

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

August/September 2014

ISSUE 83

FREE

Day of the Region in New Galloway

Join New Galloway's weekend party...

New Galloway will take centre stage in September when it hosts a weekend of events celebrating the Day of the Region (DoR). There will be a diverse programme of free events ranging from fishing to singing, golf to photography and cooking to wildlife-watching, demonstrating the wealth of activities people enjoy across the wider area.

The Day of the Region is a Europe-wide initiative to encourage grass-roots rural community activity and co-operation, and capture the wonderful array of activities that go on throughout the year. Four years ago Dumfries & Galloway



was the first region in the UK to take part, and New Galloway is one of eight communities in the region which have been accepted for this year's celebration which runs from 19-21 September.

New Galloway & Kells Community Council has set up a steering group to run the event, led by the council's chair, George Scott. He says: "The Day of the Region is an opportunity to showcase the many interesting and varied activities that we enjoy in the region and especially in New Galloway. We hope to encourage people and places to connect with each other and to encourage people to share resources, find new friends, and have fun. It will also provide local people with an opportunity to volunteer in their communities and share their skills and interests."

The entire event is free and George and the other volunteer organisers look forward to



Galloway Forest Dark Sky events are part of the DoR activities (photo by Keith Muir)

welcoming everyone from across the Glenkens and beyond.

"Whether you are interested in walking, cycling, photography, crafts or music, or have a love of the countryside, food or history, this is your opportunity to find out what is going on in your community and be part of it," he says. **Continued on p19...**

AFRICAN VISIT FOR CARSPHAIRN PRIMARY

It has been yet another incredibly busy term at Carsphairn Primary.

23 May was a very special day in the school as we had visitors from Ghana. The African drumming Group was on its way to perform at the main stage of the Knochengorach World Ceilidh Festival, but stopped in at the school to entertain and educate pupils, parents and community members. Everyone in attendance learned a little about the different styles of drums and songs, and also had a chance to play the drums and learn some traditional African dances. **Continued on p10...**



Carsphairn Primary pupils and staff with African drumming group.

GLENKENS COMMUNITY CENTRE

It's been a busy few months behind the scenes at the Glenkens Community Centre, with the plans for community ownership progressing apace.

Because of the clear desire voiced by the wider community to see Dalry Town Hall and the Community Centre working closely together, we formed a steering committee from representatives of the Community Centre and Town Hall management committees, Dalry community council and some independent voices to ensure that the solution we arrive at is one that will benefit the area as a whole (full list of steering committee members below).

At our inaugural meeting in May, we determined that the will was there to see the Community Centre and the Town Hall managed by one Trust, or SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation), as they are formally known nowadays. Under this umbrella organisation each building would retain a management committee with responsibilities (as now) for rent-setting, bookings management and internal maintenance. The new Trust would be responsible for grant and fundraising to facilitate external maintenance and running costs, plus advertising and promotion and any other roles that would be better done as a joint effort.

We believe that this will provide a model that will allow the buildings to work in a complementary fashion, each playing to its strengths to provide the community with the facilities it needs, and indeed to become more than the sum of their parts. It is also a model that could be expanded to include other public buildings in Dalry, as and if required.

To achieve this model, there are some legal issues regarding the existing (and very old) Town Hall Trust that need to be overcome, but Will Adam is very kindly working hard on this on our behalf

We are all very excited about the possibilities that community ownership and working so closely with the Town Hall offer.

and we are confident of finding a route to our desired outcome. We have also been successful in our application for a £3000 grant from Awards For All to fund the transition costs.

Communications with D&G Council continue cordially, although we were surprised to hear last month that due to changing Council priorities, they are not now insisting on a sale to us in the immediate future. We can now continue as we are under the new Management Agreement for the medium-term. However, the amount of money the Council has available for upgrades (such as

new windows) is extremely small and any external maintenance would almost certainly continue on the same ad-hoc basis as before.

At the next meetings of the Management Committee and the Steering Committee, due in early September, we will therefore discuss whether we would like to continue towards the purchase anyway. Early indications are that we should capitalise on our momentum and proceed with the purchase.

In summary, the Community Centre will certainly remain open for the foreseeable future, with a handover to community ownership still very likely. The potential of community ownership and working in partnership with the Town Hall open up a vista of possibilities for the future which we are very excited about.

If you have any questions or comments, do get in touch: keronh@me.com

*Helen Keron, Chair,
Glenkens Community Centre
management committee*

Members of the steering committee (listed by person, position and what organisation they represent) are: Helen Keron (chair), Glenkens Community Centre; Jack Howard (secretary), Glenkens Community Centre; Jean Lockerbie, Dalry Town Hall; Sonya Trantor, Dalry Town Hall; Andi Holmes, Dalry Community Council; Gerald Bell, Dalry Community Council; Ronnie Bradford, Independent, Will Adam, legal advice.

Gardener Required

for Carsphairn
Community Garden

*This is a paid post for a
self-employed gardener.*

Please contact Carsphairn
Community Council secretary:
carsphairncc@gmail.com

Glenkens Agricultural Society Annual Show

Saturday 9th August

Mains of Kenmure, New Galloway

Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Poultry,
Horses, Show Jumping, Fancy
Dress Pony, Pets & Dogs,
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fiona_mccintyre@hotmail.co.uk



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Photo of the Issue: *Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel*

This issue's winner is Fraser McCormick with this tranquil snap of the Otter Pool along Raider's Road.



Dave and Sue, competition judges and owners of the Ken Bridge Hotel, said: "The entries this issue are all very good and all very different. The character of the dog shines through, we

love the way the water photos show the interaction between stone and water and we love the vibrant colours of the poppies. I think that on this occasion our winner is the otter pool."

Fraser 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.

Victorian Tours & Local Talent

Mountains of scones, lashings of Victoria sponge and layers of scrumptious chocolate cake were all lovingly devoured over the Easter holidays at Crossmichael & Parton Church as their experimental *Victorian Tearoom and Tour* project was launched and proved to be a resounding success.

The event made an amazing £1,930 and, more importantly, Crossmichael and Parton Church gained many new friends and

supporters with people coming from far and wide to enjoy the experience of tea inside the church - and the chance to 'journey through time' on the popular history tours round the church and graveyard.

A special thank you has to go to all the volunteer tearoom staff, shop and front foyer staff and of course the very busy bakers who did a sterling job keeping the cake stands full.

"It just wouldn't have been possible without the generosity and time of all the volunteers who stepped up to the mark and produced a really excellent event that everyone - without exception - really enjoyed," said event co-ordinator Ahrlene Fuller.

The event was so successful that 'Tearoom and Tours' will open its doors every Friday,

Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 4pm until Sunday 17 August.

"This time we want to encourage local young people to take part," added Ahrlene.

"In addition we would love to hear from local musical groups, singers, choirs, acting groups, artists and craftworkers all interested in showcasing their talents in a very unique venue, and who would like to perform and exhibit their work over the summer holiday period at our event," explained Ahrlene.

Anyone who would like to volunteer - you do not need to be a church member - to help either with baking, with the tearoom, with the shop or as a history tour guide will be made more than welcome and if you would like to perform at the event please call Ahrlene on 01556 670615.

Cllr Finlay Carson

Castle Douglas & Glenkens

for an appointment

Tel: 07825 633 185

or email:

finlay@finlaycarson.co.uk

www.finlaycarson.co.uk

TT Tumble

Ewan Walker, the Glenkens resident featured in the last Gazette, had a near miss at the recent Isle of Man TT Race.

Ewan, who ran the race with a sidecar motorbike, says: "Unfortunately I came off at around 130mph. I suffered a

broken pelvis and tore all the ligaments out of my left knee. My passenger, luckily, was OK but the bike sustained heavy damage. I'd like to give a mention to Nobles Hospital on the Isle of Man and the Royal Liverpool Hospital who both provided excellent care and to whom I am very grateful."

Ewan is on the mend and says he will definitely be going back to the island for another go.

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

Metal folding fire escape ladder. 15ft long. Contact: 07766 686 402

Two four-drawer steel filing cabinets. Contact: Brian Edgar on 420 374.

IKEA open wooden wardrobe with white cotton cover. Perfect for a child's or spare room. Wood currently painted turquoise but easy to re-paint. Contact Helen, New Galloway: 07789 693 698.

Modern Oak King size headboard. Charles Rennie MacIntosh style. Excellent

condition. Contact Alan: 07769 680 938

Old Oak Drop Leaf Kitchen/ Dining table. Seats six. Contact Alan: 07769 680 938

WANTED

Book cases not needed anymore. Contact Andi: 430 255

Furniture

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Town Hall: The makeover of the Lower Hall has received many positive comments. The Open Days in May were abuzz with people reminiscing about the 'olden days' over the marvellous display of photos, postcards and pamphlets put together by Avril Bridgeman.

People of all ages discussed what activities could happen now. Both the surveys and the open days have resulted in a flood of ideas. LING are looking at ways in which these can be initiated in the next few weeks and months. They include an oral history group; regular dances, discos, ceilidhs; badminton, table tennis and other sport & exercise for all ages; gardening; cooking; drop-in lunch & activity club...and lots more....If you are interested in helping to get your idea going, please let us know.

An updated business plan will be presented to D&G Council to take forward discussions about the future management and ownership of the Hall.

General Store:

LING is also considering an exciting move to buy Hopkins' shop in New Galloway for the community. It is extremely

early days, but the proposal would be to source grant funding that would allow for an outright purchase of the shop and attached house. Income from the shop and house rental would then come directly to the community. If an economically sustainable model could be found, this would even be able to contribute to other activities in the area, as well as maintaining a critical facility for the village.

Without tangible evidence of community support, any applications for grant funding will certainly fail, so if you think this sounds like an exciting prospect then please do come to the meeting.

The shop would be managed professionally as a community shop - ideas at the moment include buying and selling of local garden produce, selling locally baked bread, recovering the alcohol license and selling fresh sandwiches, as well as all the staples. Moving the Post Office in may be an option too.

So far, LING has taken advice from Community Ownership Scheme Scotland and the Plunkett Foundation, and will be visiting various community-

owned shops in the area for real-life experience. It has identified the Big Lottery 'Growing Community Assets' fund and the Scottish Land Fund as two potential avenues for funding.

The next step will be to hold an open meeting. At this meeting, LING will share with the community the information it has gained, and invite any views on the idea. The meeting will be held at 7:30pm on 12

September at New Galloway Town Hall. An update on the plans for the Town Hall will also be given at this meeting.

Without tangible evidence of community support, any applications for grant funding will certainly fail, so if you think this sounds like an exciting prospect then

please do come to the meeting. Whether you'd just like to continue using our local shop, or whether you'd like to get more involved at this early stage, come along and we'll see if we can make it happen together! LING would like to thank Jim and Margaret Hopkins and Marie McClurg for their support of the idea so far, and look forward to working with them as we hopefully take this further.

Eco Feature Pick Up Sticks...

sponsored by *natural power* 

This July the Hidden Road saw a unique event at the residence of Lorraine Ishak and Uula Jero.

Lorraine and Uula recently purchased Ironmacannie Mill and are working hard to make a living off the land.

The event was hosted by a group called Pick Up Sticks and the aim was to bring skilled craftspeople together to share their expertise and help develop projects.

Stiles, ladders and paths were built in the mornings, and in the afternoons attendees shared knowledge and skills ranging from green woodworking to botanical walks and woodland folklore. Throughout the event everyone enjoyed home-cooked food and campfire music. In total around 60 people took part. Lorraine says: "It was magic to

see such a proactive collective working hard to help us maintain the mill, they also built us a cracking compost toilet. In the future, we would really like to develop green tourism in the area, working with local talent to make a 'glamping' hut or two. We are keen on permaculture and art, and would love to be a hub for information on low impact living."

Having only been here since October, the couple are really enjoying getting to know the area and, with their two children (Aarni who is three and Untamo who is ten months) they are enjoying settling into Glenkens life.

Uula says: "It's a sad fact that our generation has lost many of its hand skills and knowledge. Skill share events give an opportunity for people to empower themselves by preserving valuable information



Compost toilet in the making.

for future generations. It's a kind of new optimism in the face of the twin challenges of peak oil and climate change. We were really happy to see a good number of crafts people from the Glenkens and other parts of Galloway here to contribute." The couple are keen to hear from local people who would like to find out more - get in touch on ironmaccanniemill@gmail.com

Arndarroch Open Garden

Annikki Lindsay held another wonderfully successful open garden in June to raise funds for the local Glenkens Children's Club (GCC) as well as D&G Canine Rescue.

A total of £816 was made, of which £326.40 will go to GCC. Annikki said: "The weather was fine but midges were a bit of problem. I used to have a 'midgie machine' which cleared the garden of the only wildlife I do not like but it came to the end of its life this year. I think the visitors did enjoy the garden, the exhibition and the teas."

Noah Gilbert (aged four) said he

had a great time at the garden, and particularly liked the Rocky Monster and the treasure hunt. His little sister (aged two) liked the sparkly balls and the sweeties at the end!

Annikki would like to give a big thank you to the tea ladies, who have done the job for ten years, and to everyone else who helped with the open garden.

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Fundraising Raffle for James Orr Painting

Well known Scottish artist James Orr has kindly donated one of his paintings to the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT).

The beautiful painting of Balmaghie Church will resonate with many people in the Glenkens.

Balmaghie's most famous minister was John Macmillan (1669-1753) founder of the sect known as the Macmillanites, which later merged with the Reformed Presbyterians. He believed, among other things favouring the Kirk over the State, that the Solemn League and Covenant of 1643 remained as relevant for posterity as when it was first written. A later Balmaghie minister, HMB Reid, wrote his biography.

SR Crockett later made Macmillan the hero of his novel *The Standard Bearer* which he

dedicated to Reid. Crockett, a native of the parish, is buried in the graveyard of Balmaghie, the 'Kirk Above Dee Water'.

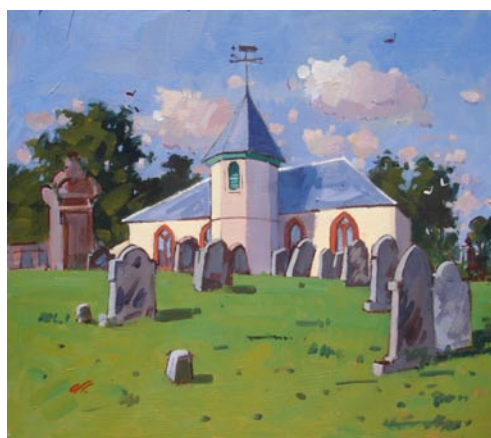
James Orr was born in Glasgow and now lives in Ayrshire. He began painting full-time in 1990 when he gave up his business to concentrate entirely on art. He exhibits regularly in the annual Royal Scottish Academy and Royal Glasgow Institute exhibitions as well as in a number of London galleries. He has also exhibited overseas; in New York, Hong Kong, Brussels, Paris and Dublin.

Orr paints in acrylic which suits his style perfectly. His paintings are always bold and full of light and colour. He is fascinated by the various aspects of the sea around coastlines, and bases his work on the variety of colour found particularly around the coasts of Scotland. They are joyful paintings which celebrate the simple pleasures of life.

His works are held in many

private and corporate collections in US, Canada, France, Belgium and Hong Kong, including the collection of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

The painting is being raffled, the launch of which will be at the Friends of the CatStrand evening (featuring a talk by Euan Robson on painters Oppenheimer and Houston) on Saturday 26 July. After that, tickets will be available from the CatStrand and the painting will be on display there. Tickets cost £1 each and come in books of five.



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CatStrand Update

It has been a fantastic summer so far with plenty of music and entertainment for all.

This is set to continue with much more to round off the summer and on into the autumn.

We are so pleased to take part in the Commonwealth Games Celebrations which will take the form of a very special *Scottish Alternative Commonwealth Games* on Sunday 3 August from 2pm. Expect a colorful commonwealth flavor to the Games this year with Ayawara African drummers and more to be announced. The Games will of course include the usual favorites such as the Gird 'n' Cleek World Championship, Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane, 'Tossin' the Sheaf', Snail Racing and many more.

Of course don't miss the ever-entertaining Open Stage on 13

August; a chance to practice your party piece and get a free drink for your efforts!

Dr Guy Cuthbertson will join us at the CatStrand on 15 August for an evening of readings of his latest publication - a biography of Wilfred Owen. In this book, Owen is honored as one of the leading poets of the First World War. Mark the centenary of the First World War with accounts of life in the trenches; the event includes tea and coffee.

A magical afternoon is in store for the wee ones on Saturday 23 August. The Little Fawn Caravan will stage shadow animation, storytelling and puppetry with original music from Alasdair Roberts all from inside their merry caravan. Following each 20 minute performance is a 30 minute workshop to produce your own puppet pal.

One of the hottest and most entertaining old-time bands on

the circuit *Sheesham & Lotus & Son* will take the stage at the CatStrand on Friday 12 September. As entertaining to watch as they are to listen to, this trio will transport you to a by-gone era and strum up some real excitement with banjo, jaw-harp and an array of other home made instruments.

Finally, in the comedy arena, Franchesca Martinez will make a stand-up appearance with a show to accompany her newest publication. Top class entertainment from this award-winning iconic comedienne and TV regular will take place on 25 September. *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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Glenkens Art Workshop Exhibition 2014

Calling local artists – it's not too late to enter your work...

The Glenkens Art Workshop are proud to announce that their next exhibition, which aims to provide a showcase for the work of local artists, will take place at the Community

Centre, Dalry, between Friday 22 and Sunday 24 August. Artists from the region are invited to submit their work. *For further details and entry forms contact Christine on 430 070 or sscr1971@hotmail.co.uk or Tom on 420 386 or t_leach1@sky.com*

The Glenkens Art Workshop

meets twice a week, on Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings, in the Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry. We are a small friendly group and welcome all ages - and enthusiasm counts as much as experience!

*from the members of
Glenkens Art Workshop*

A FISHY BUSINESS

Fleet Fish is a company which has been delivering fresh fish and other produce to the Glenkens for almost 30 years.

Eric and Mary Cowan supply the freshest fish, together with quality vegetables and food, through their mobile service. Eric's background as a buyer and manager for the catering trade honed the skills required to search out quality suppliers and the freshest products. Mary was brought up in a thriving family

business which engendered focused work ethics and the motto of their joint enterprise is: "Not so much a business – more a way of life!"

It all began in the early 1980s when Mary and Eric returned from their life as a young married couple in Australia to support a family business in Scotland. They started with a small van to bring fresh produce (with the main emphasis on fish) to widespread outlying communities, many of them farmers, in the Stewartry.

The business grew steadily. Twice weekly overnight trips to the markets in Glasgow required bigger vans and the installation of refrigerating facilities at Mary and Eric's property in Gatehouse of Fleet.

What is the secret of Eric and Mary's success? Long hours, extremely hard work and a determined commitment to the welfare of communities around the area. In return for this tremendous output of energy, Fleet Fish customers, especially those in remote and isolated areas, see Eric and

Mary as a lifeline not only for the quality of goods that they supply, but for the friendship and contact that their regular calls provide. Orders are placed in advance, messages are left and exchanged and there is a huge emphasis on trust and satisfaction.

Days and times when Fleet Fish visits the Glenkens are listed below, but you can give them a ring to arrange a meeting point if you live further afield (see contact details in ad below).

Tuesday - 11am: Crossmichael Village, Parton Mill/Parton. 1.30pm: Loch Ken Holiday Park. 2pm: Kenbridge Area. 3pm: Balmaclellan Village to Corsock. 5pm: Balmaclellan, Hidden Road. 6pm: New Galloway. 6.30pm: Laurieston/over Hill Road to Gatehouse. **Wednesday** - 10.30am: Laurieston Village, 11am: Slagarie/Hensol & Surrounding Area, 12.30pm Mossdale Village & Surrounding Area, 1.30pm-2.30pm: New Galloway, 3-5pm: Glen Lee/Allan Gibbon Bridge/Dalry, 5.30pm: St Johns Way. **Friday** - 5.30pm: Corsock.



The newest Fleet Fish member, Mary and Eric's nephew Charles who now covers the Glenkens area.

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www.facebook.com/fleetfish
www.fleetfish.co.uk

GOLF SEASON IN FULL SWING

History was in the making again at New Galloway Golf Club on 3 July when Alex Long, grandson of club secretary Ian Brown, played an exhibition game against Jack Turner, son of New Zealand professional golfer Greg Turner.

As Greg has been playing in the Irish Senior Open, the Swiss Open and the Seniors Open at Porthcawl, Jack came to the Glenkens to stay with his grandfather, club member Roddy Herman.

Pete Long, Alex's father, played Greg Turner in an exhibition match for the club during the centenary celebrations in 2002 – so it was again history in the making!

The recent beautiful summer weather has shown the golf course off at its best – and the competitions have come thick and fast with several Open competitions being well supported.

In June, the Seniors Open

provided a clean sweep of the prizes by local members Stuart Jamieson winning the Seniors Championship and Kenny Grierson the Scratch Cup.

The New Galloway team finished in 5th place in this year's Kirkcudbrightshire Team Championship played over the Southernness course when the toast of the club was Ian Brown with the best handicap score of 79-9-70, just one ahead of grandson Alex, who also came 3rd in the Kirkcudbrightshire Junior Championship played at Gatehouse.

Captain's Day on 5 July was extremely well supported with over 50 members and guests enjoying a social occasion with competitive golf. Marena McClymont won the Ladies Quaich, Michael Sutcliffe won the Guests' Quaich and Ian McQueen won the Jack McQueen Trophy, named after the former Captain and greenkeeper at the club who passed away 20 years ago. Mrs McQueen presented the trophies and prizes to the winners.

Junior coaching will be starting shortly, so if you are aged 5-17 please get in touch with the Captain on 01644 450265 to



Alex Long and Jack Turner on the final green.

register your interest. The free sessions will be held 4-6pm on Thursdays.

More ladies are now taking up golf as it is extremely good exercise, social and doesn't necessarily take up a lot of time. Free coaching for ladies will be starting, so please ring the Club Secretary on 420 737 if you are interested.

You can find out more about the club at www.nggc.co.uk or phone the Secretary on 420 737 for excellent offers on green fees and membership.

Southwest Scotland RnR

SW Scotland RnR started five years ago to give holidays to injured soldiers throughout southwest Scotland.

Jennefer Tobin, CEO and charity founder, said: "Since then we have had 450 to stay in my little house in Carsethorn, south of Dumfries. They come in groups of 10 and spend days out on sporting, competitive and fun activities; we feed them well and make them comfortable."

Our aim is to see them sleeping and laughing by the end of the week and I am pleased to tell you this happens without fail."

SW Scotland RnR see it as our responsibility to assist injured men from within the general community to the best possible life they can attain. "We are a local charity; we do not have assistance from significant funds," says Jennefer.

"The Armed Forces Community Covenant Fund has now recognised us and supported our work. We have opened our doors to veterans, and with 8% of the Scottish population of ex-servicemen being veterans we are glad for publicity so that more of these men can find us."

Charity Quiz night at "The Clachan" - Dalry

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Thursday, August 14th at 7:30p.m.
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Contact: Robin at 01644420619

CARSPHAIRN SCHOOL REPORT

Continued from front page...

To ensure that nothing and no one gets left out, rather than writing an article for each and every event and trip we have had this term, I would like to present an end of term report listing most of the exciting things that have been happening down the road at the Glenkens smallest primary.

On 2 May, two of our P6 girls (Rachel McCreath and Caitlin Blackett) went to Dumfries Academy to compete in the K'Nex Challenge against other pupils from across Dumfries and Galloway. Their task was to plan and build a forklift with an operational pulley system and a steering mechanism.

We were out of the school to cheer on the Commonwealth Baton Relay in Castle Douglas on 19 June. The children had made bunting and a banner before the big day, and the whole school enjoyed a lovely afternoon out.

Also, we have spent a lot of time learning this year about science. We had live teleconferencing sessions with former BBC weather presenter Heather 'the weather' Reid, where the children learned all about extreme weather and its effects on people's lives. We did experiments to filter dirty water, and learned all about the water cycle. To wrap up all this fascinating science work, on 10 June the school went on a trip to the Glasgow Science Centre.

We have also researched different species of animals that live outside the UK and learned how these animals had adapted to their environment.

On 30 July, we had a morning out for Forest Schools at Drumjohn. The children had a chance to build dens, create floral signs and meet and pet some horses, big dogs, small dogs and bearded dragons.

Finally, as the children had so much fun learning about different animals, the school PTC funded an excellent trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park on 1 July.

We also had some sad farewells this year as our sole P7, Reuben Phillips, is moving up to Dalry Secondary next year; we wish him all the best. Although it is sad to see Reuben go, we are also looking forward to our two new P1 pupils starting in August.

Another big change is that Reuben's mother, Maggie Phillips, has stepped down as chair of the Carsphairn PTC after four years being in the role. Maggie has made countless contributions to the school, and we would like to give her our heartfelt thanks.

Finally, all the staff, pupils and parents would like to wish our head teacher Fraser Simpson all the best in his retirement. It has been a brilliant year and we are all looking forward to starting back up in August!

Walker McKenna

Glenkens Cyclist Wins Championship

William Sainsbury (16) from New Galloway has won the Youth Category at the Scottish Downhill Association Scottish cycling championships in Glencoe.

William, a 5th year pupil at Castle Douglas High School, has been riding competitively at a national level for two years.



Clatteringshaws House Captain Finlay McGaw and Vice Captain Amy Laye receiving the trophy from Zane Gray.

Kells Sports Day

On Wednesday 18 June Kells held their annual Sports Day.

We were very lucky with the weather and the pupils all gave 100% during all the activities and races, plus they gave each other lots of encouragement.

The scores were as follows: 1st - Clatteringshaws 454 points, 2nd - Bennan 429 points, 3rd - Kenmure 375 points.

Zane Gray

Depute Head Teacher, Kells Primary School

YOUTH BANTER

Editor: Amber Brett

Autumn is Coming!

Autumn is coming and the CatStrand is getting ready for the switch from warm summer evenings to dark stormy nights. As usual we are hosting plenty of exciting activities for young people to get involved in. Interested in film making? Music production? Visual arts? Creative writing? Or drama? Then read on!

CatStrand Youth Player Lands Role in Major Theatre Production



CatStrand Youth Player and Young Film Maker **Eilidh Thomson** took on the role of Mary Begbie in the latest production of **Life, Love & Liberty: A Burns Pageant** which took place in and around Dumfries on 19th and 20th July. The show, which was streamed live across the internet and broadcast live on radio, focuses on the last five years of Robert Burns' life, with the scenes

taking place in the actual locations they occurred in the 1790s. Eilidh's character has a key scene with Robert Burns in which she asks him to write a song for her and of course, he does. The principal cast were all played by professional actors and **director/star Gavin Paul** was glowing about Eilidh's blossoming talent: "Eilidh has a wonderful stage presence and as soon as we saw her we wanted her for the part. She is very versatile and commands attention when she speaks. For one so young, she is a terrific prospect and I can see her going on to much bigger things."



*Eilidh starring as Aggy Fishbone in last year's **The Haunting of Kenmure Woods** [CatStrand Young Film Makers Club]*



HORROR in New Galloway!

Young Film Makers Begin Location Shoot in August

If you see some strange macabre sights around New Galloway during August, don't worry, it is only the **CatStrand Young Film Makers Club** shooting their new horror film ahead of their Halloween premiere. The club will be meeting on the **21 July** at the CatStrand to finalise the plot and cast and will be shooting throughout August with post-production taking place in Sept/Oct. If you'd like to be in the film, either as an actor or as part of the production team, contact Simon Davidson simon@catstrand.com. No experience is necessary and all training is given.



Supported by
The Holywood Trust

Background image
by Josie Oliver

GCAT (Glenkens Community & Arts Trust)
YOUTH:TEAM

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

The Crystal Football



Teen Spiriters **Lee McMurray** and **Lewis Grieve** give us their predictions for the coming football season...

Scottish Premiership

Lee: Celtic will win it of course, but I think Aberdeen will do well this year as they have improved a lot.

Lewis: Can't see anything but a Celtic win but Motherwell might push them closer this year.

Scottish Championship

Lee: It is a tough league this year but I think Rangers will edge it from Hearts with Hibs staying down.

Lewis: Close one this but Hearts are a better side than both Rangers and Hibs. Rangers will go up though...

What about a prediction for the World Cup [which ends two weeks from now]?

Lee: MEXICO!

Lewis: Netherlands

WERE THEY RIGHT???

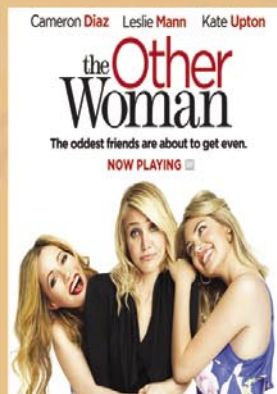


YOUTH

FILM REVIEW

The Other Woman [12A]

by Liza-Beth Brannock



Whilst on the ferry to Belgium there was a cinema showing a new movie called 'The Other Women'. Me and my best friend decided to go and watch the movie but much to my disappointment it was a complete waste of time and money! I do not recommend anyone watches this movie as it was boring and we sat for 20 minutes waiting for something exciting to happen. In the end we decided to walk out of the cinema!



MUSIC

Owen Glasby tells us why we should all listen to:

BOB DYLAN

Bob Dylan is a renowned singer-songwriter known for his tremendous creativity and fantastic melodies. Dylan has been making music for decades and is currently on a tour that has spanned over thirty years and which he claims will "never end". Dylan's success is undeniable but the question posed by many is 'why?' Well, the answer is simple. Dylan's music is timeless and continues to be enjoyed by successive generations. His lyrics have a certain poetic beauty which is no longer found in popular music. His music may never be matched in terms of energy and emotion, but will he be appreciated by future generations? The answer my friend is blowing in the wind...

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The Hollywood Trust

BYTES

SPORT



Football: Dalry High School.....8 CDHS.....8

Special Report by James Jardine & Jake McMillan

What an amazing game, both teams gave their all and it was incredible to watch and be a part of. It was a clean friendly game with some juicy tackling. Thanks to sloppy defending and brilliant attacking play, CDHS raced into an 8 - 5 lead but a hat-trick from **McMillan**, with other goals from **Drife** (2), **Lawrie** (2) and a wonder goal from **McMur-ray** saw Dalry earn a well deserved draw against a much fancied CD side. Forget the World Cup, if it is goals and action you want, follow Dalry High School.



If you would like to submit a story to **Youth Banter** then please email it to simon@catstrand.com. 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

Scottish Alternative Commonwealth Games

Sun 3 Aug 2pm £4/1 All Ages

LIVE CLASSICAL MUSIC: Lorraine McAslan & John Lenehan

Fri 8 Aug 7.30pm £12/10

LIVE MUSIC: Open Stage

Wed 13 Aug 7.30pm £3 Ages 12+

FILM: 12 Years A Slave

Thu 21 Aug 7.30pm £5

PUPPET THEATRE: The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Little Fawn Caravan/Sokobauno Puppet Theatre.
Sat 23 Aug 11am - 2pm £5 Ages 5+

THEATRE: Blood Orange

Sat 20 Sept 7.30pm TBC

Please book a place through CatStrand box office

01644 420374

ELSEWHERE

DAY OF THE REGION

18/19 /20 September New Galloway

Various events and activities across New Galloway including a launch party night at the CatStrand on Fri 18th Sept to celebrate the fantastic talent and cultural diversity of the area.

ALL AGES

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

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

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.**

Dalry School Trip to Belgium & France

In the year marking the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1, a group of thirty nine pupils and staff from Dalry School visited the Battlefields of Belgium and then spent two days in the fabulous city of Paris.

The visit to Belgium began with a visit to the WW1 Museum at Paschendale, which gave an insight into the horrors of trench warfare. This message was underlined a few miles later when the group visited the war cemetery at Tyne Cot, a very moving and emotional place. At Hill 62 we were able to experience real trenches and tunnels, before travelling the short distance to the town of Ypres, which was flattened during the war and has now been re-built into a beautiful

little town.

We then visited the memorial and battlefield at Vimy Ridge, an area which was gifted in perpetuity to Canada in recognition of the Canadian soldiers who fought and died there. Again a very moving visit, enhanced by the large number of Canadian WW2 veterans present.

From the French-Belgian border it was, 'next stop Paris' and the Eiffel Tower. We also took a bateau mouche sail on the Seine, visited the Sacre Couer, walked through the Pigalle area past the world famous Moulin Rouge.

The final day was spent at Disneyland, a fantastic experience for children of all ages even those over 50! From here it was a short run to Calais, an even shorter ferry journey to Dover and a long sleepy drive to Dalry.

A superb trip, with such a variety of experiences. Thanks go to The Galloway Association



The Vimy Ridge.

of Glasgow and The Holywood Trust who contributed funds to allow the school to make the trip more affordable for anybody who wanted to participate. A final pat on the back to the good-humoured, well-behaved young people who made our six days a pleasure for the staff and our top-notch driver, 'Big Jim'.

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for regular surgery, constituency
and parliamentary updates**

Glenkens Children's Club (GCC)

GCC Playgroup and Glenkens Children's Club (GCC) have celebrated the end of another excellent year in the Glenkens Community Centre.

Playgroup has seen 14 children through the year, and has increased its opening hours to three mornings a week due to demand. GCC has seen over 80 separate children (with

their accompanying adults), and much fun has been had by all!

Playgroup has very sadly said goodbye to play leaders Lucy and Gemma at the end of the summer term; we wish them the very best in their future endeavours. Playgroup's funding is assured for the next academic year so it will be open as before for two and three-year-olds, but it may be over-subscribed this year so if you'd like to assure a place, contact keron@me.com as soon as possible.

GCC continues to support

parents and carers of babies and toddlers in the area while providing plenty of fun activities for the little ones.

The group runs on Mondays and Fridays from 9.30 to 11.30am and is £2 per child (babies free).

GCC has received funding from the Glenkens Community Shop to hold an exciting programme of events over the summer. The Club would like to thank the Shop for this funding - they have been consistent supporters of GCC and we are most grateful. We would also like to thank Mrs Annikki Lindsay for her ongoing support through her excellent Open Gardens.

GCC's management committee would also like to thank all the voluntary supporters of GCC and Playgroup who have made the year so successful. Without a lot of effort from a lot of people, we wouldn't be able to provide the children with these fantastic facilities - thank you!

Helen Keron, Chair, GCC

Glenkens Children's Club Summer Holiday Programme

Made possible by funding from Glenkens Community Shop

Mondays and Fridays, 09:30 - 11:30

Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry

Ages 0-12yrs most welcome, with an adult

August

Friday 1 - Bushcraft session at GlenLee Estate
- den building, fire tartering!
Monday 4 - Martial Arts taster
Monday 11 - Gymnastics / acrobatics
Friday 15 - Party day - more details later!

Also on Friday 8 August Debra Hall will be running a 'Mindfulness' session for parents while children play.

'Like' our Facebook page, **Glenkens Children's Club**, for more details and updates

Look out for our fundraising ceilidh on Friday 1st August in New Galloway Town Hall, in partnership with the Alternative Games!

DALRY TOWN HALL

Notice is hereby given that: The AGM of the management committee of Dalry Town Hall will be held on Monday 15 September at 7pm.

Any person aged 18 or over and resident within the Parish of St John's Town of Dalry may attend. At this time, the committee is considering registering the organisation as a charity, but for this to proceed we must have the consent of the trustees since they are the persons in whose name the legal title to the Town Hall stands. It is not entirely clear to the committee just who the present trustees are, so we ask that all persons who are or think they may be trustees attend the meeting, and also contact the secretary in advance to advise of their standing in this matter. If any person who is not a trustee has any information as to the identity and/or whereabouts of any trustee, it would be appreciated if you could contact the secretary and pass on any relevant information. The secretary is Sonja Tranter; St John's House, 12 Midtown, Dalry, DG7 3UT, tel: 430 244.

Dalry Town Hall Management Committee




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GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE (GTI)

Changes have been made to the booking system for GTI trips, making it easier for passengers, staff at the CatStrand and drivers.

Trips will be advertised in the Glenkens Gazette, the CatStrand brochure, at www.catstrand.com as well as in local shops, and you can book tickets through the CatStrand (tickets must be paid for at time of booking).

The following trips have been arranged for later in the year:

Mon 6 October – Lake District;
Sat 25 October – Glasgow, Hobbycraft Exhibition, Transport Museum, etc; Sat 1 November – Ayr, Shopping/Nat Hunt Racing;
Sun 23 November – Edinburgh, Xmas lights switch on, Xmas Markets, Firework Display – Late evening return; Mon 8 December – Hetland Hall Garden Centre & Moffat.

DRIVERS WANTED: The success

of GTI has put increasing demands on our drivers and we need to recruit more, both on a voluntary basis or on some occasions for payment.

All user groups should have their own driver but sometimes need a volunteer to help out, whilst drivers for GTI trips, the Wednesday evening route into Castle Douglas, weekly swimming trips and events like the Spring Fling have to be found from our pool of qualified drivers. For further information please contact me at the CatStrand (420 374) or at gti@catstrand.com

XMAS & NEW YEAR

TRANSPORT: You will soon be planning your social events for Christmas and New Year period. Remember in addition to a 16-seater mini bus, we now have a smaller mini bus which can carry eight passengers. We expect considerable demand for the use of these vehicles, so please book soon to avoid disappointment.

Keith Cooper
GTI Administrator

The Loss of an Icon

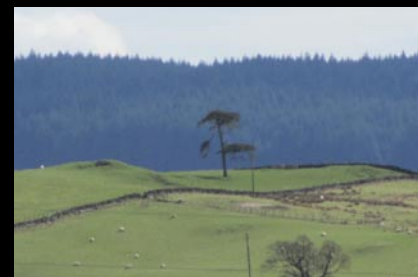
Dear Gazette,

On our most recent visit to Dalry, we were saddened to see that the iconic Scots pine standing alone on the ridge to the east of Fintloch Hill above New Galloway has been felled.

We're sure there were good reasons for this, but this beautiful tree – which we've always thought of as 'the willow-pattern tree' – will be a loss to the skyline from the upper parts of Dalry. Any chance of a replacement being planted?

Thanks for such an excellent local magazine; we always enjoy it.

Best wishes,
Philip & Frances Culver



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MARATHON UPDATE

Local Postman, Ian Oliver, and his wife Fiona would like to sincerely thank all those who donated and supported them for the Edinburgh Marathon and Edinburgh Moonwalk.

They are completely overwhelmed by the generosity people have shown by raising £1087.90 for Together For Short Lives, a charity for terminally ill children and their families, and nearly £200 for Walk the Walk Charity, supporting breast cancer charities.

Ian ran the Marathon in 3hrs 49 mins and Fiona completed it in 4hrs 30mins. Fiona also completed the Moonwalk starting her speedwalk at midnight in central Edinburgh and covering the 26.2 miles in 5hrs 59mins.



The couple say: "A huge thank you to all who donated. A Marathon is definitely not to be underestimated, and despite the training we both found it really hard. Knowing that we've raised so much money makes the pain worthwhile...but I'm not sure we've caught the marathon bug!"

Ian runs the Great North Run, a half Marathon, in September but has had a wee break from running before training kicks in again.

Bikeability

Dalry Primary School has eight more competent cyclists to add to the ranks.

Pupils took part in a series of *Bikeability 1* sessions where they practised figure-of-eights, emergency braking, riding with one hand off the handlebars, 'hi - 5s', starting off safely and bike checks, among other things. Training took place in the MUGA, around the school and on the playing field. Bikeability trainers Linda and June were thrilled with the group, who worked hard to improve their skills. Staying safe on a bike in the Glenkens means lots of practice, to learn how to share the road safely with other transport (wood lorries, delivery vans, cars and caravans). Bikeability training takes place on the road instead of only around the school, introducing the skills needed to share the road with the real world of traffic.

June and Linda are available to run a two-day Bikeability course for parents and children - date to be decided in August. Call 01644 420 361 or email Junehay@glenkensbb.co.uk for info and to check the date of the course.



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Day of the Region

Continued from front page...

The event will start with a launch party on Friday 19 September in the CatStrand with a play and film, both locally directed and produced, followed by a party to set the mood for the next two days.

Planned activities include: an RSPB stall, Galloway Forest Dark Sky events, Access Arts, arts and craft workshops, Turning Point Scotland, family photo-shoot, guitar lessons, drumming and music, golf tasters, pub quiz, film show, BBQ, parade, wildlife workshops, Richard Lines Let's Cook, edible jewellery, dog show and dog training, bowling club, kids' face painting, gentle tai chi, karate self-defence lessons, Galloway Astronomical Society, Crocketford Belly Dance Collective, Building Healthy Communities, fishing, choir singing, an artistic maze, children's dance workshop, music in the park on Sunday and a lantern parade - whew! And that's just a taster; for the full list of events look out for the leaflet.

BARN OWLS & LOCAL HISTORY

Bill Blyth of Blowplain is a rather extraordinary man. As well as having a library of beautiful books and texts on local history he is a fount of local knowledge, and also an avid wildlife enthusiast.

We will follow up on some of Bill's historical items of interest from the area in future issues of the Gazette, but in the meantime below is a shot of the lovely barn owl nest in his barn. Bill and his wife Mary have been keeping an eye on both parents and young, and know where both the male and female owls go to roost; apparently they don't always stay in the nest with their young. Bill and Mary also feed the parent owls; a luxury not many owl families can boast of!

By the time this Gazette is on the shelves these lovely babies will have flown the nest, assured of a warm welcome if ever they should choose to return to raise a family of their own.



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.

01644 430241

mail@theclachaninn.co.uk

www.theclachaninn.co.uk



**ALEX
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MSP
FOR
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WEST DUMFRIES**

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You can visit Alex's website at:

www.alexfergusson.org.uk

or contact him by e-mail at:

alex.fergusson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

MR NEWTON'S MUNRO CHALLENGE

Matthew Newton, formerly of Newton's Shop, Dalry, and founder of the Glenkens Gazette, has undertaken a fundraising challenge.

Matthew will be visiting the four furthest corners of Scotland and climbing five Munros. He says: "I've never attempted anything like this so unfortunately cannot say when I hope to pass through Dalry. I take a ferry from Aberdeen to Lerwick and reach the most Northerly point of Scotland before heading back to the mainland through Orkney. After climbing the most northerly Munro, Ben Hope, I will head across to Skye and catch the boat to St Kilda for a day visit. Then on to the Mull of Galloway via Fort

William and Oban after climbing the most westerly Munro and Ben Nevis. After Dalry I will head towards Glasgow and then back to Aberdeen, climbing Ben Lomond and Mount Kean. Peterhead is the most easterly point, where I will finish the challenge. I am raising money on just giving for Cancer Research. My grandmother had cancer so in a way it is in her memory."

To follow Matthew's progress visit his Facebook page, *The 4 corners and 5 Munro Challenge*, and if you would like to make a donation go to his *Just Giving* page at www.justgiving.com/matthew-newton2014



SR Crockett Remembered

The centenary of Galloway author SR Crockett has been celebrated by a number of events in the Glenkens and with the news that many of his novels are being

republished 100 years after his death.

Samuel Rutherford Crockett was born in 1859 at Little Duchrae farm near Laurieston and became one of the best known novelists of his time with more than 70 titles including *The Raiders* and *The Grey Man*. When *The Lilac Sunbonnet* was published it sold 100,000 copies

on the first day. Crockett, although now little known, was a friend of RL Stevenson and JM Barrie and rubbed shoulders with celebrities of the time.

Some 100 people attended a day of talks organised by Professor Ted Cowan in New Galloway Town Hall sponsored by the Saltire Society. Douglas Gifford assessed Crockett's contribution to Scottish literature and Margaret Elphinstone discussed the influence of Galloway on his writing. Pam Snell described his years as a minister in

Penicuik and his controversial decision to give up the ministry to be a novelist. In the evening there was a colourful celebration dinner at the Ken Bridge Hotel with many of the company adopting period dress for the occasion.

The following day Crockett enthusiasts visited key sites in the area. They were welcomed into Little Duchrae by the present tenants, Barry and Terry Farley, visited the Crockett Memorial in Laurieston and his grave in Balmaghie Kirkyard, as well as locations featured in Crockett novels including *Lochinvar* and *Earlstoun Castle*.

Crockett enthusiast Cally Philips chose April 16, the anniversary of Crockett's death, to launch her republication of 32 of his novels, all with Galloway connections and many long out of print. They are available electronically or as print-on-demand from www.aytonpublishing.co.uk or Amazon.co.uk. Speaking at her launch event at Wigtown she asked: "Why isn't there a Crockett Trail? If the red kites can have one, why not Galloway's most famous author?"

It is hoped to establish a small Crockett archive in the Glenkens with materials presented by the author's biographer, Islay Donaldson. Islay, who was an enthusiastic supporter during preparations for the conference, sadly died on 29 April aged 92. Meanwhile a small exhibition on Crockett's life and work continues at the CatStrand in New Galloway.

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LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

Mad Sir Uchtred Of The Hills

After delivering talks recently on SR Crockett's novella, *Mad Sir Uchtred of the Hills*, some folk were kind enough to suggest that I might print a version in the Gazette.

Published in 1894 it shows Crockett pushing the boundaries of fiction. Uchtred has been described as 'Gothic' but if so it is strangely Calvinistic, yet romantic, in character.

Uchtred has been cast out by God because although a one-time covenanter he has abjured the covenants in the interests of self-advancement to become a persecutor of covenanters. In better times he won the love of the beautiful Philippa, adored by many men including Uchtred's loathsome brother, Randolph, a total waster. Although Uchtred knows that Philippa is devoted to him his hatred for his brother grows; "a still and deadly hatred – the hate that can let pass ninety-nine opportunities and kill at the hundredth".

When Uchtred is sent to eject a non-conformist minister from his kirk he rides into the church on his war horse. He orders the burning of the minister's possessions but the reverend solemnly curses him. Uchtred instantly reacts, "as a strained

fiddle-string snaps, so a chord twanged in his head". He flees away over the Galloway moors, shedding his clothing as he does so, becoming at one with the landscape in returning to nature.

Upon Clashdaan the madness came on him as "he fled along the shaggy tops of the lonely hills, till on the bare scalp of the Merrick, close under the lift with all the other mountains crouched and dwarfed beneath him, he had a vision. "He saw himself like Lucifer, Star of the Morning, flash out of the blackness between the tingling points of light, for a moment curve in trailing fire across the firmament, and plunge into the lake of eternal fire in which burn for ever all the sins and despairs of the universe."

For three years the madman ranges over mountain and moor acquiring Belus the cat as his god. He inhabits a similar landscape to William Nicholson's Brownie of Blednoch.

..."a still and deadly hatred – the hate that can let pass ninety-nine opportunities and kill at the hundredth".

Phillipa takes herself to Clashdaan in search of Uchtred. While asleep in the wilderness the cat leaves her with the mark of the beast on her neck. She is saved by Uchtred who has warred on her behalf during the night.

A great hunt is organized by

Randolph using bloodhounds to finally dispose of Uchtred who "yammered and spluttered in his rage, and his hate was not like the hate of a sane man, but far more terrible". The brothers finally confront one another, Uchtred intent upon murder until he hears the tolling of the church bell far down the mountain. The brothers make their peace with one another. Uchtred achieves redemption.

When first read the story seems as crazy as Uchtred but on closer scrutiny it has a certain charm in its blend of local folklore and covenanting belief, not to mention the spirits and devils that we all know inhabit the Galloway wastelands in the hours of darkness. The piece is most memorable as an essay on the age-old relationship between Nature and Christianity, damnation and redemption, life and death, commitment and rejection. Historically Maclellan of Barscobe was the hero of the Glenkens Rising in 1666 yet he later abjured the covenant and was murdered in 1682 as a traitor to the cause, possibly Crockett's inspiration

for his story. The Galloway topography is recognisable; the local traditions are accurately described. I suggest you all read this rich tale and think of Uchtred the next time you climb the Galloway hills.

Ted Cowan



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JUNE & JULY

AUGUST

every Fri, Sat & Sun until Sun 17, 11am-4pm, Tearoom & Tours, Crossmichael & Parton Church, see p3

Fri 1, Alternative Games Ceilidh, 8pm-12am, New Galloway Town Hall

Fri 1, GCC Bushcraft Session, 9.30-11.30am, Glenlee Estate, see p16

Sun 3, Scottish Alternative Games, from 2pm, New Galloway Park

Mon 4, GCC Martial Arts Taster, 9.30-11.30am, Glenkens Community Centre, see p16 & 24

Fri 8, Lorraine McAslan & John Lenehan, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 8, GCC Mindfulness session, 10-11am, Glenkens Community Centre, see p16

Sat 9, Glenkens Show, see p2

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

Mon 11, GCC Gymnastics/Acrobatics session, 9.30-11.30, Glenkens Community Centre, see p16

Wed 13, Open Stage, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thurs 14, SW Scotland RnR Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Clachan Inn, see p9

Fri 15, Talk: Wilfred Owen by Dr Guy Cuthbertson, CatStrand

Fri 15, GCC Party, 9.30-11.30am, Glenkens Community Centre, see p16

Sat 16, Glenkens Flower & Vegetable Show

Thu 12, Film: 12 Years A Slave, CatStrand

Fri 22 - Sun 24, Glenkens Art Workshop Exhibition, see p8

Sat 23, Little Faun Theatre presents *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* by Sokobauno Puppet Theatre, CatStrand

SEPTEMBER

Fri 12, LING Open Meeting, New Galloway Town Hall, see p4

Mon 15, AGM of Dalry Town Hall management committee, 7pm, see p16

Thurs 18 - Sat 20, Day of the Region (DoR) New Galloway, see front page.

Fi 19, Sheesham and Lotus & Son, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 19, Musical Evening in Kells Church, 7 pm, part of DoR.

Sat 20, Blood Orange by Electric Theatre, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 25, Franchesca Martinez, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 26 Sept-Sun 5 Oct, Wigtown Book Festival, see p20



The Scottish Alternative Games 2014

The Alternative to the Commonwealth Games!

The Gird 'n' Cleek World Championship
Tossin' the Sheaf
Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane - Tractor Pull - Tug o' War - Snail Racing
Lockerbie Pipe Band - Classic Car Show
Music from the Commonwealth
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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

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.

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, 5th, Dalry: 9am 1st 3rd 4th(Aug), Dalry: 10.30am 2nd (Aug), 5th (Aug), Dalry 12noon 4th (Sept), Kells: 10.30am 3rd 4th

Special Services/Events: 10 Aug, 10.30am; United Service with B & K Church in Dalry Church, 31 Aug, 10.30am; United Service with Glenkens Church Choir, Dalry Church, 14 Sept, 10.30am; United

Family Service, Carsphairn Church, followed by bbq, 28 Sept, 12noon; Harvest Thanksgiving, Dalry Church & Harvest Lunch in Dalry Town Hall
Communion Service: 24 Aug, 10.30am, Kells 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.
albeattie: Sun, 11am

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Scottish Alternative Games

With sports fever gripping the nation this year and the Commonwealth Games upon us, along comes the real alternative to the World Cup, Ryder Cup and the Commonwealth Games – New Galloway's own *Scottish Alternative Games*.

The famous annual event is now in its 38th year and unlike the other major events of the summer, offers absolutely everyone a chance to win a medal. Even the 'medals' are alternative and take the form of edible Scottish delicacies such as Haggis, Scotch Pies and Cloutie Dumplings.

The official Gird 'n' Cleek World Championships take centre stage as usual and all the other

popular events will be held too including Tossin' the Sheaf, Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane, Tractor Pull and Snail Racing.

To mark the year of the Commonwealth Games, a flavour of the Commonwealth will be brought to New Galloway with music from other parts of the world complementing the Scottish sound from the pipes and drums of Lockerbie Pipe Band.

The event is renowned for its family atmosphere and has welcomed visitors from all over the world since 1977, many people returning year after year to enjoy the unique experience.

All of the events can be entered on the day and any necessary equipment is provided, but if you prefer to be less energetic and just watch the quirky events in the arena then there will be plenty of other attractions

around too with the Classic Car Show, stalls, barbecue and musical entertainment throughout the day.

Why not come along to New Galloway Park on Sunday 3 August and be part of the Scottish Alternative Games 2014 – after all, where else could you go out for the day and potentially return home as a World Champion!

The Alternative Games Ceilidh is back by popular demand on Friday 1 August in New Galloway Town Hall, and this year will be fundraising for Glenkens Children's Club - look out for posters for further details.



World Gird 'n' Cleek Championship 2013.

WATSON BIRDS

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

FESTIVAL - FRIDAY 19 TO SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Friday

6.30pm onward: Informal reception open to the public and opening of art exhibition (exhibitors are John Threlfall, Paul Collin, Frances Godfrey, Sheena Mcurrach, Michal Sur and Dalry Art Group), Dalry Town Hall

Saturday

10am-5pm: Art exhibition, Dalry Town Hall
 10am Children's event in village and at Dalry Town Hall
 11am: Guided bird trail around Dalry led by Chris Rollie
 11am-2pm: visits to Barone to view house & studio (please go to Dalry Town Hall to book a place)
 2-5pm: Watson Raptor Science prize presentations and debates, Lochinvar Hotel
 8pm: Musical entertainment by local artists, Dalry Town Hall (tickets £3)

Sunday

9-10am: Bird ringing demonstration, Barone garden, led by Andrew Bielinski
 10am-4pm: Art exhibition, Dalry Town Hall
 10.30am-1pm: Watson Art Trail minibuss tour led by Chris Rollie
 2-3pm: Art workshop by John Threlfall, Dalry Town Hall
 3-5pm: Visits to Barone (please go to Dalry Town Hall to book a place)
 5pm onwards: Ceilidh, The Clachan Inn, Dalry

Supported by D&G Council
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For any further information or tickets please call the CatStrand on 01644 420 374 or visit the Watson Bird website - www.watsonbirds.org

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

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