

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

April/May 2015

ISSUE 87

FREE

Great News for Local Children's Groups

It's been a good few months for the pre-school community groups in the Glenkens.

More than £14,000 of funding has been secured to maintain their existence for at least the next 18 months, which means they can all plan for success instead of existing term to term. Nearly 30% of the funding has come from very local individuals, charitable groups and employers, which is a fantastic testament to the social commitment and sustainability of our area.

GCC Playgroup has secured a second grant from the Big Lottery Community and Families fund, which will assure its future until at least August 2016. GCC Playgroup chair, Helen Keron, said: "We were delighted to be allocated this money from the



Children enjoying the GCC Playgroup.

Big Lottery, as it represents a real vote of confidence in what we are achieving at Playgroup. We have had 10 children on the books so far this year, with another five expected before the summer. Sue and Chrissy

are doing a fantastic job in giving the little ones their very first taste of independence and learning in a fun and secure environment, and the children all love it".

Continued on p6....



Annabelle McAdam

MAGIC MEMORY FOR MATHS

Dalry S1 pupil and 'Memory Marvel' Annabelle McAdam managed the astonishing feat of memorising pi to 28 digits.

It took her about six minutes to memorise the numbers and

she could then repeat them. Five days later she could still repeat the series of numbers with no warning and with only two errors.

Maths teacher Mr Bannister said: "I am amazed and wanted to know how Annabelle managed it". Annabelle said: "We do Kim's game a lot at Guides and I said the numbers over and over to memorise them".

CATSTRAND RECOVERY IN FULL SWING

The flood recovery work at the CatStrand is in full swing now, with the stripping out of damp internals completed and the drying out commenced as we go to press.

The water damage was such that the building will be stripped back to solid walls a metre up from the ground in most places. All floors, the mobile seating in the auditorium and all kitchen and shop units will be removed. This very comprehensive stripping out allows for absolute assurance during the drying phase, which is expected to take three weeks. Once the building has been certified dry, then the re-fit can commence. The current expected re-opening date is July 2015.

The insurers are being very supportive of all the issues, and will cover full replacement back

to the original standard, including damaged art installations. The CatStrand team is taking the opportunity to see how the building layout can be optimised to improve the experiences of visitors, but the footprint and the feel of the building will remain unchanged from before the flood.

The Flood Risk Assessment, including a full topographical survey of the catchment area for the burn, is also underway and, although not complete, is already suggesting some structural changes that will absolutely minimise the risk of a repeat event. D&G Council are also designing a new headwall for the burn inlet which will be constructed in association with rebuilding the boundary wall.

The CatStrand programme of events continues largely unchanged, now at various venues across the Glenkens villages. Do keep on supporting the venture by attending performances if you can - some non-New Galloway

people have already reported that they are enjoying the unexpected upside of being able to walk to events!

There is a fundraising event planned for the CatStrand to help with the inevitable costs not covered by the insurance. It will be a table dinner and dance at New Galloway Town Hall on 16 May. If you would like to host a table or donate a prize for auction, get in touch with Margaret Watson through the CatStrand on 01644 420 374.

Finally, the team at the CatStrand would like to thank all members of the Glenkens community for their ongoing support of our efforts. It remains a difficult time, and we are all missing our beautiful building. But thanks to an enormous amount of hard work by a lot of people - staff, directors and volunteers alike - we are on track to be back up and running just as soon as possible. Thanks again to all.

Mindfulness Based Happiness

Mindfulness Refresher

For anyone who has participated in a Mindfulness Course or has other previous meditation experience.
28 March - 1.30 - 3.45pm - £20 (£15 conc.)

Mindfulness Taster Session

If you are new to mindfulness, this is an opportunity to experience some of the core Mindfulness methods. Guided home practice meditation CD included.
28 March - 4.00-5.30pm - £15

Six Week Mindfulness Course

Full instruction on the core methods of modern secular mindfulness and the ancient art of creating happiness from within.

2 May, 9 May, 16 May, 23 May, 30 May, 6 June - 1.30-3.45pm £185 (£150 conc.) £50 deposit

Ongoing group

Many people who have completed a mindfulness course wish to continue the practice with a group. This is a chance to do just that. After coming together for the 28th March Refresher the next dates/times are:

2 May, 30 May, 27 June. - 4.00-5.30pm - £5 per session

Booking for all events is essential

Saturday afternoons at St Ninians Hall

Whitepark Road, Castle Douglas DG7 1EX

Debra Hall - 01644 430013 - debra.ha@hotmail.co.uk
26yrs experience and practice.

*Individual Mindfulness Coaching Sessions also available

MINDFULNESS

GLENKENS CLUBS & SOCIETIES FAIR

Dalry Community Council is planning an event in September to showcase the many and varied clubs and societies that operate across the Glenkens.

It is hoped to be held in the Glenkens Community Centre and Dalry school hall and will provide a one-stop shop where you can come along and see all the different opportunities available in the local area. From toddler groups to karate to craft groups to Good Neighbours, and with at least 20 others in between, there really is something for every age on offer in the Glenkens. We want to celebrate this and let everyone know what's out there.

More details will be published closer to the time, but mark 12 September from 10am to 12noon in your diaries and come along to see what new people you could meet and new activities you could take part in.

Contact Nicolette Wise of Dalry Community Council for more details or offers of help on 430 218 or nicolettewise@aol.com.

Photo of the Issue:

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel



This issue's winner is Michelle Bell with her 'Cheeky Wee Fox'.

Dave and Sue, competition judges and owners of the Ken Bridge Hotel, said: "An interesting selection but we think that 'Bold le Renard' realising he's been caught and looking straight at the camera is fun."

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

Local Lib Dem Candidate

The chair of Carsphairn Community Council has announced he intends to stand as the Liberal Democrat general election candidate for the Dumfries and Galloway constituency.

Andrew Metcalf is also vice chair of the Carsphairn Community Trust, a director of Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd, a board member of the IT Centre in Castle Douglas, chair of Clachan Fair Dalry and a director of Stewartry Council for Voluntary Service.

COMMUNITY SHOP BID ENTERS NEXT STAGE

The process of buying the New Galloway shop for the community has moved into its next phase with an application being prepared for initial project funding.

This funding will pay for the professional preparation of the detailed business proposal that is required before an application can be made for a grant to purchase the shop.

As the Gazette went to press a public meeting had been organised by the New Galloway shop steering group to update the community on developments and to set up a formal organisation to prepare and submit the bid for initial project funding.

The proposal to purchase the shop received substantial backing from the community last year but if our grant applications, firstly for initial project funding and subsequently for the purchase of the shop, are to succeed, we will need to provide funders with evidence of continuing widespread support in the community. Please look out for posters and flyers with reports of progress and requests for further assistance.

For further information or to get involved, contact Helen Keron on keronh@me or 01644 420 656.

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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

14-inch Technosonic TV with built-in VHS player and recorder; Pacific 240v DVD player; golf clubs, 3-9 irons, right handed. Contact Nigel on 460 545

19" TV, good working order. Contact: 460 235

Cardboard packing boxes

as used by removal firms.

Contact: Sue on 07563 718011

Epsom Stylus Photo 1400 colour printer - A4 and A3 + lots of colour cartridges. As new. Donation to Mary's Meals would be appreciated. Contact: 450 265 for more details.

Four brown leather sofas

(the ones from the cafe/gallery at the CatStrand). Some water damage as they got wet around the bottom during the flood but if dried out should be ok. Contact: Brian or Lindsey on 420 374

WANTED

Tin sheets. Contact: Simon on 07426 124 982

SPALDING BOWLING CLUB

Spalding Bowling Club in Dalry will open for play on 18 April at 2pm. After the silver jack has been played and the green declared open for the season there will be tea and biscuits.

Everyone is then invited to play in a friendly game between the President and the Vice President.

All are welcome to come along to play or watch - it would be lovely to see you there.

Eliz Peacock

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

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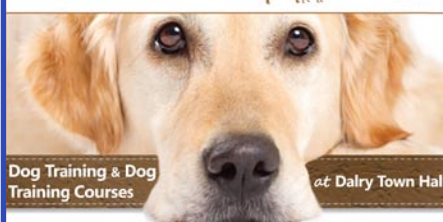
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Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power



For the first time ever, two of Scotland's prestigious nature festivals are uniting to showcase over 150 family-friendly events taking place in the south of Scotland throughout April, May and June.

Dumfries & Galloway Wild Spring Festival (Scotland's largest and longest-running wildlife festival) has joined forces with the Scottish Borders Nature Festival to celebrate the diversity of flora and fauna that can be discovered throughout the area in a fascinating programme of events. To mark Scotland's Year of Food & Drink, both festivals are also set to reveal a series of events with a special focus on the area's outstanding natural larder.

Almost all events will be free or charge a modest admission of around £6 per person. Most are led by local wildlife or conservation experts and take in a host of natural delights including the iconic red squirrel, migrating geese, bats, badgers, butterflies and moths, otters, red kites, osprey, red deer, goats, gannets and sharks.

Project Manager for the Southern Uplands Partnership and spokesperson for the South of Scotland Wild Festivals, Pip Tabor, said: "By uniting Dumfries & Galloway Wild Spring Festival and the Scottish Borders Nature Festival we hope to shine a spotlight on the naturally inspiring countryside, forests, gardens and coastline (around 250 miles of it) across the south of Scotland.

"There are so many wonderful experiences on offer for families and wildlife enthusiasts from near and far to discover the outstanding areas of natural beauty in Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders. Many events at these festivals are free and the local nature reserves

and forestry visitor centres are second to none, offering the perfect way to get out in the fresh air and explore the south of Scotland this Spring."

Organisations staging festival events include the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Forestry Commission, the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT), the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), Borders Forest Trust, Scottish Borders Council and Dumfries & Galloway Council, as well as a variety of independent local heritage attractions and estates.

"There are so many wonderful experiences on offer for families and wildlife enthusiasts from near and far to discover the outstanding areas of natural beauty..."

The full programme will be announced soon but highlights include:

• **Stars 'n' Stripes Badger Watching at Caerlaverock**

WWT: Witness these fascinating nocturnal creatures from a cosy vantage point with a mug of hot chocolate in hand. (Monday 6 April to Sunday 19 April from 8pm)

• **Wilderness Canoe Trip at Galloway Activity Centre:**

Take a peaceful paddle along picturesque Loch Ken, one of the best ways to spot wildlife (daily throughout the Dumfries & Galloway Wild Spring Festival)

• **Nocturnal Wildlife Tours in Dumfries & Galloway:**

The Dumfries & Galloway Wild Spring festival will see the launch of the first ever nocturnal wildlife tours of their kind in the UK. The tour will involve transport in a vehicle fitted with thermal night vision

and hand-held thermal camera units for all participants to use on the tour.

• **Wild Forest Food:** the Future in Ettrick Forest at Corehead Farm. Join the Borders Forest Trust for a walk in the young native woodland that is helping to restore the historic Ettrick Forest. Identify the trees, learn about their folklore and sample some of the food produce that the forest will provide, such as cob nut biscuits and birch sap cordial. (Saturday 25 May).

• **Moth Breakfast at Whitmuir Organics, West**

Linton: Enjoy some delicious local produce for breakfast while overnight moth traps are opened and the beasts are identified and released. (Saturday 6 June).

• **Arty Otters at Harestanes Visitor Centre:**

Visitors can drop into the Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre and make their own otter inspired artwork under tuition. (Saturday 23 May)

**Booking is essential for some of the events – please see the website for further information on dates, times, costs and kit required.

For the latest news about the Dumfries & Galloway Wild Spring Festival and the Scottish Borders Nature Festival visit www.wildseasons.co.uk



Male siskin.

Children's Groups Secured

Continued from front page...

Playgroup is open for children aged two and three on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings in the Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry. It runs from 09.10am to 11.40am and costs £5 for two

year olds - three year olds are free. Ring Sue Curtis, Playgroup Manager, on 07935 882 470 with any enquiries.

Glenkens Children's Club (GCC) was also delighted to be offered core funding by Natural Power

Consultants. This grant will assure the future of GCC for this year and the next, and it is hoped to use the funds for matching other donations. GCC has also been most generously supported this year by the

Glenkens Community Shop, the Guild at St Margaret's Church, Mrs Annikki Lindsay's Open Garden and the employees of Natural Power, for which they are also extremely grateful. Children's Club runs on Monday and Friday mornings, also at the Glenkens Community Centre,

Glenkens Children's Club (GCC) was also delighted to be offered core funding by Natural Power Consultants. This grant will assure the future of GCC for this year and the next...

from 09.30am to 11.30am. It is a 'Stay & Play' toddler group, for children aged 0-3 with their relevant adult. It costs £2 for the first child, £1 for subsequent children - if you've got pre-school children at home, do come along to this friendly and

welcoming group.

And finally, New Galloway Mother & Toddlers group was also delighted to receive funding from the Glenkens Community Shop in their latest round of community grants. Fiona Oliver, chair of the group, said; "We are extremely grateful to the

Glenkens Community Shop for this Grant donation. 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."

New Galloway Mother & Toddlers Group runs in New Galloway Town Hall every Tuesday morning, 9.45am to 11.30am through term-time and cost £2 for a snack-aged child and £1 per additional child.

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CatStrand Update

The CatStrand events have been relocated and in some cases the dates have changed too. For more information and updates please check the website (www.catstrand.com), facebook page (www.facebook.com/thecatstrand) or call the CatStrand on 01644 420 374.

Don't miss the concert from Rura at Dalry Town Hall on 15 April. This fresh young act is at the forefront of Scottish folk, presenting flute, whistle, fiddle, bodhran and the voice of extraordinary singer/songwriter Adam Holmes.



Rura



Salt House

David Ross will present a talk on the histories of the two old companies which operated on the Dumfries-Stranraer railway. The Port Road: Men, Mails, and Mechanations will take place at The Ken Bridge

Hotel on 22 April.

Folk fusion band Salt House will round off the spring season with a programme including the reworking of old ballads along side their own writing lead by the stunning voice of Siobhan Miller. Taking place at Balmacellan Village Hall on 24 April.

Critically acclaimed drama Normal/Madness by Kidder Theatre will be presented in partnership with the Dumfries and Galloway arts festival on Friday the 22nd of May. Based on the real experiences of writer Fiona Geddes, the play explores the journey of understanding for a young woman caring for her schizophrenic mother.

The CatStrand Team

NEW GALLOWAY GOLF CLUB

With the return of spring New Galloway Golf Club is now open for the season.

The course has come through the winter well and with the renovation of the fourth medal tee everything looks bright for the Club.

In conjunction with Club Golf, New Galloway members are also introducing an extensive junior coaching package with coaching sessions in local schools and on the course itself. The first of these sessions will be held over the Easter holidays, on 13, 15 and 17 April

from 10am to 12noon. All youngsters are very welcome to attend.

Further information can be obtained from the Club's junior convenor, David Aitken, on 460 556.

Ian Brown

DALRY ANGLING ASSOCIATION

Dalry Angling Association have commenced stocking of Carsfad Loch, and the plan is to stock Earlstoun Loch and the River Ken during the course of the season.

Memberships fees for 2015 are now due - fees remain the same as last year: Adults £15, juniors £1 (up to school leaving age) and full-time students £5.

Memberships can be paid at the offices of Brandecosse Ltd at the back of Wrights Shop.

Photo: New Galloway resident James Anderson with an 8lb brown trout caught on the River Ken outside Dalry.



Glenkens Transport Initiative

Wednesday Evening Bus Service

Dalry to Castle Douglas and Back (registered route)

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

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.

GTI Excursions 2015

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 May 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.



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Mossdale: New Village Hall?

Mossdale Village Hall is in need of some repairs. As age comes to us all, the hall is no stranger to this and is now showing its years.

The well-used stage is no longer fit to produce any music, let alone an encore. The walls have many a 'smile line' and the floor has been danced upon to its exhaustion.

There is a notion to build a new hall which will allow us as a committee to provide some more added extra annual events to our local and wider community. A new hall would provide exciting new premises and enable us to welcome friends old and new to



Hole in the stage.



Mossdale Village Hall.

a greater variety of entertainment and sporting activities and other events.

Please look out for further details and a questionnaire coming your way as we welcome your views and ideas as to how we can utilise the new fabulous community facility. Exciting times are upon us and we look forward to sharing them with you all.

*Michelle Bell, Secretary,
Mossdale Village Hall Committee,*



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 and booking is recommended at peak times (current menu can be viewed on our website).

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

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



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Come and check out our new Spring Menu!



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www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark

Dumfries & Galloway

CARSPHAIRN TREASURE HUNTERS

This term, the pupils at Carsphairn Primary School have been learning about history.

Since this term is particularly long, we have decided to look at history in three different ways. By learning about the Egyptians we will learn about ancient history, by learning about the Titanic we can discover more modern history and we are also finding out about how we learn about history.

We started the term focusing on Egypt, and the kids have done some independent research to write a class report about the Ancient Egyptians. We used a combination of books from our library and chose the best websites on the internet to find information. We then went through the seven steps of writing to produce our reports on several different aspects of Ancient Egyptian life. We also constructed our own sarcophagi, and looked at the process of mummification – which we all agreed was pretty gross!

Next we started learning about the Titanic. For homework, we were all tasked with the job of constructing scaled models of the ship using recycled

materials. We think our parents enjoyed this as much as we did! We also learned about the details of what happened on the fateful night that the Titanic struck the iceberg, and why it mattered if you were travelling in first class or third class. Finally, to celebrate everything we will have learned this term about the Titanic, we are going on a school trip to Belfast to see the Titanic Belfast Exhibition. It will be a long day, but we are looking forward to taking our own boat/ferry journey across the water to Northern Ireland.

Finally, we have been really lucky to have *Beyond the Beep* visit our school to teach us all about responsible metal detecting, which fits in very well with the outdoor learning ethos at our school.

Sharon and Derek from *Beyond the Beep* were able to provide us with all the metal detecting and digging equipment and expertise required to search the fields behind our school grounds. We unearthed all kinds of artefacts such as old toys, coins and other random items, and we are still researching to find out as much as we can about everything we have discovered. It has been a really great way to learn that we



have loads of history right in our own backyard!

To show off all that we have been learning about history, we will be having an open house at the school at 10am on 2 April. Everyone is invited and we would love to have you visit our wonderful wee school. So if you are interested in history, or just want to see what the pupils at Carsphairn have been up to, we hope we can see you in April.

Walker McKenna

Summer Events in Wigtown

This summer Wigtown has some great events, including their renowned Wigtown Book Festival.

Wigtown Writers' Gathering: Fri 1 May, 9.30am to 4.30pm, County Buildings, Wigtown.

The Spring Kist and Tearoom: Sat 2 and Sun 3 May, 10am to 4pm, County Buildings, Wigtown.

Wigtown Spring Book Weekend: 1, 2 and 3 May.

Wigtown Book Festival Dinner & Charity Auction: Fri 15 May, 7pm, County Buildings, Wigtown.

Lorna Reid in Concert: Sat 23 May, 7.30pm, Wigtown Primary School, New Road, Wigtown.

Wigtown Poetry Competition 2015: main prize £1500, closing date is Fri 29 May.

For more on these events please visit www.wigtownbooktown.co.uk or www.dgartsfestival.org.uk



YOUTH BANTER

**SPRING is
HERE!**

Spring is well and truly here and Youth Banter has an all new editorial team from Dalry Secondary School who have taken over. They'll be putting their own stamp on Youth Banter from now on and this issue has the latest on the NEW CatStrand Young Film Makers project, Sky's Eerie Gallery, Teen Spirit Youth Club, music reviews and more.

NEW FILM PROJECT! CatStrand Young Film Makers



The **CatStrand Young Film Makers Club** is about to embark on its most ambitious project to date and **YOU CAN BE INVOLVED!** The CYFMC are currently looking for additional cast & crew members (camera, sound, lighting, special effects, set design) to help them **create a short film about "Light"**.

Details of the film are being kept a closely guarded secret but Youth Arts Development Officer **Simon Davidson** told *Youth Banter*: "We're going to submit a film to the **Edinburgh International Film Festival Short Film** competition and the only thing they ask is that the film has some reference to "light" in it as 2015 is the UNESCO Year of Light. We thought that being based in the darkest area of the UK [the outskirts of Dark Sky Park] we'd have an interesting landscape in which to make a film about light!"

The film is being shot during the **school holidays between Mon 6th - Fri 10th April** with editing and soundtracking taking place the following week. The film itself will be quite short as there is a time limit of just 8mins.

The CYFMC are always looking for interested young people to join their team and it is free to take part. If you're into acting, writing, musical soundtracks, film making, then contact: **simon@catstrand.com** or call **01644 420374**

The **Regional Arts Fund** recently awarded funding to the CatStrand Youth Arts Programme to run a new visual arts project which will see some of the wreckage from the recent CatStrand flood disaster recycled and transformed into a public artwork. The **Glenkens Young Artist Project** will commence in June and will see a professional artist work directly with a small group of young artists to create a new iconic sculpture.

The project will also incorporate other artforms including **painting, music, storytelling, and shadow puppetry**. Young people (12 - 25yrs) with an interest in art who would like to be involved in this amazing [free!] summer project should **contact simon@catstrand.com**.

Young Artists Sought for Glenkens Sculpture Project



Supported by
The Holywood Trust

GCAT (Glenkens Community & Arts Trust)
YOUTH:TEAM

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

Sky's Eerie Gallery

Each issue we'll feature
photographs taken by you!



This is an old shepherd's hut where they
used to dunk the sheep. Is that a ghost?



This is an old, abandoned broken down
building in a field where I live.



MIA & JES TELL US WHAT'S HOT AND IN THE WORLD OF M

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We are Harlot

[2015 Roadrunner]

We Are Harlot are an American rock band fronted by ex-Asking Alexander vocalist, Danny Worsnop. Their debut album and was released on 30 March 2015. It is easily one of the best rock albums I have ever listened to. It shows off Worsnop's vocals much better than his core style he was singing with Asking Alexander.

ASKING ALEXANDRIA

Blood on the Dancefloor

Bad Blood

[2013 Dark Fantasy]

Blood on The Dancefloor never fail to disappoint me, whether it be their hair, make-up or indeed their music. For this awful US electronica band it hasn't been an easy ride as a bad reputation earned from their early work dragged their more recent work down. I find it amusing that they did it to themselves through their horrifying lyric choice, their terrible behaviour, and by releasing those tragedies of songs before this album [0/5]

SICA WHAT'S NOT MUSIC



fronted by
op. This is
March 2015.
e heard. It
an the metal
ndria [5/5]

Asking Alexandria are an English metal core band from North Yorkshire, formed in 2008. They have all the best elements of a metal core band and have produced several outstanding albums in the past. Upon Danny Worsnop's departure, they reportedly recruited a new vocalist who at the time of writing is still unknown.

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MAKING THE MOST OF OPPORTUNITIES

Since Christmas, young people in the Glenkens have been getting out and about to a range of events.

In February, Dalry School pupils Erin McGaw from S2 and Rebekah Phillips from S3 participated in their first Procurator Fiscal's Public Speaking competition at St Joseph's College in Dumfries. Taking it in their stride, they spoke very well on a difficult subject of *'Society thinks that everyone should be thin and beautiful'* with the Dalry team speaking to the title *'Society needs healthy bodies and beautiful minds'*. The girls were congratulated on their teamwork and research. The feedback they got was constructive and their scores for a first outing were very impressive.

Jordan Lawrie (S3) of Dalry School recently travelled to Bathgate Academy to compete at national level in the National Schools Table Tennis Championships. Winning two and losing two games, Jordan has come back with an experience at national level and some useful advice. The support of his family in attending both the competition and training opportunities in Dumfries is not to be underestimated and very much appreciated by Jordan.

The Primary Regional Cross Country was attended by a number of P5, P6 and P7 students from Dalry and Kells primary schools. The young people ran really well and have set themselves new targets for next year. William Nash came fourth in the P7 boys' event and has gone on to compete independently in Stranraer the following weekend, where he ran 1400 metres and came third with a time of five minutes and 35 seconds.

Dalry School representatives from S1 and S2 descended on Bladnoch Rugby Club along with



The winning 'Group Music Making' team of Dalry P3/4/5 at the Galloway Music Festival.

over a hundred other young people from D&G schools for the Senior Regional Cross country event. All our young people completed their courses showing perseverance in some cold and boggy conditions.

In March Dalry School S1 boys had their first taste of the pitch at Palmerston, where they took part in the regional seven-a-side 'Cashback Sevens' competition. They enjoyed the experience and learned a lot from it.

The Galloway Music Festival in Newton Stewart gave a platform for the youthful musical talent of the Glenkens. Dalry P3/4/5 won their 'Group Music Making' class and many other students from Dalry and Kells performed well in a wide range of classes, both as individual and group performances. The Dalry

Seniors came away with the Newton Stewart Bowling Club Trophy for their percussion playing.

We have been proud of the way the students have been prepared to push their boundaries and expand their experiences. Now they are looking forward to new challenges in the summer term.

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THIS SPRING WITH WATSON BIRDS



Come to Dalry in April and join in a range of bird-related activity.

Golden Eagle Egg Hunt:

Thursday 9 April, 12.30-3.30pm beginning at Barone (54 Main, Street, Dalry). Join the Watson Birds Project for a Golden Eagle Egg Hunt around St John Town of Dalry. Start at Barone and get a map for clues to find the eggs. When you find the egg, however, be careful not to move it as mummy Eagle will be watching! Simply write the code on paper provided - the aim is to find all the codes and return back to Barone.

Donald Watson Birds Trail:

Tuesday 14 April, 12.30-3.30pm.

Meeting at Barone (54 Main Street, Dalry). Start at Barone and witness your first spot of the day, on the back of the bird lies a clue to the next. Simply follow the clues to the next bird, remember when you find each clue to write the name of the species that you find. A fun day out for the family and a great learning experience.

Bird Ringing Barone Garden:

Sat 25 April, drop-in session from 9am - 12noon with Andrew Bielinski, North Solway Ringing Group, at Barone (54 Main St, Dalry). Bird ringing or bird banding is a technique used

in the study of wild birds, by attaching a small, individually numbered, metal or plastic tag to their legs or wings, so that various aspects of the bird's life can be studied by

the measurements taken during the capture, such as moult, fat content, age, sex, wing and tail. An added bonus is when the bird is recaptured later, providing information on migration, longevity, mortality, population numbers and feeding behaviour.

Wildlife and Bird

Photography Competition:

open from 2 April, closing date Saturday 2 May. Watson Birds Project encourages you to capture stunning images of wildlife and birds around the Glenkens. The competition is separated into three categories - ages 5-13, ages 13-18, and 18+. Do you think you've got what it takes to capture the winning photograph? If so, give it a go - simply email the final image to lynsaybradford@gmail.com, along with your name, age (if you are under 18), address and contact details by Saturday 2 May 2015. Please put WATSON BIRDS PHOTO COMP as subject. We will then choose three winning photographs from each category. Entries are submitted on the understanding that they may be reproduced on the website and other publications of the Watson Bird Project.

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CatStrand Youth Players

The Youth Players entered two plays for this year's Scottish Community Drama Association Festival with the Stewartry District round being held at the Fullarton Theatre over five sessions from 25 to 28 February.

Amateur drama is certainly flourishing in the Stewartry and this, once again, was by far the biggest festival in Scotland with 14 entries.

The Youth Players' ambitious production of 'I Never Saw Another Butterfly' by Celeste Raspanti was placed third, winning the Aitchison Trophy. The play was a very moving piece of theatre with demanding roles for the three main characters played by Zoe Kirkpatrick, Eleanor Jones and Mathew Godridge ably supported by another eight young actors. The story was based on the true account of a Czech Holocaust survivor, Raja Englanderova, who was held in the Jewish Ghetto of Terezin near Prague during the German occupation.

The adjudicator also seemed very impressed to the point where his public adjudication suggested that a higher place than third was forthcoming. The audience feedback too was very positive and hopes were high as the Saturday evening presentations approached but in the end it was to be third place this time. The cast are very grateful to Iva Pennington for all her help with the pronunciation of all the Czech words and names in the script.

The second production was 'Dream Jobs' by Graham Jones, a well known piece of youth theatre depicting the plight of five teenage girls as they wait for an interview with their careers adviser. Each of them has a dream job, all of them either a bit too glamorous or academically beyond the limited



The CatStrand Youth Players cast of 'I Never Saw Another Butterfly'.

ability of the girls.

Each character had their spot in the limelight as they acted out a scene based on their glamour jobs such as a fashion model, a dancer or an air hostess. Slowly they came to realise that none of them was ever going to achieve their 'Dream Jobs', except for Joan who only ever wanted to get married and have a family – it transpired that she had achieved part of her ambition already, although not in the way she would have liked, as she was expecting a baby. The adjudicator also praised the cast of Dream Jobs for their strong characterisations and particularly praised the 'fantasy' scenes where they left reality and overplayed their idealistic perception of their dream job.

Whilst this production wasn't placed this time it also received high marks and was very well received by the audience.

There were many memorable comedy moments, not least the game attempts of Lucy Olley, who was playing Angela, to act out her scene as

a fashion model whilst walking on crutches after unfortunately breaking her ankle a few weeks ago.

Both plays were directed by Brian Edgar with sound effects and music by Simon Davidson.

The plays will be presented again in Dalry Town Hall during April, at the time of going to press the date had not been finalised but please look out for the posters, check www.catstrand.com or phone 420 374 for further details.

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URG AND I: Part I

One man's story of living with a broken ankle...

I broke my ankle.
It's a very weird
experience for me, as
I've never broken a
bone before.

Now all my routines,
assumptions, and predispositions
are suspended or questioned.

To begin with I thought it was
just a sprain. Couple of days off
work. No sweat. Then I thought
I'd better check with the doctor,
get an X-ray maybe. The next
day I was in hospital and had
a 'slab' (a bulky bandage/cast
hybrid designed to
support the limb) put
on it. Next Thursday I
get a full cast which will
bring a whole new set of
experiences.

Until then I am adjusting
to the brick attached to
my left leg, to the almost
continuous (although
rarely intense) pain,
to one-legged and
double-crutched hopping, and
various other little (or not so
little) discomforts that arrived
unexpected and unannounced, in
company with this throbbing lump.
I shall call it Urg.

Living alone I have no-one
to beg favours of when Urg
makes things difficult. My house
is small and merrily cluttered
(some would say 'a complete
mess') and I have found that
negotiating (on crutches) the

fermenting blackberry wine,
the easel, bookshelves and two
tables while carrying a cup of
coffee is impossible. So I leave
the crutches by the sink, hop
around the wine, and, leaning
on the easel here or a bookshelf
there, gradually make my way to
the couch, set my coffee on the
table and then return, hop-foot,
for the crutches. Urg complains
throughout the duration of this
safari.

Going to bed is fun. I have to
climb a set of polished wood
stairs. Urg refuses to co-operate,
so I leave the crutches at the

**So I leave the crutches by the
sink, hop around the wine,
and, leaning on the easel
here or a bookshelf there...
Urg complains throughout the
duration of this safari.**

bottom and clamber backwards,
one step at a time, up to the
second floor and into my room,
holding Urg in the air all the way.

Then there's getting into bed.
I can't just slip Urg between
the covers like the little eel on
my other leg. I have to flip the
bedclothes back, gently lift Urg
into place upon the mattress,
cover him with the bedclothes
and then use the little eel to
adjust them around Urg if need
be – which is usually the case.

And Urg has to be in just the
right position before he will settle
down, otherwise he complains
painfully.

As for rolling over or adjusting
my (or Urg's) position - well,
even if he does want to move
he complains when we do. This
normally brief little adjustment
has become a slow, delicate and
painful affair.

Eventually of course we fall
asleep. Then we wake up. That
happens two or three times.
Then we wake up and it is
morning. At this point a third
character becomes involved. His
name is Senor Bladder.

It doesn't matter if Urg and
I are perfectly happy, warm
and comfortable and have no
desire to move, Senor Bladder
is very insistent. So Urg
and I have to take Senor
Bladder downstairs. Urg
objects. Nevertheless
we are forced to once
again slide laboriously
downstairs to where I left
the crutches.

Now here's a warning.
When moving from
a high point (a stair)
into crutches, beware
the tendency to pivot forward
uncontrollably. I nearly poled
through the front window this
morning. Only tripping over the
couch saved me. Urg was not
amused.

Anyway, once Senor Bladder is
calmed down Urg and I sit and
watch the day loom. That's what
we're doing now. Watching the
day loom. We do have one thing
to look forward to. This afternoon
we're going to have a bath. I
haven't told Urg yet. *Kevin Ade*




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Exploring the World of Work

One of the big issues young people face when thinking about the future is a lack of experience and knowledge about the seemingly endless possibilities in the world of work.

Dalry is seeking to enlist the help of the community in developing weekly 'case studies' of different jobs which can be shared, in person, with groups of young people. We know we have adults in the community who between them have a wealth of experience to share and if we can encourage large numbers of you to spare us a small amount of time each, then the young people of the Glenkens will be in a stronger position to make their

choices for the future.

If you would be prepared to talk about your job for about 10 minutes, based on a series of short questions, and then be prepared to answer any questions that arise, for no more than five more minutes, probably on a Wednesday afternoon at either 1.30pm or 3.10pm, then I would be very interested in hearing from you.

We know many of you have been working for yourselves in 'niche' employment and your enterprising approach could be a great inspiration to others. This is all about awareness-raising and different stories, presented by someone from outside school, are very powerful.

Please get in touch with the school office on 01644 430259 and leave your name, job title,



YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

telephone number and contact address, if you can see your way to giving us a little of your time.

At the end of April, we will send out further information to all those who have volunteered and we can start planning for the school session starting in August.

We look forward to widening the experience of young people with your help.

*Jenny Smith,
Headteacher*



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HISTORY LAUNCH DRAWS CROWDS

It was standing room only in the Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry when Professor Ted Cowan launched The Glenkens Story project and introduced the first speaker of the day, Anna Campbell of the Carsphairn Heritage Group.

She was followed by local farmer, Bill Blyth, on his life-

time of book-collecting, the Rev. David Bartholomew on the Covenanter trail and Dr Lizanne Henderson on the Glenkens witches.

Almost 150 people dropped in during the day-long launch to view the displays or listen to speakers including Michael Ansell on discovering history through place names, Professor Joseph Murphy on how 'natural' resources shape history, Paul Goodwin on the military past and Alison Burgess with oral history gathered locally.

The displays by the Carsphairn

and Dalry Heritage groups, showings of historic films and the finds of the local metal detectors attracted crowds. Enthusiastic visitors gave Avril Bridgeman and Tom Carlyle copious information for their history of the New Galloway shops.

Having established that many local people want to discover more about their history, The Glenkens Story project will soon be announcing its next events. Watch out for posters and flyers.

Mike Brown,
mbrown99@dircon.co.uk

Update on the War: 100 Years On

Well the war was not over by Christmas (as many people had thought) and the Glenkens had lost its first son, Augustus Cathcart of Carsphairn, on 14 September 1914.

Although he was never to be listed on any Glenkens memorial, Lieutenant Frederick WJM Miller was killed in action on 23 October 1914. His father was Sir William Miller Bart of Glenlee although the family by then were

no longer connected with the area.

The *Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser* (fore-runner of the *Galloway News*) printed a letter from the minister at Kells on 13 November to report that a cottage occupied by refugees (from Belgium) had been given rent free by Mrs Turner and that valuable assistance had also been given by Miss Turner.

The next man to fall would be Arthur Rennie on 12 March 1915. Aged 29 and a former gardener at Kenmure Castle, he is listed on the Kells war memorial. He was the fifth son of the late

constable Rennie of Carsphairn and a brother of police sergeant Rennie of Dalry.

An edition of the *Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser* of 25 December 1914 contained a Roll of Honour with the names of all those serving in the armed forces. The numbers were Dalry (32), Kells (40), Carsphairn (18) and Balmaclellan (9) and it is also known that a teacher from Kells school was serving at the front as a war correspondent so that makes exactly 100 men from the Glenkens serving at home or overseas.

The local Territorial Battalion (5th Bn Kings Own Scottish Borderers) were in training near Stirling at this time in preparation for service overseas at Gallipoli.

Paul Goodwin

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LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

OLD MORTALITY



Balmaclellan must be one of the least known villages in Scotland. Nestling into the side of its hill it is easily missed from the Corsock road and the road to Bogue Toll.

Delivery people regularly appear at our door asking the whereabouts of Balmaclellan almost as if it were a sister community to Brigadoon or Glocca Morra. Few see the sculpture built in to the wall of the kirkyard when approaching the village from the west. There, reclining on a tombstone, is Old Mortality, his ancient horse standing beside him. The sculptor was John Corrie who produced his work in 1840, a copy of which now stands at Dumfries Museum. There is a more ambitious piece by James Thom in which Sir Walter Scott sits on an upright gravestone talking to the man and the horse in the Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia. The information board here notes that 'it was due to the efforts of Balmaclellan Community Council and local people that these statues have been restored, brought back to the village and re-sited in September 2000'. I believe that the statues were brought from the Holm where they were in a sad state of disrepair; perhaps someone can confirm this?

Old Mortality, who inspired the title of Scott's novel of the same name, was a real person, Robert Paterson (1716-1801). He was a stonemason who worked at Corncockle Quarry, Lochmaben. He married Elizabeth Gray from Closeburn and through the good offices of the local Kirkpatrick laird he obtained the lease of a quarry at Gatelawbrig, Morton. His house was ruined and he was captured by

Highlanders retreating from Derby in 1746. Thereafter he joined the Cameronians who still adhered to the covenants. He began to transport slabs from his quarry to place on the unmarked graves of covenanting martyrs. One commentator suggests that he may have suffered from religious mania. Soon he was spending all his time repairing memorials of covenanters who perished during the 'Killing Times', the martyrs of the suffering bleeding remnant. For 40 years, known variously as the 'Hewer', the 'Letterer' or the 'Headstoneman' and eventually as 'Old Mortality',

Soon he was spending all his time repairing memorials of covenanters who perished during the 'Killing Times', the martyrs of the suffering bleeding remnant.

he followed his calling, allegedly refusing charity. His wife established a school at Balmaclellan to earn a family income, which Paterson so conspicuously failed to provide. She died in 1785. Old Mortality joined his major clients when he died in 1801 and was buried at Caerlaverock.

Scott met Paterson at Dunnottar in 1793, an encounter described, more or less accurately we assume, in Chapter One of *Old Mortality*. The stonemason spoke as if he was a contemporary of the covenanters 'so much had he identified his feelings and opinions with theirs, and so

much had his narratives the circumstantiality of an eye-witness'. Scott had first been told about Paterson by Joseph Train, an exciseman with antiquarian interests based at Newton Stewart. Train was so smitten by Scott that he presented him with various artifacts for his private museum. He was, however, stopped from handing over St John's Chair by the irate inhabitants of Dalry. It remains in the village, as it should.

Scott had no sympathy with the covenanters whom he detested

as repugnant anachronisms. Whenever he wrote about them his works were greeted with howls of outraged anguish from the devout, notably the minister and biographer, Thomas McCrie, who could not understand how a person of judgement

and candour found it possible to condemn the covenanters, men 'who had been betrayed, insulted, harassed, pillaged and treated in every way like beasts, rather than reasonable creatures by a perfidious, profane, profligate junto of atheists and debauchees'.

Paterson's grandson Nathaniel was born at Achie, Kells to become in time a successful minister. On a visit home in later life he wrote: 'I rode over to Kells and could have wept at the changes I saw – trees cut down and the house razed; but let this remind us of the grand change coming – "the house not made with hands"' (2 Corinthians 5.1.)

He invented a type of lifeboat and when the Free Church was built at Bogue Toll he preached the first sermon. His four sons, all successful men, emigrated to New Zealand, Australia and Canada. The Balmaclellanites are to be congratulated on keeping alive the memory of Old Mortality.

Ted Cowan



Statue of Old Mortality and his horse in Balmaclellan.

APRIL & MAY

APRIL

Fri 3, The Stickety Lickety Teahouse opens, Barstobrick Visitors Centre, see p4

Mon 6 - Sun 19, Badger Watching, Caerlaverock, see p5

Wed 8, Open Stage, 7pm, Clachan Inn, Dalry

Thu 9, Watson Birds: Golden Eagle Egg Hunt, 12.30-3.30pm, Barone, Dalry, see p16

Mon 13, Tue 14, Wed 15, Windy Rig Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Consultations, see ad below

Tue 14, Watson Birds: Donald Watson Birds Trail, 12.30-3.30pm, Barone, Dalry, see p16

Wed 15, Rura, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 17, Mamma's Grill Restaurant opens, Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry, see p19

Sat 18, Spalding Bowling Club opens for play, Dalry, see p4

Sat 18 & Sun 19, Life Painting, 10am - 3pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Wed 22, David Ross; The Port Road - Men, Mails and Mechinations, 7.30pm, Ken Bridge Hotel (*change of date*)

Thu 23, SWANC talk: The Beavers are Back - is this good news? Do they upset fisheries? Are they a menace? 7.30pm, Ken Bridge Hotel. For info email mas@craigfarm.co.uk

Sat 25, Learn to Weave on a Rigid Heddle Loom, 10am - 3pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Sat 25, Bird Ringing, 9am-12noon, Barone, Dalry, see p16

Fri 24, Salt House, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Sun 26, Creative Journals for Artists, 10am - 12pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Sun 26, Glenkens Acoustic Sessions, 2-4pm, Clachan Inn, Dalry

Thu 30, Documentary: International Human Rights Film Festival - Riot From Wrong, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

MAY

Fri 1, Sat 2 & Sun 3, Wigtown Book Festival Dinner & Charity Auction, see p10

Fri 1, Wigtown Writers' Gathering, see p10

Sat 2, Mindfulness Course, see p2

Sat 2 & Sun 3, The Spring Kist & Tearoom, Wigtown, see p10

Sat 16, CatStrand Fundraising Dinner & Dance, New Galloway Town Hall

Thu 21 - Sun 24, World Ceilidh Festival, Knockengarroch Farm, Carsphairn, see back page

Fri 22, Normal/Madness by Kidder Theatre, Balmaclellan Village Hall, 7.30pm

Sat 23, Wild Spring Festival: Arty Otters, see p5

Sat 23, Lorna Reid, 7.30pm, Wigtown Primary School, New Road, Wigtown

Mon 25, Wild Spring Festival: Wild Forest Food, see p5

Sun 31, Glenkens Acoustic Sessions, 2-4pm, Clachan Inn, Dalry

elementpower

Windy Rig Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Consultations

Element Power has invited The Southern Uplands Partnership (SUP), a not for profit organisation with full charitable status, to engage local communities in identifying how a community benefit fund could be spent once Windy Rig Wind Farm is operational.

They will be holding a series of facilitated community consultations, where all are welcome. SUP would really like to hear your opinions on how a potential fund could be spent, the types of local projects it should support and any ideas you may have for the area that will improve facilities, attract visitors and conserve your natural and cultural sites.

You are invited to attend our Community Consultations:

Monday 13th April, 7pm
Tynron Village Hall, for mid Nithsdale Communities

Tuesday 14th April, 7pm
St Johns Town of Dalry Community Centre,
for Glenkens Communities

Wednesday 15th April, 7pm
Sanquhar Town Hall, for Upper Nithsdale Communities

Dalmellington Outreach Service Post Office: Carsphairn

The Post Office is changing the day it brings its service to Carsphairn. It will now be every Tuesday from 1-3pm in Lagwyne Hall.

REGULAR EVENTS

CatStrand - RELOCATED UNTIL JULY -see below:

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am, New Galloway Town Hall

Margaret Morris Movement Adult Dance Class: Mon, 2.30-3.30pm, contact Sara on 01556 612854, New Galloway Town Hall

Children's Dance Class: Mon during term time, 3.45-4.45pm age 3-7, 4.30-5.30pm ages 8-15, New Galloway Town Hall

Gentle Tai Chi: Wed, 10am, 60+, New Galloway Town Hall

Play it By Ear: Wed, 2pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Sing it Out: Thurs, 11am-12pm, Cross Keys Hotel, New Galloway

Pilates: Thurs, 4.15-5.15pm & 5.30-6.30pm, Dalry Community Centre

CatStrand Yukes: Thurs, 1pm - 3.30pm 60+ Cross Keys Hotel, New Galloway

Knit & Blether Club: last Fri each month, 2pm, 60+

Afternoon Tea Club: 2nd Fri each month, 2pm, postponed until further notice

Saturday Art Club: 2nd Sat each month, 10am-12noon, New Galloway Town Hall

Zumbatomic: last Sat each month, 10-10.45am

Catstrand Youth Players: Sun during term time, 2pm, postponed until the summer

Glenkens Acoustic Sessions:

last Sun of the month, 2-4pm, The Clachan Inn, Dalry

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:

Ukelele Group: Mon, 11.15am, 60+, New Galloway Town Hall

Ukelele Improvers, Mon, 1pm, 60+, New Galloway Town Hall

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

NEW
TIMES

Tue: 2.30 - 6pm

Fri: 2.30-6pm

Sat: 10am - 12noon

*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 Sunday Services - Balmaclellan 12noon: 1st. Carsphairn 10.30am: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Dalry (Apr) 12noon: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Dalry (Apr) 10.30am: 2nd. Dalry (May) 9am: 1st, 3rd, 4th. Kells 10.30am: 2nd (May) 3rd, 4th, 5th (May).
Special Services/Events: 3 Apr, 7.30pm, Good Friday Service, Balmaclellan Church. 5 Apr, 7am, Easter Dawn Service, Carsphairn Community Garden followed by breakfast in the Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn. 12 Apr, 10.30am, United Family Service, Dalry Church. 24 Apr, 7.30pm, Quiz Night, Dalry Town Hall. 10 May, 10.30am, United

Family Service, Kells Church. 10 May, 3pm, Conventicle by Garple Burn, Grennan, Balmaclellan parish. 30 May, 2-4pm, Plant Sale and Cream Teas, Balmaclellan Village Hall. 31 May, 10.30 am, United Service with Choir, Kells Church.
Communion Service: 3 May, 12noon, Balmaclellan Church.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH: St Margaret's, New Galloway: Holy Communion, 10.30am every Sun & Wed
CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES: Gatehouse of Fleet: Sat, 6pm. Kirkcudbright: Sun, 9.30am. Dalbeattie: Sun, 11am

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- Pot-hole Hotline: 0845 276 0000
- Local Police: 0845 600 5701
- Doctor: 01644 420 234
- NHS 24: 08454 24 24 24
- D&G Council: 030 33 33 3000

KNOCKENGORROCH WORLD CEILIDH COMES OF AGE

The Glenkens' own international world and roots music festival, Knockengoroch World Ceilidh, celebrates its eighteenth year.

Taking place in the hills above Carsphairn village at Knockengoroch Farm since 1998 with an audience then of 350, the festival expects 2,500 to 3,000 people this May.

World Ceilidh is the longest-running annual music festival in Dumfries & Galloway with many current visitors having grown up at the event.

Organiser Liz Holmes says: "We have had births, marriages and ashes scattered at the festival, so our theme in our eighteenth year is coming of age and rites of passage which is very fitting. We are absolutely delighted with our line-up which covers music from all walks of life and backgrounds, rich and diverse, and reflecting the commonality of music which Knockengoroch has always

promoted."

Looking beyond the UK, the festival welcomes Aziza Brahim from the Western Sahara with depths of desert blues and hints of flamenco. Her performance will be followed by a film and talks on the situation of the Western Saharan refugees, exiled for more than 40 years.

Two of Scotland's leading traditional fusion bands, The Peatbog Faeries and Shooglenifty, headline Saturday and Sunday nights, both also going strong after many years; a lot of dancing is guaranteed with both these wonderful bands.

Cutting-edge contemporary sounds are represented amongst others by Young Fathers,

another Scottish act who against the odds recently became Mercury Prize Winners - the most prestigious prize in music in the UK.

There will

be seven venues, including a brand new club night dance tent bursting with DJs and dance acts, with something to suit everyone's musical tastes. Further attractions include music sessions, workshops, theatre, dance, comedy, fire, games, silent disco, open mic, kids' activities, massage and therapies, a sauna, real ales, good food and global shopping.

World Ceilidh runs from 21 to 24 May at Knockengoroch and welcomes all ages.

Information can be obtained from the festival's website and facebook page - www.knockengoroch.org.uk and www.facebook.com/knockengoroch.



Knockengoroch's main stage.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

JUNE/JULY COPY DEADLINE: 5 MAY



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