

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

April/May 2014

ISSUE 81

FREE

DALRY'S LAST SUB-POSTMISTRESS RETIRES



Dalry sub-postmistress Florance Ruddock will be selling her last book of stamps on Wednesday 30 April.

The Post Office will then move down the street to Wright's Shop where the new local Post Office will operate with Lyndsay Forbes at the helm.

Florance moved to the Glenkens and became Dalry's sub-postmistress in 1997 after a few years in the same role at Annbank in Ayrshire. "We used to bring the caravan to Castle Douglas when the boys were small so we knew and liked the area," says Florance. Although retiring, she and husband Andrew

have no plans to leave Dalry other than a visit to their son in Oklahoma. "We need to make a few renovations so that we can move downstairs and have a proper front door but other than that I am looking forward to putting my feet up and enjoying all the things in the village that I couldn't do in the past while I was working."

The Post Office has seen many changes over the last 20 years with the introduction of plenty of new rules and regulations. The advent of the internet and mobile phones has contributed to a decline in the number of letters and cards sent but conversely an increase in the postage of parcels and packages.

Continued on p9...

Marathon for Local Postie

Local postman Ian Oliver and his wife Fiona are taking on the Edinburgh Marathon on Sunday 25 May.

This is their first marathon event and training round the Glenkens, whilst beautiful, is also very hard work! "Weather conditions have not been great for training purposes," says Ian, "but I feel relatively confident that if we make it through the 16-week training schedule running around the Glenkens, the 26.2 miles in Edinburgh is definitely achievable."

Ian and Fiona have decided to run for the charity Together For Short Lives. "We are incredibly fortunate to have four healthy

children. We wanted to run for a charity that supports those children who have tragically been diagnosed with a terminal or life threatening illness, and which also crucially supports their families. Together For Short Lives works to ensure that these children and their families throughout the UK get the best possible care and support whenever and wherever they need it."

If you would like to support Ian and Fiona and help them to raise as much money as possible for this charity please visit their web donation



page at www.justgiving.com/Fiona-Ian. Sponsor forms/donation boxes will also be available at local businesses in the Glenkens. **Continued on p15...**

Watson Bird Festival 2014

Have you the skills required to organise this year's Watson Bird

Festival?

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) is looking for someone to fill the post of part-time organiser for the festival which is scheduled for 20/21 September. Anyone interested should write to GCAT's general manager Brian Edgar at CatStrand, New Galloway, describing their skills and qualifications.

It is going to be hard to match the quality of events that were included in last year's programme but the Watson Birds team is determined to make this happen. Now that fund-raising has begun for the conversion of Barone (the Watson family's former home

in Dalry) into a study centre and home for the Watson Collection of archives and paintings, the annual festival is more important than ever. Events will be held to interest serious bird enthusiasts, as well as local people with more general interests who are interested in the life and work of one of the Glenkens' best known inhabitants.

Brian Edgar or Watson Birds project director Roger Crofts would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be able to help with ideas for events, offers of practical help or donations of money or items of ornithological interest.

Please support the 2014 Watson Bird Festival in any way that you can and thereby help to make the opening of the Watson Bird Centre in Dalry come several wing beats closer.

Andrew Mellor,
chairman, GCAT



Renowned wildlife photographer, Laurie Campbell, giving tips to GCAT Director, Will Adam, at his workshop which was part of last year's Watson Bird festival.

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.

"Hi Sarah, Just read the latest issue and excellent as usual. We enjoy keeping up with the area news and were sorry to see the flooding. Dalry will always have a

place in our memories; quite a magical place in some ways. All the best." Matthew & Gill,

formerly of Newton's Shop
"We'd just like to thank the CatStrand volunteers for the welcome they gave us on our visit in February. We were delighted to be warmly greeted and were seated in the cafe where your helpful volunteers served us fantastic tea and coffee, with J20 for the children. "We all also had scones, which were described by our daughter

as 'the best she'd ever tasted'. Without your community facility we would have left New Galloway with a feeling of disappointment that nothing was open on a Saturday afternoon. Instead I am sipping some fine malt whisky from one of your CatStrand nosing glasses, having just been reading a book we bought in your shop!" The Sayer Family

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



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Photo of the Issue: 'Spring is in the Air'

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is Mary McIlvenna with *Clatteringshaws*.

Mary wins a lovely meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel Sunday Carvery. Dave and Sue, competition judges and owners of the Ken Bridge, said: "They are all spectacular and show the region off at its finest, but the composition of rocks and water at Clatteringshaws we felt was a wonderful mix of vibrant colours and great scenery."

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



GLENKENS COMMUNITY SHOP

The Glenkens Community Shop has been running now for two years and has gone from strength to strength.

Over the Christmas holidays the shop had a face-lift and it is currently awaiting brand new signage to complete its new look.

The shop sells a multitude of items from tableware to towels, bicycles to baby clothes - it's a great place to pick up a bargain. And the shop has become a vibrant community hub with a hardworking core of local volunteers and many regular shoppers.

And the shop benefits the community in another way too - profits from the sale of items go towards providing grants for local people, groups and organisations and the shop has

helped many local applicants.

The owners of the shop building have offered to sell the shop to the community for a very reasonable price which is an opportunity not to be missed - please see the ad below for further information about this and how you can help.

If you would like to volunteer at the shop, please do drop in and speak to one of the volunteers at the desk as they are always in need of more hands on deck.

Community Shop Purchase

Dear Customers,

The Glenkens Community Shop has been given the opportunity to buy the building in which it is situated for a very reasonable price. Once bought, the building will be held in trust to protect this little asset for the community.

The Community Shop, which has become a real community hub over the two years it has been open, uses the funds it raises to support local people, groups and organisations through providing grants.

But in order to buy the shop we need your help...

Any ideas you may have for funding the purchase, or donations towards the cost, will be gratefully received - please drop into the shop between 10am and 3pm and ask for Shirley.

Many thanks,
Shirley McNaught



Shirley McNaught (centre) with volunteers Libby Richie (right) and Elizabeth Peacock (left)

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

Two interior doors, 73 mm width, painted white, good condition.

Contact: Gerry on 420 852

HP laser printer 5P, complete with cartridge. Contact: 460 516.

Outdoor Rotary Airer, complete with ground spike. Contact: 460 516.

Greenhouse glass, was a 13'x8' greenhouse, dismantled, part of greenhouse there too if you want it.

Contact: 420 379

Electric cooker, Tiara Tricity Bendix.

Contact: 430 667

Small Flymo electric strimmer

Small Bosch electric strimmer

Black & Decker electric hedgecutter

1960/1970s roof rack for car with gutters

4 wooden stacking chairs

4 Ercol wooden dining chairs

Small electric mower

Child's white plastic chair

Box of small fire bricks.

For above items contact: Cynthia on 420 605 - PLEASE NOTE that these are not available until 21 April.

WANTED

Set of 12 stair rods with clips.

Contact: Sue on 07563 718 011

Men in Hats

Men in Hats – a group of three men and a woman who play drums, electric guitar and two keyboards – put on a show in Dalry on 22 February.

Band members live near Ecclefechan, though all except the drummer originally came up from

England, and they perform classic pop music from the 50's to the present day.

The group tour all over the south of Scotland and northern England. Due to the range of time from which the music came, there was something for everyone. However, unfortunately, the first half was extremely loud, spoiling the enjoyment for some of the audience, but they turned it down at the interval and people seemed to be really enjoying themselves!

Mrs Maggie Phillips

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WILD SPRING FESTIVAL

The Dumfries & Galloway Wild Spring Festival will welcome 39 species returning to their Spring homes, one of the biggest wildlife homecomings in Scotland.

Wildlife experts are hoping for a record number of birds, insects, mammals and fish species to return to their Spring home in Dumfries & Galloway this year. And to celebrate Homecoming Scotland 2014, the region's Wild Spring Festival (taking place from 5 April to 5 May) is offering over 100 family-friendly events where participants could discover some of these species. Many of the events are free and most hosted by local wildlife guides and experts.

Peter Norman, biodiversity officer at Dumfries & Galloway Council, said: "Dumfries & Galloway is teeming with wildlife all year round, but Spring offers the unique

awe-inspiring opportunity to see the return of a huge number of migrating wildlife species – some rare. This year we expect that the local osprey population will continue to grow and, after good breeding season weather last summer, fingers are crossed for an increase in numbers of local nightjars."

Wilma Finlay, chair of Destination Dumfries & Galloway, said: "What better way to celebrate Homecoming Scotland 2014 than to come to the home of so many migrating species during the

spring. The Wild Spring Festival's events will bring people close to a wide array of mammals, birds, fish and other fauna."

Festival events take place across Dumfries & Galloway and the recently designated Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere, which recognises the outstanding natural environment and the way in which the local community works to conserve it.

Events where you might see some of the homecoming species are:

- Mull of Galloway Guided Walk. Join the RSPB Ranger to explore Scotland's most southerly tip – spring is a great time to spot seabirds on the cliffs and if you're lucky perhaps a porpoise or basking shark. (Numerous dates throughout the festival)

- Guides in the Hides at the Caerlaverock Wetland Centre. An expert will be in the newly opened two-storey Sir Peter Scott Observatory and around the hides and towers every day between 11am and 3pm to point out the different birds on the reserve.

- Wild Wednesday at the RSPB Mersehead Reserve. Take part in fun activities looking at the wildlife around the reserve. Looking for the smallest animal to the nosiest bird and discovering how

you can help the wildlife in your garden. (9 April)

- Fish Up Close at Torhouse Trout Farm, Wigtown. This will be a tour of Torhouse Trout, a

"Dumfries & Galloway is teeming with wildlife all year round, but Spring offers the unique awe-inspiring opportunity to see the return of a huge number of migrating wildlife species..."

fully operational rainbow trout farm. (11 April)

- Mocha and Moths at Mersehead. Not all moths are brown, dull and boring – view some recent finds as they are released and find out more about the various species found in the area, with a morning coffee to enjoy. (17 April & 1 May)

- April Moths at the Eskrigg Reserve. Help expert Jim Rae identify any moths caught the previous night. This event is very much weather dependent. (24 April)

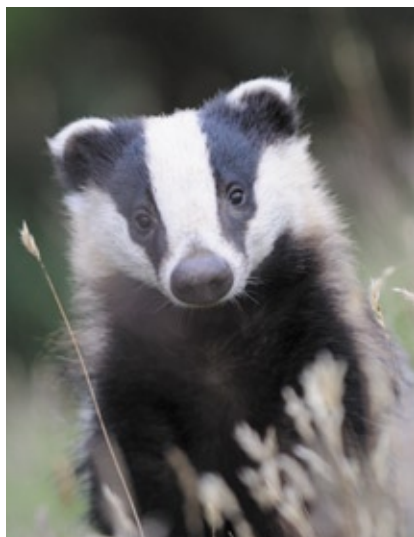
- Good Friday Walk at the RSPB Crook of Baldoon Reserve. Catch the tide with the Warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn how the RSPB is 'Giving Nature A Home'. Bring binoculars and walking boots. (18 April)

****Booking is essential for some of the events.**

Some Spring Homecoming species to be sighted in the Glenkens are: Hen Harrier and Peregrine, Lapwing, Common Sandpiper, Curlew, Nightjar (these nocturnal birds are incredibly rare and difficult to find anywhere else in Scotland), Swift, Sand Martin, House Martin, Swallow, Wheatear, Redstart, Pied Flycatcher, Wood Warbler, Ring Ouzel, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Sedge Warbler and Reed Warbler. Also butterflies and moths including Red Admiral, Painted Lady and (sometimes) Clouded Yellow butterflies and Silver Y moth.

For further information visit www.wildspringfestival.com

Ed Forrest



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www.dumfriesandgalloway.naturalhistory.co.uk

CARSPHAIRN BURNS SUPPER

On 17 January Carsphairn held its annual Burns Supper. Pictured at the event are: Ted Cowan - proposer of Toast to 'The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns', Jim McDowall - proposer of Toast to 'The Lassies', Bronnen Pears who 'Addressed the Haggis', David Bartholomew who gave the Selkirk Grace, Rachel Seed who replied on behalf of 'The Lassies', James Wallace Junior - our singer for the evening, Andy McCartney - the regular Piper, and Robert McTurk who chaired the supper and gave two wonderful recitations.



1914 REMEMBERED

The current history display in the CatStrand features the local connections of the novelist S R Crockett of *The*

Raiders fame, who was born near Laurieston.

We are particularly pleased to have on display a copy of *The Raiders* on loan from Avril Bridgeman of New Galloway. This book had been presented as

a school prize to her mother, Rhona Milligan, when a pupil in the old Kells School and so has returned 'home' to the building that is now the CatStrand.



The Kells School class of 1939. In the centre of the picture, with striped jersey, is Rhona Milligan, whose school prize that year features in the current SR Crockett exhibition in the CatStrand.

Tickets are still available - as we go to press - for the day of talks on Saturday 5 April marking the centenary of Crockett's death, commemoration dinner at the Ken Bridge Hotel, and for the bus tour of Crockett locations on the following day - contact the CatStrand for bookings.

Later in the year we plan to mount an exhibition "Home by Christmas..." recalling the first months of the First World War as it affected the life and people of the Glenkens. Do you have pictures, letters, diaries or other memorabilia from that period that you could lend to the exhibition? Perhaps you have a photograph of a relative who joined up in these early days, a card or letter they sent back from action, or a diary kept by someone they left behind at home. If you think you can help please contact Mike Brown on 420 267 or Brian Edgar on 420 374.




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CatStrand Update

As you will know from the last issue of the Gazette, the CatStrand was flooded twice in December.

The wooden floors in the auditorium and reception area were damaged and repair work commenced on 8 March. We are unsure how long this work will take, but we are determined to keep the building open for business and the classes and events which cannot be held in the CatStrand will be relocated to other local venues as required.

Please bear with us through this essential work and please phone first to check the details of any events before travelling.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has helped us through the last few months, the many volunteers as well as particular thanks to Adrian Morley, New Galloway Town Hall, Dalry Town Hall Committee and Mr Gray and the staff at Kells School.

Aside from the flooding issues, there have been several other major developments in the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) family. Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) continues to go from strength to strength and we now have four buses available (see p16). The Watson Birds Project has now progressed into the detailed planning and fundraising stage for the development of Barone (see p2).

The Glenkens Children's Club now have extra Playgroup sessions each week due to popular demand as their numbers continue to grow.

The Connecting in Retirement Project has blossomed, with lots of new ideas being explored for the future.

Our Youth Arts programme continues to grow too, with further success for the Youth Players at the SCDA Festival and more projects lined up for the Young Film Makers just two examples.

On the health and fitness theme, access to the gym facilities at Dalry School has now been arranged for

the young people of the area on Wednesday evenings.

We have also had a few staff adjustments at the CatStrand with programming & events manager Lauren Glasgow becoming part-time and part-time youth arts officer Simon Davidson taking on a full-time role.

My first six months as General Manager have certainly been eventful. Hopefully the next six months will be too, but without the aquatic issues!

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any suggestions or comments that you would like to make regarding the CatStrand or any of the GCAT projects, on 420 374 or briangm@catstrand.com

May is an exciting month in Dumfries & Galloway and as usual the CatStrand will be taking part in the action. The company recognised for the popular weekly show at the Oran Mor in Glasgow are bringing *A Play, A Pie, and A Pint* to The CatStrand as part of the Dumfries & Galloway Arts festival on 18 May.

Spring Fling also returns to the CatStrand with an exhibition of brand new work from Geoff Forest who will display his intricate willow designs and give demonstrations over the spring fling weekend 24-26 May.

Music highlights consist of a special show from Manran who will give a rare, intimate concert of their blend of Gaelic and English, traditional and contemporary music on 29 May. Bella Hardy, winner of



Bella Hardy

BBC Radio 2's Folk Singer of the Year 2014 award, will make an appearance on 28 May.

Brian Edgar,
GCAT General Manager

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The Story of Natural Power

Natural Power has been providing products and consultancy services to the renewable energy industry for almost 20 years.

The consultancy – founded in 1995 by Ted Leeming, Neil Douglas and Stuart Hall – moved to Dumfries and Galloway in 1997 and first employed staff in 2000. Its global headquarters is the iconic Green House, near Dalry, opened in 2001.

Built into the landscape with sustainability in mind, its outwardly humble

appearance disguises an ambitious, thriving business that is growing and diversifying constantly.

The company has departments covering all renewables technologies including onshore and offshore wind, solar, wave & tidal, hydro and biomass. Here, Natural Power employs around 90 staff, working in Construction, Geotechnical, Planning and Development Services, Asset Management and Technical Services, in addition to the company's Control Centre, which manages some 29 per cent of all UK wind farm capacity onshore for the various clients.

The process of building a renewable energy project such as a wind farm is complex. From identifying a suitable site through close local stakeholder and community consultation – and initial studies into how much power could be produced there – the farm has to be planned and consents obtained. Construction, by

comparison, is a quicker process and once in operation, it must be maintained and managed. At the end of its lifespan – usually around 20 years – the site is repowered or taken down and the land is returned to its greenfield state.

Natural Power is the only consultancy that can handle every stage of a client's renewable energy project. It's something the company prides itself on: a 360-degree approach that is unrivalled.

The company has blazed a

A great majority of the 90 people employed at the Green House live in the surrounding area, helping to contribute to Dumfries and Galloway's prosperity.

remarkable trail from humble beginnings. From three employees in a basement flat in Glasgow, it now has 14 offices in six countries, employing over 300 people. These include bases as near as Stirling and Inverness, and as far-flung as France and Sweden to New York and Chile.

A great majority of the 90 people employed at the Green House live in the surrounding area, helping to contribute to Dumfries and Galloway's prosperity. The community benefits from highly-skilled local jobs and Natural Power's continuous approach to its employees' learning and development means that they

progress as the company does.

Natural Power is also helping energy developers to achieve the Scottish Government's ambitious renewable energy targets, aiming to meet 100 per cent of electricity demand from renewables by 2020.

The firm has worked on some of the country's most prominent projects and has recently issued a guidance document to coastal communities around Scotland which will help in the uptake of community-owned wave and tidal farms.

Ted Leeming, one of Natural Power's first three employees, is now Managing Director. He said: "When we founded Natural Power

back in 1995, of course we were ambitious, but the growth and sustained success that we've experienced has been beyond all of our expectations. We have a great team here at Natural Power and I know that they will continue to help to develop our business, our profile and our capabilities further."

With the opening of a new office in Stirling – Scotland's largest renewable energy consulting office – Natural Power continues to thrive and expand; this new office already employs over 95 people. The company is currently recruiting extensively: visit www.naturalpower.com/jobs for more information.



The Green House, Forrest Estate, Dalry

Dalry Community Council Update

Forthcoming Dalry Community Council meetings are held at 7pm in Dalry Town Hall and will be on Monday 7 April and Monday 19 May (this will be the Annual General Meeting followed by a regular meeting). There are no meetings currently planned for June. All residents of Dalry are most welcome to attend. At the AGM all those present (of the village) get to vote for their choice of office bearers from the elected committee.

Allangibbon Bridge update: Dumfries & Galloway Councils' Roads Department is planning to resurface 'The (Allangibbon) Bridge' in the next financial year (from April). Due to the recent timber lorry accident and pressure from Dalry Community Council, they are now looking at expanding repairs to include the accident prone corner. Lord Sinclair has very kindly offered to donate some land beside the problem bend to assist in this much needed improvement to our local roads which take such a hammering from heavy haulage vehicles. This upgrade is now long overdue.

Andi Holmes

Carsphairn Heritage Group 2014

Our annual exhibition this year is an amalgam of the old and the new.

This is because, in 1997, the Carsphairn Heritage Group presented an exhibition called 'Petticoat Rule'. Our presentation in 2014 continues to explore this theme, with further tales and reminiscences, both ancient and modern, about the lives of the women in the village and near environs of Carsphairn. Members of the group took great delight in unearthing and amassing artefacts, pictures and the written word. We hope you will visit the Heritage Centre and enjoy the experience we offer in, "Petticoat Tales, The Gentle Touch, Women of Carsphairn".

We have also an extensive archive of family history records which enlarges each year as people share with us their family records showing their roots in Carsphairn.

The exhibition opens on Good Friday, 18 April, and is open weekends and Bank Holidays until the end of May from 10.30am to 5pm weekdays and Sundays from 2pm until 5pm and thereafter until the end of September daily except Wednesdays. *Anna Campbell*

Sub-Postmistress Retires

Continued from front page...

Florance does feel it is a shame that so much of the personal contact has disappeared with benefits and state pensions now paid directly into accounts and TV licences being dealt with online.

But the best part of the job has been getting to know people and earning their trust. "I feel privileged that folks come to me for help and I do like it when they leave with a smile on their faces," she says. She will miss the constant flow of

people with all their news and chat but is delighted the service will continue, albeit a few doors down the road.

To allow this change to take place there will be a short period of disruption to current services at Wright's Shop. Work will start on Monday 31 March and last for around 10 days. During this time a limited service will be available in the shop which will continue to supply the basics including papers, bread and milk. Normal service will be resumed working around the installation of the

new Post Office which will open for business on Wednesday 30 April at 1pm.

The improvements to Wright's will see more self-service with a greater range of stock. And the stationery, cards and pet foods which locals have been able to buy at the Post Office in the past will now be available at Wright's.

The Glenkens Gazette and its readers wish Florance all the best for her retirement and thank her for all the cheerful and helpful service over the last 17 years, and we wish the best of luck to Lyndsay and her staff at Wright's in their new venture.

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KELLS SCHOOL UPDATE

Scots Verse Competition

On the afternoon of Tuesday 11 February Kells held their annual Scots Verse competition. Staff were delighted that Mike Duguid was once again able to come and listen to the pupils recite their poems and decide the first, second and third places. The pupils who were given a place will now represent Kells at the Galloway Music Festival in March.

Live Music Now

Fraser Langton and Juliette Philogene from Live Music Now visited P5-7 in March for the second session on *Pitch, Pulse and Magic*. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the one-hour session, which included listening to Fraser and Juliette playing 'Peter and the Wolf' and then discussing particular parts of that piece of music. Fraser and Juliette also gave some of the pupils the opportunity to conduct them while they were playing the clarinet and piano.

World Book Day 2014

Kells Primary celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite

character from a book. The Pupil Council also organised a second hand book sale. All pupils received a £1 book token which was used to purchase one of the special World Book Day titles.



Scots Verse: Mike Duguid with P1-4 class

Food & Farming

Four P5 girls from Carsphairn Primary visited Wallets Mart on Monday 3 March during the Food & Farming Days presented by the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET).

It was a chance for the pupils to learn more about what food we produce locally and in other parts of Scotland. We looked at tractors and then enjoyed learning about different types of cattle and got a turn at trying their hand at milking Mabel, a life size fibreglass cow. We learned all about different dairy products made from locally produced milk.

RHET has been putting on the Food & Farming Days for a few years now and it is a really smooth operation that made for a great day out that the P5 girls really enjoyed.



Sarah McCreath, P5, milking Mabel the cow.

Walker McKenna



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YOUTH BANTER

Spring is Here!

Spring is here (sort of) and with the CatStrand finally drying out after several floods over the winter, we will be hosting plenty of exciting activities for young people to get involved in. Interested in film making or music production? Fancy our all new Sports Club? Or perhaps you just want to find out what the magnificent Finding Albert are getting up to over the next few months? Well, read on!

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European Tour!
Access All Areas!**



The supremely talented **Finding Albert** are not only busy recording new material but are also preparing to embark on a European Tour. Lead singer **Robert Shields** still managed to find time to talk to Youth Banter. So Robert, what can we expect in the new songs? **RS:** "It is still very much 'Finding Albert', we've kept the energy and the live feel but we've also

been experimenting a bit with structure. Two of the songs are very unusual for us! We even recorded some baby grand piano at the CatStrand" And when can we expect to hear the new songs? **RS:** "There will be a new single out in May with an E.P. or album to follow."

Have you any live shows lined up? **RS:** "We start our European Tour on 28th March, taking in France, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. We're very excited about that as we've not done much in Europe before now." Anything closer to home for your Glenkens fans?

RS: "Definitely, we're playing DGOne in Dumfries on Friday 26th April and I'm also doing a **special song-writing workshop** as part of the Access All Areas music project at the CatStrand in New Galloway on **Monday 7th April**. The idea is to help young people of all abilities learn the basic tools of song-writing and hopefully they can take those away and write their own. It's great thing to be able to do."

Useful Info

To get involved with the **Access All Areas Music Project**, contact simon@catstrand.com
Studio sessions are on **Thursday nights 7pm - 9pm @ The CatStrand** with event sessions once a month on Mondays.



NEW Youth Sports Club Launches!

A new **Youth Sports Club** was launched at **Dalry School** on Wednesday 5th March. Run by the CatStrand, the club offers young people the opportunity to take part in a variety of sports from basketball and football to table tennis and badminton. The brilliantly equipped **gym is also open to adults** during the supervised youth sessions allowing them to get fit at the same time! The club is running **every Wednesday until July** (except Easter break) and is **free for young people**. Adult gym sessions are £4 per hour. Ages P6 - S2 session is 6pm - 7pm S3+ is 7pm - 8pm For more info contact Simon on 01644 420374



Supported by
The Holywood Trust

Background image
by Josie Oliver

GCAT (Glenkens Community & Arts Trust)
YOUTH:TEAM

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



CatStrand Young Film Makers Club

Young Film Makers Shoot Historic Documentary

The CatStrand Young Film Makers were asked to produce a documentary about legendary Galloway author **Samuel R Crockett** for the upcoming celebration event on 5th April. The Club chose to dissect Crockett's famous 1894 novel **The Raiders** and shoot the various locations mentioned in the book to see how they have changed in the 100+ years since it was written. Co-presenter **Poppy Brown** was very excited to be involved. "I'd never heard of Crockett before this, but *The Raiders* is an incredible book and it was amazing to see the locations that inspired him." The Club has recently **joined forces with the Fullarton in Castle Douglas** who will host some of their meetings. To get involved, contact: simon@catstrand.com

CatStrand CHEMICAL UNDERGROUND CHEM 19

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music project

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www.catstrand.com



YOUTH

STORY



CatStrand Young Film Maker and Youth Player **Georgiana Grimwood (10)** sent us this humorous and entertaining story.

Guess Who?

If it wasn't for my stupid maths jotter I wouldn't be in this mess. Mrs Nook (or as I like to call her, Mrs Leachy Nook) has put me in after school cleaning for a week as a result of saying what I think of her. I'll take you back to when it actually happened. When I was doodling in my maths jotter I was unaware that Mrs Nook was behind me watching as I drew pictures of her with extremely hairy legs.

"Is this what you think of me, Roxy?" I heard someone say, not the slightest clue who it was.

"Yes, I think Mrs Leachy Nook is a hairy, noisy, skunk-eating moth brain." But oh no, I wasn't finished there, "she is an extremely big chatterbox and her bum is as light as a giant plum!" I stopped. I had loads more to say but I didn't. I caught my breath. I then turned around to see who it was and it was Mrs Leachy Nook. I opened my mouth as wide as I could.

"Come with me young lady!!" she said and dragged me out the class, her bum sticking out bigger than I've ever seen it.

She took me to her stinky office filled with the smell of coffee and cabbage. I absolutely, definitely, hate, hate, HATE cabbage! I can't even bear the look of it with all the slugs and snails which have perched on there and left all their yucky slime. Her files are set out in alphabetical order, if I had files they'd never be in alphabetical order. She sat me down on a chair and then she sat on another chair, legs crossed, all her hairy hairs sticking up on her legs. "So is this really what you think of me?" she said her beady eyes watching mine.

"I definitely, absolutely do" I said.

"Then after school you will help Brian tidy the entire school" she said smirking at me, "...and don't you dare take that rude tone with me ever again".

I roll my eyes and walk out the room just as the school bell goes...

END

If you would like to submit a story to **Youth Banter** then please email it to simon@catstrand.com, either as part of the email or as an attached Word Doc. Alternatively, drop a copy into Wendy at the CatStrand. The CatStrand Young Film Makers are currently looking for ideas to make into films over the summer and you never know, your story might end up on the big screen! All rights remain with the author!

BYTES

THEATRE

Teen Spirit give us their review of Des Dillon's riotous new comedy



Teen Spirit went to see the comedy play **Singin' I'm No A Billy, He's A Tim** at the **Ryan Centre in Stranraer** on Thursday 13th March. Not only that, but they got to meet writer Des Dillon and actors Tony Kelly [Tim], Davy Alexander [Billy], and Wullie Brennan [Harry] after the show! But what did they think of the play? Let's find out...



Jake: it was brilliant, 5 stars, probably the best play I've ever seen. It was good to meet the actors and see how very different they are in real life to the guys they play. It brought Rangers and Celtic fans together. **Michael:** it was really good, inspirational, the best play I've ever seen. The best bit was when they swapped Celtic and Rangers tops and opened up to each other about their true backgrounds. It was great that the actors were Celtic and Rangers fans in real life and were not at all sectarian offstage! **Lewis:** really good, intriguing, I'd watch it again. **Lee:** really enjoyed it, it made me think about the differences between Rangers and Celtic fans. I'd quite like to act in a play like this though only as the supporter of my team! I'd go and see it again. **Liza-beth:** it was really funny. **Amber:** hilarious even though I didn't understand a lot of it! **Ewan:** I'm not a fan of comedy but enjoyed it. **James:** really good, very funny. I'd like to be in a play like that. **Owen:** really enjoyed it and good to meet the actors after. Just as funny in real life.

A BIG THANKS TO DES DILLON & THE CAST!

Teen Spirit runs @ CatStrand on Tuesday nights. All welcome.

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

Puppet Animation Scotland

The Little Red Hen by Stuff & Nonsense Co
Fri 11th Apr @ 1.45pm £5 per child/adult or £10 per family ticket (x4). Ages 3+

LIVE MUSIC: Tommy Smith & Brian Kellock

Two of Scotland's greatest sax and piano Jazz players. Thu 18th April 7.30pm £12/10

PLAY: The Taking of Zena Charbonne

Has Zena been kidnapped or is she dreaming? You decide in this twist-filled play.
Thu 25th April 7.30pm, £12/10 Age 14+

LIVE MUSIC: The Dardanelles

Rhythmic & punchy Newfoundland trad band
Sat 27th April 7.30pm £10/8

ACCESS ALL AREAS: Song Writing Workshop

with Robert Shields from Finding Albert
Monday 7th April 7.30pm FREE Age 12 - 25

WORKSHOP: An Introduction to Photography

Learn how to get the best out of your camera in a one-day workshop with award-winning Phil McMenemy
Wednesday 9th April 10am - 4pm £10 Ages 9+
Please book a place through CatStrand box office

ELSEWHERE

Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival

16th - 25th May

A lively and varied programme of events, happening across the region. NOTE that Under 26s get entrance to core events at HALF PRICE!

<http://www.dgartsfestival.org.uk/>

GCAT (Glenkens Community & Arts Trust)

YOUTH: TEAM

Join the GCAT Youth Team and get FREE TRAINING and HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE in:

Box Office ; Events ; Sound ; Lighting;
First Aid ; Food Hygiene

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



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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 sponsorship please contact:
simon@catstrand.com /
01644 420 374.

Carsphairn's Talented Young Artists

Spring Fling is Scotland's premier arts and crafts open studios event and takes place every year in Dumfries & Galloway.

Each year a competition is run across all the schools in the region to produce a poster for the event. There is a winner for each school, and an overall winner for the whole region. All the children at Carsphairn Primary worked very hard to produce excellent posters; little did we know at the time how well we would do... The winning poster for



Overall winner Naomi McCreath, P2, with the director of education, Colin Grant.

Carsphairn School this year was by P2 pupil Crawford King, out-painting the older pupils in the school to win the school award. But that wasn't the only winning poster from Carsphairn; our other P2 pupil, Naomi McCreath, won the poster competition for all of Dumfries

& Galloway! Keep your eyes open for her poster featuring a belted Galloway cow which will be used to promote Spring Fling 2014.

Naomi has won a £100 prize for herself and an additional £100 for the school, and the whole school will go to Gracefield Art Centre in Dumfries on March 14 to support Naomi and Crawford as they collect their prizes.

On behalf of all the staff and pupils at Carsphairn, I would like to congratulate both P2 pupils for their hard work and beautiful posters. The whole school would also like to also thank Mrs Bielinski, the school art teacher, for all her support in so many wonderful art projects like the Spring Fling posters and the Carsphairn calendar.

Walker McKenna

Postie Runs Marathon

Continued from front page...

Two weeks after taking part in the Edinburgh Marathon (see front page), Fiona Oliver will be embarking on the Edinburgh Moonwalk Marathon, a power walking event through the night in aid of Breast Cancer charities.

This will be the third time that Fiona has taken part in this event. If you would like to support Fiona in raising money for Breast Cancer charities such as Maggie's and Breakthrough Breast Cancer, please visit her web donation page at <http://wtwalk.org/moonwalkscotland2014/fiona-13>

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and parliamentary updates**

Glenkens Transport Initiative

With the minibus previously owned by the Stewartry Sports Council based in Castle Douglas being no longer available, much of the demand for this vehicle is now being met by Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI).

The main user of the Sports Council bus was Castle Douglas High School, although other Castle Douglas based user-groups have also registered with GTI.

Training for a number of new drivers to Midas Standard has been held, and another 16-seat minibus made available by the Council to cater for the extra demands. This means that GTI

now has four vehicles available, one based at the CatStrand, one at Dalry School and two in Castle Douglas.

GTI are now regarded by Dumfries & Galloway Council as a "mature and successful transport initiative". We have benefited considerably from the partnership with the Council, who own both vehicles in Castle Douglas, but allow them to be used by GTI when not being used for duties such as the school transport to Castle Douglas High School already operated by GTI.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES:

On Saturday 26 July a flotilla of 250 boats will sail into Glasgow from Greenock as part of the Commonwealth Games celebrations, and GTI will run a trip to witness this special occasion – see local posters/website for details.

USE YOUR BUS: We all know how successful GTI is, but more

use could be made of the four vehicles we now have available, especially by the 50 user-groups registered with GTI.

Many groups never use a minibus – it only costs £15 (for six hours) and no more than 50p per mile (depending on the vehicle), so now's the time to plan a day or evening out for your group – ring the CatStrand now to book a bus!

Keith Cooper, GTI

Recycle Your Old Mobile

Dalry school are now collecting unwanted mobile phones for recycling - even broken ones.

Money raised will help to buy defibrillators for local communities. You can donate your old mobile at Dalry, Kells or Carsphairn schools or hand it in at the Glenkens Community Shop in Dalry.

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

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Galloway



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Golf Club News

Since the last edition of the Gazette, the Club has suffered vandalism on the practice putting green.

One evening one or more persons broke into the Clubhouse and caused damage by taking divots from the putting green. The police were informed and no doubt investigations are ongoing. If you have any information regarding this incident then please contact the local police.

The winter season is now drawing to a close and the Club is looking forward to a very successful 2014 season. This will start by the driving in of the Captain on 30 March, followed by the opening day competition which consists of a Captain's Team against the Vice Captain's Team. A full fixture list has

been prepared for the season. The Club is still looking for a sponsor for the Seniors Open in June, and if you would like to be involved please contact the Club Captain on 450 265.

We are looking to purchase a verti-drainer to enable the drainage of the course to be improved, and have already raised some funds for the purchase, but any further donations would be gratefully received.

We are involved in a Dumfries & Galloway Marketing Strategy which involves not only golf clubs but hotels, guest houses and those providing accommodation for visitors to the region, as well as all local attractions. If anyone wants to get involved please contact the Captain on 450 265. The purpose is to attract more visitors to

the region and, in particular, the Glenkens.

The Club website has been upgraded - www.nggc.co.uk

Some competitions to note are:
Sunday 25 May - Natural Power Men's Open, Thursday 5 June - Senior Men's Open, Sunday 27 July - Tilhill Open 4BBB.

The Club still has some memberships available and anyone who is interested should contact the Secretary on 420 737 - Juniors and ladies would be particularly welcome.

*Jeff Sutcliffe, Captain,
New Galloway Golf Club*



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Youth Players Grab the Moment

The Stewartry Round of the 2014 Scottish Community Drama Festival saw the biggest entry in living memory with 14 plays being presented over five entertaining sessions.

Seven youth plays and seven adult plays were vying for the trophies and for the honour of progressing to represent the Stewartry at the West of Scotland Finals.

The Youth Players had two entries. *Sing When You're Winning* by Mark Rees was on stage in the Saturday afternoon session and the large cast of seventeen gave a lively portrayal of the trials and tribulations of a rather wayward girls' football team that had somehow managed to get to a cup final. The audience enjoyed the humour of the play and the adjudicator, Bruce Adam, praised the cast for their nice clear voices and maintaining a good pace, particularly in the early part of the play. He also gave the director credit for marshalling such a large cast effectively and for some nice touches with the use of the background music at various times.

The other entry was *Bar & Ger* by Geraldine Aron which opened the festival on the Wednesday evening. This play is a challenging two-hander which tells the life story of a brother and sister through the re-enactment of 25 different episodes from their childhood and teenage years. The direction was particularly praised for the skilful creation of stage pictures which can be difficult

with a minimal set and only two actors, the subtle changes from comedy to pathos were also well handled. The characters were played by Jordan Pears and Lowena Lindsay and they were both commended for their relaxed vocal and physical performances. The adjudicator was particularly impressed by their mature comic timing and excellent stage presence. He felt that both actors interacted well to deliver the

The adjudicator was particularly impressed by their mature comic timing and excellent stage presence.

comedy and pathos of the play culminating in the very moving final stage picture which was his choice for the 'Best Moment of Theatre' from all 14 plays and winner of the Lillias Thomson Memorial Trophy. It is the first time that the Youth Players have won this sought after award and very appropriate that the trophy should be back in the Glenkens

for the first time as Lillias was a founder member of Glenkens '73 Club and an inspiring figure on the amateur drama scene in the local area and throughout Scotland for many years.

The plays were staged again at the CatStrand on 6 and 7 March and both attracted some great comments from the audience members. The emotion in the audience during the final scene

of *Bar & Ger* was tangible and one audience member even remarked that the production wouldn't have been out of place in the West End!

The Youth Festival was won this year by Birchvale Youth Players with their excellent performance of Ron Nichol's *The Edge* and they represented the Stewartry District at Campbeltown on 16 March and won again; we wish them all the best at the Scottish Final at Nairn in June.

The Youth Players will now begin work on their next productions which will be staged on 13 & 14 June.



Cast of Sing When You're Winning © John Scott Photography

TAKEOVER & MAKEOVER OF NEW GALLOWAY TOWN HALL

New Galloway Town Hall will be open to the public during the weekend of 10 and 11 May. This will give everyone an opportunity to see the hall and comment on proposals for a makeover and also to discuss their ideas of how they would like to use the hall.

D&G Council has made clear that they can only support the transfer to the local community if they present a viable and sustainable business plan for its future so we need to show we will use it - or we'll lose it.

REEL 'EM IN

Dalry Angling Association (Dalry AA) is set to start the 2014 fishing season with a bang, announcing a host of new initiatives designed to offer members a huge boost in value for money.

Robert Edgar, chairman of the association, spoke about the new plans. "Financially, the association has been on a firm footing for some time," he said, "but the new committee felt the time had come to use some of this cash to improve facilities for members. The first task was to invest something in the fishing on Earlstoun Loch as this had been neglected for some time...with the help of Peter and Jonathan from FHB Fencing we have now completely renovated the inside of the boathouse".

The fishing season on the river Ken and Carsfad will open on Saturday 15 March and in preparation for this the club has already carried out the stocking of Carsfad. The River Ken is restricted to fly-only fishing until

1 May but anglers on Carsfad can use fly, spinner or worm as soon as the season opens.

The association will be running two competitions for members which for 2014 will come with the added bonus of tackle prizes for winners. The first event is the Junior Championship to be held on 29 June on the River Ken. 19 July sees the adults battle it out on Carsfad in a fly-only contest with the victor set to carry away a fantastic new Daiwa fly rod from their 2014 collection.

Association secretary Garry Priddy has also been busy expanding the Ticket-Exchange Scheme with neighbouring associations. Commenting on the new waters open for 2014 Garry explained; "We have enjoyed a ticket-exchange agreement with Dalbeattie Angling Club for a number of years and this will continue, but have managed to extend this to



include Drumgrange and Kiers Fishing Club and Ayr Angling Association, giving Dalry AA members access to some of the best salmon fishing in the southwest of Scotland"

Full voting membership of Dalry AA is open to residents of Dalry and associate membership is available to all residents of the Glenkens. Membership fees for the 2014 season are: Adult Full and Associate Members - £15, Full-Time Students - £5, Juniors - £1.

Contact Club Secretary Garry Priddy on 07719 046 676 for further info.

Events in Dalry Town Hall

On Saturday 19 April there will be a Craft Fair in Dalry Town Hall.

To book a table please contact Jean Lockerbie on 430 454.

On Saturday 14 June there will be a Scottish Concert with entertainment by Ian Muir on accordion and singer Linton McMillan.

After a gap of over 10 years we are to re-introduce a Burns Supper in Dalry. This will take place on Saturday 31 January 2015. The main speaker at this will be Mr Chris Rollie from Dalry who is very well known in Burns circles. We hope to have this event every two years, on alternate years to Dalry School's Burns Night. Please keep these dates in your diary.

Jean Lockerbie



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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

The Joys of Spring

Spring is the season of expansiveness and joy. The sun warms, the days grow longer and the signs of new life burgeon and blossom everywhere.

Compiled from mindfulness based studies and reports are ten of the most effective ways for maintaining maximum happiness and energy levels at this growth time of year.

No1 Mindfulness meditation.

Studies show that regular meditating can permanently re-wire the brain and is the single most effective and lasting way to live a happier life.

No 2 Exercise. 2014 is the year of the Commonwealth Games in Scotland and the benefits of exercise on happiness cannot be over stated. Mindfulness researcher Daniel Segal writes that exercising is the best ways to activate dopamine and other natural feel good opiates and neurotransmitters. No man-made substance or stimulus can trigger them in the same way.

No 3 Random acts of kindness. In his book 'flourish' professor Martin Selgman found that doing a kindness for someone produces the single most reliable momentary increase in well being of any exercise tested and also contributes to longevity.

No 4 Being in nature. In the 'Happiness Advantage' by Shawn Achor making time to be in nature delivers major benefits. Spending twenty minutes or more

outside not only boosts positive mood but broadens thinking enabling our minds to see 'the wood from the trees'. According to the American Meteorological Society happiness is maximised at a temperature of 13.9°C.

No 5 Habit releasers. Lent, which occurs during springtime, is often seen as having to give up something you really enjoy but it could be seen as a very effective and well timed way to boost energy levels. Letting go of ingrained habits can hugely influence our zest for life and hence the new opportunities and choices we are able to make.

No 6 Getting enough rest

and sleep. According to the University of Surrey less than six hours' sleep tampers with our body chemistry leading to increased risk of stroke and heart disease. The BPS Research Digest found that sleep-deprived people are much more susceptible to negative emotions like fear and anger.

No 7 Planning a holiday but not actually going on one. In a study published in the journal of applied research in quality of life the anticipation at the planning stage is the best part of holiday making and can boost happiness for eight weeks. It's also a lot cheaper. But you probably have to believe you might go.

No 8 Building positive social connections with family members and friends. The old adage that happiness can make you successful but success cannot make you happy seems to stand up to trial testing. In the British Household Panel Survey an increase in the level of social

involvement is worth up to an extra £85,000 a year in terms of life satisfaction.

No 9 Creativity. The essence of creativity is play which feeds and nurtures the soul. From knitting to drawing to music making, creativity produces a state called 'flow' which engenders a deep sense of satisfaction and promotes neural plasticity in the brain.

No 10 Smiling. Smiling can alleviate pain and make us feel better so long as it's backed up by positive thoughts. Studies carried out on customer service workers showed that fake smiling made them feel worse as the day progressed. Real smiles engage the eye sockets enabling us to do our work and daily tasks better as does laughing and 'novelty' in life.

So whether its watching lamb gangs getting up to mischief or soaking up the sunshine under a cherry blossom tree, happy springtime!

Debra Hall

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.

FOOD IS THE
MOST ABUSED
ANXIETY
DRUG.
EXERCISE IS
THE MOST
UNDERUTILIZED
ANTIDEPRESSANT.

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

Destruction of a Glenkens Lady

At 11.30pm on Boxing Day 2013 one of the finest trees in Glenkens came to grief.

The copper beech which had guarded the east end of Ken Bridge for over 100 years was felled by one of the most vicious storms to hit these parts in recent memory. The century-long harmony of wood and wind was shattered forever by a ferocious gale and lashing rain.

Peering into the mirk from Dalarran House we could see nothing but had long been anxious that, in the event of a storm, the graceful dame might land on our roof. When its demise came we heard, rather than saw it.

The tempest seemed to fall silent for an instant followed by a loud crackle that sounded for all the world like a huge piece of Velcro coming apart. Next we heard the awesome chaotic din of splintering as the great tree crashed. Car headlights gradually revealed that one huge bough had fallen towards the river and parallel to the edge of the bridge, spilling some of its branches into the roadway. The other part collapsed neatly along the roadside in the direction of Dalry, its branches reaching just over halfway across the road.

It is well known that beeches have notoriously shallow roots, making them vulnerable to fierce weather, but in this case daylight would reveal that it was the trunk that snapped - unsurprisingly since it was hollow.

She was not a huge specimen of *fagus sylvatica purpurea*, only some 70 feet tall; her sisters are sometimes over twice that height. Her girth was 12 feet

four inches (330 cms). According to tree calculators that should give her a lifespan of around 130 years and a birthdate circa 1884.

As the human race evolved trees were probably the first objects of worship. The ancient Mayans of Mexico believed that a great tree linked Sky, Earth and the Underworld. The

...its trunk reaches up heaven-high, spreads its boughs over the whole Universe...Its boughs are the histories of Nations. The rustle of it is the noise of human existence, onwards from of old...

Hindustaniss also had their Cosmogonic Tree. Thomas Carlyle was fascinated by the magnificent conception of the Viking tree Iggdrasil as a symbol of Old Norse philosophy, as well as a metaphor for the whole of Humanity's unceasing activity on this planet - no-one better captured its essence. Its roots, he wrote, are "deep down in the kingdoms of Hela or Death; its trunk reaches up heaven-high, spreads its boughs over the whole Universe... Is not every leaf of it a biography, every fibre there an act or word? Its boughs are the histories of Nations. The rustle

of it is the noise of human existence, onwards from of old...It is the past, the present and the future; what was done, what is doing, what will be done; the infinite conjugation of the verb To Do."

The crash of the Kenbridge copper beech destroyed a complete universe from her highest branches to her roots. The tawny owls will now hold their nightly vigils on other trees, the squirrels

scamper on other branches; birds will alight elsewhere and myriads of insects will seek refuge among her offspring. 'So generations in their course decay;/So flourish these, when those are past away'.

One thing is certain. On Boxing Day 2013 a tree fell in the forest and we heard it! In memoriam.

Ted Cowan



Ken Bridge Copper Beech © Padeapix

APRIL & MAY

**For CatStrand events
please check details/venue
during renovations - see p7**

APRIL

Sat 5 Apr to Mon 5 May, Wild Spring Festival, across the region, see p5

Sat 5 & Sun 6, Celebration of the Life & Works SR Crockett (1859-1914), CatStrand, see p6

Mon 7, Singing Workshop, 7.30pm, CatStrand, see p11

Wed 9, GTI Bus Trip to Wigtown

Wed 9, Photography Workshop, CatStrand, see p13

Fri 11, Puppet Animation Festival: The Little Red Hen, 1.45pm, CatStrand

Wed 16, Open Stage, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 18, Tommy Smith & Brian Kellock, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 18, Carsphairn Heritage Centre Opens, see p9

Sat 19, Craft Fair, Dalry Town Hall, 10am-4pm

Sat 19, Spalding Bowling Club opens for play, 2pm; old and new members welcome.

Thu 24, Film: Philomena, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 25, The Taking of Zena Charbonne, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 27, The Dardanelles, 7.30pm, CatStrand

MAY

Sat 3, Life Drawing Class with Kathleen Wheeler, 10pm, CatStrand

Thu 8, Film: Wind of Change, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 10 & Sun 11, New Galloway Town Hall Open Days, see p18

Sat 17, 7.30pm, Cahlen Morrison and Eli West, CatStrand

Sun 18, A Play, A Pie & A Pint, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 28, Bella Hardy, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 29, Manran, 7.30pm, CatStrand

DALRY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

The Return of Dalry United FC - Football is coming back to the Glenkens this summer!

Dalry United FC has been reformed and the club will be competing in the Sunday Amateur League for 2014.

Our generous sponsors, AB Welding & Fabrication, have kindly provided us with our new kits.

We, as a team, would like to involve the wider community - we have already got a squad together but would welcome any additions to the team, both on and off the pitch.

The league season starts in a few weeks and we have already had a few friendlies with some encouraging results.

Training sessions are once a week with games on Sundays.

If you would like to play or help out in any other way please let us know. For further details contact Cameron Ross on 07453 715129.

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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, 11am -12pm

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

Dance Your Socks Off, Sat, 2-3.30pm, adults & children (age 8+), Dalry Town Hall, contact Debra 430 013

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 (Apr) 12noon 1st 3rd 4th, Dalry (May) 10.30am 2nd, Dalry (May) 9am 1st 3rd 4th, Kells 10.30am 2nd(Apr) 3rd 4th

Special Services/Events: 13 Apr, 10.30am, United Family Service, Kells Church; 18 Apr, 7.30pm, Good Friday Service, Dalry Church; 20 Apr, 7am, Easter Service, New Galloway Park & breakfast in New Galloway Town Hall; 27 Apr, 3pm, Conventicle,

Halfmark, Carsphairn; 9 May, 7.30pm, Quiz Night, Dalry Town Hall; 11 May, 10.30am, Family Service, Dalry Church; 31 May, 2 - 4pm, Plant Sale & Teas, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Communion Services: 4 May, 12noon, Balmaclellan 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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HISTORICAL TEAROOM TOURS

Teas, history and tours combine to create a new unique and exciting 'must do' event for Glenkens locals, visitors and holidaymakers during the Easter holidays.

Crossmichael & Parton Parish Church near Castle Douglas are launching a 'Victorian Tearoom and History Tours' venture on 6 April. You are invited into their 850-year-old church to enjoy tea and cakes while admiring the historic architecture and learning more about the adventurous, the brave, the crazy and the heroic exploits of characters who have made the church and the village such an incredible part of

Galloway history.

In the year of the Homecoming and also the 100th anniversary of World War I, church members have created a historic trip through the ages using the information in church records and the stories of the people buried within its grounds and combined it with a Victorian tea room experience to create a fascinating day out for all the family.



Staunch covenanters, heroic war veterans and the story of one brave local lass who walked all the way to London to save her sister's life are all documented and can be enjoyed in the setting of the church, whose tower is only one of two of its type in the UK, to make this event a definite date for your diary.

The project will run from 11am to 4pm from Sat 5 to Mon 7 April, Thurs 10 to Mon 14 April and finally Thurs 17 to Sun 20 April.

The idea behind the project is to give church funds a much needed boost while opening its doors to the wider community.

For further info, or to book a tour, contact Ahrlene Fuller on 01556 670615 or ahrlene.ferguson@btinternet.com

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The Clachan Inn, Dalry, is under new management and has an exciting new range of meals on the menu as well as upcoming music and events.

Local girl Laura Burnie, from Parton, and partner Philip Papwoth, originally from Hertfordshire, took over the pub on 17 of October last year. Phil works alongside chef Jac Davidson while Laura manages the bar and restaurant.

Phil and Laura have a new menu ready to be launched on Mother's Day weekend, and regularly host live music in the bar and bothy areas of the pub.

The Clachan is open daily from 12 noon, with food served 12 noon to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm, and is featured in the Good Beer Guide 2014 for real ales and craft beers - why not come along and try some out while enjoying great food and quality live music.

En suite accommodation, bed & breakfast available. Keep an eye on the board outside the pub for upcoming music and events.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

JUNE/JULY COPY DEADLINE: MON 6 MAY



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