

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

February/March 2015

ISSUE 86

FREE

GLENKENS COMMUNITY SHOP DISPENSES MORE CHEER

Glenkens Community Shop in Dalry has now distributed £15,415 to local organisations since it opened three years ago.

More than 20 local organisations have received grants of up to £500 from the charity shop including schools, town halls, several children's groups, walking groups and numerous others. The Glenkens Children's Club summer activity programme for example was fully funded last year by a community shop grant enabling more than 60 children to sample various physical activities during the summer holidays.

New Galloway Mother & Toddlers group is among recipients in the latest round of funding. Fiona

Oliver, treasurer of the group, says: "We are extremely grateful to the Glenkens Community Shop for this grant. This will ensure the group can sustain itself for a whole year, providing an excellent play and social environment for babies, toddlers and parents alike in New Galloway Town Hall." She also added, "Please continue to use and support the Glenkens Community Shop. Without grants such as these our local groups would struggle to provide a wide range of activities and amenities for our rural but thriving community."

Continued on p19...



Shirley McNaught and volunteer Annie outside the shop on Dalry's Main Street.

CATSTRAND FLOOD APPEAL

The CatStrand suffered huge damage when it was flooded again on Wednesday 14 January.

The damage is far worse than last year's flood, both because of the increased volume of water that came into the building and because the water was muddy this time. The building was at one point full of water to a depth of about 2', and small boulders were swept into the building. The damage has not yet been quantified but a large amount of stock from the shop, all of the floors and a lot of the kitchen

equipment appear to have been damaged beyond repair. The entire building is sodden and filthy.

Staff were alerted to the flood late at night on the 14th, in the aftermath of the terrible rain that fell that evening. Despite staying late into the night and with the support of the local fire brigade, the damage had mostly been done by the time they got there, due to the fact that the retaining wall at the culvert to the side of the building had

given way and the burn water was flowing directly into the building.

Continued on p7...



Flood damage in the hallway by the computer desks in the CatStrand.

REMEMBERING GODFREY

It is with a heavy heart that I tell you about the loss of a dear friend to many and pillar of the local community, Godfrey Smith, who died on 12 January.

Godfrey ran the Clog and Shoe Workshop in Balmaclellan and was the last traditional clogmaker in Scotland and one of very few left in the whole of the UK. He was also a vital part of our Glenkens community, involving himself in so many valuable community initiatives, charitable projects and supporting many local young people in finding their direction in life.

Godfrey will be remembered as a friend to many, as well as a mentor, teacher, husband, father, godfather and in so many generous and supportive roles; I don't think I ever heard anyone utter a bad word about him in all the time I knew him.

Having moved to the area

in the early 1970s, Godfrey married Sheila Mackay and lived in Dalry for some time. Then the couple bought the old school in Balmaclellan where they raised their three boys – Pete, Sandy and Vondy.

With an intense interest in community and supporting the next generation, Godfrey was involved in Balmaclellan Community Council for many years, Southwest Community Woodlands which, among other things, created the community woodland of Taliesin outside Castle Douglas, the South West Association of Nature Conservation (SWANC) group, as well as establishing the Afghan Schools Trust with Robin Ade.

He also provided accommodation and activities for a group of children from Chernobyl after the terrible nuclear disaster, was instrumental in creating the youth apprenticeship scheme in the area and was pivotal in battling to stop the burial of nuclear waste in the Galloway hills.

The Glenkens will be an emptier place without Godfrey



Godfrey outside the workshop with some of his unique handmade footwear.

and he will be sorely missed, but he will be remembered for many years to come in so many positive ways through the lives he influenced.

Sarah Ade

If you would like to make a donation to the Afghan Schools Trust in memory of Godfrey, please visit www.afghanschools.org

GCAT Annual General Meeting

The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) AGM was held as planned on Monday 19 January, although it had to be relocated to New Galloway Town Hall due to the flooding.

Discussions naturally centred on the recovery plans from the flood, but Alan Smith, new chair of GCAT and Brian Edgar, general manager, also gave an overview of the year's very successful activities. All of the GCAT projects (the CatStrand, the Gazette, GTI, the Watson Bird project, Connecting in Retirement, Youth Arts,

Glenkens Children's Club and GCC Playgroup) have gone from strength to strength and many have attracted new funding. Core funding remains an issue, and all support from the community, friends and patrons is very much appreciated.

Alan Smith expressed his great thanks to Andrew Mellor, outgoing Chair, for all his hard work over the last few years and for his steady hand guiding the projects.

John Crallan was co-opted as a new director, and Margaret Elphinstone stepped down after her three year tenure. She was also thanked for her thoughtful contributions and most helpful perspectives.

Immediate plans were discussed and it was generally

agreed that an engineering solution to the flooding issue is of critical importance, as neither the staff, board or community could bear to see a reoccurrence.

Robert Peace gave a vote of thanks at the end to all the staff and volunteers who had done so much already to recover the situation, which was very much appreciated by all concerned.

Copies of the general manager's report and annual accounts are available for review at the CatStrand's temporary office, Rosebank Cottage, just in front of McWilliam's yard in New Galloway, accessed between Kirk Road and the Newton Stuart road.

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

This issue's winner is John Peacock with this striking shot of the view from Mossroddoch Loch overlooking Meikle Milyea.

Dave and Sue, competition judges and owners of the Ken Bridge Hotel, said: "There were three excellent entries this issue, but we both agree that John Peacock's view of Meikle Milyea gives a lovely feel of the grandeur of the local scenery at this time of year".

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



GAZETTE GIVEAWAY

In this issue of the Glenkens Gazette we have a family ticket for an evening session at the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory as well as three wonderful local books to give away to the first four people to answer the following question, linked to one of this issue's articles.

What cattle-related exhibition will be running in the Glenkens during February?

Please either send answers to: Glenkens Gazette, CatStrand, New Galloway, DG7 3RN or email me at glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk

Good luck!

Sarah Ade, Editor, Glenkens Gazette

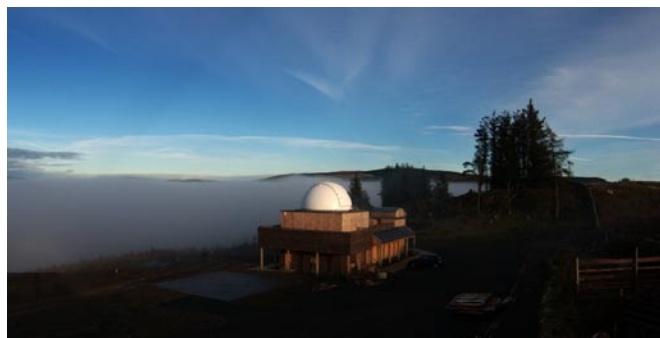
Viewing Our Dark Skies

The Scottish Dark Sky Observatory is Scotland's only publicly accessible, research grade observatory located in a 'gold tier' Dark Sky Park – and one of only two in the world.

It occupies a fantastic hilltop site on the northern edge of the Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park, under some of the darkest skies in the UK.

Located by Loch Doon, near Dalmellington, SDSO is open to the public, as well as amateur and professional astronomers. We aim to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds with the beauty and wonder of the universe. Packages are available for schools and other educational groups. Discounts are also available for group bookings of 20 guests or more.

For more information please contact 01292 551118 or info@scottishdarkskyobservatory.co.uk or visit www.scottishdarkskyobservatory.co.uk



Soup & Sweet Lunch

Balmacellan & Kells Guild are holding a Soup and Sweet lunch on Shrove Tuesday, 17 February, in New Galloway Lower Town Hall from 12 noon to 2 pm with entry at £4 per person.

In addition to a variety of homemade soups and sweets followed by a cup of tea or coffee there will be a tombola and a stall with home baking.

Proceeds from this event will go to Diabetes UK.

Everyone is most welcome so please come along and support this worthy cause.

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

Hutch for rabbit or guinea-pig, good condition and includes water-bottle. Contact: 430 218

Two children's rocking horses. Furry horse, neighs when ear is squeezed, and a toddler-sized retro metal and plastic horse. Not perfect condition but still some fun left in them! Contact: Sarah on 430 065

Mustard yellow portable TV. Contact: Debra on 430 013

DVD player with remote. Contact: Debra on 430 013

Small deep red three-seater settee, length 1.66m. Not perfect but quite useable. Contact Will or Marion on 430 338

Leg swing exercise machine. Contact: Lesley or Miguel on 420 877

WANTED

Tin sheets. Contact: Simon on 07426 124 982

Beginner requires German conversation lessons. Contact: 420 267

A small bale of hay and also of straw if possible - will pay but not sure where to get them locally... Contact: Sarah on 07727 127 997

GREY SQUIRREL CONTROL IN THE GLENKENS

Over recent months more and more sightings of grey squirrels have been reported in the Glenkens.

We need your support to help control the spread and threat that these cute but invasive animals pose. They out-compete red squirrels for habitat and food, usually replacing them within 15 years. This threat is magnified by the squirrel pox virus carried by the grey squirrel which is fatal to our native red squirrels, killing them within 15 days.

The Glenkens were a stronghold for red squirrels, but less of them are now being seen. Why? Simply because of the spread of the slightly bigger grey squirrel. We can reverse this process by controlling the continuing spread of grey squirrels. Evidence in other areas of Dumfries and Galloway shows a proven record where eradication of grey squirrels has led to a return of our native red squirrel.

Help us to re-establish former numbers of the very popular and iconic red squirrel in the Glenkens. Please report your squirrel sightings, both red and grey, to Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels at www.scottishsquirrelsurvey.co.uk

Robert Peace



Photo of a Glenkens red squirrel taken by Philip Day along the Garroch Glen, near Dalry.

If you wish to become involved with the Glenkens Red Squirrel Group please contact martin.webber@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

THE STEWARTRY VETERINARY CENTRE

CASTLE DOUGLAS SURGERY HOURS
Mon-Fri 2.00-2.30 pm & 5-6 pm
Sat 2-2.30 pm

DALBEATTIE SURGERY HOURS
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Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

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Eco Feature

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GALLOWAY AND
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE
BIOSPHERE

Tell us about your passion!

A benefit of Scotland's first Biosphere is that it can help to open doors to new opportunities.

The international designation has been awarded in recognition of its potential to become a world class place for involving communities who have a passion for living and working in a way that benefits people and nature.

The Glenkens is in the middle of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and hosts an amazing combination of culture, wildlife and countryside.

It is easy to see why people care about their surroundings, want to find out more and know it is worth taking a closer look. Of course the more you look the more you find out and then want to pass on your new found knowledge to others or take positive action to take care of our environment. This kind of approach is exactly what the Heritage Lottery Fund wants to promote through its Landscape Partnership Schemes. The schemes knit together many projects over a well-defined area to involve people with the improvement of local built, natural and cultural heritage.

Dumfries and Galloway Council is beginning to develop a Landscape Partnership Scheme for the Ken/Dee river catchment and are keen to hear from individuals, groups or organisations with aspirations

to enhance the area between Carsphairn and Kirkcudbright. An enormous range of projects might be included in a Landscape Partnership Scheme as long as they improve

conditions for both local communities and local heritage.

Your projects might help people develop rural skills such as drystone dyking or learn about recording ancient trees and the special wildlife they support, such as the tree lungwort lichen. Perhaps your project will research the development of towns and villages in the area, discover why some prospered and others never got beyond the initial plan or maybe you are fascinated by the unusual 'Adam and Eve' headstones in your local graveyard and want to involve

volunteers in recording and preserving them for future generations to enjoy. Your idea might be about undertaking physical improvements or telling a story about the special qualities, characteristics and identity that makes the Glenkens different from other places.

The size of a Landscape Partnership Scheme means they require two or three years to evolve but it is important that local people get involved in the early stages to suggest ideas

and help them develop.

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Partnership are excited by this opportunity to provide a lasting improvement to the Glenkens.

You could influence the project by answering the following questions:

1. What do you value most about the natural or cultural heritage of the Glenkens?

2. What do you tell visiting friends and family they should experience when they come to stay with you in the Glenkens?

3. What one change or enhancement would make the Glenkens a better place to live, work or visit?

Please send your responses to karen.morley@dumgal.gov.uk and if you'd like to be involved in the ongoing public consultation let her know so you can be added to our mailing list.

Nic Coombey



GALLOWAY AND
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE
BIOSPHERE

gsabiosphere.org.uk

Carsphairn Burns Supper

Blizzard conditions on Friday 16 January did not deter attendees at the 46th Carsphairn Annual Burns Supper.

Guests were welcomed by Chairman, Robert McTurk, to a traditional hot meal of haggis, neeps and tatties, followed by trifle. The meal was preceded by Andy McCartney piping in The Haggis, which was carried by Poosey Nancy for the evening, Karen Hall.

The Rev David Bartholomew then 'Addressed The Haggis' with gusto, followed by giving the Selkirk Grace. The toast to 'The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns' was ably proposed by Finlay Carson, who included many quotations of Burns' work within his speech. Robin Jardine proposed a suitably tongue in cheek toast to



Photo: Left to right - David Bartholomew, Andy McCartney, James Wallace, Finlay Carson, Pauline Brown, Robert McTurk and Robin Jardine.

'The Lassies', which raised much laughter. This was ably replied to, on behalf of The Lassies, by Pauline Brown.

James Wallace entertained the guests with a beautiful unaccompanied rendition of the song 'Ye Banks and Braes', and after some community singing, with accompanist Margaret

Sloan, Robert McTurk ended the evening with a climax in an exciting performance of the ever popular 'Tam o' Shanter'. Another successful Carsphairn Burns Supper was rounded off with a Vote of Thanks, by David Gibbon to all who had contributed to the evening and the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

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www.relationships-scotlanddg.org.uk



CatStrand Update

February and March 2015 is a really exciting couple of months at the CatStrand. The fantastic line-up includes *Bongo Fury!* from Children's Classic Concerts, RM Hubbert, Susan Calman, and Daimh.

Slava Sidorenko starts off on Friday 20 February with a solo piano recital. This Ukrainian musical talent will perform in partnership with Greyfriars Concerts.

More classical music with Children's Classic Concerts' *Bongo Fury!*, an afternoon of musical mayhem for all the family. When they are not playing in international ensembles and orchestras, world-renowned percussionists

Owen Gunnell and Oliver Cox perform bespoke children's classical music concerts proving that classical music can be fun. A very special treat not to be missed on Saturday 21 February.

We are thrilled to welcome Susan Calman to the CatStrand as part of her stand-up comedy tour *Lady Like*. Susan is one of Scotland's biggest names in comedy, regularly featuring on television and radio. As a household name and a personal favorite to many, tickets are in high demand so book early to avoid disappointment.

Contemporary visual art exhibition *The Driving Project* will take over the Pyramid Gallery for February, produced by Katriona Holmes and featuring the work of photographer Alice Myres. The exhibition runs from Monday 2 February to Sunday 3 March.



Susan Calman by Steve Ullathorne

Change of Venues:

Due to flood damage events will take place in various venues outside of the CatStrand, please call the box office for more information 01644 420 374.

The CatStrand Team

CATSTRAND FLOODS AGAIN

Continued from front page...

In the morning of the 15th, more than 20 volunteers and staff arrived with shovels, brushes and boxes to save what they could and clear out the rest. Brian Edgar, the CatStrand general manager, said: "The scale of the damage is unprecedented and frankly heart-breaking. We would like to say a big 'thank you' to all the people who turned up to help, and to the others who have expressed their support including the fire brigade, Natural Power, local town hall committees and Kells School. We don't yet know our exact plans for the future, but we will do our absolute best to re-locate all planned events and performances and to cancel as few as possible".

Alan Smith, recently elected Chair of the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT), said; "Our priority at the moment is getting the building safe and secure and

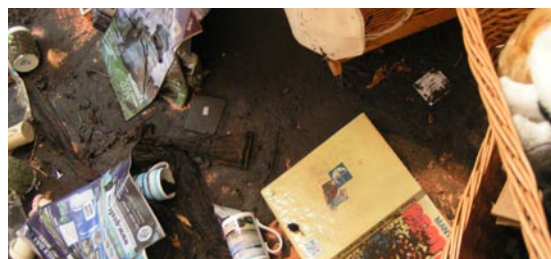
getting the staff able to work again. We can then concentrate on getting the building repaired and re-opened, while working with the Council and others to ensure that a robust engineering solution is found to prevent this happening ever again." He added his thanks to the staff and volunteers, who as ever have worked above and beyond in support of this very popular local charity.

In the short term, the CatStrand staff will relocate to Rosebank Cottage (located at the junction of Kirk Road and the Newton Stewart road in New Galloway, over the road from the doctor's surgery), from where they can offer information on events and performances, sell tickets and will even be offering tea, coffee and cakes for sale.

Phone numbers to contact them remain unchanged, so anyone

unsure of plans for events and performances will be able to ring through as usual.

In the light of this disastrous event, Helen Keron, a director of GCAT, said: "We can all do our bit to help this facility that offers so much to the Glenkens communities get back on its feet by continuing to buy tickets and attend events. The worst thing that could happen now is for numbers to drop, just when the CatStrand needs our help the most." There is also a website set up for anyone who would like to donate; www.justgiving.com/CatstrandFloodAppeal



More flood devastation at the CatStrand.

Guides Go Bowling

Glenkens Guides have enjoyed a trip to LA Bowling in Ayr thanks to guide Emily Biggar who did much of the research and planning for the outing as part of a guiding challenge.

The guides, along with their leaders and young leaders, were able to enjoy a session of bowling and also a session in the Lazer Zone. Afterwards, keeping in the Christmas spirit, they enjoyed a meal together, provided by LA Bowling as part of their Supper Bowl Package. It was a very good way in which to finish up the guide programme for 2014, and everyone agreed that they had really enjoyed the fun.

We would like to acknowledge that funding for a

large part of this outing was provided by Glenkens Community Shop, and we are very grateful for that. It is also extremely convenient to be able to use the minibus transport offered by Glenkens Transport Initiative, with thanks also to our volunteer driver, Mr Robert Peace. Guides have a very varied programme of activities, much of it chosen and organised by the girls themselves.



Emily Biggar, Annabelle McAdam and Cara Ramsay

Meetings are on Tuesday evenings in Glenkens Community Centre. Please contact Mrs Kathryn Peace for further information on 01644 430 281.

Glenkens Transport Initiative

Wednesday Evening Bus Service

Dalry to Castle Douglas and Back
(Registered Route)

Outward Journey	
1900	Depart <u>Dalry</u> (Underhill)
1905	New Galloway
1915	<u>Mossdale</u>
1925	<u>Laurieston</u>
1930	<u>Townhead of Greenlaw</u>
1937	Castle Douglas (Market Street)
1940	Castle Douglas (Tesco)
Return Journey	
2035	Depart Castle Douglas (Tesco)
2037	Castle Douglas (Market Street)
2047	<u>Townhead of Greenlaw</u>
2050	<u>Laurieston</u>
2100	<u>Mossdale</u>
2110	New Galloway
2115	<u>Dalry</u>



GTI Excursions 2015

March 7th Saturday

Hobby Crafts and Stitching, Sewing & Quilting Shows

Two shows for the price of one at the SECC Glasgow.

Fare £6/ concession £5.

Admission: adult £9.50/ concession £7.50

April 9th Thursday

Enjoy the spring blossoms at this wonderful garden.

Logan Botanic Gardens

Fare £6/ concession £5.

Admission to gardens: adult £6.00/ concession £5.00

April 23rd Thursday

Lake District

Fare £7/ Concession £6

Suggestions are invited for one or two excursions in March and throughout the summer.

If there's somewhere you'd like to go and you think others would too, email Glen on gti@catstrand.com or phone 01644 420374.

GTI has 8 and 16 seat minibuses for hire.

Hirers must be registered GTI user groups.

For more information or to book call 01644 420374.

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GLENKENS COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

Plans for the purchase of the Glenkens Community Centre are progressing well, with the first stage application form accepted by Dumfries & Galloway Council.

The Community Centre steering group commissioned an independent survey of the Centre in December which showed that although some moderate work for woodworm and damp joists is required the Centre is overall in very good condition for its age.

D & G Council has also been carrying out extensive work on the Centre in preparation for any handover including replacing and

repairing window frames and facias and painting of exterior woodwork.

The management committee and steering group are excited about the possibilities for the Centre and are meeting in January to make the final purchase decision.

If it is agreed on all sides, the Centre could be in community ownership by the summer, at which point grants would be sought to cover the required work and get the Centre on to a sustainable footing.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped in the process so far, and in particular to Mr Will Adam who has provided invaluable advice and assistance.

Helen Keron, Chair, Glenkens Community Centre

MOSSDALE VILLAGE HALL

We would like to thank everyone who came to support us at our Craft Fair and to extend our appreciation to the stall holders who continue to support us year after year.

On the day, we raised over £500 which will help towards the upkeep and maintenance of the hall. The Craft Fair not only raises money for the hall but provides a place to meet up with old friends, have a cup of coffee and a chat.

Mossdale Village Hall Committee

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

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Galloway

Galloway Forest Park
home to the UK's only
Dark Sky Park

Enjoy your forests in the UK's first dark sky park.

Here you can gaze and wonder at the magic of the **night sky**, or look in wonder at our wildlife, just grab a pair of binoculars, warm clothing and head out to discover the **Galloway Forest Park**.

For information on Forestry Commission Scotland stargazing events happening across the park this winter check out our website

www.forestry.gov.uk/darkskygalloway



For more information visit our website or call us on 01671 402420



REFLECTION ON A GLENKENS CHRISTMAS

As a newcomer to the traditions of the Glenkens schools, it was a privilege to be part of these community celebrations as the cluster headteacher.

The Christmas Coffee morning in Dalry was a busy, colourful and entertaining event, which was very well attended by parents/carers and friends of the school. The young people enjoyed preparing for it and their enthusiasm rubbed off on their visitors.

Now thoroughly in the mood and as a first true test of their preparation, members of Dalry School used their musical skills to entertain at the Guid Neighbours event. With the first public performance under their belt, many also performed on the following evening in Dalry School at the joint Primary / Secondary concert. 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw' was pieced together with skill and lots of practice by the primary pupils. The singing was great and the timing of some of the key characters was masterful. The packed Dalry school

hall was full of warmth and delight.

Carsphairn's Christmas Fair took place on the wettest, windiest, coldest day of the season so far, but inside was welcoming and enterprising. The calendar contains much of interest and if you weren't brave enough to experience the weather on the day, there maybe a few still available at £4, from the primary school.

Next was the Kells Christmas show and the traditional nativity story was the underlying theme in 'Children of the World'.

The combined effort of the young people, their staff and willing supporters produced a great performance full of colour, humour and good singing, with all the children involved on stage.

Carsphairn's 'The Smallest Angel' was a triumph and at short notice the 'smallest angel' did a stunning job. Lots of costume changes were a challenge and one that everyone managed really well. Again, everyone was involved and everyone gave their all.

After three evenings of entertainment, I left feeling that the Glenkens must have something special in the water to produce so much talent from these small communities, or, that with such

individual attention, talents are brought to the fore.

The secondary *Snow Ball* was the opportunity for young people to dress up in order show off their dancing skills at a social event.

The final event of the Christmas term was the combined schools Church Service on the final day of term in Dalry Parish Church.

Walking down on a cold winter's morning, to be together as a community to celebrate and reflect on the meaning of Christmas, was the highlight of my year. Young people who can adapt to the range of situations they experienced in the space of a week are a real credit to the families of the Glenkens. They listened, they sang, they responded appropriately and the performance of the nursery children brought a tear to the eye. It was lovely. Walking back to Dalry School for hot chocolate and shortbread was the icing on the cake and again emphasised how important schools at the centre of their communities can be.

I have been very lucky to be allowed to be part of it and wish all the communities the very best for 2015.

Jenny Smith,
Acting Headteacher,
Glenkens Cluster

CARSPHAIRN SCHOOL REPORT

2014 was another busy and fun year at Carsphairn Primary.

The school wrapped up yet another busy year with the annual Carsphairn PTC Christmas fayre, our school play, parents' open morning the and Christmas party. A special "thank you" goes to the Carsphairn PTC for funding a school trip to the Gaiety Theatre in Ayr to see the *Beauty and the Beast* pantomime and enjoy wonderful meal at *The Stage Door Café*.

Also, for a little fun at the end of the year, we had a visit to the school from *Zoolab*. The children all had a chance to look at and handle different animals such as rats, snakes, giant millipedes and lizards. *Zoolab* is turning into a bit of an annual tradition and the

children always love the chance to see the various creepy-crawlies.

This term we will be looking back at different historical periods starting with the ancient Egyptians. Then we will be moving on to more recent history, when we learn about the *Titanic*. Finally, to round up the term we will be taking our learning outside again to look at history in a hands-on way - we will be working with representatives from *Beyond the Beep*, using metal detectors around the Carsphairn area to see if we can discover any artifacts that we can research to find out more about our local history.

Happy New Year wishes from all the staff and pupils at Carsphairn Primary school. We would remind you to pick up a 2015 Carsphairn Calendar with all school holidays



The Zoolab visit.

marked within. Calendars can be purchased for £4 at the Carsphairn shop or The Garage in Dalry.

YOUTH BANTER

**SPRING is
Coming!**

Spring is coming and hopefully the worst of the winter weather is behind us. Just in case it isn't, we are hosting plenty of exciting activities for young people over February and March to keep you entertained. This issue has the latest a new youth ticket scheme, Teen Spirit Youth Club, and of course all your favourite reviewers. **READ ON!**

Free youth ticket scheme launched at CatStrand!

The CatStrand has launched a new scheme to encourage more young people to attend concerts, films, and shows. The **Youth Access Scheme [YAS]** will make a set number tickets available to YAS members for the much cheaper price of £4. It will also allow any unsold tickets to be used for free.

Youth Arts Development Officer Simon Davidson told Youth Banter: "We've always been keen for more young people to attend our events and we realised that the cost of tickets was a problem for those with no or low income of their own. Through the YAS they can guarantee a ticket for the show by paying a much reduced price or they can reserve tickets and if we don't sell them, they can have them for free."

In order to qualify for YAS tickets, you must be under 18 years of age and signed up to the scheme. It is **FREE** to join! Members may then buy or reserve up to tickets (one for themselves and one for a parent/friend/guardian). Upcoming show include Scottish Album of the Year 2013 Winner **RM Hubbert**, the film **Paddington [PG]**, and radio & TV comedian **Susan Calman**. Don't miss out!!

If you wish to sign up now as it is proving popular!
Contact simon@catstrand.com or call **01644 420374**



YOUTH BANTER NEEDS YOU! Yes, we are currently to expand our team so that we can bring you even more news about the Glenkens youth. It is the perfect opportunity for anyone thinking about **a career in journalism or the media!** Choose what you want to report on, take on any role you like and we'll help you improve your skills. Reporting, photography, editing - we can help with Office, Adobe Photoshop, Publisher, and In Design to help you get started. We're looking for all sorts of contributors, **film and tv reviewers, fiction writers, sports reporters, live music and theater reviewers.** Not only will you get valuable experience, but you'll get a reference for your CV too! Get involved in the next edition. **Contact: simon@catstrand.com**

WANTED!
**Reporters, writers,
photographers, editors**



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GCAT (Glenkens Community & Arts Trust)
YOUTH:TEAM

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

Shock Motion!

News from the set of *King Frost*



CatStrand Young Film Maker **Laura Edington** tells Youth Banter about their incredible new stop-motion animation project *King Frost*.

A group of us have been taking part in animation project making a film called *King Frost*. It has involved making plasticine figures and drawing backgrounds.

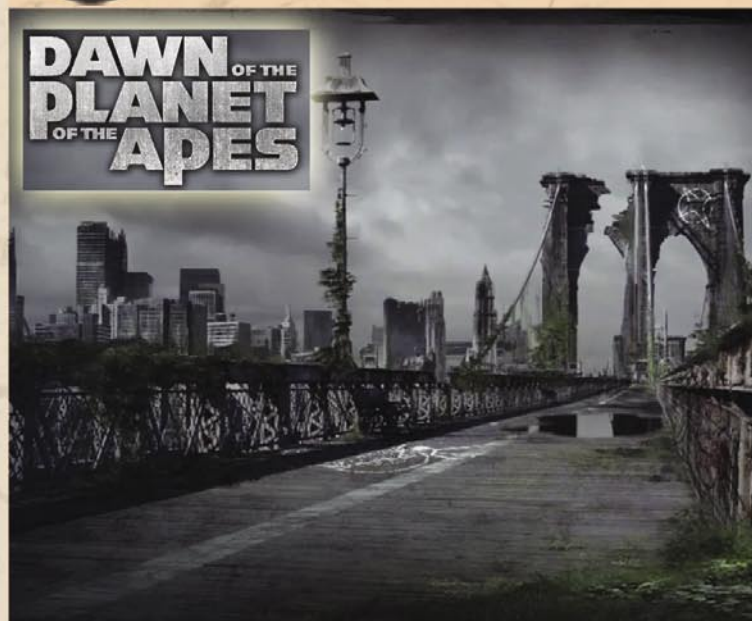
As a group, we worked out what the story was going to be about, then we designed our characters and started to film. Each second of film needs 12 separate shots, so it takes a bit of time, but once you get used to what you are doing you get quicker at it.

The story is about a girl getting thrown out of her house by her Mother after having lots of accidents. She goes into the woods where she meets King Frost. King Frost is a scary man who was designed by Anna. I designed the scary Mother. There are loads of other characters too. I love it! It is very interesting and fun. Making the things is a very good thing to do. I can't wait to see the final film.

King Frost will be available online in March.

YOUTH

FILM



MUSIC

Owen Glasby tells us why we should all listen to:

Arctic Monkeys

Arctic Monkeys are a band from Sheffield, and while they started as your average British indie band, they developed into global stars. While their debut album *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not* was a huge success, receiving rave reviews and launching the band into stardom, their most recent effort *AM* is widely considered a potential album of the decade.

With its mix of strong beats and catchy lyrics, it is hard not to be captivated by the self-proclaimed "saviours of British music". Alex Turner, lead singer and songwriter is a true lyrical genius. His lyrics are both relatable and enjoyable, with a solid mix of both mellow and heavy hitting rock. If you truly enjoy music, Arctic Monkeys are a band for you.

BYTES

REVIEW



Dawn of the Planet of the Apes [12A]

by Amy McMurray

This film is really good! The story is that a disease has killed thousands of people and the ones that survived had to get by without basics like water and food. My favourite part is when the apes go to the city and tell the people that they don't want any trouble but they will bring them to war if they have to. A brilliant film and I give it a five star rating.



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

EVENT: Burns Supper

Fri 6 Feb | 7pm | £10

OPEN STAGE

Wed 11 Feb | 7.30pm | £3 (inc drink) | Ages 12+

RYAN YOUTH THEATRE: Anti Sectarian Plays

Tues 17 Feb | 7.30pm | FREE | All Ages

LIVE MUSIC: Bongo Fury & Instant Samba

Sat 21 Feb | 12pm | £6 | All Ages

LIVE MUSIC: RM Hubbert

Fri 27 Feb | 7.30pm | £12/10* | All Ages

STORYTELLING: Mrs Mash the Storytelling Cook

Sat 28 Feb | 11am | £5 for adult & child

THEATRE: Romeo & Juliet

Sat 7 Mar | 7.30pm | £12/10*

COMEDY: Susan Calman

Fri 13 Mar | 7.30pm | £14/12*

***Free & Cheap tickets available through Youth Access Scheme**

ELSEWHERE

YOUTH THEATRE: One-Act Play Festival

The Fullarton, Castle Douglas

Wed 25 - Sat 28 Feb & Sat 14 Mar | £TBA

FILM: Sean the Sheep [U]

The Fullarton, Castle Douglas

Sat 21 Mar | 2.30pm | £5

GCAT (Glenkens Community & Arts Trust)

YOUTH: TEAM

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Bongo Fury & Samba Workshop

Sat 21 Feb | 12pm - 3pm | £6 for both!

@ The CatStrand

SCOTTISH
ALBUM OF THE
YEAR AWARD

RM Hubbert

The CatStrand

Fri 27th Feb

7.30pm

YOUTH BANTER SCHEME

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CAN YOU HELP?!

We love bringing you Youth Banter. It's a great chance for young people like us to share news and ideas, and have an outlet for writing, design work and showcasing achievements. All of the Youth Banter team donate their time for free but sadly it still 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.

PLANNING CONTINUES FOR NEW GALLOWAY SHOP

The steering group exploring a community purchase of the New Galloway shop has completed a fact-finding tour of other community-owned shops in the area.

These visits were very interesting and provided useful learning to assist the long journey towards a community-owned shop.

The group is also investigating potential uses for the house accompanying the shop, as the chosen option must make a positive and valuable difference to the

community. The impact on the community is one of the most important factors that will encourage national funding bodies to support a funding bid, and without large grant funding the project will not get off the ground.

The next step is to use the information from our local survey to undertake further research about the feasibility of this project. The steering group is about to apply for an initial grant to undertake this research. Feasibility studies will help to build a picture as to how sustainable this project would be, and provide an idea as to what model of operation would best work for the shop and house, and the results will form the basis of a large grant

application.

As reported in previous issues of the Gazette, a survey of local people showed 130 backing the idea of a community shop with two opposed. Jim and Margaret Hopkins, the shop's owners, are planning to retire and wish to sell the shop and house. We thank them and Marie McClurg for their continued support for this project, and also the tenants and management committees of Carsphairn, Auchencairn and Palnackie community shops for giving us their time and allowing us to learn such useful lessons.

For further information or to get involved, contact Helen Keron on keronh@me.com

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Please check

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for regular surgery, constituency
and parliamentary updates**

Wold-wide Celebrations at Kells

Kells Christmas Concert opened by the P1-4 recorder group playing *Ode to Joy*, followed by the whole class singing *Christmas Dinner* and *Jingle Bells*. P5-7 then performed *Children*

of the World for parents and friends of the school. The play explored Christmas traditions in specific countries around the world. P5-7 worked really hard this term learning songs, lines, stage directions and also managing



numerous costume changes.

Kells School also held their annual PTA Musical Café to raise money for school funds, which was most successful.

Photo - Musical Cafe.

DALRY SCHOOL'S FESTIVE FUN

Dalry Primary and Secondary schools' 2014 Christmas was a huge success.

There was music before the concert and during the intermission, and the school hall was full to bursting with an expectant audience. All seven

years of primary performed together in a lavish and entertaining musical spectacular entitled *The Magical Christmas Jigsaw*. The lead part was the Jigsaw Seller, played by Cosmas Green, who carried it off with style and exuberance.

At the start of the second half, instrumentalists from Dalry Secondary played *The Hall of*

the Mountain King by Grieg, while the primary and secondary students crept in or joined in organised groups to enact the story to a surprised audience - Dalry School's very first flash-mob! The entertainment continued with music and singing, culminating in the whole school finale which had everyone singing along. Brilliant!

DALRY SCHOOL GETS REVVED UP

Residents of Dalry are used to passing motorsport traffic heading North to the Forrest Estate, but recently two of the vehicles paid a visit to the joint Dalry School.

These were a rescue unit, and a Junior 1000cc rally car owned by 13 year-old Dalry secondary pupil Lewis Winder. The visit was organised by GoMotorsport's regional development officer, Alison Clark, ahead of the Britpart Borders Hill Rally.

Alison spoke to the P6/7 pupils about the design and construction of competition cars, Scotland's success in motorsport, different types of motorsport, and focused heavily on safety. The pupils were amazed when she carried out a few experiments, including trying to set her race suit on fire!

She also spoke to 'Design and Technology' pupils in the senior school, where the pupils examined carbon fibre and titanium parts from a Formula 1 car compared to their equivalent from a standard road car.

"Dumfries and Galloway has been a hotbed of talent for motor sporting champions. David Coulthard and Allan McNish have competed and won against the world's best. Currently, we have Ross Wylie from Thornhill as British GT4 champion and David Bogie was Scottish Rally Champion from 2009-2013. We need to plant the seeds of motorsport in youngsters now, so we can harvest a new crop of talent in the future. With the



Jake Finlay, P7, in the driving seat of Lewis Winder's rally car, with Alison Clark.

Forrest Estate on the doorstep, and regular motor sporting events to spectate at and compete in, there's no excuse for Dumfries and Galloway not providing us with more champions", Alison said.

If you are interested in taking part in motorsport events in Scotland, or would like Alison to visit your school, then please contact her on scotland@gomotorsport.net or call 07950 914433.

THE MOOSIE'S STORY...

Charlotte Spernagel, a primary 6 pupil at Kells School, tells a story in Scots about the mouse in Robert Burns' poem *To a Moose*. Here is *The Moosie's Story*...

Ah woke up in ma hoosie yin mornin' an athin wis normal. It wis late Autmn so a' the nuts had fa'en frae the trees . Ah went tae fin yin as usual an scampered back an sterted eatin' it. It wis very tasty, ah then ran tae' fin a leaf wi' a drop o' watter oan it an lapped frae it thirstily . Ah found some feathers oan the way back an took them tae ma hoosie an' arranged them nicely in a wee corner. Ah wis awfy proud o' ma bonnie wee hoose.

Suddenly ah heard an awfy

loud noise. Ah poked ma hied oot tae see whit it wis .Through the corn ah saw a big THING that wis comin towards ma hoosie. Ah hastily bolted fae ma hoose. So much fer ma hoose, the thing had crashed right throo it! The thing stopped and something sterted moovin towards me.

Ah sterted shouting, "YOU DESTROYED MA HOOSIE!"

"Am so very sorry ah destroyed yer hoose", the thing said calmly.

"YER SORRY?"ah shouted back.

"Yes, ahm very sorry."

"NOO, AH HAE NAEWHERE TAE GO!", ah said an' scampered off intae the forest. Ah sterted gather sticks tae build anaither hoose. Ah found a good tree an sterted building ma new hoose. Ah found some leaves an' put them on the roof and flair and

it sterted comin together. Ah found feathers, berries, nuts an moss. Ah used moss fer the flair, put the berries an nuts in a corner and the feathers went in the ither corner. It wis no as bonnie as ma auld hame but, ach weel, it wis shelter at least. Ah spent the winter eatin the berries and nuts an' eating snaw for water. Ah lived forevermore in ma wee hoose.

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Christmas Party Goes to the Dogs

Real Dog Training Scotland had its Christmas Party at Dalry Town Hall.

Homemade biscuits bones were enjoyed by the dogs, made by Margret Schofield who also donated the sausages for the race.

The games couldn't have happened without our Santa's little Helper Jessica Nash, aged nine.

£100 was raised during the night and has been donated to Dumfries & Galloway Canine Rescue.



Canine Christmas fun.

If your New Year's resolution is to train your dog do come along - all welcome. Classes run on a

Tuesday and Wednesday evening at 7pm in Dalry Town Hall. For further information contact Eric on 460 670.

A FOND FAREWELL

It seems incredible that it must be 35 years since I started to 'man' the New Galloway Office every Wednesday.

It was almost on a whim that I bought the then derelict Kentley's Café and converted it to a house/office. Initially "Kentleys" was my main home until marriage required an upsize to Borgue.

I always felt that it was important to provide a local service within the large geographical area of Glenkens and I am pleased that although I am retiring in the spring of this year, the team at Williamson and Henry, Ross Ireland, Ian Rodger, David Hall and Karen Baird, as well as my daughter Helen Steele and myself, remain committed to the New Galloway Office.

I am particularly pleased that it is Helen, who joined the firm as a solicitor in the summer of 2014, who is going to be the 'new face' in New Galloway on Wednesdays.

Just as a sort of 'Hail' Helen and 'Farewell' Ian, I had just arranged a very informal get-together at CatStrand in April but sadly due to the recent and devastating floods at CatStrand, this will no longer be possible. To give our support, the Firm is going to make a donation to CatStrand towards its refurbishment, instead of having a rearranged social event.

I will be attending the New Galloway office as usual, with Helen, until the 1st April, and would like to invite clients and friends to pop in on any Wednesday between now and then.

Over the period of 35 years, I realise it is actually impossible to recollect who all I have come in contact with but I want to make a point of asking friends and



Photo: Ian Rodger, Helen Steele, Ross Ireland, David Hall, Karen Baird, Ian Steele.

clients to call any Wednesday. There is no need for any sort of appointment, but if coming specially and there is any time which particularly suits, you could perhaps let me know so that I can make sure both Helen and I are in and free at that time.

Ian Steele

To get in touch please call 420 440 (Wed only) or 01557 330 692, or email isteele@williamsonandhenry.co.uk or hsteele@williamsonandhenry.co.uk

Jeffers Has a Pun....

A few funnies to lighten your day, brought to you courtesy of local Gazette reader Jeff Sutcliffe:

Q: How does Moses make his tea?

A: Hebrews it..

Venison for dinner again?

...Oh deer!

A cartoonist was found dead in his home...

Details are sketchy.

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

Community Spirit in Balmaclellan

After Christmas Balmaclellan residents gathered for a lunch in the village hall.

Everyone brought Christmas leftovers to share, including turkey and vegetable soup, pies, cakes (including mince pies), and drinks such as wine, cider, tea and coffee. Everybody

enjoyed the informal and friendly atmosphere.

Thanks to the community council and the hall committee for organising the event.

The committee meets regularly and is keen to try different ideas to involve Balmaclellan residents in activities that they enjoy or find useful or helpful, and try to think of ways to use our village hall.



Photo taken by Arran MacDonald-Kiernan.

Dalry Shop

Continued from front page...

Toddler group sessions are every Tuesday morning, 9.45-11.30am through term-time and cost £2 for a snack-aged child and £1 per additional child.

The shop, on Dalry's Main Street, is staffed exclusively by volunteers and all profit is given out in grants. Mrs Shirley McNaught, manager of the Glenkens Community Shop, said: "We were delighted to give out this money to sustain our local community and help it thrive. It couldn't happen without the people who donate goods to the shop, the people who buy from the shop and of course our shop volunteers, who do a marvellous job! A big 'thank you' to them all." The Glenkens Community shop is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 3pm. Shirley would like to encourage people to come in and browse the ever-changing stock - and of course buy and so help others in the community.



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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

Smile Daddy I am Dying

Smile Daddy I am Dying is the title of a biography written about Mossdale man Robin Hood.

The book charts his journey to raise money to find a cure for the condition Alex, his daughter, was born with in 1989. Robin's story is compelling, and also sad as his daughter died in 2008.

The title came from words said by Alex to her father when they had been told by the consultant all hope was lost. Robin is delighted this book is being published, and says: "This will let people know what a remarkable daughter I had who achieved so much despite all she endured and I am proud to say that I was her Father".

The book will be available in March, priced at £7.95, in many shops locally with proceeds going to charity.



The Droving Project Comes to New Galloway

Why we became Scottish cattle drovers for the day...

Three cows, a filmmaker, a photographer, a sound artist, a musician and a writer walked along an ancient drovers' track across the regional border from Knockengoroch farm in Galloway to Bellsbank town in East Ayrshire. The walk re-traced a journey that people have made with their cattle for hundreds of years.

The Droving Project is a collaborative arts project which addresses the ancient cattle culture of Scotland by following one of the many drovers' pathways that cross this country. In so doing it comments on rural life and farming today and touches on the art and psychology of walking.

People in Scotland have walked with cattle for over a thousand years. Current legislation made a re-creation of

this journey much more complicated. The route crossed five different farms

altogether. As bringing cattle onto a working livestock farm imposes a thirteen-day standstill of all animals, the cows would have been unable to walk the seven-mile route in less than eight weeks. As a result, walkers set out from Knockengoroch cowless, and met

up with the cows three miles into the route where they had been moved thirteen days previously.

The history of cattle in South West Scotland goes back beyond record. Cattle are indigenous to the UK and were once the lifeblood and wealth of the country.

The project was not set up to be a re-enactment of history, but an exploration of contemporary values, in a very real (wet) and present setting, drawing parallels with people in many other parts of the world who still walk with their cattle, camels, reindeer or yaks, to reach fresh pastures or trade.

Herdpeople have been lauded for their low impact on the environment, their creative thinking and innovative approach to environmental challenges. The people in Scotland, and particularly in upland areas, have also lived for many hundreds of years as partial nomadic herdsmen, a section

of social history often forgotten.

Towns such as Bellsbank that lost the mainstay of their livelihood

with the closure of the coalmines are common in many areas in Scotland. Before the industrial revolution people in these areas farmed and kept livestock. The industrial age is over so what is next for towns in rural areas like these?

...suggesting that a slower way of life may be beneficial...



The Droving Project gently nudges people to consider questions such as these, while suggesting that a slower way of life may be beneficial for our psyche and the health of the natural environment.

The Droving Project, funded by Creative Scotland, features award-winning photographer Alice Myers, film producer Stevie Whiteford, writer Catrina Davies, Nick Jenkins of the Lorraine Macauley Band and sound artist Pete Smith.

The results will come to the CatStrand for a month from Tuesday 3 February after having been exhibited at the Doon Valley Museum in Dalmellington since October 2014 - **please contact the CatStrand on 01644 420 374 to find out alternative arrangements while repairs are being made to the building.**

For more information contact *Katriona Holmes at thedrovingproject@yahoo.co.uk* or visit *www.thedrovingproject.org*

DROP IN AND SHARE SOME HISTORY

Friday 20 March will be a historic day for local history with the start of a new project, **The Glenkens Story: Sharing Our History**, open to everyone interested in exploring our past.

The project will be launched in Dalry Community Centre as a 'drop-in' event with a chance to

sample the range of local history activity in the area. Free and open to all, the event will feature displays, talks, demonstrations and the opportunity to discuss local history issues. Existing organisations such as Carsphairn Heritage Group and Dalry Historical Society will be represented as well as numerous informal interest groups. We will be planning future activities such as visits to historic sites, gathering oral history and local research projects - come

and share your particular local history interest.

The event, free and open to everyone, will run from 3.30-7.30pm. Drop in whenever you like and stay for as long as you like.

Look out for posters and flyers with more details or email *mbrown99@dircon.co.uk* to be put on our mailing list.

For more details contact *Mike Brown (420 267)*, *Ted Cowan & Lizanne Henderson (420 839)* or *Tom Carlisle (420 750)*.

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

McMILLAN'S GALLOVIDIAN ENCYCLOPAEDIA



One of Galloway's greatest literary productions is *The Scottish Gallovidian Encyclopaedia* by John Mactaggart of Borgue (1791-1830), a noted wit and an assiduous collector of oral information drawn from the Galloway folk.

The first edition of 1824 had to be withdrawn because it gave serious offence to the great and the good, but it was reprinted in 1876 and in subsequent runs. The author's ambition was to preserve the original antiquated and natural curiosities of the South of Scotland, "containing sketches of eccentric characters and curious places, with explanation of singular words, terms and phrases, interspersed with poems, tales, anecdotes, etc. . . . illustrative of the ways of the peasantry, and manners of Caledonia". He pronounced himself a proud peasant and a fiercely patriotic Scot. He became an engineer through the patronage of John Rennie who built the Ken Bridge. His publication was truly unique and it remains immensely valuable.

The Wigtown Book Festival commissioned local Dumfries and Galloway poet, Hugh McMillan, to produce his own version, inspired by Mactaggart. As Hugh would acknowledge, comparisons between the two projects are invidious. For one thing McMillan was given eight

months to produce his book, while Mactaggart claimed that he began collecting as a child. Both men are talented poets, both enjoy philosophising and both enjoy social criticism. McMillan is to be congratulated on producing an enthralling, idiosyncratic collection which will appeal to readers with a good sense of humour and a taste for strong drink. Throughout he develops his idea of Dumfries and Galloway as a ghost landscape. For him the Wickerman movie incorporates and perpetuates myths about the region which are not so different from those confronted by SR Crockett. As this self-described "broken down history teacher" travels around he reflects on JM

He scoffs at Burnsians and Rotarians who toast the Queen but exclude women from their events.

Barrie's rather stained reputation and John Buchan's *39 Steps*. Mactaggart-like he quotes a man who tells him that "Wigtown has always been a dump and now it is a dump with a book festival!" He scoffs at Burnsians and Rotarians who toast the Queen but exclude women from their events. He muses on the tragic coincidence that three of the UK's worst transport disasters took place in the region. The Gretna or Quintinshill railway disaster in 1915; the wreck of the Princess Victoria en route from Stranraer to Larne in 1947 and Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988 in Lockerbie.

One acquaintance describes Galloway as a place where depopulation has become a tourist attraction. A visit to Carsethorpe prompts thoughts of the region's regrettable emigration history. Past numbers

were huge, particularly in the 19th century, but 3,500 left the region to go abroad between 2006 and 2012.

All of this suggests the book is much darker than in fact it is. But fortunately the McMillan humour is never far away and some of it is wicked. By way of contrast he has a poem 'Carsphairn', a place which once advertised for settlers: "the last wurd in colonization a wis telt/a mean they advertised doon south fir settlers/like the Wild West, ken, here's a slice o land fir ye/dinna fash about the savages they're a extinct". He defines the King or Queen of Clatteringshaws as "a generic term for a hopelessly deluded person, simultaneously mad but entertaining, a lover of history who has lost his or her reason after too many nights thinking in an empty room and far too many house doubles".

He recounts his adventures travelling in our area by bus, - "50 minutes to travel 13 miles and half an hour into the journey we were further away than when we started" - of being trapped in the Crosskeys, New Galloway, by a hunting party, and (local hoteliers take note) of the drouthy visitor's perpetual anxiety when in Galloway about whether any of the pubs will be open! The Loch Ken crayfish also fall under his gaze. As will be obvious by now Hugh McMillan's Galloway Encyclopedia is an invaluable treasure trove of multifarious information about the area attractively, thoughtfully and wittily presented. The author, his illustrator Hugh Bryden, and all others involved are to be congratulated.

Ted Cowan

The book costs £15 from local bookshops or online.

FEBRUARY & MARCH

JANUARY

Sat 31, Dalry Burns Supper, 7pm, contact 430 454

FEBRUARY

Mon 2 - Sun 3 Mar, Exhibition: The Droving Project, contact CatStrand for details (420 374)

Thu 12, Ornithology Talk: Hen Harriers and Grouse by Sonja Ludwig, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Fri 20, Slava Sidorenko, contact CatStrand for details (420 374)

Sat 21, Children's Classic

Concerts' Bongo Fury! Contact CatStrand for details (420 374)

Thu 26, SWANC Talk: Small Homes, Huts & Cabins - Rules and Regulations, 7pm, Ken Bridge Hotel, New Galloway

MARCH

Fri 13, Susan Calman: Lady Like tour, contact CatStrand for details (420 374)

Fri 20, The Glenkens Story: Sharing Our History, drop-in event from 3.30-7.30pm, Dalry Community Centre, see p20

Thu 24, SWANC Talk: Improving Rural Transport, 7pm, Ken Bridge Hotel, New Galloway

APRIL

Thu 2, Ornithology: Short Illustrated Talks, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Correspondence Secretary Required

By Carsphairn Community Council. Post runs April to October in the first instance. Salary negotiable, training given. Attendance of CC meetings not necessary. Please email with outline experience and salary expectation:

carsphairncc@gmail.com
Application closing date: 05/03/15

Dalry Town Hall is currently in need of a new Secretary, and would also welcome anyone who would be interested in helping to run this historic building for the community. Please contact the Chair, Jean Lockerbie on 430 454 for further information.



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07834 321789

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

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, 7.15pm, for more info call Sam Rushton on 420 672

GCC Playgroup: Tues & 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: Tues 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: Tues & Wed, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall. Contact: Eric 460 670

Bowling for Beginners: Wed,

7pm, Spalding Bowling Club, Dalry (opposite The Garage)

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, 9.30am-12noon, Lagwyne Hall

D&G Hard of Hearing Group Drop-in: 1st Friday each month, 10am-12noon, New Galloway Town Hall.

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

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

Dalry Library

Tue: 2-4.30pm & 5.30-7.30pm

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

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

Glenkens Community Councils

Balmaclellan Community Council Meetings: 3rd Monday each month, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.

Carsphairn Community Council Meetings: Last Monday each month, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn.

Full minutes of local Community Council meetings can be viewed at Dalry Library.

Dalry Community Council Meetings: 1st Monday each month, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.

New Galloway & Kells Community Council Meetings: 2nd Monday each month, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: Sundays: Balmaclellan: 12noon 1st, Carsphairn: 10.30am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th, Dalry: 12noon 3rd 4th, Kells: 10.30am 2nd (Mar) 3rd 4th

Special Services/Events: Feb - 8th, 10.30am: United Family Service for Dalry and B & K Churches in Dalry Church; 9th, 7.30pm: Fellowship Dinner, Kenbridge Hotel; 21st, 12.30pm: Dalry Church Family Lunch; 27th, 7pm: Beetle Drive, Dalry Town Hall. Mar - 6th, 7pm: World Day of Prayer Service, Carsphairn Church; 8th, 10.30am: United Family Service for Dalry and B & K Churches in Kells Church; 27th, 7pm: Dalry Church

Easter Party; 29th, 10.30am: United Service, Dalry Church; 29th, 6.30pm: Faure's Requiem with Glenkens Church Choir, Carsphairn Church. **Communion Services:** 22 Feb, 10.30am, Kells Church; 15 Mar, 10.15 am, Carsphairn Church; 15 Mar, 12 noon, Dalry Church.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH: St Margaret's, New Galloway: Holy Communion, 10.30am every Sun & Wed

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES: Gatehouse of Fleet: Sat, 6pm. Kirkcudbright: Sun, 9.30am. Dalbeattie: Sun, 11am

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GET INVOLVED WITH WATSON BIRDS

The Watson Birds project wishes all of you a Happy New Year! So what's on for Watson Birds in 2015?

As a small charity in a community our engagement with local residents is vital. We aim to provide events and activities throughout the year to keep you all enthused and informed on the development of Watson Birds.

Our first item involves a visit to Dalry secondary school, where Watson Birds project officer Lynsay Bradford and RSPB events & learning officer, Kirsty Griffiths, will be helping the pupils understand and develop useful skills for the Big Garden Bird Watch 2015. The children will learn about Donald Watson, his passion for bird watching and how they can help gather valuable information. The results and pictures from this event will be on www.watsonbirds.org

Dalry pupils will also be participating in Robert Burns festivities, but with a twist. Linda Biggar, a secondary school teacher, will get the pupils to analyse a poem by Rabbin about birds. They will work out what bird species were mentioned in the poem and using online resources research each bird mentioned to create an informative poster for the Watson Birds project to display.

Later in the year Watson Birds hopes to create events such as an art competition, Songs in the Park with a songbird specialists and possibly a public art display to reflect the changes in Dalry and memories of Donald Watson and his family.

Speaking of memories, project officer Lynsay is looking for local

young people to help gather memories of Donald Watson from the local community and record them orally to preserve those precious moments for ever. An informal event will be held which will help create an archive for Watson Birds, promote future events, and volunteers can also gain a vital Duke of Edinburgh Award for volunteering and community engagement. If you are interested, require information or know of somebody with lots of local stories and memories that include the Watson family we would love to hear from you - please see contact details at the end of this article.

Plans for Barone, Donald

Watson's former home in Dalry, are under discussion at present and an update will be posted in due course on the Watson Birds website. However, we are planning to get local people involved as much as we can, so we've decided to start a new group - the Watson Garden Club. The club will run on a volunteer basis and will require a small group of locals to commit to meeting on a regular basis to maintain the garden at Barone. It is intended that the garden become

a beautiful public space offering a multifunctional area for the community and local schools to use. However, it is currently overgrown and unsafe for school visits which is why we require your help - so please get in touch if you would like to be involved.

Lynsay says: "I believe that this club will be a stepping-stone for the project. It will get local people involved and help the community gain ownership of the project as well as develop a safe and social environment for everyone to meet in".

If you would like to be involved or find out more please contact Lynsay on 07718700978 or lynsay@watsonbirds.org

GET INVOLVED



Watson Birds Project needs your help to create a community garden!



Our vision:

- ✓ Volunteer run community garden group
- ✓ Sharing of knowledge and skills
- ✓ Develop a beautiful public space
- ✓ Create an area for outdoor education
- ✓ Sensory garden

- Be part of a team
- Learn new skills
- Develop local areas
- Get outdoors and active
- Volunteer & boost your CV



Interested?

All we need is your interest and commitment to get the Watson Garden Group up and running. For information please contact Lynsay on 07718700978 or email lynsay@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

APRIL/MAY COPY DEADLINE: 5 MARCH



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