in Airy, McAdam in Newtown and for others there. Balmaclellan parish: Milliken in Fell, Gordon in Crogo, Dempster in Hill, Kersan in Killochy, Raine in Cubboks. In Carsphairn, Cannon in Formartoun, McMitchell in Knokinrioch, McMillans in Stronggashell, Kiltarsan and Bredinloch, McIlnay in Polundow, Logan in Locheid, Crauford in Drumjoan, Cunningham in Longfoord, McAdam in Waterheid and Hannay there, McAdam in Bow, McMillan younger in Brokloch, Ferguson in Woodhead, Cubbison in Mosse, McAdam in Knokgray, MacMillan in Bank, Smith at Bridge of Deuch, Wylie in Smeiton, Malcolm in Netherholm and McColm in Netherglen. What happened to them all we cannot know but the names of these folk who, for refusing to attend church and resisting subsequent fines, were treated like terrorists, should be cherished in the annals of Glenkens and of Scotland.

Ted Cowan



DECEMBER & JANUARY

FEBRUARY

Fri 7, Film: The MOO Man, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 12, 7.30pm

Fri 14, Valentines Day with Rapido Mariachi, 7pm, CatStrand

Mon 17, 1st Dalry Neighbourhood Watch

meeting, see p6

Fri 21, The Dave Donohoe Band, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 22, The James Brothers, 7.30pm, CatStrand

MARCH

Sat 1, Kris Drever & Eamon Coyne, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 6 & Fri 7, Youth Players: Festival Plays 2014, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 15, Rob Herron and the Tea Pad Orchestra, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 22, GTI Bus Trip to Dobbies Garden

Centre in Ayr, see p16 on Saturday 22 March

Thurs 27, The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 29, The Secret Life of Suitcases by Lewis Hetherington and Ailie Cohen, 3pm, CatStrand

Sun 30, Golf Club Annual Captain v Vice Captain Competition, see p20

APRIL

Sat 5, SR Crockett event, CatStrand & Ken Bridge Hotel, see p6

Sun 6, Tour of SR Crockett sites, see p6

Wed 9, GTI Bus Trip to Wigtown, see p16

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Friends of Dalry School Race Night

Saturday 8th March
Dalry Town Hall

doors open 7pm, 1st Race 7.30pm

Adults only. Bar, hot snacks & raffle. All welcome - £2.50 admission.

Tickets available in advance:
email friendsofdalryschool@icloud.com or call 07500 554751 All proceeds towards new video and IT equipment for Dalry School.

THE STEWARTRY VETERINARY CENTRE

CASTLE DOUGLAS SURGERY HOURS
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Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

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(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, Thurs, 9.30-11.30am, Lagwyne Hall

Coffee & Craft Morning, Thurs, 9.30-12noon, Lagwyne Hall

Hard of Hearing Group Drop-in, 2nd Thurs each month, 10am-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., 5th (Mar), Carsphairn: 10.30am: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Dalry: 12noon: 1st, 3rd, 4th. Dalry 10.30am 2nd (Mar), Kells: 10.30am: 2nd (Feb), 3rd, 4th

Special Services/Events: 9 Feb, 10.30am, United Family Service for Dalry, Balmaclellan & Kells Churches in Kells Church. 28 Feb, 7pm, Beetle Drive, Dalry Town Hall, 4 March, 12noon, Guild Soup & Sweet Lunch, New Galloway Town Hall, 7 Mar, 7pm, World Day of Prayer Service, Dalry Church, 9 Mar, 10.30am, United Family Service for Dalry, Balmaclellan & Kells Churches in Dalry

Church, 14 Mar, 5.30pm, Church Ceilidh, Dalry Town Hall, 30 Mar, 10.30am, United Service with Choir, Balmaclellan Church

Communion Services: 23 Feb, 10.30am, Kells Church, 16 Mar, 10.15am, Carsphairn Church, 16 Mar, 12noon, 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

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- NHS 24: 08454 24 24 24
- D&G Council: 030 33 33 3000

End of an Era

Balmaclellan Smithy closed at the end of 2013 after over a hundred years of family service to local farmers and the community as a whole.

Thomas Corrie took over as blacksmith at the beginning of the twentieth century, and his grandson, also Thomas, has carried the business through to the present day. In this time,



the role of the smith and the smithy has had to adapt to changing demands. To move on from the traditional forge work and the shoeing of horses, the smithy operations were transferred to a new site a short distance down the road, using the former village inn premises. This provided more space and allowed the introduction of new equipment for the maintenance of farm machinery and a wider range of engineering work. An office and petrol station were built across the road.

Now the relentless evolution of management of farming operations and associated equipment has eroded the business to the extent that it can no longer continue, and Tom Corrie has reluctantly decided



to lay down his tools, bringing to an end three generations of family achievement. The contribution of the smithy to the life of the village and the locality will be greatly missed.

Photos: Top - Thomas Corrie (left) and Louis Smith, Tom's assistant in recent years, at the doorway of the Smithy prior to final closure. Bottom - Tom's father, Joe Corrie, whom many will remember, at the entrance to the old smithy. On the wall is a poster advertising the Glenkens Mounted Sports of 1947.

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