

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

February/March 2016

ISSUE 92

FREE

STORM FRANK'S FLOOD HAVOC IN GLENKENS

Storm Frank on 30 December 2015 brought the worst floods in living memory to the Glenkens, writes Andrew Mellor.

Roads were blocked, houses, public buildings and fields were flooded, flood banks were swept away and those who woke to find an unprecedented torrent threatening themselves and their property were justifiably alarmed.

The fact that the storm had been well forecast by the Met Office alerted residents and organisations to the possibility of damage.

Vehicles and animals were moved to higher ground. But the cost of putting things right will surely run into seven figures. With floods becoming more frequent, this could leave a number of the worst affected properties without flood insurance in future. If and when this happens again, can we be sure that everything will be done to protect life and property?

As I stood watching the floods raging over the top of Earlstoun Dam as the storm surge was at its height, and felt the ground vibrate with the force of the water crashing over the top of the spillways that are designed to channel such floods safely away, I could only imagine how the residents of houses below

the dam at Alangibbon felt as the torrent ravaged their gardens and lapped against their homes.

It may be that Scottish Power, which controls the run-off into the Ken and Dee, could not have done anything more to lessen the impact of the flood but some Glenkens residents and farmers are concerned about how the warning system operates and about the way that decisions about opening the floodgates are being made.

When the Galloway Power Scheme was built in the 1930s one of its claimed benefits was that the dams could be used to regulate the impact of floods.

Continued on p2...



Looking south along the A713 in Carsphairn © Robin Ade

DALRY HOGMANAY CEILIDH

An informal hogmanay ceilidh was held in Dalry Town Hall, with great success.

The party ran into to the wee small hours of January 2016, and was attended by revellers aged from just three weeks old tae 80+!

People were very generous in providing a wide range of food to share, and contributing a total of £129.65 to the Town Hall Fund. Everyone also kindly donated many lovely raffle prizes and £90.70 was raised in aid of the Afghan Schools Trust, a local charity.

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FLOODING IN THE GLENKENS

Continued from front page...

In a paper written in 1938, Mr WJE Binnie, Vice-President of the Institution of Civil Engineers is quoted as questioning the management of "an exceptional flood" on 13 December 1936. He asked if Earlstoun Loch "had been drawn down at all or was the Loch already overflowing when the flood reached it?"

79 years on this is a key question that should once again be put to Scottish Power. Given that this was such a well-forecast storm, were the floodgates at Earlstoun opened before the run-off peak and, if not, why not?

Andrew Mellor

ScottishPower Denies Role in Flooding

Paul Ferguson, Media Relations Manager for Scottish Power, says: "The flood levels experienced during Storm Frank across the Galloway Hydros in the rivers Deugh, Ken and Dee were the highest recorded since our records began in 1936...Our understanding is that the flood could have been a 1/150 year event. In advance, we were actively managing the scheme. The rainfall in November/December 2015 was above annual averages, so water levels were very high naturally. However, every attempt was made to release water from reservoirs through our generators and gates on our dams.

Paul goes on to say: "Regarding ScottishPower's operations of the scheme on 30 December, none of our actions either caused or exacerbated flooding. The flooding experienced was entirely natural and no storage water was being released from our reservoir at Loch Doon during the time that flooding was experienced in Carsphairn.

"Our reservoirs actually act as a buffer to store water in the event of flooding, with water then being released in a controlled fashion after the peak passes. Indeed Clatteringshaws Loch held back the entire contents of the inflow from the Blackwater of Dee during this event. Had Clatteringshaws Dam not been there, the impact of flooding on Loch Ken and Castle Douglas could have been significantly higher."

Impact of Clear-felling on Flooding

Another factor which is rising to the forefront of national discussions of flood issues is trees and their effect on flooding. As one of the most highly afforested regions in Scotland, yet with very little natural forest left, perhaps the effect on our land of commercial blanket forestry plantations and large-scale clear-felling should be considered.

World Wildlife Fund Scotland's paper 'Slowing the Flow; A Natural Solution to Flooding Problems' states: "Throughout the UK, old forest drains are exposed by forestry clear-felling. At present there are no guidelines on how forest managers should cope with the drains, which soon become active once tree cover is gone – speeding a greater flow of water into the river."

On the Forestry Commission's website can be found a paper titled 'The Role of Woodland in Flood Control: a Landscape Perspective' by TR Nisbet and H Thomas. This study states: "Woodland management also exerts a marked impact on the

ability of woodlands to reduce flood flows. Ground cultivation and drainage has the opposite effect of tending to speed-up the removal of water from a site. This is greatest for deep ploughing and intensive drainage, which can increase the density of surface water channels by 60 times or more. Research at Coalburn, in north England, showed that such ground treatments can increase peak flows by 20-30% and decrease the time to peak by about one third..."

The paper goes on to say: "Felling is the most dramatic intervention with effects on both woodland water use and runoff pathways. Clear-felling usually leaves a bare site with minimal water use apart from the interception loss associated with brash residues. The increase in runoff and therefore greater contribution

"Timber harvesting and extraction can have an even greater effect on flood generation."

to flood flows is likely to last for at least 10-15 years until the replanted trees close canopy once again. Timber harvesting and extraction can have an even greater effect on flood generation. Poor practice such as the use of inappropriate machines and excessive loads can cause severe ground damage, leading to rapid runoff from compacted soil and along wheel ruts."

Could the high proportion of trees in our area perhaps work to our advantage in the future? With changes to forestry practice perhaps commercial forestry could help mediate flooding in years to come, rather than exacerbate it.



The road from the Ken Bridge to New Galloway © Leeming & Paterson and suspension bridge, Dalry © David Bartholomew.

Geoff Monk of Laurieston is a professional meteorologist who runs the Mountain Weather Information Service (MWIS).

He says: "There had been a huge amount of rain throughout November and December, so when we got that deluge on 30 December there was nowhere for it to go. This was the wettest December in over 30 years, measured in Laurieston."

Geoff reminds us, however, that it could have been much worse. He goes on to say: "Had that weather front on the 30th moved a little bit slower, meaning that another 20/30 millimetres of rain had fallen, it would have been a lot worse – doubly so. I was actually in Keswick at New Year and the flooding there was incredible. Rivers in some places in Snowdonia gouged out whole new routes for themselves when the original course got blocked by fallen trees and debris. So, in the grand scheme of things, we were actually quite lucky."

Carsphairn Shop Temporary Location

Due to the flood on 30 December Carsphairn Village Shop and Tea Room will run temporarily from Lagwyne Hall.

The Hall committee have kindly let us use the hall for the shop and to run a takeaway service until the shop is dried out and ready to re-open.

Opening times are:

**Monday to Friday,
8am-4pm**

**Saturday 9am-3pm
Sunday - closed**

Thank you to everyone for all your help and support during this time.

*Lindsay Duncan,
Carsphairn Village Shop*

CATSTRAND UPDATE

Thankfully, CatStrand's recently installed flood defences stood up well to the unprecedented flooding over the festive period.

Inevitably, with standing water all around the building for several hours, some water did eventually penetrate into the building through the cedar cladding at the rear and every possible gap that it could find. However, with the help of the local Fire Service and a team of staff and volunteers, we were able to limit the level of water in the building and had time to remove everything off floors to a safe level. No stock or contents were lost and the underfloor heating and dehumidifiers were able to dry out the floors and some carpet tiles within a few days. We were able to fully re-open as planned after the festive break on 5 January.

Given the severity of the flood damage around the Glenkens, the work on the burn completed by the council last year together with the new flood gates and other measures installed in the building certainly had a good test! They stood up well in these extreme circumstances, much to our relief. Nevertheless, we are continuing to work on further improvements to our flood prevention and protection in conjunction with The Scottish Flood Agency and Dumfries & Galloway Council.

LOCAL FLOOD RESPONSE

The floods on 30 December made all the roads impassable into and out of the Glenkens villages. This made it impossible for the Council's Road Department to get the appropriate signage in place. As a result Dalry Community Council is reviewing its Resilience Preparedness Plan which up till now has been more geared towards heavy snowfalls and wind damage and associated loss of power. They will be talking with Dumfries & Galloway Council over contingency plans for future flooding – points to be discussed include road closure signs, household protection, identifying a central communication point and a local shelter.

Videos of the flood can found online. Search YouTube for Andrew Mellor Earlstoun Dam.

There is also a video by Lizanne Henderson of flooding at Ken Bridge at www.facebook.com/GlenkensStory

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

*The Surgery
High Street
New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

THE STEWARTRY VETERINARY CENTRE

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

DALBEATTIE SURGERY HOURS
Mon, Wed, Fri 3-3.30 pm
Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

FOR APPOINTMENTS AT BOTH SURGERIES
OR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

01556 502263

VETERINARY SURGERY
OAKWELL ROAD
CASTLE DOUGLAS

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

3 door stops. Contact: Cynthia on 420 605

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

Single divan bed and mattress with truckle bed and mattress under. Contact: 430 218

Folding bed with mattress suitable for occasional use for a child. Not suitable for adults. From smoke and pet free home. Contact: Trevor on 440 683.

Poster in clipframe of

illustrated alphabet. Call 430 218

5 litres of Vinyl Matt Paint – Colour 'Silence' (Dusky Green); 4 litres of Satinwood/Eggshell Paint – Colour 'Silence'; 1 Overhead Projector; 1 Russell Hobbs Sandwich Toaster. Contact: CatStrand on 420 374

Brand new rubber-backed carpet underlay. Remaining roll measures

6.5 metres in length by 1.37 metres wide. Contact: Nigel on 460 545

WANTED

Chest of drawers. Contact: Simon on 07426 124 982

Boys kilt, aged 4-5, any Tartan style. Contact: Chrissy on 07824 810 305

"It is a great scheme - one man's rubbish is another's treasure!" - Cynthia.

Why not find a happy new home for your unwanted items on the Glenkens Freecycle page?

NEW GALLOWAY SHOP UPDATE

In mid-December a detailed application was made to the Big Lottery 'Growing Community Assets' for development funding for the New Galloway community shop project.

If successful, this money will cover the costs of architect's plans for the shop, self-catering flats and workshops, development consultants' fees for creating the business case and a local project manager to run the project, as well as administrative necessities such as tax advice and accountancy support. This work will create a business case and Stage 2 application to the Big Lottery by August this year for the full amount of money required.

As the Gazette goes to print we await news on development funding, but the New Galloway Community Enterprises team remains optimistic.

If we are successful, then we will be advertising shortly for the local jobs created as part of the project. We will also start a new membership drive, and would encourage as many New Galloway residents as possible to become members so that we can demonstrate to the Big Lottery the level of community support.

Look out for posters locally about both these matters.

Helen Keron,
New Galloway Community Enterprises Ltd

New Galloway Town Hall Update

By the time you read this New Galloway Town Hall management should have transferred to Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) under a lease arrangement.

Dumfries & Galloway will remain responsible for keeping the building wind and watertight and maintaining the heating system; the installation of a new boiler is imminent.

Plans are underway for a revived lunch club. A survey which was done at the churches' coffee morning and the Community Council Pensioners' Christmas lunch showed much interest. This survey will now be continued door-to-door.

We are following up discussions which took place at the various consultations on the Draft Locality Plan with a view to linking where appropriate with Health & Social services where services or activities can take place in the hall.

The floor is ready to be taped for badminton. Table tennis and carpet bowls will also be available so watch out for starting dates. Look out, too, for regular tabletop sales which we hope will attract visitors, especially during the winter and spring.

For more information please contact Ros Hill on 420632 or ros.hill@rathanhouse.me.uk

Eco Feature

COASTAL FORAGING

sponsored by natural power



Foraging tutor and chef, Mark Williams of Galloway Wild Foods discusses some of the wild foods you can harvest for free around the Solway coast.

Most wild habitats are crammed with tasty, health-giving wild foods if you know what to look for.

Hedgerows are rich with vibrant herbs in the spring and drip with fruit in the autumn. Woods are good hunting grounds for shade-loving edible plants like wild garlic and wood sorrel and come alive with fungi in the autumn. But the greatest abundance of wild ingredients is found around our coast.

This may seem surprising, as our shores take the brunt of hostile and salty winds. They are regularly pounded by storms and high tides can rip up all but the very deepest of roots.

But the very hostility of the habitat has forced coastal plants into some ingenious adaptations. To resist wind and salt, many have become succulent – a fortuitous evolution for the human palate. Take sea beet for example – a coastal spinach that produces large, thick, glossy leaves all year round. It is the genetic origin of many cultivated crops including beetroot, sugar beet and chard, but tastes better and has a higher nutritional content than any of them. Where cultivated spinach disappears to virtually nothing when cooked, sea beet remains substantial and crunchy, with a rich iron flavour and salty tang. Look for it above the strand line on shingle beaches, clinging to sea cliffs and anchored to coastal defences.

Where exposed shingle gives way

to muddy estuaries more nutritious, gourmet treats can be found. Most people are aware of marsh samphire – another succulent plant that looks like a mini cactus – from its presence in fishmongers. Fewer are aware that there are areas around the UK coast where it grows in large quantities and can be responsibly harvested for pickling or as a mouthwatering accompaniment to lamb.

Salt marshes boast even greater succulent delicacies like sea aster (a member of the daisy family esteemed by top chefs) and sea arrowgrass, which looks like ordinary grass, but has a strong and surprising kick of coriander. Do be aware that some coastal habitats, salt marshes in particular, can be important breeding grounds for birds and rare species; always forage sensitively and sustainably.

Even below the high tide line there is a super-abundance of wild food resources for the mindful forager. Seaweed is perhaps the single largest relatively untapped food resource in the UK. Lost traditions of seaweed consumption in the UK are being revitalised by the esteem with which it is held in newly emerging eastern cuisines. Emerald green sea lettuce makes a vibrant addition to a stir-fry and laver is more or less the same species as the nori that you will find wrapped around sushi rolls.

While you are trimming seaweed from the rocks, you can also keep your eye out for shellfish. Mussels, winkles and razor clams are plentiful in many areas, though foragers should keep a keen eye out for potential pollutants, avoid shellfish during their summer spawning period and be aware of legal restrictions (notably on the harvesting



Marsh samphire
© GallowayWild Foods.com

of cockles).

If all this weren't enticing enough, the warming effect of the sea means even plants that aren't specifically adapted for the coast can thrive in frost-free conditions. For the earliest, biggest, juiciest and tastiest blackberries and sloes – head for the coast!

Never eat a wild plant unless you are 100% sure of its identity and edibility.

To learn more about how to forage safely, legally and sustainably, visit www.gallowaywildfoods.com

GUIDED SPRING FORAYS

Forest & Hedgerow Foraging Walk, Gatehouse of Fleet, Sat 5 March, 1–5pm, £30 Adults, £15 Children

Spring Coastal Foraging Walk, Near Gatehouse of Fleet, Sat 9 April, 4.30–8pm, £35 Adults, £20 Children

Spring Coast & Woods Foraging Day with Wild Food Feast, Gatehouse of Fleet, Sat 7 May, 12noon–8pm, £75 Adults, £40 Children

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

For full details & to book visit www.gallowaywildfoods.com

GLENKENS BIKE CLUB

The recently formed Glenkens Bike Club was delighted to be awarded some very helpful funding from the Glenkens Community Shop to undertake a survey.

The results of the survey will indicate interest in improving cycling skills among specific local groups, through 'Bikeability' training, 'led' group rides and the possibility to get a bike free – donated to the Mens' Shed, Balmaclellan, and made road-worthy – for children who have outgrown their bikes.

June Hay, acting Bike Club secretary, said they were very

appreciative of the investment from the Community Shop in Dalry. (*The shop is always worth a 'pop-in' to see what there is. It is open from 10am-3pm on weekdays and most Saturdays too, and is located on the Main Street in Dalry.*)

Riding a bike in the Glenkens is one of life's many treats – other road users please look out for us! Give us cycle space.

Chair with a View

Last October's Community Council elections resulted in seven councillors being appointed onto Carsphairn Community Council – one more than previously.

As glad as we are that Carsphairn Community Council can continue to represent our community in dealings with Dumfries & Galloway Council with a clear mandate, it always appears to be the same community-minded individuals that put themselves forward for what is time-consuming, often challenging (and certainly unpaid) work.

In such a small community as Carsphairn, it is still proving extremely difficult, if not well nigh impossible, to attract new councillors, no doubt owing to the ever-increasing workload which can frequently interfere with our own lives and businesses. But it would be gratifying to see some new faces to help spread the load and maybe inject some fresh input to our community work.

In past years it was blanket forestry operations which needed

to be considered and responded to if possible. This has now been superseded by windfarms.

No one surely would object to harnessing our natural resources to satisfy our energy needs, but the 550 or so wind turbines – operational, submitted to planning or proposed in the Carsphairn area to date – will, in some cases, create unbroken conglomerations of turbines sited throughout unspoilt landscapes, including what appears to be encroachment into designated Regional Scenic Areas.

As a Community Council we are finding it extremely difficult to keep up with and respond to the number of planning submissions to the regional council and the Scottish Government, with deadline response dates to be considered and huge tomes of windfarm information to attempt to wade through.

Along with this issue are the giant pylons and the route they will take to carry this newly generated energy. Suffice to say that I believe many of us living in the Glenkens chose to make our lives here inspired by the beauty and peace of the area. Some of us have recently had both spoilt through the inevitable industrialisation of parts of Carsphairn parish as windfarm construction progresses.

Many areas of the Glenkens were seriously affected by Storm Frank – Carsphairn was no exception (the flooding in Carsphairn even hit the national news). Nearly all the homes in the village were flooded and some of those living in outlying areas did not escape. North of the village, the spating Deugh and its tributaries seriously eroded banks, with residents losing not only land and parts of access roads but also at least two bridges which were completely swept away.

I must commend our Resilience Group and individual members of the community for pulling together and giving many hours of their time to help flooded villagers.

Over the New Year period immediately post-flooding, emails were sent to MSPs and D&GC councillors to alert them of the seriousness of the situation. The Community Council facilitated a public emergency flood meeting on 11 January to hear what support DGC can provide to flood victims. Most welcome was the news of a fund of £1,500 for residents whose homes were flooded and £3,000 for affected businesses.

The Scottish Flood Forum also attended with useful information on a new government insurance scheme called Flood Re, operational from April 2016. This scheme is planned to make insurance affordable to all those at risk of flooding.

Liz Holmes, Chair, Carsphairn CC

Expanded Dalry Community Council

Following last October's first contested election in over 30 years, Dalry Community Council is now in the enviable position of having the full complement of 12 members.

New councillors are as follows:

Angie Bradford lived in the Glenkens until she was six years old and returned in 1994. After many years working for the Care Inspectorate she and her husband Ronnie run Brookford Bed & Breakfast in the village and help with their two grandchildren who also live in Dalry. Angie loves living in the Glenkens. She is a Trustee of the newly formed St John's Town of Dalry Properties Trust and is keen to work with other organisations on environmental and educational projects that enhance the area whilst protecting the heritage and countryside.

Lucy Brown is the youngest member: she was born and grew up in Dalry and has recently moved back having lived in Glasgow, the Highlands and Orkney in the interim. She currently works for an MSP and hopes to encourage other young people to become involved in their communities. "I'd like to see rural communities become viable places for young locals to live and work in – not just somewhere they are forced to leave," she comments.

Fiona Davidson has been living in Dalry for 20 years and this is her second stint on Dalry's Community Council. She works as a teacher at Dunscore Primary School and prior to that worked at Moniaive Primary so she knows the area well. When she first moved to Dalry she was touched by people's kindness when her husband was ill and was determined to give something back to the community. She is a keen walker and comments that "many people will no doubt recognise me

through my dog Molly!"

Morag Paterson has lived in the Glenkens for over 20 years and in the parish of Dalry for 15. With both her sons having been educated at Dalry School she has been involved with Friends of Dalry School over the years and is now looking forward to seeing what else she can do for community.

Chair, Secretary and Treasurer remain Andi Holmes, Moira Jones and Gerald Bell respectively with Nicolette Wise taking over from Andrew Mellor as Vice-Chair who, along with Maggi Kaye, stepped down at the election after over 30 years clocked-up between them. Andi Holmes says: "We are very grateful for all the effort and work Andrew and Maggi put in over the years – their wisdom and insight will be missed." Other councillors include Will Adam, Andrew Bielinski, Jim Reid and Pat Woodley. Helen Keron is a non-voting member, providing a useful link with the Glenkens Community Centre and New Galloway Community Council.

Nicolette Wise

CatStrand Highlights

The Winter Season events are now drawing to a close, but we were delighted with the success of the programme which heralded our return to CatStrand with many sell-out shows.

The Spring Season has now been launched and some of the highlights are outlined below.

On 5 February we will see the return of CatStrand's renowned **Burns Night**. This is closely followed on Friday 12 by the long awaited return of **Sportinghouse Strings** featuring the rich and unique blend of Tommy 'Spats' Langham on Guitar/Banjo along with Martin Litton on piano and Richard Vernon on Double Bass. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Later in February we're launching the inaugural **Words from the Glenkens Festival**, a weekend-long celebration of literature and music comprising recitals, talks, workshops, a film, and a concert by Young Traditional Folk Musician of the Year, Robyn Stapleton.

We're also launching our first **Documentary Film Season** which will feature lesser-known but highly acclaimed films such as *Bobby Fischer Against the World*, *The Possibilities Are Endless*, *Village at the End of the World*, and *Chasing Ice*. Fans of film dramas will be able to see the acclaimed re-makes of *Far From the Madding Crowd* and *Macbeth*, the latter of which will be shown on the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

I wanted to vary our music roster a little and I'm thrilled to be welcoming MOBO-winning jazz sensation **Zoe Rahman** who is taking time out from her tour with the legendary Courtney Pine to do a special concert at CatStrand. A Mercury Music Prize Nominee (and now panellist), she was a recent headliner at both Edinburgh International Jazz Festival and London Jazz Week.

Classical fans will certainly enjoy the French-dominated *Impressions of the Sea* concert by the **Hebrides Ensemble** in March. Works by Debussy, Ravel, and Messiaen will feature alongside a work by the Japanese composer Takemitsu.

Meanwhile, traditional music fans will be delighted that the world renowned **Blazin' Fiddles** are coming to shake the CatStrand rafters in March. Tickets for this show, as we expected, are selling very fast so do not waste any time if you want to secure some.

The Spring Season ends in spectacular fashion with a feast of music and drama which is our contribution to Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival.

Our young events trainees will oversee their first programmed concert in May with *Emma's Imagination* while the **Juan Martin Flamenco Trio** will headline our Spanish Tapas night on 23 May. We then have six plays in three days featuring dance, comedy,



Hebrides Ensemble.

poisonings and the Tour de France! Watch this space...

I also hope we'll see you at the launch of our new art exhibition by the amazingly talented wood sculptor **Doug Cocker** which will take place on the evening of 1 February at 7pm. If you are interested in coming along to the launch please call CatStrand in advance to ensure your place.

*Simon Davidson
Creative Director, CatStrand*

See our Spring Season brochure and website for programme details. Book online at www.catstrand.com or call 01644 420374.

As ever, we couldn't do any of this without your support and we are so grateful for your help. These are tough times for arts organisations with funding being relentlessly squeezed and competition for dwindling resources increasing daily. We're very lucky indeed to have the support of Creative Scotland for our arts programme, but even this is becoming reliant on us providing evidence of need. To this end, I have implored supporters of CatStrand and the wider community to help us by coming to watch a show. Many of you are already regular attendees of course, but I would ask you to consider coming along to a show you might not normally come to, be it a play or a film. If you can bring a friend along, even better! If we can continue to show that the community appreciates and utilises CatStrand, we stand a far greater chance of further developing our programmes over the longer term.

CHOREOGRAPHIC SKILLS LAB

The Choreographic Skills Lab sessions are where young people can learn and develop their skills in the art of choreography in order to create a better dance vocabulary.

This involves elements such as exploring the fundamental choreography elements of shape, space, timing and dynamics.

The end aim is that the young people can choreograph their own dances or choreograph them on other dancers bearing in mind not all people who choreograph want to perform in front of an audience

- although a lot do.

We would work towards dance performances at the CatStrand, and the long-term aim is to have a Youth Dance Performance Company facilitated by the CatStrand.

*Sara Lockwood,
Youth Arts Development Officer,
CatStrand*

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

"Can you publish all the photos? We love them all and they are of such a good quality, it's been very difficult to decide; the bullfinch and Highland cow are lovely individual studies, the adopted cat looks as though it has landed on its feet, and the snowdrops and the wild garlic are a lovely sign of spring.

"The flooding photos are a wee bit close for comfort and there have been lots of those but the one we have chosen is a flood photo of the dam because it really does give a clear example of man versus nature.

"In addition, on this photo we discovered an image on the rocks of a crouching cat showing great interest in the water - there will be two free childrens' meals for the first picture with the outline of the cat perfectly copied, returned to the CatStrand (please mark for the attention of the Glenkens Gazette)."

Regards,
Dave & Sue



Elizabeth Peacock 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: £3.00 Return

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)

Services & Excursions Feb-March 2016

Phone the CatStrand (01644 420374) or see Projects/ Bus Trips on the CatStrand website for more details and to book.

Glenkens to Ayr & Back

Saturday 27 February and Saturday 26 March

Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930, Dalry (Underhill) 0940,
Carsphair (Shop) 1000. Leaving Ayr 1500.

Fare £3.50, Concessions £3.00 each way.

Gretna Gateway & Houghton Hall Garden Centre

Saturday 20 February

Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930; Dalry (Underhill) 0945,
Crossmichael and Castle Douglas by arrangement.

Dropoffs: Gretna 1100; Houghton Hall 1115.

Leave Houghton Hall c.1400 to arrive Gretna for 1415.

Leave Gretna 1515. Arrive Dalry 1630

Fare £7. Concessions £6.

Hobby Crafts Exhibition SECC Glasgow

Saturday 5 March

Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0900, Dalry (Underhill) 0910,
Carsphair (Shop) 0925.

Fare £7. Concessions £6.



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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Councillor Finlay Carson

Tel: 07825 633185

Email: finlay@finlaycarson.co.uk

Please contact Councillor Carson for
an appointment.

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www.dumgal.gov.uk

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CATSTRAND YOUTH PLAYERS

The fifth Youth Players Panto was a huge success, playing to three full houses at the beginning of December.

Babes in the Wood by Paul Reakes was a brilliant script which was embraced by the young cast who all took to their roles with great enthusiasm and confidence entertaining the enthralled audiences with style. There were many compliments from audience members:

"We thought that all the individual characters were acted with enthusiasm, humour and aplomb - everyone looked like they were enjoying themselves hugely and that really came across to the audience and created a fantastic atmosphere."

"The children rated it the highest out of all the pantomimes we've seen so far."

"Epic!! I liked the Sheriff of Nottingham, he was having fun being really bad." Alex (aged 6).

"It was the best. I liked the guards (Sheriff's henchmen), even though they were really girls dressed up." Jake (aged 4).

"I absolutely loved the pantomime. I liked it best when the people were trying to teach one of the girls how to sing; it was really, really funny!" Laya, (aged 6).

The main roles were played by Zoe Kirkpatrick (Robin Hood), Georgiana Grimwood (Maid Marian), Arthur Harfield (Sheriff of Nottingham), Eilidh Thomson (Nurse Nitwit) and Florrie Newbery & Charlotte Spornagel (Babes). Some of the young dancers from the Margaret Morris Movement class which meets regularly at



CatStrand also performed in some of the chorus scenes and added greatly to the production.

The Youth Players had little time to recover from the panto and have already moved on to their 2016 Festival plays which will be performed at the end of February in the first round of the Scottish Community Drama Association One Act Play national competition.

Us And Them by David Campton is a popular play for ensemble youth groups and although it was written almost 40 years ago it is still every bit as relevant today as it was when it was first published. The other entry is *Tell Me Another Story, Sing Me A Song* by Jean Lenox Toddie, a witty look at mother/daughter relationships.

The plays will be presented at The Fullarton in Castle Douglas on 26 and 27 February respectively, and will compete with five other youth teams for various trophies with the overall winner then representing Stewartry District at the West of Scotland Final at The Ryan Centre in Stranraer on Saturday 12 March. The cast are hoping that one of the teams will have the honour of attending the Western Final again after previously achieving

2nd place on each of their three previous appearances at the Finals in 2013, 2011 and 2010. Both plays will be presented again at CatStrand on Thursday 10 March at 7.30pm.

Appeal for Help: Over the years a large amount of costumes have been accumulated and currently we are having a major sort out. They need to be moved from their current location by the end of January and we are appealing for help from someone who may have a spare room or space available to store them. All we ask is that it is dry and secure and accessible when we need to get costumes for productions. Once they are sorted, they will hopefully amount to three or four clothes rails and a few packing boxes. If anyone is willing to offer space please contact CatStrand on 420374.

Brian Edgar

Facelift for Library

Dumfries & Galloway Council have confirmed that Dalry's Library will be getting a facelift this spring in line with others in the region.

The works include new double-glazed windows, re-wiring, new carpets, furniture and bookcases. The Council have been working with Dalry Community Council to ensure the new format, which will include the integration of 'customer services', works for everyone. In addition Dalry's new defibrillator will be housed on the outside of the building ensuring easy access in an emergency.

CELEBRATING A DECADE



Isobel McBeth and Ruby Kirk celebrating 10 years with the Glenkens Walking Group.

CARSPHAIRN BURNS SUPPER

Carsphairn welcomed a full house for their 47th annual Burns Supper.

After the village experienced severe flooding earlier in the month, the turnout and support for the village was very much appreciated. Guests were welcomed by Chairman, Robert McTurk, to a traditional hot meal of haggis, neeps and tatties, followed by trifle. The meal was preceded by Andy McCartney piping in The Haggis, which was carried by Poosie Nancy for the evening, Amy Clark Kennedy. After an enthusiastic rendition of the 'Address of the Haggis' by Robert McTurk, the Rev David Bartholomew gave the Selkirk Grace.

The Toast to 'The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns' was given by Ian McFadzean. Wylie McCulloch

provided an entertaining Toast to 'The Lassies' which Irene McCreath ably replied to on behalf of The Lassies.

Attendees were treated to a selection of Burns' best loved works. Laura Luke beautifully sang 'Ae Fond Kiss' as well as "Highland Laddie";

Ian McFadzean gave a rendition of 'Tam o'Shanter'; and Wylie McCulloch entertained with a performance of a tale about a church mouse.

Another successful Carsphairn



Burns Supper was rounded off with a Vote of Thanks, given by Hugh Clark Kennedy, to all who had contributed to the evening and the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

DANCING THE DECADES

A fantastic evening of community dance was held at the CatStrand which was very much enjoyed by the dancers and audience alike.

Sam Rushton from New Galloway, an experienced dance instructor, choreographed a delightful romp through the music and dance styles of the last 11 decades, starting with a Charleston, through rock 'n' roll, disco and line dancing, and finishing with a very modern 'street dance'. forty-five dancers from the Glenkens took part, most of whom had never danced in public before.

The youngest participant was three and the oldest 76!

It was a true community event, with Dalry Nursery pupils treating us to the 'birdie song' from the 80s and Kells Primary pupils performing a showstopping *Ghostbusters* routine and dancing to the recent musical hit *Happy*. The Margaret Morris dance group at the CatStrand did a fantastic 'twist' from the 60s, and the Ballroom & Latin group from Castle Douglas did a very classy medley to some wartime tunes. Young and old members of the New Galloway Zumba classes made up the rest of the dancers, giving it their all for a most entertaining night. The free event was a full house, with over £300 raised by donations

and a raffle on the night. This activity was funded by a Big Lottery grant obtained by Helen Keron through GCAT, but the dancers are all keen to stage the event annually, if possible, so the donations were very gratefully received towards the next performance.

All of the dancers would like to thank the CatStrand staff and volunteers for their technical, practical and moral support, as well as the Nursery and Kells staff and parents for their support. But most thanks must be given to Sam, whose astonishing patience, attention to detail and sheer joy in the creativity of dance is an inspiration to us all. Keep dancing!

Helen Keron

Dance Classes

Margaret Morris dance 1: 3-7yrs, term-time Mondays, 3.45-4.30pm, CatStrand, free.

Margaret Morris dance 2: 8-16yrs, term-time Mondays, 4.30-5.15pm, CatStrand, free.

Zumba: 11+, term-time Wednesdays, 7.30-8.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall, £4

Zumba Gold: 16+, term-time Fridays, 10-11am, CatStrand, £4

Exercise to Music: 16+, term-time Mondays, 10-11am, CatStrand, £4

Ballroom & Latin: 16+, Monday 7.30pm, Castle Douglas Primary school, £6.50/5



Dancers getting ready for the Charleston.

Emma's Wild Eats

Shellfish & Wild Garlic (Ramsons)

We're very fortunate in Galloway that wild food is plentiful. Even in the middle of winter there is an appetite-stimulating array of seaweed, shellfish and winter greens including wild garlic (a much-loved wild ingredient).

The general rule with shellfish is to gather them in months with an 'R'. This limits us to the winter months when the shellfish are less likely to have accumulated bacteria or algae that could be toxic. Another reason for this is that shellfish usually spawn during the summer months. They are less plump, and less delicious whilst spawning. Therefore, this is the ideal time to take a trip down to one of our wonderfully clean beaches (far from

any 'outlets'), and take a bucket to fill with as many delicious fresh mussels and winkles as you can eat, just by lifting them from the rocks. Clams and 'spoot' (razor) clams are well worth the effort with a little more planning.

These are all really quick and easy to cook and combine beautifully with the first fresh shoots of wild garlic, a splash of white wine and some crusty bread to make a meal to rival any other. Ensure that you identify your wild garlic correctly - and get picking!

Even the biggest British culinary websites now have numerous recipes for wild garlic. I would highly recommend wild garlic pesto (with nettles/ground elder/sea radish/whatever you like), pickled wild garlic flower buds, tempura garlic flowers and our favourite - fermented wild garlic, which adds the most amazing flavour to a huge range of dishes and will just about tide you over until the next year's fresh shoots emerge.

What a great way to spend a day at the weekend!

As a footnote, even with limitless

determination and enthusiasm, we couldn't transform limpets into something enjoyable to eat. I found a suggestion to puree them with olive oil in an attempt to make them acceptable, which results in something I can only liken to a pureed shoe sole that tastes slightly fishy so, unless driven by starvation, you might leave limpets to go about their rubbery, intertidal business...

Emma



The first wee shoots of wild garlic.

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

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SONGS OF SEPARATION

Cairn Chorus would like to say a massive thank you to the fantastic audience who braved the cold and ice to attend the Dalry performance of *Hoary Frost and Fleecy Snow*.

After an autumn/winter term of pushing our boundaries (not to mention our voices!) into the realms of songs such as *Schedryk*, the Ukranian independence anthem, a raucous shapenote version of *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer*, the serene spanish lullaby *A la Nanita* and all manner of arrangements of

well known carols (mostly involving sheep!), our fabulous musical director, Kate Howard, is preparing to lead us into our next challenge. And what a challenge we have in store for 2016... In a one-off performance during the Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival in May, Cairn Chorus will join with the highly acclaimed Songs of Separation (SoS) project in an evening of reflections on the parting of ways.

Songs of Separation brings together ten prolific female traditional singers and musicians from Scotland and England to celebrate similarities and differences in their musical, linguistic and cultural heritage. Set in the context of a post-

referendum world, the project aimed to prompt new

thinking about the issue of separation in all our lives.

Rehearsals are every Thursday from 7.30–9.30pm. We learn by ear and music is also provided, but reading music is not essential and we don't ask you to endure any painful auditions...just come along and join us!

For further info contact Anna Tagg on 01848 200 768 or annabirkett65@hotmail.com or visit www.cairnchorus.co.uk



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DALRY CEILIDH

Continued from front page... There was great impromptu music and singing provided by lots of local folk, and many dancers had fun birling their way through the reels, sets and jigs. Some of the young and young-at-heart participated in games of galloping musical chairs and dancing musical statues, to the amused delight of observers.

We had party poppers at midnight, and the big crowd that had stayed belted out an energetic Auld Lang Syne. All-in-all, it was a brilliant start tae the New Year!

During the course of the night over 70 people attended, with over 60 staying for the bells. "It was a lovely informal night like a big party in someone's house and we had fun dancing!" said Kath Peace.

Organisers Anne Charaund, Angela Miller, and Nichola Finch would like to thank everyone for coming along and making it such a lovely evening. We have had a lot of positive feedback and we hope to be able to do this again for 2016. *Nichola Finch*



Ceilidh dancers © Kathryn Peace.

Glenkens Schools - Where Everyone is a Winner!

Over the last term young people from the Glenkens have been out and about taking part in a wide range of activities that have helped them build confidence, determination and aspiration.

Here is a little of what pupils have been doing...

A group of P6 to S2 students took part in a triathlon event in Kirkcudbright. Classes benefitted from visits by authors as part of the Wigtown book festival and S4 students returned to Wigtown to meet with the author Max Arthur, having used several of his *Forgotten Voices* in their Remembrance service in November. Students from all secondary years have competed in a regional table tennis competition; all performed well and Emily Wallace in S4 returned as the girls regional under-18s winner.

Seven S3 students represented Dalry School at the Rotary Peace Conference in the Easterbrook Hall; they will now benefit from additional training in school and want to use their new collaborative skills to review the Secondary Dress Code; they will be seeking the views of parents/carers.

Primary pupils celebrated the writing of Roald Dahl with a 'Dahlicious dress-up day' and associated literacy activity. Emily Biggar in S3 continues to grow in skill and confidence with her sailing outside school, now competing at national level. Lewis Winder in S3 has also been busy out of school with a successful run with his rally driving.

Primary coffee mornings raised over £2,000 for Macmillan and the shoebox appeal was responded to positively. The Nursery class raised money for Children in Need with a cake sale and non-uniform day. Diwali was explored thoroughly by Dalry Primary through

food, music, art and social subjects.

A Glenkens primary cluster team competed in Stewartry Sportshall Athletics and came third. A Dalry Primary soccer 7s team took part in a regional competition at Queen of the South Arena.

S1 pupils read with the primary pupils as part of the 'Scottish Book Trust' Reciprocal reading project. Alex Fergusson visited primary classes to talk about the Scottish parliament prior to the P6/7 residential visit to Edinburgh in February. In November Professor Glen Chilton from James Cook University in Australia visited the primary pupils at Kells and Dalry. The presentation was titled *Adventures with Creatures that were Thought to be Extinct*.

The SSPCA visited Kells to highlight

run by primaries in conjunction with their communities, were warm and welcoming events.

Traditional and contemporary dance skills were much in evidence at the secondary 'Snowball' as well as improbably high heels on the shoes of some of the dancers! Christmas Parties were enjoyed at all three Primary schools. The Christmas Service provided focus for the Christmas season and again young people from all cluster schools contributed through music and readings. We were also privileged to have Brian Edgar join us to read his late father's poem *The Bonny Glenkens* in recognition of the huge contribution that Tommy Edgar made to the Glenkens schools during his lifetime.

After School Clubs: There have

been Active & Achieving sessions for cluster P1-7 pupils, organised by Active Schools, badminton at Dalry for upper primary pupils in Dalry, table tennis for Kells upper primary pupils and football



Dalry Primary Christmas concert.

the importance of looking after pets during the winter period. Pupils donated blankets and pillow cases for the SSPCA winter campaign. Feis Rois visited all primary schools and as a consequence tin whistling featured at the Kells Christmas concert and in the Church service at the end of term. Kells upper class welcomed 'Annie's Aiders' - developing more First Aid knowledge in the community.

M&M Productions came to Dalry and other schools and childcare groups from the communities joined us for an entertaining production of *Jack and the Beanstalk* which helped improve confidence and aspiration for pupils own productions later.

Secondary students provided sound and lighting for the Dalry Primary Christmas extravaganza as well as performing in the second part of the evening. Primary Christmas productions took place in Carsphairn, Kells and Dalry, bringing lively events to each of the communities. Christmas fairs and musical cafes

coaching was delivered by SFA coach for infant pupils in the cluster. A Technology Club was run for primary and secondary pupils in the cluster; multi-sports sessions were organised by Active Schools at Kells for P1-5 pupils, Sam Rushton has been teaching the nursery and interested primary pupils dance routines which were performed at the CatStrand in January as part of *Dance the Decades* show.

The competence and confidence of every individual is being encouraged at a pace appropriate for them. As a consequence, they achieve more than they first thought they could and are steadily raising their aspirations and level of achievement.

The beauty of our small schools is that no child is left out and encouragement to excel can be targeted and focussed. Everyone is a winner and our communities should be very proud of their young people.

Jenny Smith, Head,
Glenkens Cluster

The Kenmure Estate Evictions: 1749

The early 1700s was a time of unrest and uncertainty in the countryside.

It was the time of the 'Levellers', and the new enclosure dykes being thrown down by bands of dispossessed tenants.

The landlords were attempting to improve their estates by creating better, viable farms and at the same time appropriating the common lands to themselves, dispossessing the ordinary cottars and people off their crofts and common grazings.

This was taking place against the backdrop of political uncertainty

and the two Jacobite Rebellions. It is said that it was only after the '45, when Scotland settled down and began to modernise and make progress with building roads that general commerce steadily improved.

It must have been a shock to the tenants in the various parishes in the Glenkens when John Gordon of Kenmure gave his precept of notice of eviction. We do not know whether they were unsatisfactory tenants in some way or other, or had not paid their rents, or if it was just a means of reorganising his estate. There must have been a great deal of to-ing and fro-ing, bargaining and pleading. People were forced onto the road without anywhere to go if they had no relatives to take them in. Some, in time, became common

vagrants or tramps unable ever to improve their position in life. In this particular instance we do not know if this precept was carried out.

"John Gordon of Kenmore Heritable Proprietor of the Lands and others under Written To My Officers and Servants in that Part Conjunctly and Severally Constitute It is my will and I Command you that incontinent This my precept seen ye Post at Least f(orty) Days before the Term of Whitsunday next to come and Lawfully Warn and Charge Personally or at In Dwelling Places and on the Lands of their Respective Possessions the Persons after named Viz: James Wilson and George Wilson his son Possessors

"...to flitt and Remove Themselves Their W(hole) Famillys and Servants Cottars Subtennants Goods and Gear..."

of the Lands of Little Mains of Greenlaw Robert McCon(chie) in Kilnotrie William Williamson in Balgennan James Blair and William Beck Possessors of (R....) all in the Parish of Crossmichael Grisell Carson and Andrew Carson Possessors of Martinston in the Parish of Balmaclellan John Milar in Lancroft and Samual McLellan and John Gaw in Bankhead Agnes Wilson Relict of John Miller and Rosie McCourt(ie) Relict of William Miller Both in Crarghead (Craighead) and Mary McCartney in Kilnlull Croft All possessors of Parks of the Mains of Kenmore and John Bryce and James Turner Possessors of Part of Accchie and Isable Davidon in Boathouse of New Galloway Possessor of said Boatcroft and Part of Holms of Kenmore Alexander McNaught in Bogues in the Parish of Dalry John McNaught possessor of a House and Soums Grass in Overtoun.

All to flitt and Remove Themselves Their W(hole) Famillys and Servants Cottars Subtennants Goods and Gear furth and from the said Lands of their Respective Possessions at the Term of Whitesunday next to

Come and Leave the same Void and (...) That my tennants and others in my Name may then Enter To the Peaceable Possession Thereof Certify such of them as shall Continue to Possess after the said Term. That they shall be Holden and Reputed Possessors and Prosecuted for the same with all Rigour and Sicklike that ye Post upon a Lords Day forty days proceeding the said Form To the respective Parish Churches of Corsmichael Balmaclellan and K(ells) and (Dalry) within which Parishes the said Lands Ly and there at dismissing the Congregation forenoone Service openly Read or Cause to be Read this my Precept of Warning in Presence of the

Parishioners convened for the Time And Leave Copies upon the most Patent Door of each of the said Churc(hes) of Corsmichael Balmaclellan Kells and Dalry and that ye Use The Haileant Order

Perscribed Acts of Parliment anent Warning Tennants which to do I Counsell to you Conjunctly and Severally as Such is my full Power by this my Precept of Warning. In Witness whereof I have Subscribed These Present.

Written by Duncan Smith Clerk to John Dalyell Esquire Collector of the Customs at Kirkcudbright a(t) Greenlaw this Sixteenth Day of March One Thousand Seven Hundred and forty Nine Years Before These Winesses The said John Dalyell and Duncan Smith."

The Kenmure Precept of evictions was found in a bundle of papers sold at auction in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow many years ago by a friend. As I was looking at them I spotted the precept. I asked my friend if I could borrow it and have it copied. I did so and had another copy done, which I donated to Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society, of which I am a member. Unfortunately the original papers sold at auction were lost in a fire some years later.

Contributed by Bill Blyth of Blowplain



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LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

WORDS FROM THE GLENKENS



The CatStrand has announced a Glenkens Literary Festival over the weekend of 20/21 February, a most welcome initiative.

This column has frequently celebrated the remarkable number of writers and poets who had, and continue to have, Glenkens associations. A Glenkens writer may be defined as a person born in, resident in, or writing about 'the glen'. The following brief discussion will be restricted to writers who are deceased, hopefully to avoid upsetting any of our current scribes. We should not speak ill of the dead but it is unforgivable to forget to mention one of the living!

It is difficult to find much Glenkens writing before the 17th century. John MacClure (died 1652) born at Blawquhairn, is celebrated as an early pioneer of British midwifery and pediatrics. Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar wrote eloquently in support of Scotland's first experiment in colonisation (1622), when Cape Breton in Nova Scotia was renamed New Galloway. Samuel Rutherford of Anwoth, one of the intellectual giants behind the Covenanting Revolution, wrote 'Heavenly Speech and Glorious departure of John Viscount Kenmure' (1649), in which, as if dying were not hard enough, Kenmure is haunted by past sins which potentially deny him salvation despite the promise of God's grace. The quantity of religious writing produced in the glen was formidable. Many pamphlets, petitions, protests and testimonials were to emanate from the glen before the covenanting movement fragmented, supplying vast amounts of material for our greatest novelist, born at Little Duchrae, S. R. Crockett (died 1914), whose name attracted well over 100 people to the

Catstrand conference in 2014.

The greatest local writer of the 18th century has to be Robert Heron of New Galloway, an enlightened polymath who wrote on many different subjects including science, zoology, history, geography, poetry and politics while contributing to the 3rd edition of Encyclopedia Britannica and translating books from several languages. He was training for the ministry before he devoted his short life to literature, perhaps because, as a contemporary reported, when he spoke he sounded like a heron swallowing an eel! He was educated at home by his father, Bailie John Heron, a weaver by trade. Another pupil cum apprentice was John Lowe, son of a gardener on the Kenmure estate, who became a teacher and poet famed for

*... whom genius nursed
Even on the mountain wild,
beside the stream
Of lone Palnure ...*

'Mary's Dream' before he emigrated to America where he eventually died of drink and disappointment. Alexander Murray was another, who from the wilds of Minnigaff attained the post of Professor of Oriental Languages at Edinburgh. His 'History of the European Languages' was published after his early death, mourned by Rev. William Gillespie of Kells as one

*...whom genius nursed
Even on the mountain wild,
beside the stream
Of lone Palnure...*

Gillespie succeeded his own father, John, as minister of Kells; he was educated at Kells parish school and Edinburgh University. Of his deceased father he wrote, 'his best lesson was his dying scene'. After our recent floods readers may appreciate an extract from William's 'Ellen',

*The moon shone in fits,
And the tempests were roaring,
The storm spirit shrieked,
And the fierce rain was pouring.*

After his death his sister Anna wrote a poetic obituary for his gravestone and a much longer lament. Isabella Trotter of the Dalshangan dynasty penned a prose memorial while her brother Robert composed a poetic lament, as did John Gordon Barbour of Bogue:

*Keen o'er yon Rhydds the winds
are blowing,
In lone Glenlee's wild woods
'tis snowing,
With murmur sad the
Ken is flowing,
The rock, the dale bear
winter's guise'.*

William Gillespie's brother, David, was also a poet and songwriter. An alcoholic adventure led to his shunning by the Kirk and a rather sad career as an itinerant preacher. There are many tales recounting his eccentricities but some of his songs were very popular, such as 'Mary Coldstream'.

David had a sister, Anna Lockhart Gillespie who also wrote verse, which often relates how the promise of youth is unrealised. She had a chequered career as a teacher while as a poet she seems fixated on pain, disappointment and death. A contemporary pessimist was Isabella Trotter who was born at Viewfield. When her spendthrift father died the entire property was sold by roup, a heart-breaking event which she memorialised. She studied hard at Kells, Balmacellan Free School and Dumfries Academy to become a teacher though she never quite realised the niche she sought. In her case, like many of her gender, sound native intelligence and a good education did not guarantee success as a single woman. Her words from the Glenkens constitute her memorial.

There are many other writers who could be mentioned. Come along in February and make the acquaintance of some of them. We look forward to seeing you there. For tickets and other information contact the CatStrand.

Ted Cowan

More on the Great War

In the Oct/Nov issue of the Glenkens Gazette, we told the story of six Glenkens men who had all lost their lives within 48 hours of each other at the battle of Loos.

Follow-up research has unearthed photos of four of the six - all were killed although George Hamilton was initially reported as missing.

If anyone knows of the existence of photos of the other two: Robert



McGaw and Archie Mair, please contact Paul Goodwin (memorials@paulgoodwin.me.uk)

so that these men are not forgotten.

Paul Goodwin

HOARDS TO DISCOVER

The next history lecture staged by The Glenkens Story project features Andrew Nicholson, Dumfries & Galloway Archaeologist, who will speak on 'Hoard to Discover: The Archaeology of the Ken Valley'.

From prehistoric cairns through Roman forts to medieval castles, the Ken valley contains a wealth of archaeology.

Andrew's talk will expand to include the recently discovered Galloway Viking hoard, a find proving to be of international significance. He will also address opportunities for local people to become involved in archaeological research.

The lecture, at 2.30pm on Sunday 28 February, will be held in CatStrand. Tickets cost £5. The last Glenkens Story lecture sold out, so book early and don't miss this amazing insight into Galloway's past.



A thousand-year-old pectoral cross, one of the amazing objects from the recently discovered Galloway Hoard.

New Galloway Rural

The December meeting was held at the Kenmure Arms Hotel where members enjoyed a Christmas meal, beautifully cooked and presented by Mrs Liz Brannock and her staff.

After the meal members walked up the road to the CatStrand to enjoy the CatStrand Youth Players presentation of the classic tale of *Babes in the Wood*, a story of Robin Hood and his Merry Men in the forest of Sherwood.




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GHANA WEDDING FOR AMY

Although Amy Geddes (nee Mellor) narrowly missed out on the award for Music Tutor of the Year (as featured in the last Gazette) she says it was an honour to be nominated and thanks all this in the Glenkens who voted for her.

However, she would like to thank all those in the Glenkens who voted for her and says that it was an honour to be nominated.

Amy now has other things on her mind. Just before Christmas, in a traditional ceremony in Ghana, she married her sweetheart, Adie

Baku, who is a professional dancer with the Akrowa Dance and Drum Troupe. Amy's Dad, Andrew Mellor, discovered (to his surprise) at the end of a ceremony which was conducted by the local elders and village chief that it was his duty as father of the bride to pronounce the couple 'man and wife'.

Amy is now back in Scotland preparing for performances at Celtic Connections and elsewhere. She hopes that Adie will be able to join her very soon once visa formalities are sorted out.

Amy's father, Andrew, goes on to say that 2015 was a difficult year for his family following the death of his wife, Anne, in April. But he says that he can't wait for Adie and Amy to bring their special mix of music and dance to the

Glenkens as a thank you for all the love and support gifted by friends and neighbours during Anne's illness and after her passing.



Adie and Amy during the wedding ceremony.

DOGS' CHRISTMAS

Real Dog Training Scotland had its fancy dress Christmas party at Dalry Town Hall, which was well attended with everybody in good spirits.

The cake had been won by Eric earlier on in the year at Dunmuir Vets charity day, half of the cake had been eaten by club members at the training evenings earlier in the year. We decided to keep the other half and reinstate the cake,

decorated for the Christmas party, so the cake was certainly enjoyed by many people. Thank you to Margaret Schoffield for donating the sausages-and-gravy bones, and Jessica Nash for being Santa's little helper with the games.

The party games were enjoyed by well behaved dogs and their owners.

The evening raised £105 which was donated to Dumfries & Galloway Canine Rescue.

If your New Years Resolution is to train your dog, look up our website www.realdogtrainingscotland.co.uk

*Eric Broadhurst,
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Poppy Appeal

Paul and Betty Goodwin would like to thank all of those who helped with the 2015 Poppy Scotland appeal. The total raised from Dalry was £457.25. Well done everyone!

*Regards,
Paul Goodwin*

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Sunday: 8.30am – 4pm

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FEBRUARY & MARCH

FEBRUARY

Mon 1 - May 31, Exhibition:
Doug Cocker, CatStrand, New
Galloway

Wed 3, Spotlight: Young Open
Stage, 7pm, CatStrand, New
Galloway

Fri 5, CatStrand Burns Supper,
7.30pm, CatStrand, New
Galloway

Mon 8, Re-Kindling Creativity
Art Course, 10am-12noon, Dalry
Community Centre (*To book a
place please contact Brian Jones
at the CatStrand on 01644 420
374 or brian@catstrand.com*)

Wed 10, Open Stage, 7.30pm,
CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 12, The Sportinghouse
Strings, 7.30pm, CatStrand,
New Galloway

Sat 13, Film: Far from the
Maddening Crowd, 7.30pm,
CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 17, New Galloway SWRI,

3pm,, New Galloway Town Hall

Thu 18, Japanese Haiku Poetry
Workshop with Tony Bonning,
11am & 2pm, CatStrand, New
Galloway

Fri 19, Gallery Visit: Gracefield
(ages 10-15), bus departs
9.30am from CatStrand, New
Galloway

Sat 20 & Sun 21, Words from
the Glenkens: A Celebration of
Literature and Music, 11am,
CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 24, Film: Bobby Fischer
Against the World, 7.30pm,
CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 28, The Glenkens Story:
Hoards to Discover: The
Archaeology of the Ken Valley,
7.30pm, CatStrand, New
Galloway

MARCH

Fri 4, The Hebrides Ensemble:
Impressions of the Sea, 7.30pm,

CatStrand, New Galloway

Tue 8, Asylon Theatre Presents:
Fraxi: Queen of the Forest, 1pm
& 3pm (with workshops)

Thu 10, CatStrand Youth
Players: Two Plays, 7.30pm,
CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 16, New Galloway SWRI,
3pm,, New Galloway Town Hall

Sat 19, Blazin' Fiddles, 7.30pm,
CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 30, Film: The Village at
the End of the World, 7.30pm,
CatStrand, New Galloway

APRIL

Fri 1, Zoe Rahman Trio with
Gene Calderazzo & Alec
Dankworth, 7.30pm, CatStrand,
New Galloway

Tue 5 - Fri 8, Easter Sci-Fi Film-
making Projects, ages 8 - 25,
CatStrand, New Galloway



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REGULAR EVENTS

CatStrand, New Galloway:

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am

Margaret Morris dance 1: 3-7yrs, term-time Mondays, 3.45-4.30pm

Margaret Morris dance 2: 8-16yrs, term-time Mondays, 4.30-5.15pm

Access All Areas Youth Arts - Making Music: Mon 7-9pm

Gentle Tai Chi: Wed, 10am, 60+

Glenkens Writing Group: First Wed each month 3-5pm

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+

Choreographic Skills Lab: Thurs (term-time), 7 - 8.30pm

ages 12-18

Zumba Gold: Fridays (term-time), 10-11am, CatStrand, 16+

Saturday Art Club: twice a month, 10am-12noon, to book call 420 374

Zumba Kids: last Sat of the month (term-time), 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

Ballroom & Latin Dance: Mon, 7.30pm, Castle Douglas Primary School

Mother & Toddlers: Tues, 9.45-11.15am, New Galloway Town Hall

Carsphairn Post Office: Tues, 1-3pm, Lagwyne 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, 11+

Mossdale Painters: Wed, 9.30am, Mossdale Village Hall

Cub Scouts: Wed, 6.45-8pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Coffee & Craft Morning: Thurs, 9am-12noon, Lagwyne Hall

Youth Writing Group: Thurs (during term time), 3.30-5pm, ages 10-15, Dalry School

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.

CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sunday Services - Balmaclellan 12noon: 1st. Carsphairn 10.30am: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Dalry 12noon: 3rd, 4th. Dalry 10.30am: 2nd(Mar). Kells 10.30am: 2nd(Feb), 3rd, 4th. *Special Services/Events:* 14 Feb, 10.30 am: United Family Service for Dalry and B&K Churches in Kells Church. 26 Feb, 7pm: Beetle Drive, Dalry Town Hall. 4 Mar, 7pm: World Day of Prayer Service, St Margaret's Church. 7 Mar, 7.30pm: Fellowship Dinner at Kenbridge Hotel with David Bowman. 13 Mar, 10.30am: United Family Service for Dalry and

B&K Churches in Dalry Church. 18 Mar, 7pm: Dalry Church Family Night, Dalry Town Hall. 25 Mar, 7.30pm: Good Friday Service, Carsphairn Church. 27 Mar, 7am: Dawn Service, Balmaclellan War Memorial, followed by breakfast in hall. Communion Services: 28 Feb, 10.30am, Kells Church. 20 Mar, 10.15am, Carsphairn Church. 20 Mar, 12 noon, Dalry 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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CATSTRAND SINGERS' SUCCESSFUL ROADTRIP

Last autumn, on a rare sunny morning, a group of folk set off on the Glenkens Community Bus to entertain the good people of Kirkpatrick Durham with their songs.

The Catstrand Singers, a singing group that has been going for about four years, was proud to be asked to the Bothy Coffee Morning, and a good time was had by all: the audience were very generous with cake and coffee, and the singers experienced their first ever performance outwith the Glenkens.

The singing group is led by Nicola Black who arranges songs from around the world, and spanning different styles, to suit the range of voices, from top soprano to the lower tones often (but not always) associated with the men. It's a happy, informal group, where the social aspect is as important as the music, and anyone is welcome to come and join in – there are no auditions, no 'solo performances' to worry about, and no age limit. If you'd be interested in coming along and giving it a



go, the group meets at the Catstrand every Thursday morning between 11am and 12 noon, followed by coffee in the cafe. There is a weekly fee, but no-one asks how much you're putting in the pot – the suggested amount is between £2 and £4. You will find a warm welcome with The Catstrand Singers! *The CatStrand Singers*

NEW GALLOWAY FIRE STATION NEEDS YOU!

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are recruiting firefighters for New Galloway Fire Station.

This exciting opportunity is open to all people who live and or work within 5-10 minutes of the station, are over 18, have a reasonable level of health and fitness.

The role of a community firefighter is extremely diverse and you will receive training to attend fires, road traffic collisions, flooding incidents and many more types of emergency.

Firefighters also get involved with their community through providing life saving 'Home Fire Safety Checks' and providing community

safety information through station and outside visits.

For further information, Jake McGaw is in charge at New Galloway Fire Station, or call 01387 252 222 and speak to Station Manager Joe Shepherd. Applications can be made at www.myjobscotland.gov.uk from 1 February to 21 February.

A BIG THANK YOU

The Glenkens Gazette would like to thank Glenkens Community Shop, Dalry, for their generous grant towards Gazette running costs.

Without this kind of support the Gazette would not be able to continue. Since its inception in 2012, the Glenkens Community Shop has put **over £20,000 back into the community** through their grant scheme. If you are based in the Glenkens and have a project that could do with a little support to either get it off the ground or to allow it to continue or to grow, pop into the Glenkens Community Shop and pick up a grant application form.

Forms for the next round of funding will be available from 4 June and applications should be submitted by 9 July.

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APRIL/MAY COPY DEADLINE: 5 MARCH



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