

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

June/July 2014

ISSUE 82

FREE

TT RACE CHALLENGE FOR LOCAL SIDECAR BIKER



Ewan Walker with sidecar passenger Dicky Gale.

Glenkens resident Ewan Walker is taking part in the 2014 Isle of Man TT (Tourist Trophy) Race.

"The TT is the greatest and oldest motorcycle race in the world - it was first run in 1907 - and to take part is not only a huge challenge but a privilege as well and is a lifetime ambition for me," says Ewan.

Ewan will be entering with a sidecar motorcycle. He says: "The bike I am running is a chassis built by Gordon Shand from Auchentiber (near Kilwinning) and a tuned Suzuki GSXR 600 engine. My sidecar passenger is Dicky Gale from the Isle of Man, although local man Tony Moore used to passenger me on short circuits."

Continued on p8...

Open for Business: Dalry Post Office at New Location

The Post Office in Dalry has now moved into Wright's Shop, 17-19 Main Street (opposite the Clachan Inn).

Following the refurbishment of the shop, the Post Office opened for business on 30 April when sub-postmistress Florance Ruddock closed the former branch.

Lyndsay Wright and her staff at Wright's Shop are operating a local Post Office branch including postal services, cash withdrawals via chip and pin, bill payments, phone top-ups, Post Office card accounts and foreign currency. The Post Office now also benefits from the longer opening hours of the shop.

Lyndsay is delighted with the changes to the shop and is very pleased with the positive responses she has received from customers.

She would like to thank her customers for their continued support and understanding during the disruption, and she looks forward to continuing her work within the village.



Lindsay at the new Post Office counter.

THE FOOD TRAIN

You may have seen the Food Train vans out and about – but do you know what we do?

The Food Train is a local charity and voluntary organisation providing a weekly service delivering groceries to older people living in Dumfries and Galloway.

Any person aged 65 and over living in D&G who has difficulty doing their grocery shopping due to ill health, disability, frailty or mobility problems can enjoy the benefits of their local Food Train.

Every week volunteers collect shopping lists from our customers, in person or by phone. Volunteer shoppers make the orders up in the shop; the orders are packed in boxes complete with till receipt and the original shopping list. The orders are then collected by other delivery volunteers, and on receipt customers pay for their shopping plus a £3 charge for each delivery (and £1 a year membership). In the Stewartry we shop in Castle Douglas in the Co-op, Tesco and Sunrise.

People can refer themselves, or be referred by others and enrolling is easy: there is no assessment process and no application form to fill in. The Food Train is flexible and easy

to use, and a phone call to the branch office is all it takes to set it up. It can be used weekly, fortnightly or monthly; it can be used short-term while recovering from an illness, or for as long as it's needed. If you are an older person struggling with your grocery shopping you can let the Food Train take the strain.

Food Train also offers its 'EXTRA' service to anyone aged 65 and over.

Our volunteers do odd jobs that folk are unable to do themselves, for example; defrosting freezers, cleaning the inside of windows, hanging curtains.

Food Train also offers its 'EXTRA' service to anyone aged 65 and over. Our volunteers do odd jobs that folk are unable to do themselves, for example defrosting freezers; cleaning the inside of windows; hanging curtains. (No jobs are undertaken that would require a qualified tradesperson.) EXTRA jobs cost £3 upwards depending on

the size of the job, and time required to complete it.

We rely on volunteers to deliver our services – volunteer shoppers, volunteer drivers and co-drivers, admin and 'EXTRA' volunteers. They do a fantastic job, and our customers really appreciate the chat and care they give when delivering the shopping

or undertaking odd jobs. We are looking for additional volunteers, so if you think you might like to join the team please get in touch to find out more.

The Stewartry branch office has recently moved to Castle Douglas.

You can phone

Area Co-ordinator Jif Hyde on 07507 321874, email jif@thefoodtrain.co.uk or contact us through our website www.thefoodtrain.co.uk



Annual Glenkens Flower and Vegetable Show

The Glenkens Horticultural Society's Annual Flower and Vegetable Show takes place this year on Saturday 16 August in Dalry Town Hall.

With sections for vegetables, plants, flowers, flower arrangements, handicrafts, photography, baking & produce and a junior section, there really is something for everyone. The only requirement for taking part is that you are resident in the Glenkens.

The Society is proud to be one of the oldest in Scotland having been founded in 1831 – help keep it going by entering this year!

Schedules and entry forms are available from local shops.

Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is Jayne Grimwood with a cute snap of a red squirrel taken near Loch Ken.

Dave and Sue, competition judges and owners of the Ken Bridge Hotel, said: "After having considered all the entries we chose Jayne Grimwood's photo as the winner; the squirrel has got a lovely look of cheekiness and liveliness, and is also sadly a reminder of a disappearing world."

Jayne wins a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel's renowned Sunday Carvery.

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



SWIMMING FOR OVER-60s

Arrangements have been made for a group of people aged over 60 from the Glenkens to attend Kirkcudbright Swimming Pool on a weekly basis.

This activity is being totally funded by the CatStrand Connecting in Retirement Project, and is therefore totally free to participants. Transport is also provided, if required, again totally free.

Weekly sessions will be held each Thursday afternoon from 2-3pm, starting on Thursday 22 May. Anyone interested should inform Reception at the CatStrand on 01644 420 374; transport will be from the CatStrand every Thursday at 1pm.

Money Raised For Patient Transport

A recent Plant and Cake sale organised by the Ladies Guild at St. Margaret's Church in New Galloway raised over £350 for the Order of St John which in this area provides patient transport and emergency equipment for organisations such as Mountain Rescue.

St Margaret's Ladies Guild president, Christine Rankin, commented: "We were delighted by the number of people who came, despite the rain, and supported this helpful and much needed organisation by buying home-made cakes and jams and stocking up on plants and seedlings for the garden. And this year we were able to offer tea and coffee as well".

"Thank You" from the Scouts

The leaders and youngsters of the Glenkens Scout Group would like to thank the group committee, parents and friends of Scouting for supporting them at their recent annual jumble sale.

Our thanks also go to the kind people of the Glenkens and beyond who donated items for the sale and those who came and purchased.

We raised a massive £1,156.

The group are fortunate to have their own premises and this amount helps to pay for hall insurance, repairs, equipment replacement, activities, badges and much more.

All leftover clothing, shoes, bags, belts and soft toys are recycled.

*Thank you all again,
Heather, Cub Scout Leader*

Great Daffodil Appeal 2014

Thanks to the generosity of the communities and participating outlets in the Glenkens area, £144.14 was raised for Marie Curie Cancer Care during this year's Daffodil Appeal.

A 100% increase on last year's total, it will go towards much needed practical nursing care to terminally ill people in our area. The Daffodil Campaign is a vital part of fundraising for the charity and their services are totally free to patients and their families. The Glenkens has generously supported it since 1996.

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

Various

Greenhouse glass, was a 13'x8' greenhouse, dismantled, part of greenhouse there too if you want it. Contact: 420 679

Round 14' trampoline, in good condition apart from cover that goes round the edge which will need repair or replacement. Contact: 430 218.

Box of small fire bricks; 1960/1970s roof rack for car with gutters. Contact: Cynthia on 420 605

Furniture

Three wooden garden armchairs, perhaps teak, not 100% sure. Contact: Annikki on 460 640.

Child's white plastic chair. Contact:

Cynthia on 420 605

Two armchairs, yellow covers, bit battered in places but really comfy. Contact: 430 218.

WANTED

Old carpet (but not rotting) for fruit garden paths. Contact: Cynthia on 420 605

Scottish Alternative 'Commonwealth' Games

The 2014 Games on Sunday 3 August will coincide with the closing day of that other big sporting event happening this summer, the Commonwealth Games.

In recognition of this, our own Alternative Games will take on a Commonwealth theme this year with a few twists to the usual format. All the popular quirky events will be included of course, with the Gird n' Cleek World Championship leading the way, but look out for some guest appearances from international musicians

and performers amongst other surprises.

Full details will be confirmed in due course but if you are a local organisation and are interested in having a fundraising stall or you are an artist, craftsperson, food producer, etc and would like to reserve a place, please contact Brian Edgar on 420 374 or briangm@catstrand.com

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Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power 

What is the issue with North American signal crayfish?

North American signal crayfish, first formally recorded in Scotland in 1995, are well-known in the Glenkens and have now been recorded in a number of other locations across Dumfries & Galloway.

Signal crayfish can be 2-15cm long and are a very aggressive and highly adaptable species. They can have a significant adverse impact on our native freshwater animals and plants in any river, loch or pond that they inhabit. In running waters extensive burrows may destabilise banks, causing erosion and bank collapse. They also prey on fish eggs and young fish, and compete for food and habitat which further impacts on the populations of native fish.

Signal crayfish are one of many non-native species in Scotland introduced by humans. Once established some, such as signal crayfish, become invasive and can cause problems for recreational users and others who rely on our rivers and lochs for their livelihoods.

Unfortunately no long-term solution has yet been found to eradicate signal crayfish once they are established. Research continues to try to find suitable control techniques and to prevent the movement of signal crayfish within rivers and between catchments.

Trapping trials have concluded that although numbers may be reduced during the short-term, traps favour the capture of larger individuals. An unintended consequence of selective harvesting is the increased growth and earlier maturation of juvenile crayfish, which can cause the population to increase. It is not, therefore, a sustainable long-term solution. It is illegal to trap signal crayfish for personal consumption or for onward sale due to the significant and unacceptable risk of introduction to other waters which are presently unaffected by crayfish.



Any trapping for scientific purposes, or to limit numbers, requires a licence.

Many water-users, businesses and associated organisations across the region and further afield are hugely concerned that other water bodies could also become infested with signal crayfish. Until a long-term solution can be found the only way of protecting unaffected waters is to prevent the movement of any crayfish or their eggs, which could find their way to new locations.

The law is therefore clear;

that it is an offence to be in possession of a live crayfish or to set a crayfish trap in Scotland without a licence. They must not be transported or released into the wild (including returning live animals caught by accident to the water or ground).

If you take a signal crayfish from the water (accidentally or otherwise) do not take it away, as females may be carrying eggs which could be spread to other waters. It should be humanely dispatched and buried close to where it was found.

Please help to prevent the spread of all invasive non-native species by 'checking, cleaning and drying' all equipment that is used in water before using it elsewhere, and spread awareness with others. For more information on the Check Clean Dry campaign visit www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry

If you see a signal crayfish outwith the Glenkens area please report it to Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by contacting Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services (SEARS) 24/7 Customer Service Helpline on 08452 302050, or email info@sears.scotland.gsi.uk

If you come across a crayfish trap, do not handle it or remove it from the water. Please report it to Police Scotland by calling 101.

For more information

SEPA and Scottish Natural Heritage are holding a 'drop-in' event on Saturday 5 July from 12-3pm at The Cross Keys Hotel, New Galloway.

Dumfries & Galloway North American Signal Crayfish Action Group

Over the Easter Break four crayfish/crab creels were found set in Loch Ken near to Green Island. It is illegal to set these traps and for anyone to trap the North American Signal Crayfish that are in Loch Ken. Anyone with any information about this or any other illegal trapping in Loch Ken is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. You can also visit its website at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Glenkens Church News

Central Table Communion at Carsphairn

Once a year the historic central communion table is used during the celebration of the Lord's Supper in Carsphairn Church. This year this service will be held on Sunday 6 July at 10.15am.

Visitors would be welcome to join members at this service at which the 1647 communion cups will be used. Carsphairn Church acquired these cups under the ministry of Rev John Semple very early in its history, just before the start of the turbulent Covenanting period.

Semple drew people from

far and wide to his celebrated communion services at Carsphairn. He was a leader of the Covenanting ministers and once stood up to Oliver Cromwell at a meeting in Edinburgh – for which he suffered six months in prison!

Conventicle at Halfmark

The conventicle this year will be at Halfmark in Carsphairn parish, and will now be on Sunday 8 June at 3pm, as opposed to the earlier advertised date of 27 April.

Halfmark is a ruined cottage situated roughly midway between Garryhorn and Carnavel which was inhabited until around the middle of the

19th century.

In Covenanting times a man by the name of McRory lived there. He was quietly reading his Bible one Sunday morning having put his cattle out to pasture when Grierson of Lagg, who was stationed locally at Garryhorn, came by with his soldiers. Lagg shot him dead on the spot.

Parking will be at Garryhorn, from where it is an easy walk down a grassy track to the place where the open-air service will be held.

However, to get to Halfmark itself, which is a few hundred yards further on, wellies will be needed to ford the Garryhorn Burn.

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CatStrand Update

We are thrilled to share what we have in store at the CatStrand over June and July to fill those summer nights.

Show our local youngsters your support and attend the CatStrand Youth Players – An Evening of One Act Plays on Friday 13 June; prepare to be impressed by these truly talented young people.

The avant-garde theatre company Plutot La Vie make a comedic return this year with their brand new production *La Tragedie Comique* on Friday 27 June. Expect beauty, imagination and French people; *jouir!*

The standard of music this summer is as exceptional as ever starting with the double-platinum record selling Irish singer-songwriter Kieran Goss on Friday

20 June.

The Mae Trio will cross our path on Saturday 12 July as part of their debut tour of Scotland. After storming Celtic Connections, these Australian girls have charmed their way into the hearts of a legion of Scots. Recipients of the 2013 Folk Alliance Youth Award at the National Folk Festival in Australia, they really are one of a kind and perfect listening for long summer nights.

A little closer to home is Mike Daly's Dixieland Rhythm Kings Jazz Band. Join us on Friday 18 July for a sparkling night of jazz music; get your bookings in early for this popular act.

For kids and those young at heart, drop-in on our summer kids film *Mr Peabody and Sherman* on Thursday 24 July. This matinee screening will feature popcorn and hotdogs for the authentic cinema



The Mae Trio

experience...and grown-ups will enjoy the movie too!

There is so much to explore, from workshops to exhibitions and more - check the CatStrand website for full details or pick up a brochure. We hope to see you soon!

The CatStrand Team

For full listings see our latest brochure or visit www.catstrand.com

To book tickets call the CatStrand on 01644 420 374. And don't forget to 'like' us on Facebook!

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Isle of Mann TT

Continued from front page...

The TT is not a rally but a road race run on closed public roads.

It was because the Isle of Man had its own set of road laws that the race was allowed to run originally, as racing on the main roads of the UK mainland was forbidden.

For anyone interested in taking part in a race like the TT, Ewan goes on to say: "To compete in the TT you need several

years of racing experience, to hold a National Licence, to achieve satisfactory results in the previous season and also two events in the current year. Entry to the TT is free but the preparation and spares needed to support the bike during the event cost quite a lot of money; after all, the course is 37.5 miles long with three laps to each race and two races, as well as all the practice laps, maybe 12 or 14".

You can watch the 2014 TT on various sports channels as

well as the TT's own You Tube channel, and Manx Radio also covers it.

In conclusion, Ewan says: "Motorcycle racing is great fun and brings you into contact with some real characters. Also most of the meetings are full weekends so a good social life comes with it - details of most meetings can be found on posters on the notice board of the Clachan Inn in Dalry." Ewan would like to thank his sponsors which include Kevin Asworth Machined Timber Products, IOM Ltd, KCP New Cummock, D'n'G Motorcycles and the Clachan Inn, Dalry.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE MISSION

On the morning of Saturday 29 March observant Dalry people would have noticed a large number of vehicles outside the Police Station from about 9.30am onwards.

Particularly noticeable would have been the vehicles of the Galloway Mountain Rescue Team (MRT) and the Moffat MRT who were holding their joint exercise locally.

Less obviously, the local Scouts were involved too. Every Mountain Rescue training exercise has a purpose and quite commonly an exercise will be based on a scenario. The March scenario was that a group of Scouts had set out to do the three Cairns of Fleet, Cairnsmore of Fleet, Cairnsmore of Dee and Cairnsmore of Carsphairn. The Scouts had split up and got lost, one group of four somewhere near Craignarget (northern end of Cairnsmore of Fleet) and the other group, also of four, on the southern slopes of Cairnsmore of Dee. The scenario required the Scouts to be cold and tired. I went with the team on Craignarget and the other team had a well known local Dalry

resident, Bob Peace, with them.

The team on Cairnsmore of Dee were found by our SARDA (Search and Rescue Dog Association) dog and the only problem there was that the dog, Troy, loves children and stayed to be petted instead of going back to bring his handler to the location. The team on Craignarget was found in the edge of the forest by a group made up of both Moffat and Galloway MRT personnel. They were supposedly hypothermic so the appropriate First Aid was to make them warm - it was a warm day!

Due to time constraints both groups of Scouts were evacuated from the hill quite quickly after being found, and everyone came back to The Clachan Inn for a debrief, soup and sandwiches. Overall, it was an excellent day for both MR teams and for the Scouts.

Both the Galloway and the Moffat teams have a series of exercises throughout the year and it's important that they're able to respond quickly and skilfully

whenever needed.

If anyone wants to join the Galloway team please visit www.gallowaymrt.org.uk/team_joinus.htm

The local Scout Group meets in New Galloway. Scouts are for young people, boys and girls, aged between 10½ and 14, and meetings are usually on a Friday at 7.30pm (sometimes other days).

Between the ages of 14 to 18 there are the Explorer Scouts. Explorers are usually on a Thursday at 7.30pm.

If you're interested in either Scouts or Explorers, contact David Adamson on 01644 430 104 or email

scouts@dbleadamson.plus.com

We also have an active Cub Scout section for age 8 to 10½ and Beaver Scouts for those aged six to eight. *David Adamson*



Golf Club News

We are now into the golfing season and it is a busy time at the club.

The course is in excellent condition after the very wet winter and the greens are the best they have been at the start of a season for many years.

The club has recently purchased a new tractor and verti-corer and it is hoped that this will help with the work on the drainage of the course, particularly if we are going to experience wet winters like the last one.

The season was started with the Captain, Jeff Sutcliffe, driving-off after which a match was played between the Captain and Vice Captain's teams. The Captain's Team were the winners and the cup was presented in the clubhouse after all players had enjoyed a buffet.

The Celts Challenge, a competition to celebrate the life of the past president, Chris Thomas, was a mixed event and very well attended. The winners were the Lancaster family; Sandy, Paul and Philip. Sunshine was the order of the day and everyone enjoyed the game.

Tony Graham and his partner Gavin Aitkenhead are working through the rounds in the Kirkcudbrightshire four ball better ball championship and Sandy Harvie and Tony Graham are through to the next round of the national Daily Mail Foursomes competition.

The Glenkens Trophy Open, a mixed event which has attracted a lot of interest, was played on May Day. The Men's Open, sponsored by Natural Power, takes place on Sunday 25 May and the Senior Men's Open on Thursday 5 June.

Dates for your diary are Thursday 18 to Saturday 20 September for Day of the Region. The Golf Club is taking part in this year's event, offering the chance of a free 9-hole round, putting competition, teas/coffees and tray bakes and a 'brocante' (superior second hand goods sale).

The Dumfries and Galloway Golf Partnership in which New Galloway Golf Club is taking



Celts Challenge winners were the Lancaster family; Paul, Sandy and Philip.

an active part is now well under way with all golf clubs within the region together with accommodation providers taking part. Any accommodation provider within the Glenkens who would like to take part in this project which hopes to bring more visitors to the area in 2015 and beyond or would like more information about the project should contact Jeff Sutcliffe on 450 265.

Memberships are still available and junior coaching will be starting soon - please contact the club for more details.

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

Spalding Bowling Club

Dalry's Spalding Bowling Club opened the green for play on 19 April.

The glorious sunshine brought out a good attendance. Eliz Peacock, the president's wife, threw the silver jack and opened the green for play. After tea and cakes a friendly game was played between the president's side and the vice-president's.

Anyone who would like to come along and

try their hand at bowling is very welcome. Please come along on a Wednesday night at 7pm; bowls will be provided - wear flat-soled shoes.

Eliz Peacock



Opening day at Spalding Bowling Club.

DALRY PRIMARY MUSIC SUCCESS

Dalry Primary had a very successful week at the Galloway Music Festival.

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

In the Group Music Making category P3/4/5 took 1st place with their Egyptian Medley composition. The judges were particularly impressed with pupil conductor, Olivia, who led the performance beautifully.

P5/6/7 took part in the Ceilidh

class and were up against Dalry's own S3 Secondary group in this category. P5/6/7 took first place with their arrangement of Scottish songs.

There were also a number of solo entries for voice and piano. James (P7) took 2nd place in the Scot Solo Song category and Lucy (P3) took 3rd place in the Grade 1 piano solos. The other soloist performed well and achieved merit scores as well.

Depute head teacher Annette



P1/2 students performing.

Craig said: "The children all performed to a very high standard and were a credit to the school."

Glenkens Cluster Residential

Recently P6 and 7 pupils from the Glenkens visited Edinburgh for a

three-day residential experience.

On the afternoon of the first day the pupils from Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells visited the Camera Obscura and Edinburgh Castle. After dinner the pupils went on an organised ghost walk around The Royal Mile and the city vaults. They were told a number of stories about life in Edinburgh hundreds of years ago.

Day two began with a walk up Arthur's Seat. Unfortunately it was wet and windy, but the pupils still enjoyed the view of the city. The group then

walked down to the Scottish Parliament to meet local MSP, Mr Alex Fergusson, for a guided tour of the building.

After lunch we walked across the road to Holyrood for a guided tour of the Palace. The afternoon was completed with a visit to Dynamic Earth where the pupils enjoyed the galleries explaining how the planet was created as well as watching a film show on space at the planetarium.

On the last day we visited the National Museum of Scotland before leaving Edinburgh. The trip home was broken with a visit to the Falkirk Wheel.

Zane Gray



Students meet local MSP Alex Fergusson.

FUTURE GLENKENS ENGINEERS

Once again this year, P6 pupils from across the Glenkens participated in the K'Nex Challenge.

The K'Nex Challenge is supported by the Glasgow Science Festival and it gives pupils the opportunity to develop their design, problem solving and teamwork skills in a fun

setting. Following on from the cluster challenge, the top team from each school in the cluster was invited to the regional final at Dumfries Academy on 2 May.

Representing the Glenkens, from Kells Primary were Finlay McGaw and Hardy Walker; from Dalry School were Euan Belienki and William Nash; and Caitlin Blackett and Rachel McCreath represented Carsphairn Primary.

The challenge at the regional

final was to design and build a forklift that had a working pulley system for the forklift and also had a steering mechanism. All three teams came up with very clever designs and created fabulous forklifts. Although none of the teams from the Glenkens came away the overall winner, all pupils involved had great fun, and really should be proud in the way they represented the community.

YOUTH BANTER

**Summer is
Here!**

Summer is here and with the CatStrand now fully operational again, we will be hosting plenty of exciting activities for young people to get involved in. Interested in film making? Music production? Visual arts? Creative writing? Or drama? The CatStrand Youth Summer Scheme is due out at the end of May and will include a raft of activities for all ages and tastes. Read on to find out more!

**New horror film
to start shooting
in July!**



The **CatStrand Young Film Makers Club** will start work on their second horror film this summer. After the success of last Halloween's *The Haunting of Kenmare Woods* the Club are looking at an even more ambitious project this time around. "I think *The Haunting of KW* gave everyone a flavour of how films are made but they had to learn everything as they went along" said CYFMC's Simon Davidson. "Since then they've

The CatStrand Young Film Makers had a busy Easter break with the premiere of their documentary about S.R. Crockett showing to a packed house as part of the CatStrand's Celebration Event in New Galloway Town Hall. The film, which investigated the locations used in Crockett's celebrated novel *The Raiders* (1894), received fantastic reviews for the way it brought Crockett's landscape to life as well as bringing *The Raiders* to a whole new audience of young people. The music score, composed and performed by Access All Areas students, was also highly praised.

The Easter workshops were enormously productive resulting in no less than four short films which will be screened at the CatStrand over the summer. Keep an eye on the CatStrand website for details. www.catstrand.com

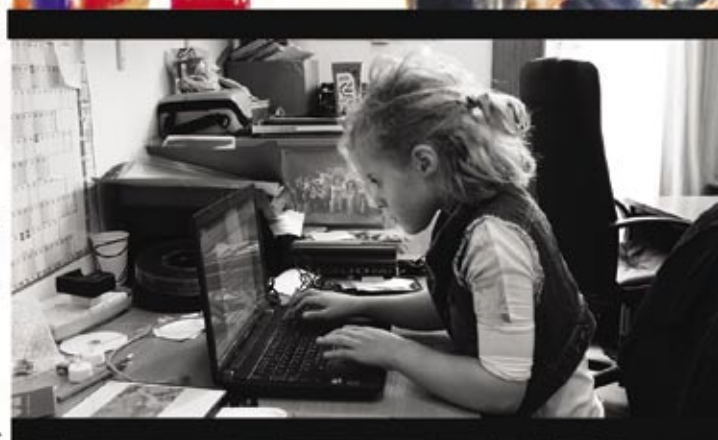
two documentaries, a music video, a comedy sketch show and three drama shorts, so it will be very different this time around. They are a very ambitious group with some incredible ideas and I'm really looking forward to seeing what they come up with for this movie." The Club are due to meet on Monday 21st July at The CatStrand to decide on the story, script, and cast and shooting will begin in early August. "They like to shoot on location as much as possible then they tidy things up in post-production - hopefully August will be a sunny month!"

The CYFMC is open to anyone between the ages of 12 - 24 and is FREE to participate in. No experience is necessary. We do various projects throughout the year.



Useful Info

To get involved with the **CatStrand Young Film Makers Club**, contact simon@catstrand.com The CYFMC will be holding their first horror film meeting from **2pm - 5pm and 7pm - 9pm @ The CatStrand on Monday 21st May**



Grace gets even in the CYFMC's own comic take on *The Hunger Games* - set in New Galloway of course.



Supported by
The Holywood Trust

Background image
by Josie Oliver

GCAT (Glenkens Community & Arts Trust)
YOUTH:TEAM

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

Access All Areas recordings
now online



The Access All Areas music project has been running now for 9 months during which a host of young musicians have been able to write, perform, and record their own songs. Some of the recordings from the sessions are now available to stream online from this link:

<https://soundcloud.com/solwaysounds>

The most recent track was a collaboration between young people from Balmaclellan, New Galloway, Castle Douglas, and Stranraer. There are other songs from the likes of **Cloud Nine** (Castle Douglas), **Imogen Gordon** (Thornhill), and **Alyth Ross** (Lochmaben). There are many more tracks to come between now and September when the project will celebrate its first birthday!

To get involved contact simon@catstrand.com

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music project

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www.catstrand.com

The Hollywood Trust

YOUTH STORY



CatStrand Young Film Maker and Youth Player **Georgiana Grimwood (10)** sent us the next instalment of her humorous and entertaining story.

Guess Who? PART 2

I was regretting being rude to Mrs Leachy Nook. As a punishment I was to wait behind after school and help Brian the Janitor tidy the whole school. But I had other ideas. After all, you would never see Roxy Middleton tidy the stinky schools after school! So after lunch I didn't bother to go to the last class. Instead, I ran out into the playground and as quickly as I could to the school gates. I was running like a whole wolf pack was chasing me. I climbed over the gate and tried to get my foot onto a piece of it that was sticking up but it unfortunately was not connected to anything so I plummeted down, down, down on to the hard ground. My knee was a bit red and bruised but nothing urgent.

A couple of weeks ago I had found a tree in the middle the park. It looked like nobody had touched it for years and years and would be perfect for a treehouse. So I decided to use the money I had saved from my birthday and Christmas to build one. I bought planks of wood for £10, a blanket and a mattress for £10, and of course sweets, crisps and biscuits. I saved the last £10 for emergencies. I figured if I ran out of food and money I would tell mum I needed some money for school dinners, simple pimple.. I had all it in the garage so I waited in a tree next to the doctors until school was finished and then got all the wood planks, food, mattress and blanket and brought it to the glorious tree. Nobody else knew about and it would hopefully stay like that. I stole a hammer and nails from my dad's workshop and started to make the tree house with the wood planks. Soon it was finished. It had dodgy steps to get up and loads of room inside. I thought I could live here one day! I bundled all the food in my arms and put it in a corner, then I put the mattress and blanket in. I was glad I chose the smallest size of mattress because it took up half of the tree house. I brought a cushion from home to use for the bed. I walk to the road and look at the tree house - you could hardly see it! Mum and dad would never ever find me, like they'd care if I ran away.

Because I felt extremely happy, I decided to get myself a treat. So I used the emergency £10 to buy chocolate, marshmallows, and candyfloss. I also wanted some new clothes from Top Shop and there was this really nice outfit for adventuring - it had trousers with loads of pockets, a t-shirt and a jacket that was black and dark green. Unfortunately it cost £18! There was only one thing for it - extra dinner money from mum! I knew she

BYTES

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

STORY



would have finished work by now, so I ran home like lightning to the damp flat where mum was in the kitchen sulking. "Where have you been for two days? We've not seen you since, young lady" she said, drinking herb tea and eating chocolate biscuits. I just shrugged my shoulders and walked to my room. How would I get the money, I thought. Luckily I looked in my drawer and found £150 from last Christmas this Christmas and my birthday. So I grabbed it and stuffed it in my pocket. I then walked downstairs, counting the money – there was quite a lot of it! Mum was still there. "Until you tell me where you went for two days, I won't let you go out again - you can stay in your room"

TO BE CONTINUED...

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.

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

PLAY: Catstrand Youth Players One-Act Plays

Selfie and *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations*

Fri 13th June 7.30pm £5/3

PLAY: La Tragedie Comique

Inspired comedy play.

Fri 27th Jun @ 7.30pm £10/8 Ages 11+

MUSIC: The Mae Trio

Australian rootsy folk

Sat 12th July 7.30pm, £10/8 All Ages

FILM: Mr Peabody & Sherman

Hilarious time travel animation

Thu 24th July 2pm £5

Scottish Alternative Commonwealth Games

Sun 3rd Aug 2pm £4/1 All Ages

Puppet Theatre : The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Little Fawn Caravan/Sokobauno Puppet Theatre.

Sat 23rd Aug 11am - 2pm £5 Ages 5+

Please book a place through CatStrand box office

01644 420374

ELSEWHERE

Life, Love & Liberty: A Burns Pageant

19th /20 July Dumfries

Live Musical Theatre show charting the last days of Robert Burns' life, set in the locations in which they happened.

FREE ALL AGES

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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

GTIBUSES



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

Glasgow Ayr Gig BMX trail

Cinema Skatepark Shopping

GUESS WHAT? YOU CAN!

Thanks to the GTI...

* 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

THANK YOU!!

Last month, we received a very generous donation from a local Gazette reader and this will help keep Youth Banter going for another month.

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.

CatStrand Youth Players

After the pressure and ultimate success of the Festival entries this year, the Youth Players have switched their attention to their next productions due to be staged at the CatStrand on Friday 13 June.

The plays chosen couldn't be more different: a classic youth comedy written by the inimitable Alan Ayckbourn will open the evening and will be followed by the UK premiere of a brand new play from prolific Canadian playwright, Bradley Hayward.

Ernie's Incredible Illucinations follows the trials and tribulations of Ernie's exasperated parents as they

try to get to the bottom of their son's unique and worrying ability to bring his thoughts to life. This leads to various sticky situations developing before their eyes with inevitable consequences. The best doctors don't believe it can actually happen until Ernie proves it to them in person! Larger than life characters are brought to life on the stage by a large cast assisted in no small measure by Alan Ayckbourn's keen eye for comedy.

Selfie deals with the contemporary phenomenon of the 'selfie' – taking a photo of yourself on your mobile phone and then sending it to somebody or posting it on the various social media sites. In keeping with the subject matter, the play is written in a very modern style and as you would expect incorporates the use of technology too.

Through his skilfully written and humorous script the author subtly succeeds in illustrating the good and the bad side of social media through the different experiences of eight teenagers.

Membership of CatStrand Youth Players is free and all the expenses of rehearsals, scripts, royalties and productions costs are funded entirely from their own box-office income. Your support is therefore much appreciated and allows us to continue to produce quality youth drama at the CatStrand.

Please come along and support the Youth Players' final productions before the summer break, we are sure you will enjoy the latest offerings.

Rehearsals will start again for the next season on Sunday 7 September to begin preparations for the Christmas Pantomime.

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Tel:

01387 255 334

Please check

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

Glenkens Transport Initiative

In recent years the growth and success of the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) has attracted compliments and much praise from not only people in the Glenkens but also from across Dumfries and Galloway and other parts of Scotland.

It is therefore rather surprising and somewhat disappointing how little use of GTI is now made by the people the initiative was originally designed to help – the residents of the Glenkens.

There are, of course, exceptions including the Wednesday evening service to Castle Douglas, the 'senior swimming' on a Tuesday and the regular use of a vehicle by Dalry and Kells School.

Many people think we are extremely lucky having 56 user groups registered with GTI and yet throughout 2013 only 24 of those groups actually used a bus and some of them only once!

We are very lucky having our own qualified Midas trainer/examiner, Jon Nimmo, making it easy to get drivers trained, and many of our volunteer drivers are prepared to help if a driver is needed.

The trips we regularly run, none of which have ever cost more than £6, are also struggling for support, and only recently a planned visit to Dumfries House was cancelled because not one person showed any interest. Likewise, although transport is often available in connection with events at the CatStrand, there is very little interest, even though it means no parking problems and no restrictions on having a drink

It is therefore rather surprising and somewhat disappointing how little use of GTI is now made by the people the initiative was originally designed to help – the residents of the Glenkens.

– watch out for free transport to some future events...

The GTI Committee took the opportunity a few years ago to apply to be on the Dumfries & Galloway Council's approved list for providing transport. This together with the recent demise of the Stewartry Sports Council has led to a number of opportunities to provide transport for the Council as well as a steady influx of requests for transport from other organisations and new user groups based in the Stewartry.

We now have four vehicles at our disposal, three with 16 seats and one with eight seats, two of

the mini buses being based in Castle Douglas and two in the Glenkens.

We have total flexibility where these vehicles are used giving GTI the ability to deal with most transport requests. It is rather disappointing that user groups based near Castle Douglas seem to make more use of our facilities and use them for such things as walking festivals, golf trips and social events.

The cost of using a vehicle is

reasonably cheap and it is far more environmentally friendly than everyone using cars.

If you have any queries about GTI including vehicles available and how to use them, driver training or any matter

please contact me on 01644 420 374 or gti@catstrand.com

Some upcoming trips are:

Sunday 15 June -

Arndarroch Open Garden, High Carsphairn Road.

Sun 29 June - Loch Lomond

Monday 14 July - Largs and Cumbrae Island

Sat 26 July - Glasgow and Commonwealth Games Flotilla

Sat 9 August - Mull of Galloway

Further trips will be added; suggestions are always welcome.

*Keith Cooper,
GTI Administrator*



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(Jonathan)**

How To Beat Doorstep Crime

From bogus callers to rogue traders, doorstep criminals are cunning, creative, and often very convincing.

Anyone can be fooled as these people are professional con-artists. However, the over 60s are often specifically targeted.

What is Doorstep Crime?

There are two main types:

1 - Bogus callers try to get into your home or obtain personal details by pretending to be someone they're not, including council staff, meter readers, charity collectors or police officers. In reality, they are criminals trying to steal cash and valuables.

2 - Rogue traders usually cold-call, claiming to be workers offering to make repairs or carry out work on your house, garden or driveway. In reality they charge inflated prices for shoddy

or unnecessary work.

We do not recommend dealing with cold-callers for property maintenance and repairs to your home.

What can I do?

- Be on guard if someone turns up unexpectedly
- Use a door chain or bar
- Always put the chain on before opening the door
- Keep it on while talking to callers
- Don't feel embarrassed; genuine callers expect you to be careful
- If you don't have a door chain, check from the nearest window. Remember, door chains can be easily fitted
- If you're not sure, don't answer the door.

Who should I call...

...If I feel threatened, unsafe or suspicious of a caller?

Contact the police immediately on 999.

...if I see something suspicious in my area, or want more advice about doorstep crime?

Contact the police on 101; try and take a note of vehicle details or registration numbers and descriptions of anyone suspicious.

...if I want to contact the police anonymously?

Contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. You can also visit its website at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

...to find out more about home safety services?

- Contact your local police station on 101 to arrange a free security survey.
- Contact your local Trading Standards; some operate No Cold Calling zones or have lists of approved traders.

*Ian Dunn,
Glenkens Community PC*

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THE HARMONY OF SPRING

For some it's woolly willow catkins by the roadside, for others the delight of gambolling lambs in the fields, the vanguard swallows fresh home from South Africa or myriad other colourful images that confirm the arrival of spring.

This year, for me, it was the rattling calls and gathering of a couple of dozen sand martins over the Water of Ken, just above the confluence with the Garroch Burn. Following repeated flooding of their riverside nest burrows in 2012, the depleted colony enjoyed a bumper breeding season last year and are now back in profusion. These resilient birds have evolved to deal with a range of disasters, natural and otherwise, that affect variously their sand bank homes, their wintering grounds or their running the gauntlet of a 3,000-mile journey between the two. The 1970's drought in the Sahel saw them hit their lowest levels in living memory, but in recent years these indomitable mites (only 1/2 oz or 14g!) have been widespread and are the earliest of our summer migrant birds, usually seen heading north over rivers and lochs in mid to late March. I love them.

Around this time I also love to hear oystercatchers making their first nocturnal forays upstream to their inland breeding places from their coastal wintering quarters – how excited they sound. Also, on early morning and dusk walks down the Ken at Dalry in March, when Earlstoun isn't generating, I usually scan downstream from the swinging brig in the hope of seeing a whaup (curlew) feeding on invertebrates in the mossy

shallows. Although I've heard an odd bird overhead, I've yet to be lucky this year.

These brilliant big waders, with their uniquely evocative calls, greatly increased in numbers in the pre-forestry and pre-silage post-war decades in the southwest, but this was to be short-lived. More recently their numbers have crashed throughout much of the British Isles, but especially in Ireland and south and west Britain due to habitat change. Many thousands lost their moorlands here directly to forestry, but recent research has confirmed that forestry also has a negative effect on whaups

Whilst beauty is, of course, in the eye of the beholder, I must say I don't think I would be alone in my feelings regarding the industrial transformation that afforestation and clearfelling has brought to this area. It now looks like a war-zone.

well beyond its boundaries, probably due to harbouring predators.

Although some raptors predate them, most nests are lost at the egg stage and ground predators like foxes appear to be the major culprits. Land-use change has also seen them decline on the continent and the UK now holds about a quarter of the global population.

There are still a few pairs on the moorlands north of Carsphairn and it was great to hear them singing this morning (6 May) as I looked and listened for black

grouse (I saw two). Conifer maturation has pushed both species out of the immediately forested areas, but it is hoped that the second rotation will at least provide homes for some of the latter.

As a boy from coal-mining New Cumnock, in the early 1970s I walked several times from the Afton over onto the Water of Deugh, fascinated by the chambered cairn a little downstream from Brownhill. At that time the Deugh was on the New Cumnock fishing ticket – it may be still – and my paternal male relations were all keen fishers, so much so that I often

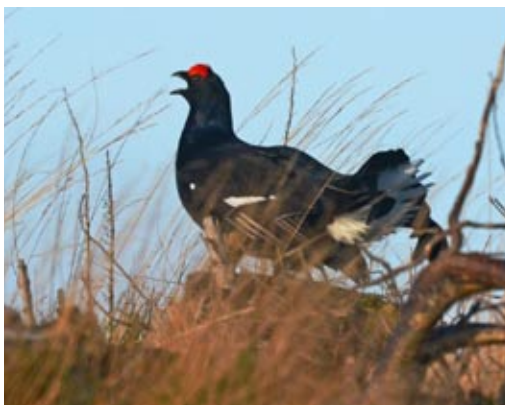
had the job of holding polythene bags full of (brown) trouts as they caught them with the worm in a falling, black-tea-coloured water with almost unbelievable regularity. Planting had then only recently begun and the spring landscape on the upper Deugh

was one of open moorland alive with whaups and black grouse. Hen harriers were regular, too, and I even saw golden eagle once or twice.

Whilst beauty is, of course, in the eye of the beholder, I must say I don't think I would be alone in my feelings regarding the industrial transformation that afforestation and clearfelling has brought to this area. It now looks like a war-zone.

Finally, not being a 'sportsman' myself, I clearly can't appreciate the thrill that shooters get from killing their quarry, although I am certainly not opposed to (legal) shooting in principle. However, I'm certain that, like me, many shooters will also fail to appreciate the thrill that accompanied the shooting of a whaup by someone on the Ken at Dalry early on Saturday morning a couple of weeks ago. Sadly, that's one I won't be seeing feeding in the mossy shallows in future.

Chris Rollie



A 'lekking' black grouse © Angus Hogg.

Open Garden

Annikki Lindsay is once again opening her beautiful garden at Arndarroch to the public for a fundraising event this June.

This will be the garden's 20th opening as Annikki has been holding an open garden now for 17 years, since the garden was only six years old, with the first three years opening twice a year.

"The 2.5 acre garden is a semi-natural, wildlife friendly environment," says Annikki. "There are views over Kendoon Loch and the Cairnsmore hills and red kites circle over the garden as well as peregrine falcons occasionally. There are collections of herbaceous plants, shrub and trees including a Cloutie Tree and an Anvil Tree (these are my little joke; when you visit a sign explains what

they are!) and over 20 different types of bamboo. There are also rockeries and a small woodland walk."

For children there will be a treasure hunt as well as the chance to perhaps see Rocky the Kendoon Monster, and even fairies in the garden! There will also be an exhibition of patchwork and quilting (the quilter will be present), a plant and cake stall and teas for £2.50.

The Open Garden is on Sunday 15 June from 2-5pm, entry is £3.50 with children under 16 free and dogs on leads are welcome. Funds raised will go towards the Glenkens Children's Club and Dumfries & Galloway Canine Rescue Centre.

Arndarroch is situated on the



B7000, 5 miles from Dalry or Carsphairn; Follow the blue signs till you see blue balloons at the end of the drive – the postcode is DG7 3UD. For further details contact Annikki Lindsay on 460 640 or email annikkilindsay@gmail.com



The Clachan Inn, Dalry, is open every day from 12 noon

serving great food, award-winning ale and offering a variety of live music.

Food is served from 12 noon to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm, with the new menu proving very popular so booking is recommended at peak times (current menu can be viewed on our website).

Come and experience award-winning cask ales and a great selection of wines, malts, ciders, beers and freshly ground coffee.

With summer on its way there are plenty of events planned at the Clachan - keep an eye on the boards outside for all up coming events.

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mail@theclachaninn.co.uk



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for an appointment or to make any alternative arrangement.

You can visit Alex's website at:

www.alexfergusson.org.uk

or contact him by e-mail at:

alex.fergusson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

War Graves in the Glenkens

Although most war graves are in large cemeteries erected near the battlefields of WW1 or WW2, there are many individual war graves back here in UK.

These are soldiers who died of wounds or illness 'at home'. There are five such graves in the Glenkens and these have recently been highlighted by new Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) signs placed at the entrance to the churchyards.

Some of these graves have official Commonwealth War Graves Commission pattern gravestones but other families preferred to have a private stone erected - the photos show an example of each.

The official war graves of the Glenkens are:

- John Anderson, WW1,

Carsphairn (official stone)

- William Dickson, WW1, Carsphairn (private stone)

- Matthew Hyslop, WW1, Balmaclellan (private stone)

- Robert Little, WW2, Dalry (private stone)

- David Robertson, WW1, Dalry (official stone)

In addition to these official war graves, there are many other family gravestones which record the deaths in war of family members and yet others which record military service although the person may not have died in war.

There are four such in Balmaclellan, none in Carsphairn, eight in Kells and twenty-two in Dalry; some of these record more than one war death.

One such non-CWGC grave worth noting is that of Jane Nodwell in Kells Churchyard. Jane was a member of the Red Cross

and died of illness. The rules were much stricter to be granted official war grave status for such organisations - if she had been a member of the Armed Forces then she would have qualified. However, despite being listed on the Kells War Memorial, her grave remains a private one and does not have official war grave status.

You can find much more about all of these gravestones and the people recorded in the Scottish War Graves Project at <http://scottishwargraves.phpbbweb.com>

Paul Goodwin



Remembrance Poppies – The Glenkens Connection

Marmaduke McCrae was born in Old Cumnock in 1776 and was farming at the Holm of Dalquhairn, Carsphairn, when his son David was born in 1800.

David was farming at Dukieston in Kells parish when his son Thomas was born in 1820. Dukieston is now a ruin on Forrest Estate. Thomas farmed in Laurieston and his son David was born in 1845. A few years later, Thomas and his family emigrated to Guelph, Ontario. David became an army officer and had a family of his own, one of whom John, born on 30 November 1872, is the key part of this history.

John McCrae also joined the

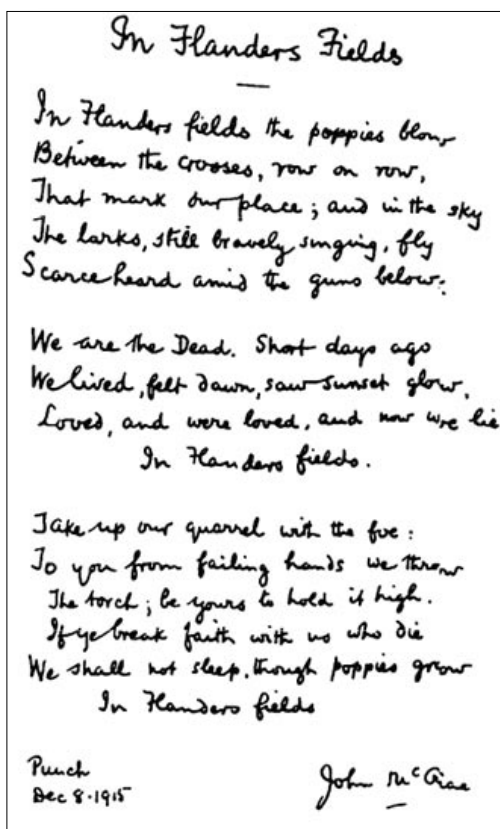
Army and served in the Boer War and the First World War where he became a medical officer. He was in charge of a field hospital during the Second Battle of Ypres and it was there that he wrote the poem *In Flanders Fields* following the death of his friend Alexis Helmer in 1915. The poem was published soon after in *Punch* magazine.

In Flanders Fields was the inspiration for the poppy to be adopted as a symbol of remembrance and the poem is used in remembrance services across the world.

Marmaduke's gravestone can be seen in Carsphairn Churchyard and memorials to John McCrae can be seen the world over.

To the right is an original handwritten, signed version of the poem.

Paul Goodwin



LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN



This month marks the 700th anniversary of the most iconic battle in Scottish history, fought on 23 and 24 June to preserve the freedom and independence of the nation of Scots against the mighty army of England's Edward II.

Robert Heron of New Galloway (1764-1807) wrote *A New History of Scotland* from the earliest Times...to 1748 in five thick volumes, a fascinating work which seems to have been almost completely forgotten. Heron was a genuine product of the Scottish Enlightenment, a polymath who wrote on numerous subjects. He was steeped in Scottish literature, had absorbed every enlightenment publication worth reading, but sadly was a self-confessed waster and boozier. He was disappointed that the field of Bannockburn retained no conspicuous vestiges of the battle, in which 'freedom spurned tyranny to the earth, and crushed his neck in the dust'. Nothing remained to show it was 'once the scene of an engagement decisive of the fate of Scotland', save for the stone that supported the royal standard. This year the site has acquired a shiny new visitor centre portraying the battle using the latest high tech.

Bannockburn was Scotland's greatest victory, as might have been predicted since it was fought on a particularly auspicious day, that of John the Baptist, Scotland's favourite saint, having baptised Scotland's

own St Andrew, 'first-called' of the disciples, who advised his brother Peter, of the coming of the Messiah. The victory, against apparently overwhelming odds, was iconic because it was fought for the most sublime of causes, namely the defence of king, country and community. Bannockburn represented invincible corroboration of the legend that Scotland, specially favoured by God, had never been a conquered country, unlike England. More practically, defeating the greatest military force in Europe gave the Scots a massive psychological boost. It was claimed that the English army marching north was 20

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miles from end to end. The amount of booty looted from the field was valued at an unbelievable £3 million in 1874. Scotland was suddenly a place to be reckoned with, Bruce a warlord to be admired and his battle-hardened veterans to be envied and respected. Every year thereafter the elaborate celebrations at the Feast of John the Baptist, handily corresponding to Midsummer's Day, would recall Bannockburn and the noble aspirations it symbolised.

What was the impact of Bannockburn on the Glenkens? If a referendum had been held in 1314 even more of the inhabitants of Galloway would have voted 'No' than are expected to do so 700 years later. Galloway had little love for the Bruce cause. Robert's brother Edward was violently imposed on the province as Lord of Galloway. The Galwegians

continued to defy the Bruce regime until the 1350s. The 'Black Douglas', Bruce's loyal lieutenant, was granted the regality of Buittle, a bridgehead for the almost total Douglas takeover of Galloway by the mid-15th century. Another Bruce stalwart, Thomas Randolph, received estates in Parton. Native McMillan landowners in the Glenkens, Gylbricht McMalene and Gilruth McMolene, of Brockloch and Knockengorroch (Carsphairn) had their lands forfeited, for supporting the English. The

Church in Galloway continued to oppose Bruce who attempted modest pacification by granting the patronage of Kells to Whithorn Abbey for the damage it had suffered in the wars.

Whithorn thereafter had the right to nominate the priest of Kells. This process was known as 'appropriation', whereby the revenues of the parish were siphoned off by the beneficiary. Quite often in such cases insufficient funds were left behind to maintain the parish priest and the fabric of his kirk.

Two World Wars have taught us to commemorate, rather than celebrate, battles. The loss of life in the Anglo-Scottish wars was horrendous. Both Edward II and Robert I would have preferred to avoid the battle. From a Scottish point of view it was about resistance to tyrannical invasion, occupation and conquest by an alien despot. Much water has flowed down the Bannock Burn since 1314. A conflict that took place 700 years ago must be seen in its context of time and circumstance. Today we engage in very different battles.

Ted Cowan

JUNE & JULY

JUNE

Thurs 5, Senior Men's Open Golf Tournament, New Galloway Golf Club, see p9

Wed 11, Open Stage, CatStrand

Fri 13, CatStrand Youth Players Performance, CatStrand, see p15

Sun 15, Movie Brunch: Osage County, CatStrand

Sun 15, Arndarroch Open Garden, High Carsphairn Road, see p19 (GTI bus service operating - see p16)

Fri 20, Kieran Goss, CatStrand

Tue 24 & Wed 25, Weaving Workshop with Katie Russell, CatStrand

Fri 27, La Tragedie Comique, CatStrand

Sun 29, GTI Bus Trip: Loch Lomond, see p16

JULY

Sat 5, Crayfish Drop-in Event, 2-3pm, Cross Keys Hotel, New Galloway, see p5

Sat 12, The Mae Trio, CatStrand

Mon 14, GTI Bus Trip: Largs & Cumbrae Island, see p16

Fri 18, Mike Daly's

Dixieland Rhythm Kings Jazz Band, CatStrand

Sat 19 & Sun 20, The Art of Movement: Drawing/ Painting Workshop, CatStrand

Thu 24, Film: Mr Peabody & Sherman, CatStrand

Sat 26, GTI Bus Trip: Glasgow & Commonwealth Games Flotilla, see p16

AUGUST

Sun 3, Scottish Alternative 'Commonwealth' Games, see p4

Sat 9, GTI Bus Trip: Mull of Galloway, see p16

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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

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

Swimming for Over 60s: transport

to Kirkcudbright from CatStrand at

1pm

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, 9.30-11.45am

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

Bowling for Beginners: Wed, 7pm,

Spalding Bowling Club, Dalry (opposite

The Garage)

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.

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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.

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, 5th (June), Dalry 9am 1st

2nd (Jul) 3rd 4th, Kells 10.30am

2nd 3rd 4th

Special Services/Events: 8 June,

United Family Service (Kells/

Dalry), 10.30am, Kells Church; 8

June, Conventicle, 3pm, Halfmark,

Carsphairn (parking at Garryhorn

farm, then 10 minute easy

walk); 29 June, United Service

with Church Choir, 10.30am,

Carsphairn Church

Communion Services: 6 July,

10.15am Carsphairn Church

Communion (using central table)

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

GLENKENS CLUSTER HEAD TEACHER RETIRES

Fraser Simpson, head teacher of the Glenkens Cluster of schools, is retiring at the end of June after 12 years at Dalry.

His time at Dalry School has seen many changes, most notably the formation of the Glenkens Cluster – Glenkens Nursery, Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells Primaries and Dalry Secondary all coming under the umbrella of one head teacher.

Other highlights of the last 12 years for Fraser include the ski trips, the annual geography trips to Glasgow and making it to the Small Schools Football Cup final in 2009. But it is the daily working with young people ranging from toddlers to teenagers that has been the best part of the job.

"Every child only gets one shot at education and an environment like the Glenkens is a fantastic opportunity for them to grow and learn," says Fraser. "There is a great sense of pride at the S4 Leaving Assemblies as those who we have taught and guided, often from the age of three, move on as successful, confident young adults."

Apart from a brief spell as a

part-time football reporter for DC Thomson when he was a student in Edinburgh, Fraser has been a teacher all his working life. There had never been any question in his mind about his chosen career – in fact the only decision was whether to train as a geography or PE teacher. Geography won the day.

Three years at Dunblane High School was followed by seven years at Wallace High in Stirling. Then in 1987 he and his wife Mags moved to Stranraer when he was appointed principal teacher at Stranraer Academy. In 1996 he joined Douglas Ewart High School in Newton Stewart as assistant head where he remained until coming to Dalry.

Dalry Secondary may be one of the smallest high schools in Scotland but it is firmly at the forefront in delivering top quality education, as the national exam league tables demonstrate year after year. Paul Bannister, principal teacher pupil support at Dalry, comments: "Fraser always puts the needs of pupils first – every decision made in school has been for their benefit."

Asked what advice he would give his successor, Fraser said: "What makes a school effective are strong and positive relationships with staff,



pupils, parents and the wider community – this is much more important than Standards and Quality Reports or School Improvement Plans which will not work on their own without good relationships."

Having gone straight from university and teacher training college to his first job, Fraser is planning a 'gap year' for his retirement and it will be no surprise to a generation of pupils that this will involve going to all the Falkirk FC games. Golf, cycling and a bit of travel in the camper van are also on the agenda.

Andrea Ramsay, chair of the School Parent Council, voices the good wishes of all parents for his retirement and the Glenkens Gazette and the wider community of the Glenkens also wish him all the best.

Cllr Finlay Carson
Castle Douglas & Glenkens

for an appointment

Tel: 07825 633 185

or email:

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