

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

December/January 2015-16

ISSUE 91

FREE

CATSTRAND HOME AND DRY AT LAST

On Monday 5 October at 10am the CatStrand finally opened its doors again after almost nine months of renovations as a result of January's devastating flood.

The re-opening has been long-awaited, but from day one locals and visitors alike have been flooding through the doors (if that is the right expression!) to welcome CatStrand back. The Visitors' Book has been filling up with comments such as – "Absolutely wonderful to have CatStrand open again, I have missed you", "So glad you are back and looking so good!", "Wonderful to see you open again, I love coming here", "This is a special place for me", "Fabulous as always,

we'll certainly be back".

Tourists have already visited from all over Britain and as far afield as Australia, as always the overwhelming message from these visitors is how lucky we are to have such a facility as CatStrand in a small community such as ours. These messages and comments are very gratifying and make the hard grind of the last nine months worthwhile. The CatStrand staff and board are very grateful to everyone in the community for helping to keep the programme



'Home & Dry', the new CatStrand art installation.

going whilst CatStrand has been closed and look forward to welcoming everyone back to the exciting Winter Season events.

Continued on p10...

AMY UP FOR AWARD



Amy Geddes (nee Mellor) has been nominated in the Music Tutor of the Year category of the Creative Scotland Youth Music Initiative in the highly acclaimed MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards (2015).

Amy grew up in Dalry and first developed her interest in traditional music from a young age. She says; "There was no TV in my house – this may have

contributed to my interest in music and books! I started Highland Dancing about the same time as I went to school, then began singing and was given a fiddle age 10.

"I was lucky to live in the same village as Jo Miller (founder of the first Trad Music degree in Scotland at the then RSAMD) and her neighbour Tommy Edgar, who was leader of the Starry Nights Dance Band and – no less importantly – the dame in our local panto every year. [Tommy died recently and is greatly missed]. Jo would give me fiddle lessons in her holidays from university and Tommy would take me to dance and play fiddle at local events and in hospitals and residential homes. It was brilliant and I am quite convinced, better than TV. **Continued on p9...**

Chair with a View

The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Community Council has seen a lot of change at the recent elections, and so it is important first to recognise the massive contribution of our retiring members.

Between them Brian Edgar, Margaret Watson, Vic Macintosh and Jimmy McKenna put in an incredible 109 years of service on the community council, and their combined knowledge and enthusiasm will be sadly missed. As is often the way though, they all contribute hugely to the community in other ways as well, and so we will continue to see them around and about. But thank you all, your dedication is very much appreciated. Thank you as well to the other Councillors who served in this last term: George Scott, Lyndy Renwick and Julia Brown, all of whom did a great job on the Council.

In their place, we welcome some new faces to the Community Council: Sharon Fishwick, Craig Millar, Emma Harnett, Ros Hill and

Stuart Littlewood have all just joined and are already bringing new ideas and energy with them. Just the 26 years to go before you can stand down, guys!

As we sit here in New Galloway, the issues that concern us are very similar to those that face us all in the Glenkens, which is why we as a community council will continue to be keen to work with the other CCs to present a united front to D&G Council on Glenkens issues. As Andi Holmes from Dalry CC mentioned in the last edition, the massive pylons proposed by Scottish Power are a very real concern that we must all feedback on regularly if we would like to see the energy company motivated at all by environmental and community concerns rather than their profit and shareholder returns. Wind farms (pros and cons thereof), crayfish depopulation and care for our older people are also some big issues that we see coming towards us.

New Galloway seems to be at a tipping point, with the village shop up for sale and the town hall at risk of closure. If we lost both of those, it would have a real impact on our community life. But on the bright side, teams of local people are working hard on both these issues, and the community council is delighted to support these

voluntary efforts to maintain and improve our village life. We are also delighted to see the CatStrand re-open after the flooding, again due to an enormous effort by the staff and volunteers from across the Glenkens.

New Galloway and Kells Community Council wants to be representative of its ward. We will not use our influence with D&G Council to disproportionately represent our personal views as Councillors, but only those issues where there is wide community consensus. Therefore if a particular issue is of interest to you, do corner (or email) a Councillor and let them know your views. We must be sure we are representing the majority of the constituency before we take any stance. All recently-elected Councillors across the Glenkens will be listed in the next issue of the Gazette, and contact details are also on the D&G Council website. And lastly, it's not too late to get involved - residents are welcome to attend any CC meeting of interest to them and the CC can co-opt new members at any point if all parties are willing. So do come along on the second Monday of the month at 7:30pm in NG town hall, or see our minutes posted at the town hall, and look out for our new Facebook page, coming soon! We'd very much like to hear from you.

*John Thom, Chair &
Helen Keron, Vice-chair*

New Galloway & Kells Community Council

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR TOWN HALL

Discussions between the new Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) committee and D&G Council have resulted in LING taking over day-to-day management of New Galloway Town Hall from the start of December.

This is in place with a view to a short-term lease being put in place at the beginning of February.

Members of the new committee elected at the beginning of November are already discussing how the town hall could work with Health & Social Care and other voluntary groups to

provide a venue for activities and services linking to the ideas in the Draft Locality Plan. LING had already arranged for the ongoing monthly Hard of Hearing clinic and the May meeting of the Stewartry Diabetes Support Group to be held in the hall.

The proposed revival of the Thursday Lunch Club at the beginning of the New Year could bring folk out of hibernation at this dark and chilly time of year, providing a warm sociable place to meet as well as forming the base for other activities and health and social care proposals.

Opportunities for badminton, table-tennis and indoor bowls are all being put in place and even the possibility of new-age curling is being investigated. Look out for the posters or let me know if you are interested!

These are just the start of some of the things that were asked for at last year's Open Days. If there are any groups or activities you would like to

start up, the hall is there to be hired. We will make sure that rates and arrangements are pinned up on the notice board. Otherwise just contact me; the aim is to bring the hall back to life for the community.

I would like to thank all those who have been members of the LING management committee at various times over the past seven years but are unable for various reasons to continue.

Thank you too to those who although unable to offer to be a committee member have offered moral support or help where possible.

The new committee members are: Ros Hill, chairman; Craig Millar, vice-chairman; Ann Glaister, secretary; Bob Glaister, treasurer; and Ray Bridgeman.

*Thank you all,
Ros Hill*

*01644 420 632
ros.hill@rathanhouse.me.uk*

Pace Quickens in Community Shop Bid

November has been a month of hectic activity for New Galloway Community Enterprises Ltd (NGCE) as work continues to secure Big Lottery funding for the community shop project.

Currently NGCE is finalising a bid for development funding which has meant a succession of meetings with professionals, council agencies and advisers

to gather information and prepare estimates.

Once development funding is in place the all-important business plan can be prepared which will underpin the Stage Two application to the Big Lottery Growing Community Assets Fund. A successful application would enable the community to buy the existing Hopkins shop and house and develop a community shop, self-catering tourist accommodation and low-rent office or workshop space.

NGCE would like to thank

everyone in the community who is assisting them and in particular Jim and Margaret Hopkins for their continuing patience and helpfulness. If you have financial, planning or development skills you could bring to this project or help in any other way the small group of volunteers running the project would love to hear from you - contact keronh@me.com NGCE is a community benefit cooperative company currently supported by more than 70 members of the New Galloway community.

GLENKENS GIANTS?

Various ideas are being thrown about to try to find a positive angle on the massive pylon upgrade which will have such an impact on the Glenkens.

Just one of the ideas is to turn the pylons in key beauty spots/areas of high visibility into modern art installations, such as the 'Giants' which are due to be created in Iceland in 2017.

What are your thoughts? Do you have some ideas? Let's form a local group to put ideas forward and discuss with other



'Giants' created by Choi & Shine Architects, due to be erected in Iceland in 2017.

community councils/groups around the region. Please contact andiholmes@hotmail.com or get in touch with the Gazette (details on back page).

Abbas Rest Thanks

The recent coffee morning held in aid of Abbas Rest orphans raised the fantastic sum of £850.

We would like to thank all the people who supported us in so many ways, with donations towards the baking, raffle, bric-a-brac and bottle stalls, and also the generous money donations.

We would also like to thank all the people who staffed the stalls and helped in the kitchen, waited on tables and provided transport as, without you, this would not have been possible.

We were very pleased to once again welcome Jim Walsham, the treasurer for Abbas Rest, and also Madge Irving, a Trustee, who were able to answer our questions, and give us up-to-date information on the orphanages.

*Our thanks once again,
Avril Brown & Barbara Colbenson*

VOLUNTEER WITH GCAT

Would you like to become more involved with the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) and its projects?

GCAT is looking to recruit new Trustees/Directors as part of their strategy of renewal and sustainability. If you are interested in GCAT's work with the CatStrand, the Glenkens Transport Initiative, the Glenkens Children's Club, the Glenkens Gazette, Connecting In Retirement or their extensive youth work, then do apply to

become a Trustee/Director. All residents of the Glenkens over 18 years old are welcome to apply, and we would particularly welcome applications from younger folk and people who live further away from the CatStrand. It is a voluntary role, with a base commitment of attending 12 evening meetings a year over a three-year term. In addition, we would hope that all Trustees/Directors would use their core skills or experiences to support the staff of GCAT with specific projects as they arise.

Could you spare some time to support community projects at a strategic level?

To apply, contact Alan Smith on 07769 680 938 before mid-January. Successful applicants require to be elected at the AGM which will be held on 25 January 2016.

Even if you don't want to be involved at Board level, we are always keen to increase our pool of volunteers to assist in our retail operation, front of house or special projects that match your skills. Go on, get involved - it's great fun and immensely rewarding.

The GCAT Team

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

Titan oil tank, quantity of concrete kerbing. Contact:

Tim, Newton Stewart, on 07748 677 452

6 double-glazed units, 2 single-glazed units in rotten frames, 4 triangles of frosted glass, 2 chains with padlocks (14" and 11" long), 3 door stops. Contact: Cynthia on 420 605

Scanner, with leads, disc, etc - Microtek 3600. Contact: 460 516

2-seater bed settee, velour fabric, rose colour - good condition. TV

stand, black/chrome - excellent condition. 2 single bed-heads, silver chrome frames - good condition. Contact: 450 265

Tall freezer, old but in working order. Contact: 430 380

Two single mattresses, excellent condition but no fire-resistant label. Contact: 430 380

Vick's CleanAir air purifier, virtually unused. Contact: 430 380

GARDEN

Wood chip, ideal for garden

paths etc. Bring own bag to fill.

Contact: 430 218

Do you need rotted horse manure for your garden? Come and collect with bags or trailer (New Galloway).

Contact: Sue on 07563 718 011

WANTED

Old fabric, especially old t-shirts for CatStrand Saturday Art Club.

Contact: Mary on 07967 959 511

Side-table; bookshelves. Contact: Mary on 07967 959 511

Chest of drawers; tin sheets.

Contact: Simon on 07426 124 982

Support the Biosphere Charter

The Glenkens Gazette has signed up to the support the aims of the Biosphere Charter.

By signing up to the Charter and agreeing with the six principles of the Biosphere, the Gazette is demonstrating they are proud supporters of the Biosphere and want to play a part in promoting and developing the sustainability of the area.

The greater the number of Biosphere supporters, the better the benefits will be. Biosphere is an

international designation providing a badge associated with special places, the best environments and quality local products. Together we will make life better for people and for nature.

The six Biosphere Principles are to:

I. Help conserve the natural resources of the Biosphere.

II. Support the economy to benefit people and nature.

III. Promote cultural heritage and local products.

IV. Contribute to health and wellbeing of the community.

V. Develop knowledge,

understanding and research.

VI. Raise awareness of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.

Are you a local business who would like to show your support of the Biosphere project in the Glenkens? Why not get in touch with Nic Coombey on nic@gsabiosphere.org.uk



GIVE AS YOU SPEND THIS CHRISTMAS

Raise money for some local charities this Christmas and throughout the year by donating with www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Through this website you can purchase goods from the retailers

you normally buy from, and they automatically add on a donation to the charity of your choice.

Why not support local bodies like the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust, or Glenkens Playgroup, or locally run charity Afghan Schools Trust? Or if you have a favourite charity you would like to support who are not already registered with the website, you can add



them yourself.

This is a great way to donate and help raise funds for your favourite charities at no extra cost to yourself - and what a way to make that hefty Christmas spend feel a little better!

Eco Feature

GALLOWAY GLENS PROJECT

sponsored by natural power 

There is plenty to celebrate in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere as 2015 draws to an end.

Dumfries and Galloway Council's Countryside Service has been successful in securing funding of £185,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop a second stage application for the Galloway Glens project. The funding has been awarded through the Landscape Partnership programme to work with groups, organisations and agencies to develop projects for the Glenkens area. Much more needs to be done before the submission of the final application in 2017 however. The Heritage Lottery Fund has now set aside £2.9m towards the delivery of these projects over a five-year programme.

The Galloway Glens project will enhance the natural, built and cultural heritage of the Ken/Dee Valley as well as helping to achieve the aims of the Biosphere designation by inspiring a positive future through the strengthening of connections: people with nature, local with global, future with past, individual with community and hope with reality. Early in the new year Dumfries and Galloway Council will be organising meetings to involve local groups in the development of this exciting project which will make a real difference to the area and the people that live there.

Environmental art also has the

ability to inspire and the Rosnes Benches are a good example and are set to become the focus of a Biosphere itinerary that features everything from alternative picnics to revealing special habitats. The benches provide an opportunity for people to experience the countryside at a different level.

Once you are lying on one of the many benches scattered over 12 locations in the Galloway Forest Park you begin see the landscape from a different perspective and become more aware of the sounds and smells that surround you as well as experiencing the sky above.

Things are looking up in the Dark Sky Park as the stars continue to fascinate many people. A recent initiative by

the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere project has trained four new Biosphere Dark Sky Rangers in the art of communicating astronomy.

Businesses such as hotels, B&Bs and campsites now have the opportunity to call on the skills of the self-employed



Rosnes bench

Biosphere Dark Sky Rangers to set up and run events and tell people about the wonders of the night sky.

If you are a business in the area who would like to find out more about our new Biosphere Dark Sky Rangers email Marie McNulty, the new Biosphere Business Development Officer on: marie@gsabiosphere.org.uk or visit the Biosphere website; www.gsabiosphere.org.uk

Nic Coombey



History Brings in the Crowds

There was a sell-out audience for the first lecture organised by *The Glenkens Story* history project at CatStrand in November.

Writers and broadcasters Peter Aitchison and Andrew Cassels delivered a vivid account of the little-known lowland clearances, illustrated with dramatised reconstructions from contemporary records. The next lecture, by archaeologist Andrew Nicholson, takes place on 28 February. The Glenkens Story, which was launched in March, is also planning further field trips to historic sites in the Glenkens.



GALLOWAY AND
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE
BIOSPHERE

gsabiosphere.org.uk

CATSTRAND WELCOMES YOUTH TEAM

The CatStrand is thrilled to welcome two new members of staff to the team.

Dave Miller and Sara Lockwood have jointly taken on the role of Youth Arts Development Officer, each with their own specialist creative area.

Sara says; "My role focuses on activities for 10-15 year olds with a remit to develop dance, visual arts and writing.

"I am really looking forward to working with young people in the Glenkens and beyond in order to foster a greater love and skills development for these art forms. My background is in Modern and Contemporary Dance and Art History, and when I am not at the CatStrand I can be found dancing my way across Dumfries & Galloway in my role as a freelance dance artist, choreographer and teacher of Margaret Morris Movement".

Dave has recently been appointed to oversee the music, film and media elements of CatStrand's youth arts programme.

With a rich background in music, film and media, Dave graduated from University West of Scotland and has been working as a freelance audio engineer for the last 10 years.

His professional achievements have led him into youth development work in recent years with the Scottish Music Centre and various other community learning organisations.

Dave works for the mentoring project, Music Plus, and the youth touring project, Hit the Road, which takes young acts on short national tours. Dave is also a

Prince's Trust Youth Business Scotland volunteer.

During his time at CatStrand, Dave plans to design a series of interactive workshops,

masterclasses and trips for young people interested in music, film or media. He looks forward to working on new arts news and reviews by young people. For the 16-25s he will construct a youth traineeship scheme focussing on skills for employment, portfolio or further education.

So if you're aged between 10 and 25, stop by the CatStrand and meet Sara and Dave and see what's on offer, or keep an eye on the CatStrand Facebook page and website for up-to date news and events.



Left Dave Miller (© David Moses) & right Sara Lockwood



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'Smile Daddy' Film on the Cards

A film is set to be made from the book *Smile Daddy I'm Dying* by local man Robin Hood, about his daughter Alex.

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

Robin says; "Working Title Films approached me asking to make a film but they wanted full creative control on how the story was portrayed so I've decided to have the film professionally made myself. This way I can make sure that the story is told accurately."

Filming is set to start in late 2016 and may be filmed locally, but the logistics of a large-scale film production, says Robin, may not be possible in the Glenkens.

But keep your eyes peeled because if the film is filmed locally, there may be some famous faces knocking about; Colin Firth has received a copy of the book and, if things pan out, may be set to play Robin in the film.

CatStrand Highlights

There is still plenty to look forward to in the Winter Season...

After the successful *Home & Dry Festival*, a busy November featured three films, the classic *Brief Encounter*, children's film *Two by Two* and the story of the Skye Bridge anti-toll protestors *Bridge Rising*. Another double bill concert on 13 November featured the two distinct styles of Karine Polwart and Emma Pollock followed a week later by the young Dutch and British *Ragazze Quartet*.

In December we can all look forward to the CatStrand Youth Players' fifth annual pantomime, *Babes in the Wood* by Paul Reakes. The panto runs for three performances, Friday 4 and Saturday 5 December at 7.30pm plus a matinee performance on Sunday 6 at 2pm.

Before Christmas we will also feature *Opera Bohemia* with the one-act festive opera *Amahi & The Night Visitors* on Friday 11 at 7.30pm and then on Saturday 19 at 4pm *The Feral Choir* make a return with their latest show *Midwinter Turning*. Both shows will continue where the panto left off in building the festive atmosphere

as we rapidly approach Christmas and *The Feral Choir* ticket even includes mulled wine and mince pies!

The dark evenings of January are sure to be brightened by the first cinema offering of 2016, *The Second Best Marigold Hotel*. After the huge success of the first film, Judi Dench, Maggie Smith *et al* return in another amusing Indian tale.

On 16 January we welcome three of Scotland's leading singer/songwriters to perform songs and share stories – *James Yorkston, Withered Hand & Pictish Trail*. This is a chance to see this incredible trio perform together before they headline at Celtic Connections 2016.

Finally on Friday 22 January, we are delighted to present *Jamie Campbell & Simon Callaghan*. Both very accomplished and acclaimed classical musicians in their own right, Jamie on piano and Simon on violin will perform a programme featuring the music of Schuman, Faure and Poulenc.

Friday 5 February will herald the return of the *CatStrand Burns Supper*. Cancelled as a result of



James Yorkston, Withered Hand & Pictish Trail

the flood last time around, tickets are sure to be in great demand so please book early to avoid disappointment. *Blazin' Fiddles* will also feature in the next season's programme, date to be announced soon! Plenty to look forward to and do remember that tickets can now be booked online at www.catstrand.com

If you need some ideas for your Christmas shopping, why not come along to see some of the unique gifts available from our renowned gift shop or consider giving Theatre Vouchers which can be used to purchase tickets for CatStrand events or at most theatres throughout the country.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone from the CatStrand Team

CATSTRAND YOUTH PLAYERS PANTOMIME

Sherwood Forest comes to CatStrand as the Youth Players' fifth annual pantomime tells the much loved tale of *Babes in the Wood*, brought to life by a collection of heroes, villains and madcap characters.

The wicked Sheriff of Nottingham is planning some horrible deeds so that he can inherit the Babes' fortune but luckily the Babes have our hero Robin Hood and his Merry Men on their side. Great fun for all the family; expect relentless jokes, sing-alongs, audience participation and of course, the unexpected!

Zoe is a young 'veteran' of stage and screen, having taken part in all the Youth Players' pantomimes and festival productions to date and recently starred in the CatStrand Young Film Makers' production *The Light Shed* which won an award at the Edinburgh International Film Festival.

Eilidh too is starring in her fifth pantomime and on screen has taken the lead role of Aggy Fishbone in the Young Film Makers' trilogy of Hallowe'en horror films. She has also worked with professional actors in *Life*,

Love & Liberty during the Burns Pageant in Dumfries.

Georgiana shone in the Principal Girl role in last year's production of *Sinbad*, and Arthur is looking forward to his third pantomime and to playing the nasty Sheriff.

See the listings in the Diary section on p18 for dates and times of performances.



The Youth Players performing of Sinbad.

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

Competition judges Dave and Sue, from the Ken Bridge Hotel, chose *Glenkens Sunset* by John McBeth as this issue's winner.

"All entries were lovely but the richness of colours in John's composition stand out so much we are not convinced he did not take this in the Caribbean!" Regards,

Dave & Sue

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



Glenkens Transport Initiative

Regular Bus Services

Tuesdays

Dalry to Newton Stewart Return Swimming and Shopping

Outward Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1115,
New Galloway 1120 (Fire Station)
Return Pickups: Newton Stewart (ALDI Car Park) 1320,
(Merrick Centre) 1330
Return Fare: £2.50
More information/booking phone Ann on 01644 460518

Wednesday Evenings

Dalry to Castle Douglas (Tesco) Return (registered route)

Outward Journey	
1900	Depart Dalry (Underhill)
1905	New Galloway (CatStrand)
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 (CatStrand)
2115	Dalry (Underhill)

Excursions December 2015

Phone the CatStrand (01644 420374) or see GTI page on the CatStrand website for more details and to book.

Glenkens to Ayr & Back

Saturday 5 December

Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930, Dalry (Underhill) 0940,
Carsphairn (Shop) 1000
Leaving Ayr 1500. Fare £3.50, Concessions £3.00 each way.

Hetland Garden Centre & Moffat Christmas Shopping

Saturday 12 December

Hetland Garden Centre and Moffat are great places to shop.
Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930; Dalry (Underhill) 0940,
Crossmichael (Shop) 1000, Castle Douglas (Market Hill) 1010
Fare £7. Concessions £6.

If there's somewhere you'd like to go and you think others would too,
email Glen on gti@catstrand.com or phone 07841 5124494.



Minibus Hire

GTI has 8, 15 and 16 seat minibuses for hire.
Hirers must be registered GTI user groups.
For more information or to book email gti@catstrand.com or call 01644 420374.

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New Galloway Golf Club

New Galloway Golf club ended a very successful season with its annual prizegiving in the clubhouse.

This was preceded by a Texas Scramble competition and followed by a fantastic buffet to which all those present

contributed and our president, Elspeth Thomas CBE, was on hand to give out the trophies.

The winter programme is now in place and following a very successful session of summer junior coaching, the club's junior convener and vice captain, David Aitken, is taking



these sessions through into the winter. It is also hoped to go back into the local schools and continue the good work started in the spring.

Ian Brown

AMY UP FOR AWARD

Continued from front page...

Amy cites as her career highlights getting the job as Traditional Musician in Residence for Clydesdale at the age of 21, accepting the invitation to be the first tutor and to work to help establish the hugely successful Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop and having her compositions recorded by other artists – notably Catriona MacDonald & Fyne Friday (Anna-Wendy Stevenson, Nuala Kennedy, Kris Drever).

When considering plans for the future, Amy has lots on the cards. She says: "More gigs, more teaching, more fun! You never know what is around the corner so it's best to plan with enough space for the unexpected to fit in."

To find out more about Amy, visit <http://amygeddes.co.uk> or visit her on facebook or twitter.

SPALDING BOWLING CLUB

Spalding held their annual presentation dinner at The Clachan Inn.

President Peter Hamilton welcomed everyone and Valerie Russell presented the prizes.

Pictured; Back Row (left to right) J McNally, G McAdam, A McFegan, J Peacock, G Dempster, I Murray; front row (left to right) V Russell, Ladies Champion A Hamilton, President P Hamilton, Gents Champion J Mc Beth, M Young.



MINUTES SECRETARY REQUIRED

Carsphairn Community Council require a minutes secretary for their meetings

last Monday of each month
[No meetings December & July]
Meetings are held in Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, 7pm, for approx 2 hours
next meeting 29 Jan 2016
Negotiable fee + travel expenses
For info call 460 662

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Energy Storage and Future Regeneration of the Glenkens

Massive projects are being considered for an energy park, visitor centre and hybrid energy storage project located on available parts of the Chapelcross site and at other locations across Scotland.

These have important long term implications for the Glenkens where some 5-10 years hence we could have our own energy storage scheme perhaps even combined with ownership of the local 11Kv grid and resulting cheaper, greener electricity.

In order just to maximise the efficiency of Scotland's current intermittent wind farm output it is estimated that over 1GW of energy storage capacity is required now to end the need for wasteful constraint payments to wind farm companies. Add to this the potential for predictable but still intermittent generation from tidal power in the Solway, domestic solar panels and larger solar farms, small scale hydro, biomass, etc. and one reaches a

figure of a 5GW storage capacity requirement for Scotland by or not long after 2020.

The Scottish Government is encouraging local communities to become more ambitious and more imaginative in coming up with proposals for community ownership of energy generation, storage and distribution.

Communities are being encouraged to explore eligibility to receive Feed in Tariff (FiT) payments for energy generation projects up to 10MW. In our region Local Energy Scotland's development worker Madeline Crawford is already working on such a scheme with a local community group in the Eastriggs area.

When Blackcraig windfarm was proposed the Glenkens Sustainable Development Steering Group looked at the Energy4All model, using cooperative ownership structures with the opportunity for a wider community of interest to own shares. Blue Energy have bought Blackcraig from SSE. They are being asked to honour the spirit of what was agreed with SSE in relation to community ownership as well as community benefit.

A so called 'Bencom', covering the corridor from the Glenkens northwards to Dalmellington, forming one of the 4 communities of interest

with 10 MW of projects located at Chapelcross has been suggested. Lessons learned there could be applied to enhancing the future attractiveness of our area with new potential pumped hydro storage capacity proposed for Damellington and ideas for a major energy storage project near Glenlee 5 to 10 years hence.

The announcement by Loreburn Housing Association that they have joined 35 other housing associations to become members of Our Power is great news for their tenants locally. We look forward to them being partners in joint efforts to bring renewable energy generation storage and distribution increasingly into community ownership. That raises the question of whether there should be an embargo on all construction of onshore windfarms larger than 5MW unless there is at least 51% community ownership.

In the context of the debate over the national grid upgrade, due to take place about 8 to 10 years hence, these proposals, if implemented, would force a major rethink about whether there will then need to be a 400Kv connector across the Glenkens.

Roland Chaplain, Balmacellan,
DG7 3QE, 01644 420 361,
roland@glenkensbb.co.uk

Home & Dry

Continued from front page...The official opening was heralded by the appropriately named *Home & Dry Festival*. The *Launch Party for Friends & Patrons* was a fitting celebration to kick-start the festival, featuring the unveiling of the new 'Home & Dry' art installation which was funded by the D&G Regional Arts Fund and designed by Auchencairn artist John Crosby.

Made from the old flood damaged floorboards from the auditorium, it depicts a flotilla of boats arriving safely 'home and dry' as they are swept over the boundary wall by a huge wave! A reminder of the flood but at the same time a fantastic and universally acclaimed addition to the CatStrand's public art works! The party also saw the official opening of Hazel Campbell's art exhibition which runs until the end of January and features a specially commissioned Glenkens painting

which will remain as part of CatStrand's art collection.

The weekend followed with two excellent and well-received concerts - first up was a double-bill featuring Ben Rogers, a Canadian singer-songwriter likened in the past to a young Johnny Cash, and up-and-coming Scottish folk roots duo *The Jellyman's Daughter*. Sunday was the turn of classical music and CatStrand was very lucky to host *The Templewood Ensemble*, all the way from Norfolk and featuring Geoff Davidson (piano) and Evie Anderson (mezzo soprano) both from *BBC Singers* along with Keith Hobday on violin from Norfolk Sinfonia.

After a well-earned break on the Monday night another sell out show took to the stage on Tuesday, a much anticipated return visit from *Rapture Theatre* with their latest play, *The Last Yankee* by Arthur Miller.

The rest of the week featured the

BAFTA award-winning film *Amy* telling the incredible story of the late Amy Winehouse in her own words, attracting an audience from a wide age-range, it was the first film shown using the new projector and cinema equipment.

The annual *Halloween Party* was well attended on Saturday evening and featured the Premiere of *Aggy & The Fishbones*, the award-winning CatStrand Young Film Makers' latest horror film and the final part of the *Aggy Fishbone* trilogy.

The Festival was brought to a close in fine style as Ricky Ross launched his solo European Tour, *The Lyric Book*. Thirty years after Deacon Blue was formed, this was a unique opportunity to see a master songwriter present some of his most famous songs as they were first written, by him, sitting at a piano. A fantastic and fitting end to the Festival - after New Galloway became a 'Raintown' on 14 January, CatStrand was finally home and dry with 'Dignity' on 1 November!

Emma's Wild Eats: Winter

The best time of the year for wild food with a fungal focus is undoubtedly the luxurious autumn prime of chanterelles and ceps.

However, as it becomes more wintry, and even throughout the winter with a little persistence, there are plenty of delicious little surprises out there. Most recently we've been finding rosehips, hogweed seeds and elderberries, wood blewits, trooping funnel mushrooms and giant funnel mushrooms. These mushrooms are reasonably easy to identify, but it's vitally important to be absolutely sure that you don't collect lookalikes because these are very poisonous in some cases. To be sure about blewits you need to produce a spore print. The agony of watching mushrooms deteriorate in the fridge as you try in desperation to find some unquestionable evidence that they are what you hope they are is

nothing compared to the agony of organs failing I'm sure! For us, the satisfaction in foraging is not in the eventual production of a free meal, although that does make us very happy; it's in the moment that, after hours of damp disappointment and false starts, you stumble across a perfect 'penny bun' or a dream-like woodland scene scattered with neon-orange chanterelles.

Our highlights of late autumn:

- Rosehip jelly – everyone should try this. Its sweetness and slight acidity is perfect on a warm scone; but little will stimulate your appetite as much as the smell of this cooking.

- Anything made with elderberries, especially a vinegar-syrup dressing.

- Filling a jar with sloes and gin!
- Hogweed seed, oat and honey cookies (I'm salivating).

Over winter we hope to collect:

- Shellfish
- Rosehips (high in vitamin C)
- Bulrush shoots
- Wood sorrel

- Sorrel
- Hairy bittercress
- Chickweed
- Dandelion

Some mushrooms that may be found during winter:

- Honey fungus
- Velvet shank
- Jelly ear
- Winter chanterelle
- Oyster mushrooms
- Charcoal burner

*I hope this inspires!
Emma*

Check out Emma's blog to read more on her foraging adventures at www.emmaswild.co.uk



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Lots of Fun at Carsphairn Primary

It was a wonderful first term back for all the boys and girls in Carsphairn.

Firstly, we have been lucky to welcome a new P6 pupil named Kaelan Johnstone to our family at Carsphairn Primary School. Already he has been a valuable contributor to our Barkley's Buddies Library team. We have moved and expanded our school library this year to create a more appropriate environment for reading and researching. We are excited about the Scottish Book Week launch of the Pupil Librarian Scheme which will allow pupils and parents to track online any books that they have signed out, see what books are available in all libraries across the cluster, and read and write book reviews. Special thanks must be given to Jane Banner for getting this set up.

Our topic this term has been *The Human Body*, and we have used the opportunity to focus on the health of our own pupils – particularly looking at healthy eating. For the entire

term we tracked what snack we were bringing in for playtime. We looked at our snacks, if a snack was brought in, and whether or not we would consider it a healthy snack. We found that roughly half the time no snack was brought to school, a quarter of the time pupils were bringing in a healthy snack and the final quarter was comprised of a snack deemed as unhealthy.

The class had a very mature discussion about what some of the challenges were in bringing a healthy snack to school. As a result of this study, this term at Carsphairn we are trialling a Healthy Tuck Shop that will be prepared and paid for by the school. Because we know that a healthy diet can have positive effects on children's learning and behaviour, we hope that this measure will put our pupils in the position to make smart choices for their own health and success.

Finally, as we continue to develop



Carsphairn pupils with Robin Ade learning about trout.

our outdoor learning in a number of different ways, our pupils had a chance last term to go fishing at our local burn. School parent and fishing expert Robin Ade shared his expertise with the children, as we learned several tricks of the trade.

The children enjoyed finding worms for bait and even had the chance to hold some brown trout that had been caught in the Water o' Deugh. All the pupils and staff greatly enjoyed their time on the riverbank and we look forward to next term's outdoor learning sessions.



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www.alexfergusson.org.uk

or contact him by e-mail at:

alex.fergusson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

A DAHLICIOUS DAY AT DALRY

This September Dalry Primary was full of BFGs, Oompa Loompas and other exciting Roald Dahl characters.

The pupils and teachers all dressed up to raise funds for Roald Dahl's Dahlicious Children's Charity. The Primary raised an impressive £71 on the day.

Well done everyone!



Adventures with Creatures that were Thought to be Extinct

Professor Glen Chilton from James Cook University in Australia visited the pupils at Kells Primary and also the primary pupils at Dalry School.

The presentation was titled 'Adventures with Creatures that were Thought to be Extinct.' Professor Glen told the pupils about his adventures all over the world looking for and studying animals like the black footed ferret in the western states of America and the iguana in Jamaica. The pupils especially enjoyed looking at his photographs of these creatures. He also took time to answer a range of questions from the



Glen Chilton with Dalry Primary pupils.

pupils on the creatures that featured in his presentation. The visit to the schools was kindly organised by the Stewartry

Ornithologists Club who hold their monthly meeting at Kells Primary School.

Schools Raise Funds

The Pupils of Dalry and Kells schools have been hard at work fundraising this term.

The pupils of Dalry School held a coffee morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. The morning was a great success with a total of £1140 being raised to support the work of Macmillan in the local area. The event organised by pupils from the Wednesday Activities Events Group and S2, was full of fun and games as well as delicious coffee and cake.

A spokesperson for the group said that they were thrilled with the total raised and wanted to thank everyone

who came out to support the event. The morning depended entirely upon the generous donations of pupils, parents and the wider community and we thank everyone involved.

Pupils in P7 at Kells Primary raised £1060.73 by hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Cross Keys Hotel in New Galloway. Pupils planned and advertised the coffee morning and served parents and friends of the school on the day. They also made collection tins for local businesses to collect donations for the charity. The pupils would like to thank everyone from the local community who supported the event.



Kells pupils at the Cross Keys Hotel



Dalry pupils with their donation.

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A SAD AND LONELY MOOR

The Story Of Old Mortality: Part II

Robert Paterson had heard of these graves from the grandson of a witness to the terrible deed, and today he would ensure they were not forgotten.

He carefully removed the boulders and after digging a slot, lowered the two headstones into their places. Robert then said a short prayer over the graves before resting on a flat rock close to the thorn tree. He was instantly, deep in thought, thinking of the scores of honest, loyal, country people, who were of no threat to the crown but were murdered by the ruthless Lagg, Claverhouse or Bruce, so called gentlemen, under the orders of the crown; he thought too, of the many hundreds banished to the plantations as indentured servants.

Deep in thought, he did not hear the peewit cry as it swooped and dived in the bog below; he did not hear the soft call of the woodpigeon 'cooo-cooo!' in the ancient oak wood fifty yards behind his rocky seat; he was not even aware of his grey mare nibbling the thorny branch above his head.

Suddenly, Robert was roused from his thoughts by the whistle of the herd laddie chasing the sheep up from the in-bye field to the moor. He did this each night, and reversed the process every morning. Robert could see the ewes and their lambs filter through the stone-built 'lunky hole' in the dyke, flowing as steadily as sand through a timer. These lunkies were designed to let sheep pass, but keep the cattle in the 'in-bye' below the hill dyke.

Now alert, he untied his horse and using his recently vacated seat as a mounting block, swung into the saddle before heading back the way he came, and his lodgings for the night.

Why had Robert gone to such lengths, in a strange land, to remember two strangers?

Perhaps like us, one hundred years

after WW1, the memory so terrible and the sacrifice so great, that he too had a desire to remember each man by name.

Robert Paterson had taken the lease of a freestone or sandstone quarry in Dumfriesshire and had been successful, making headstones and selling them into Galloway, an area devoid of this easily cut and carved stone.

As he visited more churchyards to the west, he became obsessed with marking the resting places of those murdered a century before by the Kings dragoons: Christians being slaughtered by Christians, on the orders of the King, during the terrible 'Killing Times' in Galloway.

Robert was so determined to honour those Covenanter martyrs

TAKEN AND INSTANTLY SHOT DEAD BY A PARTY OF CLAVER HOUSE FOR

(on the reverse)
MEMEN TOMORI
HIS ADHERENCE
TO SCOTLANDS
REFORMATION CO
VENANTS NATION
AL AND SOLEMN
LEAGUE 1682

Robert continued his obsession of commemorating the Covenanters until his death. He collapsed and died in 1801, in his late eighties, near Bankend, south of Dumfries, while sourcing headstones nearby. They were easily shipped from there to Wigtownshire where he planned to continue his work.

After his death, several statues were carved to honour him. The example at Dumfries Museum was carved by John Currie and funded by a prize draw. The winner of the statue was a young Dumfries doctor, John Sinclair, who tragically died the next day. He had expressed the wish that on his death the statue be given to Dumfries but doubtlessly did not expect his donation to go quite so soon.

This tale is of a real character; the place and martyrs, a fiction. During my research on Robert Paterson for this piece, I noted that with Paterson's increasing distraction with Covenanters graves, his apprentice Sandy Rae left the Dumfriesshire quarry and moved and set up business in Crossmichael – my village. Recently, a piece of detective work and with an element of luck, I estimated where he might have been buried, should he have stayed on in the village. A likely stone, a piece of wax and a stone rubbing revealed this inscription:-

*'SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
ALEXANDER RAE Stonecutter Died
17th Sept 1794 aged LXIV'*

Could it have been 'Old Mortality' who carved the stone for his friend's grave?

*John Nelson,
Crossmichael*

keen local & family historian



Old Mortality statue, Dumfries Museum.

that he would be gone from his family for weeks, sometimes years, at a time. His long suffering wife Elizabeth would send her eldest son to find his father labouring on a remote hillside or wooded glen.

To be nearer to him she would eventually move her family to Balmaclellan where she kept a school in the parish to help feed her children.

The headstones that he carved were distinctive. Given the difficulty of transporting and erecting a large stone, he chose to use a smaller slab. This meant a singular economy of spacing when carving inscriptions. An example from Crossmichael Parish is shown below:

HERE LYES
WILLIAM GRAHAM
WHO MAKING HIS
ESCAPE FROM HIS
MOTERS HOUSE
WAS PURSUED

CAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

A GLENKENS YULE



In SR Crocket's short story, 'The Packman's Pool', Gray Stiel tells his 12 year old nephew that "Christmas is a time when folk hae mair to eat than is guid for them"; especially in England, where "they hae a' the siller they want", enabling folk to acquire presents and grand gifts.

Gray, a farm labourer in the wild Galloway hills, receives the greatest gift of all

when he discovers that his shiftless, violent, blackmailing brother, whom he had intended to shoot, has already expired. The intended victim's unaware son rejoices, in true Galwegian fashion, that Christmas or no Christmas, porridge is hard to beat. Most folk in the Glenkens would have had no truck with Christmas though clearly the formerly strict Cameronian Crockett gradually came to accept it.

Many of us will remember when our fathers worked Christmas Day because it was not a holiday here until 1958. Christmas certainly did not begin in late August when the kids returned to school. The 12 days of Christmas, if noted at all, were known as Yule, which included Hogmanay and New Year.

Yule was a solstice festival from time immemorial. The Romans called it Saturnalia and they celebrated 25 December as "the birthday of the unconquered sun", or as we know it, the shortest day. 25 December was chosen as Christ's birthday and so Saturnalia was christianised, but there is no scriptural authority for when he was born, which is why the Scots outlawed the festival at the Reformation. To those who annually bleat on about how Christmas is

becoming less Christian and more Pagan we should point out that the wheel has come full circle. It was also a fire festival, sympathetic magic to hasten the return of the sun.

In medieval times elected figures variously known as the Abbot of Unreason, the Lord of Misrule, the President of Fools or the Boy Bishop, presided over the 'Daft Days' of Christmas, a period of festival or carnival, a time of inversion when the normal mores and observances were suspended. The Boy Bishop was a distant cousin of St Nicholas whose day was 6 December. The Boy, elected by his schoolmates, sometimes had the right to suspend corporal punishment in schools for the duration. In this part of the world, in the nineteenth century,

much the product of Coca-Cola advertising but he did not arrive in Scotland until well into the 20th century.

King James VI greatly enjoyed Christmas dinner. He opted for a new dish brought into Britain from Mexico, namely turkey, which went well with the other American innovation of potatoes. Plum potage or porridge gave way to plum pudding, which was regarded as an English dish as were mince pies.

The legendary English Christmas was created almost single-handedly by Charles Dickens in his phenomenally successful short story, 'A Christmas Carol' and it gradually seeped over the border with other

Christmas attributes. However the Scots reciprocated in traditional "bah, humbug" fashion by providing the definitive movie

portrayal of Scrooge in the shape of Scottish actor Alastair Sim.

Evergreens represented another form of sympathetic magic. Holly and ivy brought indoors were supposed to hasten outdoor growth though Scots regarded mistletoe as a dangerous and unlucky plant, rather than an all-healing growth. Galloway folk continued to favour Hogmanay and New Year's Day, celebrated by guisers known as variously as the White Boys (the good guys) and the belzies (followers of the Beelzebub or the Devil). Glenkens doubtless followed the practice of first-footing, as farm foremen or grieves invaded the farmer's bedroom bearing gifts of whisky and corn on 1 January. On the following Monday, 'Auld Hansel Day', the farmers would reciprocate, providing their workers with lavish breakfasts and a day of sports, dancing and drams. It would be great to hear from anyone who knows about any specific Glenkens Yule traditions.

Wishing you all a braw Yule and mony o them!

Ted Cowan



The 12 days of Christmas...were known as Yule, which included Hogmanay and New Year.

school lessons were interrupted on Christmas Day while the children made a presentation to the teacher.

A critic in 1531 wrote: "in the solemnite of Yule we worship the wame (belly) and nocht Christe". After the Reformation in 1560 the presbyterians would protest to those who still celebrated: "You will say it is a brave holiday; I tell you it is a brave belly day". The "singings of filthy carols" was banned. While some were prosecuted the monarch and many of the folk were not to be diverted. Indeed, a lot of people regarded the celebration of Yule as an act of political and social protest. Consequently, while covenanters frowned on the celebration, royalist supporters, notably episcopalians and catholics, notoriously indulged.

Over time various ingredients were added to Christmas. St Nicholas, Santa Claus was dressed like a Russian merchant. Historically he was the 4th century Bishop of Myra who dropped silver into a poor girl's stocking while she slept, though he would not dare do it now! In a sinister sort of a way he was a shape-shifter. As he appears to us now he is very

FUNDRAISING BIKE RIDE

Dalry man Ian Knox has completed a fundraising cycle from Balloch to Iona.

Ian says; "10 of us signed up for this charity cycle organised by EMMS International to raise money for health projects in Nepal, India and Malawi. Each of us was tasked to raise around £900 in order to take part in the event."

The group set off from Balloch, at the foot of Loch Lomond, and followed the West Lomond cycle

path all the way up the shore of the Loch to Tarbert. From there they took the road to Crianlarich, turning up to Tyndrum and on to Dalmally, Taynuilt across Glen Lonan into Oban.

The journey continued on to Craignure, on the Isle of Mull, Salen and then to Fionaphort where they caught the ferry to the finish line at the Abbey on Iona.

Ian says; "It was a very beautiful cycle enjoyed by all for good causes. A big thankyou to



all who sponsored me for this event - the final total raised was £1021.21".

A CHILDHOOD DREAM

The sight of a perfect tearoomly empty was all the inspiration a Crossmichael woman needed to create her childhood dream...

After seeing the cafe at Barstobrick sitting empty for over two years,

Ahrlene Fuller set out on a journey which would fulfill a childhood dream to have her own tearoom; *The Stickety Lickety Teahouse* was born.

The teahouse is situated at the Barstobrick Visitors Centre near Ringford where, this summer, Ahrlene and her staff have been welcoming visitors from all over the world.

Indeed the teahouse has proved

to be such a success that it will remain open during the winter months every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am till 4pm.

"It would have been such a shame to shut down over the winter, and fortunately there is a whole range of events taking place

in the adjoining arena including showjumping, dressage and carriage driving," Ahrlene said. "Teahouse customers are able to sit inside in the warm and watch these fantastic sporting events through the large viewing windows which look right into the arena."

The teahouse is also taking bookings for Christmas lunches and will have its own Christmas shop with a range of festive goodies on sale.

"Autumn and winter will be a truly lovely time to visit the Barstobrick estate with its lovely walks and trails and, at the end of your walk, the teahouse is waiting with a creamy hot chocolate, a warming latte or a soothing cup of tea," said Ahrlene. "Dogs are also welcome inside the teahouse where we have beds and water bowls for them."

Find out more about the *Stickety Lickety* on their Facebook page or if you want to make a Christmas booking call Ahrlene on 01557 820 580.

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Spotlight: Young Songwriters' Open Mic

An exciting new, open mic night for young performers will launch at the CatStrand on Wednesday 9 December.

Spotlight will offer singers, songwriters and musicians between the ages of 12 and 25 the opportunity to come along and perform.

This can be in the form of a solo performance or as part of a band or ensemble. The event is open to all genres and musical styles and will take place in the friendly and welcoming setting of CatStrand.

Simply turn up with your

instruments on-the-night to perform - you do not need to sign up in advance.

Guest artists will feature and the evening's host will be local songwriter Robert Shields. Robert is continually adding to his extensive songwriting career - most recently with band Finding Albert.

The event is free of charge and friends and family are welcome to attend.

The night will continue as a regular, monthly night throughout 2016, taking place on the first Wednesday of the month. Participants will also be given the opportunity to take part in a wider youth music programme



Access All Areas which is built around a youth-led, independent record label. Learn from experienced, enthusiastic, tutors who will offer guidance, skills and expertise on a range of music-related activities including songwriting, performance, recording, music videos, photography CD artwork and promoting and marketing bands.

Regular workshops and learning opportunities will be advertised throughout the year on the 'Youth' page of CatStrand's website - www.catstrand.com

NEW GALLOWAY SWRI

Chasing Butterflies with a Mouse or Putting Wildlife on the Map was the title of a talk given by Mark Pollitt from Dumfries & Galloway Environmental Resources Centre (DGERC) at the October meeting of the New Galloway Scottish Women's Rural Institute.

Mr Pollitt used a computer generated film to illustrate all the different forms of wildlife that may lurk in our gardens. He explained that any kind of information garden owners could collect on what they have

in their own gardens would be of tremendous benefit when amassing information on the local wildlife of Dumfries & Galloway. How many rabbits, birds, amphibians, worms and snails, butterflies and moths show if the wildlife is increasing or becoming rarer, and what may cause such changes. Even creatures that we may consider abundant and common can change and show changes in the environment.

Mr Pollitt also judged the member's wildlife competition and tasted butterfly cakes to find this month's winners.

SWRI ART PROFICIENCY:

Mrs Cath Monk was delighted to be presented with certificates for two 1st Class and one 2nd Class for her entries to the SWRI Proficiency Test in Art recently at the monthly



Cath Monk with some of her entries.

meeting of the New Galloway Scottish Rural Women's Institute. The judges comments were as important to Cath as the certificates, which will hopefully help her to improve her art work in the future. *Helen Bulluck*




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DECEMBER & JANUARY

NOVEMBER

Sat 28, Christmas Shopping Day, 11am-4pm, Free, Includes Mulled Wine & Mince Pies, CatStrand, New Galloway

DECEMBER

runs to Sun 2 Feb, Exhibition: Hazel Campbell, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 4, Youth Players Panto; Babes in the Wood, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway (see p7)

Sat 5, Youth Players Panto; Babes in the Wood, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New

Galloway (see p7)

Sun 6, Youth Players Panto; Babes in the Wood, 2pm, CatStrand, New Galloway (see p7)

Wed 9, Spotlight: Young Songwriters Open Mic, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Thu 10, Stewartry Bird Watchers talk - Tanya and Edmund Hoare Our Disappearing Swifts, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway, see p10

Fri 11, Opera Bohemia, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 19, The Feral Choir, 4pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

JANUARY

Sat 9, Film: The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 16, James Yorkston, Withered Hand & Pictish Trail, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Thurs 21, SWANC: Landscape Ecology, 7.30pm, Ken Bridge Hotel

Fri 22, Jamie Campbell & Simon Callaghan, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 31, Glenkens Acoustic Session, 2-4pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY UPCOMING EVENTS

Balmaclellan Children's Christmas Party, Friday 11 December, 6pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall: Magic Monty and Santa will be there! All Primary and pre-school children from the Glenkens welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult and the Community Council would very much appreciate food donations - look out for posters.

Balmaclellan Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch, Tuesday 15 December, The Ken Bridge Hotel: By invitation only; all qualifying persons will be sent an invitation inviting them to the lunch.

Wright's Shop & Post Office

Licensed convenience store and newsagent stocking a range of local suppliers.

- We would like to thank all our customers for their continued support and pass on best wishes for the Festive season -

Festive Season Opening Times:

Christmas Eve: 7am - 5pm

Christmas Day: closed

Boxing Day: 8am - 2pm

Hogmanay: 7am - 5pm

1st January: closed

2nd January: 8am - 4pm

Normal Opening Times (both shop & PO):

Monday to Friday: 7am - 6pm

Saturday: 8am - 6pm

Sunday: 8.30am - 4pm

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Traditional Country Pub & Dining

*** Finalists for D&G Life Restaurant of the Year ***

New Winter Opening Hours (as of Dec 1st):

Mon-Thurs: 12-2.30pm & 4.30-11pm (kitchen open 12-2pm & 6-8.30pm)

Fri-Sun: Midday-Midnight (kitchen open 12-2pm & 6-9pm, closing 8.30pm Sundays)

Full time opening hours will resume at the end of February

Christmas menu available from 1st - 24th December...book now!

01644 430241

mail@theclachaninn.co.uk

REGULAR EVENTS

CatStrand, New Galloway:

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am

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,

Gentle Tai Chi: Wed, 10am, 60+,

Sing it Out: Thurs, 11am -12pm

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

CatStrand Yukes: Thurs, 1pm

- 3.30pm 60+

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 on 430 281):**

Glenkens Children's Club: Mon &
Fri, 10am-12noon

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, Wed & Thurs,
9.10-11.40am, contact Sue on 07709
929 482

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

Glenkens Walking Group, Mon &
Wed, 1.30pm, contact Gerry on 420 852

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: Tues, 1-
3pm, Lagwyne Hall

Coffee & Craft Morning: Thurs,
9am-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

Temporary Hours

Tue: 12noon - 3.30pm

Fri: 10am - 12noon & 1pm - 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.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

St Margaret's Ladies' Guild and Balmaclellan & Kells Guild are holding
a Christmas Coffee Morning. This year it will be held on Wednesday
9 December in New Galloway Town Hall from 10.30am to 12noon. In
addition to coffee, shortbread and mince pies there will be stalls, a
tombola and a lucky dip. Please come along and support this joint venture.

CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sunday

Services - Balmaclellan 12noon: 1st.
Carsphairn 10.30am: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th.
Dalry 12noon: 2nd(Jan), 3rd, 4th(Jan).
Kells 10.30am: 2nd, 3rd, 4th(Jan).

Special Services/Events: 13th December,
10.30am: United Family Service, Kells
Church; 13th December, 6.30pm:
Carols by Candlelight in Carsphairn
Church, with Glenkens Church Choir;
23rd December, 5 pm: Carsphairn

Church Community Christmas Service
and Children's Party; 24th December,
11.30pm: Watchnight Service,
Balmaclellan Church; 25th December,
10.30am: Christmas Day Family Service,
Dalry Church; 27th December, 10.30am:
United Service, Carsphairn Church
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:
St Margaret's, New Galloway: Holy
Communion, 10.30am every Sun & Wed
CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES:
Kirkcudbright: Sun Mass, 9.30am.
Dalbeattie: Sat Mass, 5pm

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USEFUL NUMBERS:

- 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

GLENKENS CHILDREN'S CLUB

The last few months at the Glenkens Children's Clubs (GCC) have been very busy.

We had a visit from Zoo Ed during which the children were able to get up-close and personal with all kinds of furry, scaly, slithery and spiky critters. All members of the educational menagerie having been rescued or re-homed which is great, and a wonderful time was had by all.

During the school holidays, when GCC is at its busiest, there has been bushcraft (where fire-starting is always a winner), foraging (where both the kids and their accompanying adults had a great time learning about what's edible out and about in the Glenkens), Zumba classes to get the blood pumping, fun visits from Susie Sweetpea and Magic Monty.

A new activity on offer every-other Monday is structured

play sessions. Currently we are enjoying Anne Etherington and her wonderful creative play/art/music and movement sessions.

So whether you are a new parent in need of a cup of tea and a chat with other parents/carers in a relaxed atmosphere, or are looking for a safe space to let your pre-schooler let off steam, come along to one of the GCC sessions.

The Dalry group runs on a Monday and Friday (10am-12pm) at the Glenkens Community Centre. The New Galloway group runs on a Tuesday (9.45-11.15am) at the CatStrand. Both groups are open throughout the holidays for children up to primary four.

Dalry GCC Playgroup is run by professional play leaders, for ages 2-4, and runs on a Tues/ Weds/ Thurs from 9.10-11.40am.

As with all community groups it is vital to have the support of parents and carers making use of the services on offer to ensure their survival. As the colder weather



Children enjoying foraged finds.

draws in, why not come and join us for a warm welcome and a chance to meet new friends and catch up with old ones?

For further info get in touch at glenkenschilchildrensclub@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook.

Many thanks go to the following for their continued support: Natural Power Consultants Ltd, Glenkens Community Shop and Big Lottery Communities and Families Fund. All GCC groups are Glenkens Community and Arts Trust affiliated projects.

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Glenkens Hair Studio

*Duke St, New Galloway
(Tel: 420 616)*

Eileen wishes all of her customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Please note that the salon will be closing down

on 31st December 2015.

Eileen will continue to offer a mobile hairdressing service as from 7th January 2016.

Please call 07557 140 071 for appointments

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

FEB/MAR COPY DEADLINE: 5 MARCH



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